# Ideational Aspect of Systemic Functional Grammar in Bush's and Al-Assad's First Inaugural Speech

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Abstract---Depending on political discourse, the politicians try to win the favorite response from the audience. For this reason, the theory of critical discourse analysis (CDA) which is used to analyze political discourse forms the base for analyzing the data (Bush's and Al-Assad's first inaugural speeches). Systematic Functional Linguistics is used as an approach of CDA to analyze the data focusing on the point of transitivity which enables readers to know the way by which language serves to achieve specific ideologies and power. This paper aims at clarifying the experiential or ideational metafunction in which language is studied from the perspective of how it is used to talk about events, states and entities in the world, to interpret or construe the speaker's view of the world. The participants of any conversation use cognitive categories of this metafunction which are reflected by the six main types of specific processes which are: Material (processes of action), Mental (processes of sensing which clarify or construe our interior world), Relational (process of being and having), Verbal (processes of conveying messages, by saying, and so on.), Behavioral (human physiological processes) and Existential (processes of existing). This article hypothesizes that Material processes and Relational processes have an advanced order in the sample in question. Data analysis and conclusion prove and support these two hypotheses.

Keywords--- Critical Discourse Analysis; Political Discourse; Systemic Functional Grammar; Transitivity

# **I** Introduction

Opaque relationships of causality and determination between texts, events, practices and social and cultural structures, relations and processes are explored by Critical Discourse Analysis. It is studied to make a clear investigation about the way by which such texts, events, practices are ideologically shaped or designed by relations of power and reflect the struggles over power. It aims at changing linguistics by introducing critical perspectives on language which are drawn or derived from critical theory in social sciences. To analyze any discourse, a better understanding of relations between discourse and other elements of social life such as relations of power, ideologies, social institutions and organizations and social identities are required. Political discourse forms a contribution to the development of critical discourse analysis. It views political discourse as primarily a form of argumentation which is more specifically practical one for or against particular way of acting by which the decision can be grounded. To make a decision, agents consider both reasons that favour a particular tentative line of action investigate the reasons against it, as well as reasons in favour or against alternatives. This

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is not mean that political discourse contains only practical arguments but it is most fundamentally about making choices about how to act in response to circumstances and goals and such choices and actions follow from them are based on practical argumentation.

In 1930s and 1940s, J. R. Firth began laying the groundwork for a new approach to language. This approach is developed by his student 'Michael Halliday'. It attempts to combine structural information with social factors in a single integrated description. It is mainly concerned with the purposes of language use. In short, he analyzes the close relationship between language and context which is produced by situational context. This study tackles and discusses three main factors (Critical discourse analysis, Political Discourse and Systemic Functional Grammar) within the most important genre of political discourse which is the inaugural speech.

# **II Theoretical Review**

## 2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

According to (Wodak and Meyer, 2008, p.3-5), the terms critical linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) are often used interchangeably. They argue that CDA is not interested in investigating a linguistic unit per se but in studying social phenomena which require a complexity to a great extent and thus require a multi-disciplinary and multi-methodical approach. They stress that CDA has never been and has never attempted to be or to provide one single or specific theory. Neither is one specific methodology characteristic of research in CDA. The reverse is completely true, studying in CDA are multifarious, derived from quite different theoretical background, oriented towards different data and methodologies.

Van Dijk as cited in (Schiffrin et al, 2001, p. 353) argues that CDA is a type of discourse analytical research that focuses on studying the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context. This definition motivates him to mention a number of requirements which characterize critical research on discourse which are:

- 1-Its main focus is on social and political issues, rather than on current paradigms and fashions.
- 2-It tries to explain them in term of properties and social interaction and especially social structure rather than merely describe discourse structures.
- 3- The ways discourse structures enact, confirm, legitimate, reproduce, or challenge relations of power and dominance in society is the main focus of CDA.

Fairclough and Wodak as mentioned in (Hart, 2010, p.15) state that CDA has its own tenets which may be summarized by eight points. These tenets are:

- A-CDA addresses social Problems.
- B- Power relations are discursive.
- C- Discourse constitutes society and culture.
- D- Discourse does ideological work.
- E- Discourse is historical.
- F- The link between text and society is mediated.
- G- Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory.
- H- Discourse is form of social action.

### 2.2. Political Discourse

Van Dijk as cited in (Fairclough and Fairclough, 2012, p. 18) argues that political discourse analysis (PDA) is the analysis of political discourse which is understood from critical perspective. It focuses on the production and contestation of political power through political discourse, this discourse is characterized by political actors-individuals (politicians, citizens), political institutions and organizations, engaged in political processes and events. These characteristics have not any role without the notion of context because they do not form political discourse, if they found outside political discourse. What form this context are institutional contexts which make it possible for actors to exert their agency and empower them to act on the world in a way that has an impact on matters of common concern.

According to (Chilton, 2004, p.4), the ambivalence is an apparent characteristic of language and this characteristic manifests when anyone wants to take account to the 'intention' of a speech act in a political discourse, he cannot find or distinguish a single or straightforward intention. He proposes three categories to describe the strategic use of language when conditions have constrains on communication or distort it which are:

(i) Coercion (ii) Legitimization and delegitimisation and (iii) Representation and misrepresentation. Political actors often act coercively in discourse, claiming access to resources and power, and controlling others' use of language. Legitimization is linked to coercion, establishing power through the discursive claim to legitimacy. Delegitimisation manifests itself in negative other-presentation, attaching negative features to a particular group or groups. Representation and misrepresentation is a powerful means of control through discourse.

### 2.3. Systemic Functional Grammar

(Matthiessen and Halliday, 1997, p. 2) make a distinction between grammar and theories of grammar because people often use the same term for both the phenomenon and its study. They say that there is a huge difference when we speak about 'grammar of English' (the phenomenon) and 'Traditional grammar' (One theory of the phenomenon). This ambiguity can be disappeared by changing 'Traditional grammar' into 'Traditional grammatics'. For this reason, they nominate their theory 'Systemic Functional Grammatics'. Grammar as a (phenomenon) forms a part of language; it is the system of wording. There are two theoretical perspectives of language. In one, language is seen a set of rules which specify structures. This perspective is built on logic and philosophy regarding the sentence the basic unit of language. The second perspective shows or expresses language as a resource for creating meaning by means of wording. It is built on rhetoric and ethnography regarding text (discourse) the basic unit of language. They advocate the second perspective when they define grammar as a resource for creating meaning in the form of wordings.

They (ibid, p. 5-10) clarify the relationship between semantics and grammar by three areas which are interpersonal, ideational and textual metafunctions. When we are interacting with other people, we enter into a range of interpersonal relationships which are chosen among semantic strategies such as persuading, requesting, insisting, and so on. Grammar provides as with the basic resource for doing that. It can do that by presenting set of clause systems which can be called mood. The most general choice in mood is that between "indicative" and "imperative" clauses. Each one of them has its own systemic features. The former has a finite verb, whereas the latter does not, the former has a subject, whereas the latter may or may not have one because it is typically absent. Looking at the system itself, the former has many choices to differentiate the tense among( past/ present/ future) and the persons while the situation is different with the latter where there is one tense (present) and one

person( the addressee). The choice between 'indicative' and 'imperative' is the most general one in this area of grammar. Indicative clauses can be either declarative or interrogative. The former are tagged or untagged. The latter are either of WH-type or Yes /No type.

(Fontaine, 2013, p. 78) argues that the meaning can be created by grammar within highly generalized metafunctions that relate to the phenomena outside language which are interpersonal and ideational. The interaction between speaker(s) and addressee(s) is the concern of the interpersonal metafunction. The grammatical resources for enacting social roles in general and speech roles in particular, in dialogic interaction are used for establishing, changing, and maintaining interpersonal relations. One of its major grammatical systems is MOOD. Grammatical resources for construing our experience of the world around us and inside us are the focus of the ideational metafunction having Transitivity as one of its major grammatical systems. These two metafunctions orient towards two 'extra-linguistic' phenomena, the social world and the natural world; we construe the natural world in the ideational mode and to enact the social world in the interpersonal mode. In addition, there is a third metafunction, intrinsic to language that is the textual metafunction. The creation of text is the main interest of the textual metafunction which is concerned with the presentation of ideational and interpersonal meanings as information that can be shared by speaker and listener in text unfolding in context. One of the major textual systems is THEME where a local point of departure in the flow of information is selected. The role of the textual metafunction is to enable the presentation of ideational and interpersonal meaning as information that can be shared. It provides the speaker with strategies for guiding the listener in his/ her interpretation of the text. She affirms that MOOD (interpersonal), TRANSITIVITY (ideational), and THEME (textual) are simultaneous strands within the system network of the clause.

According to (Chouliaraki and Fairclough, 1999, p.139) CDA has developed in a close relationship with Systemic Functional Linguistics especially in Britain and Australia.SFL theorizes language in a way which harmonizes far more with the perspective of critical social science than other theories of language. It views language as a semiotic system which is structured in terms of strata language connects meanings with their spoken and written expressions. Both meanings and expressions interface with the extra- linguistic- meanings with social life, expression with bodily processes such as those of vocal mechanism.

(Chapman and Routledge, 2009, p.225) state that Systemic Functional grammar consists of two components which are systemic grammar and functional grammar. These two parts are inseparable parts of an integral framework of this theory. SFG is an approach to linguistic description which aims to provide a comprehensive account of how language is used in context for communication. This approach deals with language as a source that is mainly shaped by the uses the people make of it. For this reason, it aims to explain the forms of language in terms of the meanings that they express. The development of grammar which is designed to make it possible to say sensible and useful things about any text is another aim of this approach.

Two main distinguishing features which are contained in the name form this theory. First, whereas many approaches study the syntagmatic (horizontal) dimension of how constituents may be combined with other constituents in a well-formed structure, this theory gives a priority to the choices that are open to the speaker at any particular point in an utterance- the paradigmatic (vertical) dimension. In other words, the grammatical structures are seen as the outcome of choices from those available. Sets of choices between options can most economically be shown in the form of systems. (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2006, p.313)

According to (Chouliaraki and Fairclough, ibid, p. 143-145), the other key feature of functional nature where SFG is designed is to map the relationships between forms and meaning in a consistent way. This side of grammar has a number of important implications. First, the most important labels are functional (semantic: telling us what the elements mean), rather than formal (telling us what they consist of).

The second implication is that SFG is extravagant. In order to capture the multivariate relations between meaning and structure, the grammatical model has to allow for different perspectives on the clause to provide a much richer and more informative set of descriptions.

The third implication studies or shows that the communicative function of utterances can only be fully understood in relation to their meaning in context.

(Matthiessen and Halliday, 1997, p. 12-20) argue that these two key bases of this model combine together in the concept of metafunctions which are:

1-Interpersonal metafunction comprises those systems which function to enact social relations between addressers and addressees, to express the speaker's view point of events and things in the world, and to influence the addressee's behavior or view. The choice of forms may seem to be imposed naturally by the context. This means that any difference in wordings is the result of meaningful choice.

2-The experiential metafunction in which language is seen from the perspective of how it is used to talk about events, states and entities in the world, to interpret or construe the speaker's view of the world. An experiential analysis of a clause focuses on the process (realized by the verb), the participants in that process (typically, but not always, realized by nominal groups), and the circumstances in which the process happens (typically realized by adverbial groups or prepositional phrases). To make sense of the events around us, we use the cognitive categories which are reflected by the six main types of specific processes which are:

- A-Material (processes of action).
- B-Mental (processes of sensing which clarify or construe our interior world).
- C- Relational (process of being and having).
- D- Verbal (processes of conveying messages, by saying, and so on.).
- E- Behavioral (human physiological processes).
- F- Existential (processes of existing).
- 3-The textual metafunction which is concerned with how the meanings in the clause are organized to fit in with the context of surrounding messages and with the wider context of the utterance.

(Chouliaraki and Fairclough, ibid, p. 145) mention that the stratal organization of language means that the link between meaning and expression strata is mediated by a stratum which does not itself directly interface with the extra linguistic-lexicogrammar (grammar plus lexis, which is seen as functionally grounded, shaped by the social functions it serves. The grammar is structured as three major 'networks' of grammatical systems (transitivity, mood and modality, and information-including theme/rheme and given/new which correspond to these three macrofunctions. Every clause in a text is seen as grammatically constituted simultaneously as semiotic production (textual function) which constructs the world(ideational function) while enacting social relations between its producers and others who inhabit that world(interpersonal function). Thus the social is built into grammatical issue of language.

# **III Transitivity**

Transitivity reflects the experiential (ideational) metafunction. It forms a basic semantic system which tackles the world of experience and construes it into a manageable set of process types. These processes are divided into six types by Halliday which are respectively: (a) material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process and existential one. He starts with the material process because it is the largest group with the greatest number of cross-cutting options. The first three types of clauses are the main types of process in English transitivity system. Each one of them has its own core meaning and participant as shown in table one:

Process Type	Core Meaning	Participants
Material	'doing ' 'happening'	'actor' 'goal'
Mental	'sensing'	'Senser', 'phenomenon'
Relational	'being'	
Verbal	'saying'	' sayer ',' receiver'. 'verbiage'
Behavioral	'behaving'	'behaver'
Existential	'existing'	'existent

Table (1) Cognitive processes implied within ideational metafunction

## 3.1. Material Process

(Fontaine, 2013, p. 71-4) states that a Material clause construes 'doings and happenings'. It includes actions, activities and events, configurations of a process and participants involved that require some input of energy to occur and in which one of the participants may undergo a change. It has specific structural configuration which is "Actor + Process+ Goal + (Recipient)". The process may be 'directed' as the case with transitive verb. If the process is directed, it may be 'benefactive' as in the case with "di-transitive verbs' in this case, there is what is called 'Recipient'. It does not include a system of projection (a system with an option of reporting or quoting speech or thought, which we find with verbal and mental clauses, as in (The paper said" The building collapsed"). It includes all the verbs that express an action. It usually has two participants: the first is called an 'Actor' while the second is named a 'Goal'. Their grammatical equivalences are 'subject' and 'object' respectively. They are always found as noun phrases and occupied nominal position.

(Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 179-197) show that Material clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events as taking place through some input of energy. The source of energy bringing about the change is typically a participant (The Actor) which is the logical subject. It is the one that does the deed. It is also can occur in passive clause seizing a lower status of adjunct which can be left out. The unmarked tense selection is the present-in-present (present continuous) (is doing) rather than the simple present. The material clause may represent a happening (transitive) and it may represent a doing (intransitive). Clause of happening extends to another participant to impact it in some way (The Goal). The first case is represented in this example: 'The lion caught the tourist'. We can look at the above example from two sides and ask:" What did the lion do to the tourist?" and "What happened to the tourist?"

The second case is manifested in this example:" The lion sprang". To probe that, we can ask "What did the lion do?" (Spring = intransitive). The Goal may appear in two forms: either operative (active) or receptive (passive) such as:

1-The wolf ate the sheep.

2-The sheep was eaten by the wolf.

The sub-types of material clause are (a) creative clauses when the Actor or Goal is construed as being brought into the existence (b) transformative ones where a pre-existing Actor or Goal is construed as being transformed. These sub-types are clarified in the following examples:

3-Creative (intransitive): Icicles formed.

4-Creative (transitive): They built a house.

5-Transformative: (intransitive): Icicles melted.

6-Transformative: (transitive): The sun melted them.

The outcome of the transformation can be:

A- Elaboration.

B- Extension.

C- Enhancement.

(Eggins, 2004, p. 222-3) mentions that the Actor is an inherent participant in both intransitive and transitive material clauses while the Goal is inherent in transitive clauses. In addition to these two roles, there are also Scope, Recipient and Client. Like the Goal, both Recipient and Client are affected by the process, but while the Goal is the participant that is affected by the process, the Recipient or Client is the one that benefits from it. The scope of a material clause construes the domain over which the process takes place as in table (2):

The dormouse Crossed the court Actor **Material Process** Scope I Gave My love a ring that has no end **Material Process** Recipient Actor Goal We for our children An assuring future. must build **Material Process** Client Actor Goal

Table (2) the patterns of Material Process

# 3.2. Mental Process

(Eggins, 2004, p. 225-33) demonstrates that Mental processes do not require verbs of action but those of feeling, thinking and seeing; therefore they do not come with Actors but with Sensers and Phenomenon. This process reflects inner experiences and deals with cases of perception, reaction and cognition. A mental process construes sensing, perception, cognition, intention, and emotion; configurations of a process of consciousness involving a participant endowed with consciousness and typically a participant entering into or created by that consciousness. It has a particular structural configuration which is "Senser + Process + phenomenon". The senser of mental process is more constrained than the actor, it also can be said that it is the most constrained of all participants in any of the process types. The mental clause may lead to a system of projection. It can project the content of "consciousness", "thought" or "idea" as in "He thought the moon is balloon", it cannot have a benefactive option.

(Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 197-210) indicate that the clause of "mental" process has one participant who is human (the Senser). He is the one who senses, feels, thinks, wants or perceives. Mental clause

can project another clause or combination of clauses as representation of the content of thinking, believing and so on. The projected clause is called an "Idea Clause". In a mental clause, the unmarked present tense is the simple present. The class of mental clause has four different sub-types of sensing which are: perceptive, cognitive, desiderative and emotive. Each sub-type has its own verbs as clarified in the table (3).

Table (3) the four sub-types of mental clause

The sub-types of mental clause	The most common of their own verbs
Perceptive	sense, perceive, see, notice. glimpse, hear, feel, taste, smell
Cognitive	believe, suppose, think, expect, consider, dream, imagine, pretend, wonder, guess, remember, recall, forget, fear, realize, appreciate, hypothesize, doubt
Desiderative	want , would like , desire, decide, resolve, determine, agree, wish , intend , plan
Emotive	like, love, adore, dislike, hate, despite, regret, mourn, grieve

### 3.3. Relational Process

(Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 210-240) demonstrate that this process usually requires linking verbs or 'verb to be'. It is divided into two modes: either it is attributive or identifying one. They clarify what is meant by relational process by mentioning three examples which are: (I) Usually means mostly. (II) Every fourth African is a Nigerian. (III) Three major groups in the nation are the Yoruba in the Southwest, The Ibo in the Southwest, and the Hausa in the north. The relational clauses are characterized by a few favorite verbs such as "be and have"

They (ibid) argue that Relational clauses serve to characterize and identify. These clauses are realized by "be" in the simple and past. The clauses with characterization have no agnate reversed variant while with identity they have an agnate reversed variant. They like mental clauses because they construe change as unfolding 'inertly' without an input of energy. The fundamental properties of Relational clauses derive from the nature of configuration of being but not in the sense of existence because there is a distinct category of Existential clauses such as" there was a storm". In Relational clauses, there are two parts to the 'being': two inherent participants are involved in Relational clauses. The English system operates with three main types of relations which are "intensive", "possessive" and "circumstantial" and each of these come in two distinct mode of being which are either 'attributive' or 'identifying'. These two modes interest to define six categories of Relational clause as shown in table (4):

Table (4) the main types of Relational clauses with their own two modes

Relational Types	Attributive where (A) is an	Identifying where(A) identifies (B)
	attribute of (B)	
Intensive' (A) is (B)		Ali is the captain; The captain is Ali
	The student is clever	
Possessive'(A) has(B)	Ali has a pistol	The pistol is Ali's; Ali's is the pistol
Circumstantial'(A)is at(B) The final match is on Friday		Tomorrow is the final match; The final
	_	match is tomorrow

In this table, we can recognize that the identifying relations are reversed while the attributive ones are not. Possessive clauses relate body parts to the whole. Circumstantial clauses construe the extension in space of certain smaller body part in relation to larger ones. In the attributive mode, there is an entity that has some class ascribed or attributed to it. We label this class the attribute, and the entity to which it is ascribed is the Carrier.

(Eggins, 2004, p. 237-49) indicates that the attributive clauses are different from identifying ones in three points:

- 1-The nominal group that functions as attribute construes a class of thing and it is typically indefinite. It is either adjective or a common noun preceded by indefinite article. It cannot be proper noun or a pronoun.
  - 2-The interrogative probe for such clauses is "what?" or "what---like?".
  - 3-The clauses are not reversible.

The characteristics of identifying are:

- 1-The nominal group realizing the function of identifier is typically definite.
- 2-The interrogative probe for such clauses is "which?" or "Who?"
- 3-These clauses are reversible.

We can summarize the relation between the attribution and identifying in that the first case refers to the entity that has an attribute and these two elements differ in generality, in the sense that one includes the other, but are at the same level of abstraction such as "My brother is tall" where the first part is "Carrier = Member" while the second "Attribute = Class". If the two differ in abstraction then one member class becomes a value to which the member is assigned as a Token. This case can be clarified in this table:

Table (5) Decoding and Encoding processes within identifying process

My brother	Is	the tallest in the picture	
Identified/Value		Identifier/ Token	
Pat	Is	the one of the richest people I know	
Identified /Token	Decoding	Identifier /Value	
The richest	Is	Pat	
Identifier /Value	Encoding	Identified /Token	

Circumstantial and possessive clauses will be clarified by these two tables:

Table (6) Circumstantial Clause

My story	Is	About a poor shepherd boy
Carrier	Relational Process	Attributive Circumstantial /Prepositional Phrase

Table (7) Possessive Clause

Ali Has		a pistol	
Carrier/Possessor	Relational Process/ Possession	Attribute/ Possessed	

Material, Mental and Relational clauses form three principle types of processes because they are cornerstones of the grammar in its guise as a theory of experience. They form three distinct kinds of structural configuration and they account for the majority of clauses in a text. Verbal, Behavioral and Existential form three secondary processes; therefore they will be discussed in a superficial way.

# 3.4. Behavioral Clauses

(Fontaine, 2013, p. 78) mentions that Behavioral processes are defined as those that represent the outer manifestations of inner workings, the acting out of the process of consciousness such as "He is laughing" or expressing physiological states such as "He is sleeping". They are typically associated with human physiological and psychological behavior like 'smiling', 'coughing' and ' dreaming'. They are the least distinct of all the six process types because they have no clear define characteristics. They are partly like the mental clauses because

the participant who is behaving (behaver) is typically a conscious being like the (Senser). The usual unmarked present tense is present in present. The boundaries of behavior processes with the other processes are indeterminate as shown in this table:

Table (8) Verbs belong to Behavioral clause

Behavioral Processes like Mental ones	look, listen, think, dream, watch
Behavioral Processes like Verbal ones	talk, argue, murmur, cry, laugh, smile, sob, nod, breathe, sneeze, cough, sleep
Behavioral Processes like Material ones	sing, dance, sit(up, down), lie

### 3.5. Verbal Clauses

According to (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 252-55), Verbal processes are symbolic relationships constructed in human consciousness and enacted in the form of language such as: 'He said that he was a man'. They are clauses of saying which form an important source in various kinds of discourse. They have a clear contribution in the creation of narrative by making it possible to set up dialogic passage. They have one participant who represents the speaker and there may also be an additional participant who is represented by addressee. They help the reporter to attribute information to sources, including experts and eye witnesses. They do not require a conscious participant. There are specific verbs which serve to achieve this process which are clarified in Table (9):

Table (9) Sample of verbs that serve to achieve Verbal clauses

Type		Examples of Verbs	
Activity	Targeting	praise, insult, abuse, blame, criticize,	
	Talking	speak, talk	
Semiosis	(neutral quoting)	say, tell	
Indicating		tell(sb that), report, announce, explain, argue, convince(	
	that), persuade (sb that), promise (that)		
Imperating tell (sb to do), ask (sb to do), order, com		tell (sb to do), ask (sb to do), order, command, require,	
		promise, threaten, persuade(sb to do), convince (sb to	
		do)	

They display distinctive patterns of their own. They may have three participants in addition to the Sayer which are: Receiver, Verbiage and Target. The Receiver is the one to whom the saying is directed. It can be a subject in passive voice (receptive). It is realized by nominal group denoting a conscious being. Target may occur only in a sub-type of verbal clause which construes the entity that is targeted by the process of saying.

### 3.6. Existential Clauses

According to (Eggins, 2004, p.249-51), Existential clauses are unique in that the subject is not found as a participant but it is usually replaced by the item "there", which represents only "existence", not the participant that exists. Halliday mentions this example to clarify what he has said: Today there is Christianity in the south". They represent something exists or happens. They are not very common in discourse. Textually, (There) represents the Theme which allows the addressee to prepare for something that is about to be introduced; and this something is presented as New Information. The word (There) in such clause is neither a participant nor a circumstance. It does not have representational function in the transitivity of the clause. It serves to indicate the

feature of existence. This process usually occurs with the verb 'be' in addition to the following verbs: exist, remain, arise, occur, come about, happen, take place, sit, and lie. They contain in most cases a distinct circumstantial element of time or place as in the following example:

1-On the wall, there was a huge crack.

On the wall,	There	Was	A huge crack
Circumstance		Existential Process	Existent

(Eggins, 2013, p. 159) states that Circumstances Adjuncts add ideational content to the clause because they express circumstances relating to the process represented in the clause. Circumstantial meanings cover the following:

A-Time (probed by when)

B-Place (probed by where)

C-Cause (probed by why)

D-Matter (probed by about what)

E-Accompaniment (probed by with whom)

F-Beneficiary (probed by to whom)

G-Agent (probed by whom)

# **IV Data Analysis of Transitivity**

Table (10): Cognitive Processes implied within Ideational Metafunction

	Material	Mental	Relational	Behavioral	Verbal	Existential	Total
	Processes	Processes	Processes	Processes	Processes	Processes	Number
First	70	21	60	4	7	1	163
Speech	42.94%	12.88%	36.80%	2.45%	4.29%	0.61%	100%
Second	178	71	356	8	38	10	661
Speech	26.92%	10.74%	53.85%	1.21%	5.74%	1.51%	100%

Table (11): Three Types of Relational Process

	Relational/Intensive		Relational/	Relational/	Total
	Attributive	Identifying	Circumstantial	Possession	Number
First	33	13	7	7	60
Speech	55%	21.66%	11.66%	11.66%	100%
Second	149	67	93	47	356
Speech	41.85%	18.82%	26.12%	13.20	100%

# Many guidelines can be investigated to recognize the Ideational meaning:

- 1- Use the process test to show how many participants are expected by the process.
- 2- Use the replacement test to identify the internal boundaries of the clause.
- 3- Determine the type of process and the participant functions.
- 4-Identifying and label any circumstances.

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**V** Discussion

5.1. Material Process

Material processes occupy the highest rank as expected because they are processes of doing. They form a

good choice in this kind of speech to demonstrate or draw the achievements of the government. By using them,

Bush explains what he is doing and what he will do at home or abroad. This kind of processes strengthens

Americans' confidence toward their new elected president. They represent the best way by which the speaker can

get the absolute support as shown in the following sample:

I stand today in this gracious parliament.

Step (1): In this process, we expect somebody who can stand (Actor).

Step (2): 'in this gracious parliament' is a prepositional phrase because we can move it to the initial of the

clause to emphasize it:

In this gracious parliament, I stand.

The internal boundaries of this clause as follows:

I /stand / today / in this gracious parliament

Step (3): Three processes cam be eliminated immediately since it cannot be existential, relational or verbal. It

is a material process which contains an Actor.

Probe for Actor:

1-What does Bush do? He stands in the gracious parliament.

Step (4): Identify any circumstance.

Today = circumstance of Location (Time)

In the gracious parliament = circumstance of Location (Space)

5.2. Mental Process

The speaker in this kind of speech resorts to verbs of feeling, thinking, seeing, perception, reaction and

cognition to arouse Americans' enthusiasm and stirs their emotion to achieve specific target. For example:

We will not see a story of America.

Senser

The probe for mental processes is based on replacing the verb for a prototypical verb for mental processes.

These include: perceive, know, believe and so forth. In a sense, then, the participant in question (senser) is

removed from the clause being analyzed and fitted into a known mental clause to see if their function remains the

same.

Probe: [participant] {perceives, knows, believes} something

Phenomenon

The probe for phenomenon is the same as the one of senser except that it is put into the mental frame in the

phenomenon role to see if it carries this function.

Probe: Someone {perceive, know, believe} participant

Step (1): In this process, we expect somebody who can perceive (Senser).

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Step (2): 'a story of America' is a prepositional phrase where 'of America' functions as post-modifier. It can

be replaced by it:

I will not see it

The internal boundaries of this clause are as follows:

We / will not / see / a story of America.

Step (3): Four processes can be eliminated immediately since this clause cannot be existential, relational,

Behavioral and Material because it can be projected. The choice is between two processes which are Mental and

Verbal processes. It is mental process because it cannot be followed by a Receiver.

Step (4): Identify any circumstance. This clause does not have any circumstance.

5.3. Relational process

Relational process is the best way to explain the complex relationships between some abstract items because it sounds definite. It has high rank and rate in this kind of speech to elaborate the relationship between traditional ideas and their beliefs. This elaboration forms a tool that helps the President to make the reasoning naturally and

unconsciously accepted.

Intensive type of Relational process:

The peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history.

Carrier

The probe for Carrier function is a re-expression test when the clause in question is split up and fitted into a frame that force the participant being analyzed into the function of Carrier.

Probe :{ Attribute} is what (or how or who or where) {participant} was/is

Rare is how the transfer of authority is//

The result shows that 'the transfer of authority' functions as Carrier for the Attribute 'rare'.

Attribute

The probe for the Attribute can be done in the same way as the Carrier but the process of re-order the clause forces the participant being analyzed into the function of Attribute.

Probe: The thing about [Carrier] is that it is [Participant].

Probe: The thing about the transfer of authority is that it is rare.

The result indicates that the participant, rare, is functioning as Attribute.

Step (1): In this process, we expect to find adjective to qualify something or somebody.

Step (2): The internal boundaries of this clause are as follows:

The peaceful transfer of authority/ is / rare / in history

Step (3): Four processes can be eliminated immediately since this clause cannot be Material, Mental, Verbal, and Behavioral because it has verb' be'. It is Relational process because it has verb to 'be' as a main verb and if we turn the subject of this clause into 'There' the acceptability of this sentence will be violated.

Step (4): Identify any circumstance. This clause has a circumstance of Location (Time) (In history).

It (America) is a story of a new world.

Identified and identifier.

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The probe for the participant in identifying relational processes relies on the features of this type of process.

The first test is that of the inversion of two participants without affecting the acceptability of the clause.

America is a story of a new world.

A story of a new world is America.

Step (1): In this process, we expect to find Proper noun or a definite noun which identify something or

somebody.

Step (2): The internal boundaries of this clause are as follows:

America/ is / a story of a new world

Step (3): Four processes can be eliminated immediately since this clause cannot be Material, Mental, Verbal,

and Behavioral because it has verb' be'. It is Relational process because it has verb to 'be' as a main verb and if

we turn the subject of this clause into 'There' the acceptability of this sentence will be violated.

Step (4): Identify any circumstance. This clause does not have any circumstance.

5.4. Behavioral Process

I thank President Clinton for his service to our Nation.

It is very difficult to probe behavioral processes because they are a border category which represents

sensing and saying as activity. Behaver is very much like Actor who is to a certain extent doing something.

Behavioral process is more like material processes than any other process type because it prefers present

continuous tense. We can distinguish it from Verbal and Mental through resorting to the process of projection.

Behavioral processes do not accept projection.

The best way to probe for behavior is to consider whether or not the participant is present in an activity and

whether there is a mental or verbal aspect of the process. It is also necessary to apply the process of projection.

**Probe** 

1-Is the [participant] involved in an activity? Yes [Bush] thanks President Clinton for his service to their

Nation.

2-Is there a mental or verbal quality to the process? Yes. Bush is sensing gratitude or gratefulness, he feels

something.

3-Can the clause project another clause? No

\*Bush thanks that president Clinton for his service.

5.5. Verbal Process

Today we affirm (say) a new to live out our nation's promise

The prototypical verb for the verbal process is 'say' but the process is expressed by a wide range of

meanings related to reporting information. If there is doubt about the process type, sayer could be confused with

participants in other processes, especially a Senser in mental process because both of them can project another

clause and both types of process prefer the simple present tense. Only one difference can be found between them

which is the presence of a Receiver in the case of Verbal process.

To probe the Sayer, we must answer the following questions:

1-Does [participant] report information?

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2-Can the process project another clause?

3-Can/does the clause include a Receiver as a participant?

To probe our sample, we should ask:

1-Does Bush report information? Yes, he does.

2-Can the process project another clause? Yes, Bush affirms that America should apply the Nation's promise.

3-Can/does the clause include a Receiver as a participant? Yes, Bush affirms to American people that they

should apply the Nation's promise.

5.6. Existential Process

There is nothing I (Bashar Al-Assad) can do except to respond to the will of the people

There are two parts to this probe:

1-Is the subject of clause "there"?

2-Is the process expressed by "be"? If not, we can replace the verb of the process by "be" without loss of

meaning.

If these two conditions are found, then the participant in question is an Existent. In the above sentence, these

two conditions are found satisfying the requirements of Existential Process.

**VI Conclusion** 

The priority is for Material processes in Bush's speech which forms a good means by which Bush can explain

what the government has achieved and what they are doing and what will they do. He resorts to this process

because he needs the verbs belongs to it to ensure his people that he is a man of deeds not just words. The speech

of Al-Assad is full of Relational processes that help him to explain and elaborate the discussion of some topics.

They are the best way to explain abstract items which need more explanation. It has high rank and rate in this

kind of speech to elaborate the relationship between traditional ideas and their beliefs. This elaboration forms a

tool that helps the President to make the reasoning naturally and unconsciously accepted.

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