

BENEFICIARY IN MATERIAL PROCESSES: A SYNTACTIC STUDY

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ABSTRAK

Artikel ini berjudul *Beneficiary in Material Processes: a Syntactic Study*. Penelitian ini mengkaji dua hal utama, yaitu: (1) Apakah frasa preposisional dengan kata *to* dan *for* dalam proses *Material* termasuk ke dalam *Beneficiary*, dan (2) Verba apa saja dalam proses *Material* yang dapat mengandung *Beneficiary*. Data dijangar dari sebuah video berbahasa Inggris. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Halliday tentang tata bahasa fungsional. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode penulisan deskriptif, dengan jenis penelitian analisa dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tidak semua preposisi dengan kata *to* dan *for* dalam proses *Material* termasuk *Beneficiary*. Hal ini dapat dibuktikan dengan memindahkan dan menghilangkan preposisi tersebut. Data dan hasil penelitian ini bersifat tentatif, karena sedikitnya sumber data. Data dan hasil penelitian ini dapat berubah di kemudian hari apabila ada penelitian lebih lanjut mengenai *Beneficiary*.

Kata Kunci: *Material Processes, Beneficiary, Recipient, Client*

INTRODUCTION

Functional linguistics is a new material for the students of English linguistics in Indonesia. Though it

might be new, it has been applied in almost every school, especially high schools. Thus, it is important for us, students and teachers

of EFL, to understand functional grammar approach if we want to teach it to high school students or to apply it in everyday purposes.

According to Inchaurralde (2005), "Functional linguistics appeared as a reaction to formal approaches to grammar, especially generative and transformational approaches. One of its basic assumptions is that language is a symbolic system with a certain purpose or purposes, mainly communication, although there are other possibilities too, such as the use of language as an instrument of thought."

There are three kinds of subject in functional linguistics; psychological subject, logical subject and grammatical subject. The logical subject is called Actor. Actor is a function in the clause as representation (of a process).

Halliday (1985) states that there are six types of processes; material processes, mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, existential processes and behavioural processes. In every process, there is always active participant, and other participant function, such as beneficiary and range.

Beneficiary cannot appear in every process. It appears in material and verbal processes, and occasionally in relational (Halliday,

1985) as the indirect object of the processes.

This study focuses on beneficiary as other participant in material processes, with the formulation of the study:

1. Are prepositional phrases with *to* and *for* in material processes beneficiaries or not?
2. What verbs in material processes can consist of beneficiaries?

This study aims to do the following:

1. It probes whether prepositional phrases with *to* and *for* in material processes are beneficiaries or not.
2. It describes what verbs in material processes can consist of beneficiaries.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Transitivity (Halliday, 1985) specifies the different types of process that are recognised in the language, and the structures by which they are expressed.

According to Halliday (1985) and Gerot and Wignell (1995), there are three components in a process which explain in a general way how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistic structures. These are:

- processes
- participants in the process
- circumstances associated with the process

English language structures each experience as a semantic configuration, consisting of process, participants, and (optionally) circumstantial elements.

Table 1

Typical functions of group and phrase classes

type of element:	typically realised by:
process	verbal group
participant	nominal group adverbial group or prepositional
circumstance	phrase

Example:

the lion	chased	the tourist	lazily	through the bush
participant	process	participant	circumstance	circumstance
nominal group	verbal group	nominal group	adverbial group	prepositional phrase

In conclusion, a process involves the process itself, participant(s), and circumstance(s) which is optional.

Material Processes

Material processes are processes of ‘doing’. They express the notion that some entity ‘does’ something –which may be done ‘to’ some other entity.

Clauses with a material process obligatorily have a doing (process) and a doer (participant).

The traditional view of transitivity in western linguistics is as follows.

- Every process has an Actor.
- Some processes, but not all, also have a second participant, which we shall call a Goal.

Example:

the lion	sprang
Actor	Process

the lion	caught	the tourist
Actor	Process	Goal

The term Goal implies ‘directed at’; but there is another term that has been used. The relevant concept, however, is more like that of ‘one to which the process is extended’. The concept of extension is in fact the one that is embodied in the classical terminology of ‘transitive’ and ‘intransitive’.

From the examples above, the verb **spring** is said to be intransitive, and the verb **catch** is said to be transitive. These, as a matter of fact, relate more appropriately to the clause than to the verb.

There are two varieties of material processes: ‘doing to’ or dispositive type and ‘bringing about’ or creative type. The participant that results from the creative process is still referred to as Goal.

Handel	wrote	the Messiah
Actor	process	Goal

In the dispositive type, we have doings and happenings.

Kerr	dismissed	Whitlam
Actor	Process	Goal

the bushwalker	tripped
Actor	Process

the gun	discharged
Actor	Process

Material processes ‘take’ both the active voice (as the previous) and the passive.

Whitlam	was dismissed	by Kerr
Goal	Process	Actor

the gun	was discharged
Goal	Process

With some of these, it is most likely to meet the process in middle voice (one participant).

the fuel	ignites
Actor	Process

the gun	discharged
Actor	Process

A material process can be recognised by using the ‘do’ probe. What did X do (to Y)? What happened to Y?

However, it is important to recognise that there may be more than one kind of process in the grammar of a language; and that the functions assumed by the participants in any clause are determined by the type of process that is involved. It therefore needs to broaden the view of what constitute ‘goings-on’.

Jack and Jill	went	up the hill
Actor	Process	Circumstance

to fetch	a pail of water
Process	Goal

Jack	fell	down
Actor	Process	Circumstance

and	broke	his crown
	Process	Goal

and	Jill	came tumbling	after
	Actor	Process	Circumstance

I	sold	the car	to John
Actor	Material	Goal	Recipient

I	sold	(to) John	the car
Actor	Material	Recipient	Goal

They	threw	a farewell party	for Jane
Actor	Material	Goal	Client

They	threw	(for) Jane	a farewell party
Actor	Material	Client	Goal

Beneficiary in Material Processes

The Beneficiary (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place. In Material processes the beneficiary is either the Recipient or the Client. Recipient is the one to whom the goods are given. The Client is the one for whom services are provided.

According to Eggins (2000), both Clients and Recipients may occur with or without prepositions, depending on their position in the clause.

METHODOLOGY

Since this study is aimed to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population or area of interest, factually and accurately (Isaac & Michael, 1982), then the appropriate method should be used is the descriptive research.

Isaac and Michael (1982) state that descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situations or events. It is the accumulation of a data base that is solely descriptive –it does not necessarily seek or explain relationships, test hypotheses, make

predictions, or get at meanings and implications.

The kind of descriptive research used in this study is the document analysis research, as stated by Riyanto (2001) in his book:

Penelitian analisis dokumen/analisis isi adalah penelitian yang dilakukan secara sistematis terhadap catatan-catatan atau dokumen sebagai sumber data. Ciri-ciri dari penelitian ini adalah (1) Penelitian dilakukan terhadap informasi yang didokumentasikan dalam bentuk rekaman, gambar, dan sebagainya (2) Subjek penelitiannya adalah sesuatu barang, buku, majalah dan sebagainya (3) Dokumen sebagai sumber data pokok.

The data were taken and collected from a video. The writer wrote down the clauses found from the video, then classified them. Having been classified, the data are then described to probe whether they are beneficiaries.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. I'm going to save you some time.

The word *you* from the clause above is a **Beneficiary**. It can be probed by moving the word to the

end of the sentence and adding a preposition.

I	'm going to save	you	some time.
Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Client	Goal

I	'm going to save	some time	for you.
Actor	Material	Goal	Beneficiary: Client

In the case above, the beneficiary acts as a **Client**, because the service, *save*, is done for someone else.

2. You got us tickets to that play.

You	got	us	tickets	to that play.
Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Client	Goal	Circumstance

The word *us* above is a **Beneficiary**, because it can be added a preposition.

You	got	tickets	for us	to that play.
Actor	Material	Goal	Beneficiary: Client	Circumstance

The beneficiary acts as a **Client**, since the service, *get*, is done for someone else.

3. I owe you an explanation.

I	owe	you	an explanation.
Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal

The word *you* is a **Beneficiary**. It can be probed by adding a preposition *to*. By adding the preposition *to*, the type of beneficiary in the clause is a **Recipient** since the goal, *an explanation*, is done to someone.

I	owe	an explanation	to you.
Actor	Material	Goal	Beneficiary: Recipient

4. You have to watch it for me.

The prepositional phrase *for me* above is **not a Beneficiary**, because it does not occur naturally when it is moved to the middle of the clause and the preposition *for* is omitted.

*You have to watch me it.

Hence, the prepositional phrase *for me* is simply a **circumstantial element** of Cause (Behalf).

You	have to watch	it	for me.
Actor	Material	Goal	Circumstance

5. Do you mind giving us a minute?

Do	you	mind giving	us	a minute?
Material	Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal

The word *us* above is a **Beneficiary**, acts as a **Recipient**. It can be probed by adding a preposition *to*.

Do	you	mind giving	a minute	to us?
Material	Actor	Material	Goal	Beneficiary: Recipient

6. You sent us to that Medieval Times restaurant.

The prepositional phrase *to that Medieval Times restaurant* is **not a Beneficiary**, because it cannot be moved and the preposition cannot be omitted. Therefore, the phrase is **a Circumstance**.

You	sent	us	to that Medieval Times restaurant.
Actor	Material	Goal	Circumstance

However, the word *sent* can really work with a Beneficiary. For example in the clause *He sent me a flower* which can occur naturally with a preposition *to* (*He sent a flower to me*).

7. You sang to our baby daughter a song about a man.

You	sang	to our baby	a song	about a man.
Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal	Circumstance

The prepositional phrase *to our baby daughter* really is **a Beneficiary**. It can occur naturally without a preposition.

8. You sang our baby daughter a song about a man.

You	sang	our baby daughter	a song	about a man.
Actor	Material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal	Circumstance

The clause rarely happens since the prepositional phrase *to our baby daughter* occurs before the Goal, *a song*. It usually appears following the Goal. Both possible clauses, however, are natural.

In addition, the prepositional phrase *to our baby daughter* can also be placed after *a song*.

You	sang	a song	to our baby daughter	about a man.
Actor	Material	Goal	Beneficiary: Recipient	Circumstance

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Having analysed some clauses found from the data, there are some

conclusions that can be drawn as follows:

1. Not all prepositions *to* and *for* in Material processes are Beneficiaries. They must be probed to prove whether they really are Beneficiaries. In Beneficiaries, Clients are more strict than Recipients.
2. The verbs found from the data which can consist of Beneficiaries are *save, get, owe, give, send, sing*.
3. Beneficiaries with prepositions can sometimes occur naturally before Goals.

SUGGESTIONS

There are also a few suggestions for further study about Processes, especially about Beneficiaries:

1. The data found is still limited by the amount of the source of the data. It is recommended that further studies about Beneficiaries should take more sources for the data.
2. The verbs which can consist of Beneficiaries in this study is tentative. It can be more verbs or less verbs. It is strongly recommended for further studies to gain more verbs from the data.

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