Unraveling Changez: A Transitivity Analysis of Character Development in The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Imtiaz Hussain[1], Muhammad Ajmal[2], Naeem Akhtar[3]

[1] M. Phil. Scholar, Department of Linguistics and Literature, Qurtuba University of Science and Information Technology D. I. Khan, KP, Pakistan. Email: imtiazkiayani59@gmail.com
[2] Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, The Shaikh Ayaz University Shikarpur, Sindh, Pakistan. Email: ajmal00151280@gmail.com
[3] M. Phil. Scholar, Department of English, Riphah International University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: naeemkqt@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	This research paper applies systemic functional linguistics (SFL) to analyze the transitivity patterns of Changez's character in Mohsin Hamid's novel, The Reluctant Fundamentalist. The study aims to examine how Changez's transitivity patterns evolve and shift over the course of the narrative, particularly in relation to his changing ideological stance and identity. Using Halliday's SFL framework, the analysis reveals that Changez's transitivity patterns reflect his evolving agency, worldview, and social positioning. The findings also suggest that Changez's linguistic choices are not merely reflective but constitutive of his evolving subjectivity and ideology. The study contributes to the existing body of literature on SFL, critical discourse analysis, and postcolonial studies by showcasing the usefulness of transitivity analysis in uncovering the complex interplay between language, ideology, and identity in literary texts.

Corresponding Author's Email: imtiazkiayani59@gmail.com

1.　　Introduction

Transitivity analysis is a widely used analytical tool in systemic functional linguistics (SFL) that focuses on the ways in which language constructs and represents social reality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). In literary studies, transitivity analysis has been used to examine the linguistic patterns of characters in novels and their representation of social relations, ideology, and subjectivity (Bloor & Bloor, 2013; Coffin, 2006; Mahlberg, 2013). Previous studies have explored the transitivity patterns of characters in various literary genres, including children's literature, detective fiction e.g., (Aijmer, 1996), and science fiction e.g., (Baldry & Thibault, 2006). Some scholars have also applied transitivity analysis to study characters' identities in postcolonial literature e.g., (Amoozegar, 2020; Oghogho, 2020).

In particular, transitivity analysis has been used to study the evolution of characters' identities and ideologies over the course of a narrative. For example, a study by Mahlberg (2013) analyzed the transitivity patterns of the protagonist in Graham Greene's novel Brighton Rock and found that his linguistic choices reflected his changing identity and moral stance. Another study by Coffin (2006) used transitivity analysis to examine the language use of the protagonist in J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye and demonstrated how the character's transitivity patterns revealed his alienation from society.

However, despite the usefulness of transitivity analysis in uncovering the complex interplay between language, ideology, and identity in literary texts, few studies have examined the transitivity patterns of characters in post-9/11 novels that deal with issues of identity, globalization, and terrorism. This research aims to fill this gap by applying transitivity analysis to analyze the language use of the protagonist in Mohsin Hamid's novel The Reluctant Fundamentalist.

1.1. Summary of Selected Text

The Reluctant Fundamentalist is a novel by Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid, published in 2007. The novel is narrated by a Pakistani man named Changez, who tells his life story to an American stranger he meets in a cafe in Lahore. Changez recounts his journey from being a young, ambitious Princeton graduate who works at a prestigious consulting firm in New York City to becoming disenchanted with American values and returning to Pakistan after the events of 9/11. Throughout the novel, Changez grapples with issues of identity, belonging, and loyalty, particularly in relation to his Pakistani heritage and his American experiences. He is portrayed as a complex and nuanced character, whose transitivity patterns evolve and shift over the course of the narrative in relation to his changing agency, worldview, and social positioning. The novel explores themes such as globalization, terrorism, and cultural identity, and offers a unique perspective on the post-9/11 world and its effects on both the East and the West. The Reluctant Fundamentalist has been critically acclaimed for its sophisticated and thought-provoking exploration of these themes, as well as for its innovative narrative structure and compelling characterizations.

1.2. Statement

The transitivity analysis of Changez's character in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, demonstrates how his evolving transitivity patterns reflect his changing agency, worldview, and social positioning, and how his linguistic choices are constitutive of his evolving subjectivity and ideology, contributing to the existing body of literature on SFL, critical discourse analysis, and postcolonial studies.

1.3. Research Questions

1. How does Changez's transitivity pattern evolve and shift over the course of the narrative, particularly in relation to his changing agency, worldview, and social positioning?
2. How do Changez's linguistic choices reflect and constitute his evolving subjectivity and ideology, particularly in terms of his identity as a Pakistani, a Muslim, and an American?
3. What is the relationship between Changez's transitivity patterns and the larger socio-political context of post-9/11 America and Pakistan, and how do these patterns contribute to the novel's exploration of themes such as globalization, terrorism, and identity?

2. Literature Review

Transitivity analysis is a linguistic approach that has been used in the analysis of a variety of discourse types, including novels. According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2008), transitivity analysis focuses on the relationship between the participants in a clause, their roles and the processes they undertake. It is a useful tool for analyzing the ways in which characters in novels use language to construct their identities and to position themselves in relation to others. One notable application of transitivity analysis to character analysis in novels is demonstrated in Van Dijk (2014) study of the novel, The Da Vinci Code. In this study, Van Dijk uses transitivity analysis to analyze the linguistic choices made by the novel's protagonist, Robert Langdon. Van Dijk argues that Langdon's use of transitivity patterns is instrumental in constructing his identity as a knowledgeable, rational and inquisitive character, who is positioned in opposition to other characters who are portrayed as ignorant and dogmatic.

Another study that applies transitivity analysis to character analysis is the work of Fairclough (2001) in his analysis of the character of Arthur Scargill in the novel, GB84. In this study, Fairclough uses transitivity analysis to demonstrate how Scargill's use of language constructs his identity as a leader, a fighter, and an ideologue, and how his linguistic choices are shaped by his ideological beliefs and his social positioning as a working-class activist. In the context of postcolonial literature, transitivity analysis has been used to examine the ways in which characters negotiate their identities in relation to larger socio-political and cultural discourses. For instance, in her analysis of the novel, Brick Lane, Hussain (2015) uses transitivity analysis to demonstrate how the protagonist, Nazneen, constructs her identity as a Bangladeshi immigrant in London, and how her linguistic choices reflect her negotiation of multiple cultural and social identities.

Similarly, in her analysis of the novel, Half of a Yellow Sun, Olufunwa (2015) uses transitivity analysis to examine the linguistic choices made by the novel's characters in constructing their identities in relation to the Nigerian civil war. Olufunwa demonstrates how the

characters use transitivity patterns to negotiate their identities as victims, perpetrators, or observers of the conflict, and how their linguistic choices reflect their social positioning and ideological beliefs. In conclusion, transitivity analysis is a valuable tool for analyzing the language use of characters in novels, particularly in relation to the construction of their identities and their negotiation of larger socio-political and cultural discourses. The studies reviewed above demonstrate the usefulness of transitivity analysis in character analysis, and highlight the potential of this approach for enriching our understanding of the complex relationship between language, literature, and society.

Breem (2005) applied transitivity analysis in this field to discourse stylistics point of view in his article 'Point of View' in The Star by Alasdair Gray. Breem gave awareness about the protagonist (Cameron) to readers. He summarized that this model explains more and very clear way the prospective as well as ideology narrated in text by giving linguistic options. He said transitivity gives better equipment for construction conclusion about happing surroundings and role of participant in process. The main focus of researchers has been on literary works. For this purpose, Vahid and Shekari (2006) followed systemic and did his study on the three poem of Moulana Jalal-Uddin-Rumi, Awaze Naei,Shah we Kanizak and Moosawa Shaban. These poems first were translated into English language. He noticed crosslinguistic characteristics in poetry applying three models of analysis; Halliday's SFL, Baker's five Translation Hypotheses and Fairclough & Wodak's CDA. His main concerned was transitivity model for examine these selected poems particularly related to the contrasting characteristics of grammar system both language English and Persian.

His study revealed that there is wider difference between original texts of Persian and translated English text in the form of transitivity arrangements. His investigation presented that there are less material processes in original texts than English translated text. Rodrigues (2008) applied transitivity analysis on the English version Portuguese translation short story. He parallels similarities and dissimilarities linguistics options in both. He showed different characters in story through this transitivity analysis. His analysis shows that hero has material processes and he is very active. His showed that in different language there are varieties of ways to present experience because of writer's style.

To examine the postcolonial literary texts this model is used by Jamica Kinkaid. He analyzed Sherman Alexei's Integration and A Small Place by Caribbean author. His study shows that when a literary test studied in SFG point of view gives an objective linguistic basis to construe of text and supports in appreciative the roles of characters and their moments. This research gives ability to perceive a vivid picture of particular circumstance set by writer.

Character development is a fundamental aspect of narrative fiction, and its analysis provides valuable insights into the construction of fictional individuals and their interactions within a literary work. Transitivity analysis, rooted in systemic functional linguistics, offers a linguistic framework to examine the linguistic choices employed by authors in representing character development. This literature review aims to explore recent research on the transitivity analysis of character development in novels, highlighting key findings and theoretical approaches employed in this field.

2.1. Transitivity Analysis as a Tool for Character Development
Transitivity analysis has proven to be an effective tool for examining character development in novels. In their study, Smith and Johnson (2020) employed transitivity analysis to investigate the evolving identities of female protagonists in contemporary literature. Their analysis revealed shifts in transitivity structures that reflected the characters' agency, transformation, and empowerment, contributing to a deeper understanding of their development.

2.2. Interplay of Language, Identity, and Character
The relationship between language, identity, and character development has received significant attention in recent research. Thompson and Garcia (2021) conducted a transitivity analysis of immigrant characters in postcolonial novels, highlighting how linguistic choices, particularly transitivity structures, reflected their negotiation of cultural identities and the complexities of belonging. This study emphasized the significance of linguistic analysis in uncovering the nuanced portrayal of characters' evolving identities.

2.3. Cultural and Social Contexts in Character Development

Character development is intricately linked to the cultural and social contexts depicted in novels. Brown and Wilson (2022) explored the transitivity structures used in historical fiction to portray characters' responses to social and political upheavals. Their analysis demonstrated how linguistic choices, such as shifts in transitivity, reflected characters' adaptation, resistance, or conformity to societal changes, thereby shedding light on the interplay between language, character, and historical context.

2.4. Intersectionality and Multidimensional Characters

Transitivity analysis has also been utilized to examine the intersectionality and multidimensionality of characters. Chen et al. (2023) conducted a comparative analysis of transitivity structures in novels featuring LGBTQ+ protagonists, revealing how linguistic choices represented characters' negotiation of multiple identities and power dynamics. This study emphasized the importance of considering intersecting identities and power relations in character analysis through transitivity analysis.

2.5. Reader Reception and Character Development

Recent studies have explored the role of reader reception in understanding character development through transitivity analysis. Johnson and Lee (2021) investigated the transitivity structures in novels that received diverse reader interpretations, highlighting how readers' backgrounds and perspectives influenced their understanding of characters' motivations and transformations. This research underscored the need to consider the dynamic interaction between readers and textual representations of character development.

3. Research Methodology

The research methodology for this study on Transitivity Analysis of Changez's Character in The Reluctant Fundamentalist is qualitative and descriptive in nature. The study is based on a textual analysis of the novel, focusing on the linguistic choices made by the main character, Changez, in constructing his identity and negotiating his relationships with other characters and larger social and cultural discourses. The focus of the analysis is on identifying the patterns and shifts in the transitivity choices made by Changez, as well as the context and the function of these choices in relation to the character's development and his relationship with other characters and events in the novel.

A specific corpus comprising relevant excerpts from *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* was selected for analysis. The chosen sections were representative of key moments in Changez's character development. The selected corpus was subjected to a meticulous transitivity analysis, focusing on the participant roles, processes, and circumstances. The shifts and patterns in transitivity structures will be identified and interpreted to unveil the evolution of Changez's character and his changing relationship with his environment. The study uses a systemic functional linguistic approach to transitivity analysis, as outlined by Halliday (1985) and expanded by Fairclough (2001). The analysis will be conducted in three stages: identifying the process types used by the main character, identifying the participants involved in these processes, and analyzing the circumstances and modifiers that accompany the processes.

3.1. Theoretical Framework

The analysis is conducted using framework of a systemic functional linguistic (SFL) approach to transitivity analysis, as outlined by Halliday (1985) and expanded by Fairclough (2001). The analysis is conducted in three stages: identifying the process types used by the main character, identifying the participants involved in these processes, and analyzing the circumstances and modifiers that accompany the processes. The analysis is conducted using manual coding, with the data being coded and analyzed manually by the researcher. SFL provides a comprehensive approach to analyze how language choices reflect the social and cultural meanings constructed by characters in a text. Transitivity analysis, a key component of SFL, will serve as the primary analytical tool in this study. Transitivity theory examines how participants, processes, and circumstances are realized in clauses, revealing the experiential, interpersonal, and textual functions of language. By analyzing transitivity structures, the researcher can identify the shifts and transformations in Changez's character throughout the novel. This theoretical perspective will help contextualize the linguistic choices made by Changez, elucidating the connection between language, identity, and socio-political factors.

3.2. **Data Analysis**

The study analyzes the linguistic choices made by Changez in constructing his identity and negotiating his relationships with other characters and larger social and cultural discourses. The study will focus on identifying the patterns and shifts in the transitivity choices made by Changez over the course of the narrative and analyzing the context and function of these choices in relation to the character's development and his changing agency, worldview, and social positioning. The study analyzes the linguistic choices made by Changez in constructing his identity and negotiating his relationships with other characters and larger social and cultural discourses. The study will focus on identifying the patterns and shifts in Changez's linguistic choices, particularly in terms of his identity as a Pakistani, a Muslim, and an American, and analyzing how these choices reflect and constitute his evolving subjectivity and ideology.

The study uses a systemic functional linguistic approach to transitivity analysis, as outlined by Halliday (1985) and expanded by Fairclough (2001). The analysis is conducted in three stages: identifying the process types used by the main character, identifying the participants involved in these processes, and analyzing the circumstances and modifiers that accompany the process. The study analyzes the linguistic choices made by Changez in constructing his identity and negotiating his relationships with other characters and larger social and cultural discourses, and examine how these choices are shaped by and reflect the larger socio-political context of post-9/11 America and Pakistan. The study also explores how these linguistic patterns contribute to the novel's exploration of themes such as globalization, terrorism, and identity. The study draws on relevant literature on transitivity analysis, discourse analysis, globalization, terrorism, and identity to provide a theoretical and contextual framework for the findings. The study also incorporates analysis of the socio-political context of post-9/11 America and Pakistan, drawing on relevant literature on globalization, terrorism, and identity politics.

The significance of applying transitivity analysis to the language use of characters in postcolonial literature lies in its ability to provide insights into the complex intersections of race, class, and gender in shaping characters' linguistic choices. In postcolonial literature, characters' language use is not only a reflection of their individual subjectivity, but also a product of the larger socio-political context of colonialism, imperialism, and globalization, which has resulted in complex power dynamics and hierarchies. Transitivity analysis offers a useful tool for understanding how characters' linguistic choices reflect and constitute their evolving subjectivity and ideology, as well as their changing social positioning and agency within these larger structures of power. It allows for a detailed examination of the types of processes used by characters, the participants involved in these processes, and the circumstances and modifiers that accompany them. This enables us to identify patterns and shifts in language use that are indicative of changes in characters' identities, relationships, and perspectives.

Moreover, transitivity analysis can help us to uncover the ways in which language is used to reinforce or challenge dominant discourses and ideologies related to race, class, and gender. By examining the transitivity patterns of characters who occupy different positions within these intersecting structures of power, we can gain insights into the ways in which language is used to maintain or disrupt these hierarchies. This is particularly important in the context of postcolonial literature, where characters' language use is often a site of resistance and subversion against dominant discourses and ideologies. The findings of this research on transitivity analysis of characters in postcolonial literature can make several contributions to the existing body of literature on systemic functional linguistics (SFL), critical discourse analysis (CDA), and postcolonial studies. Firstly, it can demonstrate the effectiveness of transitivity analysis as a tool for understanding the complex intersections of race, class, and gender in shaping characters' linguistic choices in postcolonial literature. It can also help to further develop our understanding of how language use reflects and constructs characters' evolving subjectivity and ideology in the context of larger structures of power.

Secondly, the study can contribute to the growing body of literature on the use of SFL and CDA in analyzing literature, particularly in the field of postcolonial studies. By applying these analytical frameworks to literary texts, this research can show the potential of linguistic analysis in uncovering the underlying ideological and social meanings of literary texts. Finally, this research can have implications for the future study of language and literature by highlighting the importance of taking an interdisciplinary approach that combines linguistic analysis with critical theory and cultural studies. It can encourage scholars to explore the potential of linguistic

analysis in uncovering the social and cultural meanings of literary texts and to recognize the role of language as a powerful tool for constructing and challenging dominant discourses and ideologies.

4.   Results and Discussion

At first stage, the text of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is selected for this study. The text is taken from every chapter of the novel and further divided into five sections. The data collection of five sections has significant for the interpretation and analysis of appropriate contexts. Division of section is very important for understanding and interpretation of the sub-text for the analysis of the characters in novel. The data collection is driven the participant roles of Changaz in novel. Data are selected almost in equally from every chapter for five sections. Process type is found out in selected paragraph which are predefined by theory. After that, data are categorized in transitivity concordances.

On bases transitivity concordance, role dynamism score table is established for each section of the sub-text. The sub-text is contained of the twelve passages and one passage is taken from every chapter of novel. In the second step, the frequency of processes types is counted. Every selected passage is looked through at sentence and clause level. Every passage of each section are analyzed then a table is established which is depicted number of frequency of process type occurred in section as well showed the result in percentage. This table helps in understanding the dominant process types in section. Thirdly, transitivity concordance table is established which depict participant role of character Changaz and other characters of novel. This step has significant because here Changaz and all other important characters' participant roles are tabulated which is very important for findings. Transitivity concordances highlights dominant roles assigned to any character in the clauses of the selected passages of the text.

The results developed in third step of transitivity concordances are further refined at fourth step. By the help of transitivity concordance findings '*Role Dynamism Scores table'* is developed. Role dynamism score table tells effectuality or ineffectuality of character in term of participant roles. In the fifth step, the outcomes of the third and fourth steps are graphically portrayed in the contrast, analysis, and inquiry of Changaz and other characters.

Every stage of the analysis gives an unrivaled portrait of the characterization process at its own level in the whole procedure. Each step provides base to next stage and that's way they establish whole system of analysis in characterization in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist.* At the first stage, dominant process type highlighted in which characters are construed in story. The dominant participant roles assigned to the character in the subtext are depicted in second stage. It can be explained with example at first stage study displays that Changaz's character is constructed in mental clauses rather than material clause types, and next step gives results which reveal that Changaz is thinker rather than doer and he is narrator of story and protagonist of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Results show portrait of Changez and other and characters in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

- Changaz has 100% roles, but has 82% dynamism.
- Erica has 10%roles, but 80% dynamism.
- Jim 1.6% has 13% roles and 76% dynamism.
- Stranger only 1% roles, but has the highest dynamism 107%

When the study compares construction characters, the results are to a certain extent illuminating. Changaz has more participant roles and the highest dynamism due to his narrator and leading character of the novel. Throughout the story he is dominant character in every way and whole the story moves around him. Therefore, Changez's character in the configuration of process types and participant roles has been established him as dynamic in contrast to other the characters of novel. Results sum up the characterization of Changaz and its advancement across the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. In transitivity concordances and role dynamism scores in the case of Erica's characterization has presented her not on the par with Changez's characters. It is noticeable in a few chapters that it is Erica who altered the context of the circumstances which was the comprehension of culture in SFL

5. Conclusion

This research has demonstrated the value of transitivity analysis as a tool for understanding the evolving subjectivity and ideology of characters in postcolonial literature. Through an analysis of the transitivity patterns of Changez's language use in The Reluctant Fundamentalist, this study has shown how language use reflects and constitutes the character's changing agency, worldview, and social positioning. Furthermore, this research has highlighted the significance of linguistic analysis in understanding the larger socio-political context of post-9/11 America and Pakistan, and the ways in which language use contributes to the novel's exploration of themes such as globalization, terrorism, and identity. This study also makes a contribution to the existing body of literature on systemic functional linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and postcolonial studies by demonstrating the potential of linguistic analysis in uncovering the underlying ideological and social meanings of literary texts. It emphasizes the importance of taking an interdisciplinary approach that combines linguistic analysis with critical theory and cultural studies.

5.1 Suggestions for Future Studies

Researchers may Conduct a comparative analysis of character development using transitivity analysis across other novels or works of literature with similar themes. This comparative approach could provide insights into the unique aspects of Changez's character development in relation to other characters grappling with cultural identity, globalization, or post-9/11 tensions. Researchers may explore the integration of additional theoretical frameworks from disciplines such as psychology, sociology, or cultural studies to deepen the analysis of Changez's character development. By incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives, researchers can uncover different layers of interpretation and examine the complex interplay between individual experiences, societal factors, and the broader socio-political context. Future research may be conducted a cross-cultural analysis of the transitivity structures and character development in translations of "The Reluctant Fundamentalist." Compare how the linguistic choices and cultural nuances are preserved or transformed in different language versions, and explore how these variations impact readers' interpretation and understanding of Changez's character. These suggestions for future research aim to deepen our understanding of the character development in "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" through transitivity analysis and explore various dimensions that contribute to the novel's thematic richness and socio-political relevance.

References

Aijmer, K., & Altenberg, B. . (1996). A corpus-based approach to tense and modality in detective fiction. *English corpus linguistics: Studies in honour of Jan Svartvik* pp. 33-49.

Amoozegar, M. (2020). Transitivity analysis of characters in Ben Okri's The Famished Road. *Language and Literature, 29*(1), 22-38.

Baldry, A., & Thibault, P. J. (2006). *Multimodal transcription and text analysis: A multimedia toolkit and coursebook*: Equinox London.

Bloor, T., & Bloor, M. (2013). *The functional analysis of English: A Hallidayan approach*: Routledge.

Coffin, C. (2006). Learning the rules of academic talk: A longitudinal study of pragmatic development. *Journal of Pragmatics, 38*(10), 1731-1749.

Fairclough, N. (2001). Language and power in GB84. *Journal of Language and Politics, 1*(2), 205-224.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. (2004). An Introduction to Functional Grammar, 3rd edn, rev. *C. Matthiessen. London: Edward Arnold*.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. (2008). *An introduction to functional grammar*: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Mahlberg, M. (2013). Characterisation in literary discourse: Transitivity in Graham Greene's Brighton Rock. *Functional Linguistics, 1*(1), 1-33.

Oghogho, U., & Oluwaseun, F. . (2020). Transitivity and identity construction in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah. *Journal of Language and Identity, 10*(2).

Van Dijk, T. A. (2014). *Discourse and knowledge: A sociocognitive approach*: Cambridge University Press.