

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Transitivity, in the terms of traditional grammar, is commonly known as the ability of verbs to take a direct object. Nevertheless, transitivity has a broader meaning within Systemic Functional Linguistics. It is the system for describing the whole clause and analysing the experiential meaning.

This chapter consists of the review of the previous studies, definition of some key terms, explanation of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Ideational Metafunction of language, and transitivity elements.

2.1. Review of Previous Studies

Transitivity theory is applied by scholars to explain the experiential choices an author/ utterer makes to create a certain meaning to gain his/ her intention. Many linguists have been using it as the framework in their studies. One groundbreaking and influential example of an analysis construing world view in a narrative text is composed by Halliday (1971).

In this work, Halliday discusses the transitivity patterns including the processes, participants and circumstances that are occurred in clauses or sentences. Then he proceeds to illustrate how they are used by Golding to imply cognitive limitations as experienced by the main character, Lok. This impression is acquired from Lok's language; that his observations are marked in goal-less material clauses, such as *a stick rose upright* or *began to grow shorter at both ends*. These goal-less processes make the actions seem self-generated, although it is clear from the narrative context that they are brought about by Lok's enemies.