A Promise of Change: A Transitivity Analysis of Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nation Addresses

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper used the transitivity system to critically analyze how President Rodrigo Duterte explored language utterances in his 2016, 2017 and 2018 State of the Nation Addresses (SONA) to convey his political promise of change to the Filipinos. The paper employed quantitative and qualitative approaches. Content analysis closely examined the communicative meanings of the linguistic choices used in the addresses. Results reveal that Duterte predominantly used material process in the three addresses to account and concretize his tangible actions and developmental plans for the country. Moreover, verbal process stressed his convictions and directives and to emphasize his charismatic and humorous style of talking. Duterte's use of relational process is an effort to recognize himself as the prime mover who leads a new foundation to construct a better Philippines. Thus, linguistic choices and structures facilitated the creation of meanings and ideologies which may be hidden to the audience.

Introduction

Language is a form of social practice and a purposeful means of communication throughout history (Adjei, Mensah, & Okoh, 2015; Fairclough, 2001). Thus, it becomes a vehicle for self-expression and for establishing and maintaining social relations. In all cultures, speaker uses language utterances to reveal his/her intentions. Consequently, the use of these utterances is never impartial, translucent or innocent. They are always a reflection of the speaker's conscious and unconscious ideologies (D'Amato, 1989; Taiwo, 2007). Therefore, Van Dijk (2006) and Kondowe (2014) underscore a need to closely examine language as a critical factor in discovering and understanding speaker's explicit and implied ideologies.

In political context across the continents, politicians, regardless of any type of political system, have relied on the spoken language to persuade others

on their political reforms and agenda and the benefits they will bring to the state (Charteris-Black, 2012). Powerful examples of spoken language are political speeches. Fairclough (2000) as cited by Adjei (2015) explained that political speeches are utilized purposefully by politicians for various reasons. Generally, they are used to argue, reason, maintain in power, dominate people and nations, ascertain and propagate ideas, protect constituents in need and/or uphold human rights, and peace. For presidential addresses, Campbell and Jamieson (2010) argue that the communicative objectives are varied as the president attempts to achieve a superfluity of functions in their addresses.

Among the political discourses interesting to investigate are the speeches of Rodrigo Duterte, president of the Republic of the Philippines. Duterte is known for his expletive, brash, blunt and straightforward style of talking. His language is infused with foul words essentially for emphasis. He is a leader who articulates what ordinary people always wish for to utter but are anxious to do so; he is a public servant who put emphasis on actions rather than words; and he is a nonconformist who is resolute to get the job completed at all costs. Political analysts believe that his phenomenal rise for a presidential position is a result of people's dissatisfaction with the existing system in the Philippine government and its environment where criminals lurk the streets, drug lords better themselves and government officials get bribe ("Why Duterte won", 2016). During his electoral campaign, Duterte deliberately promises to end illegal drugs, corruption, and criminality in the country and to bring a comfortable life for Filipinos.

A considerable number of studies have been conducted in the past that examine the political discourses of the leaders especially with the countries' presidents. Some studies focused on analyzing presidential speeches on the spectrum of Critical Discourse Analysis (Adjie et al.,

2015; Bustam, 2011; Duran, 2008; Green, 2007; Horváth, 2009; Kondowe, 2014; Opeibi 2005; Salvaleon, 2018; Shamdama, 2015; Wang, 2010). But, the State of the Nation Address (SONA) has received little attention in the field of research, especially in the domain of Functional Linguistic (Adjie et al., 2015). In fact, it contains rich and authentic source of linguistic materials for language-based studies, yet there is a dearth of study conducted, especially in the area of Functional Linguistics using transitivity system as the theoretical underpinning for analysis. As a result, people fail to recognize the role of language structure and discourse feature to produce certain meanings and ideologies "hidden" in the text.

In an attempt to carry out a transitivity analysis of Duterte's SONAs, this paper is anchored on the framework of Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday Systemic Functional Grammar particularly the Transitivity System. It seeks to critically examine the processes of clauses, their functions in the addresses and the main participants in helping the speaker to convey his intention. Transitivity is a semantic system and the realization form of their functions. The relation between the semantics and grammar is one of realization, since the wording realizes the meaning.

Theoretical Background of the Study

Systemic Functional Grammar

The study is premised on the framework of Systemic Functional Grammar postulated by Michael Alexander Kirkwood (MAK) Halliday in the United Kingdom during the 1960s, and later in Australia. The theory is called systemic for it posits that the speakers have extensive options to produce linguistic utterances either in spoken or written discourse. These expressions are determined by the social and cultural milieu where the speech act takes place. Thus, the processes of

employing language is making meanings by choosing (Adjie et al.,2015). While the system functions as a network which assimilate language choice through sentence structure, this structure offers language users diverse choices (Christie, 2002). Furthermore, the theory is named functional because language fulfills numerous practical meta-functions in a variety of speech situations. These meta-functions namely: ideational, interpersonal and textual, are widely categorized into very classified and intangible functions innate in every language.

According to Halliday (1994), ideational meta-function is concerned with how language is used to represent reality. It describes the speakers or writers' way to communicate to the audience his experiences of the real and internal worlds of his own consciousness including his cognition, feelings and perceptions (Wang, 2010). Interpersonal meta-function describes how language is employed to institute and sustain social relations. It entails modality since it is correlated to modus system (Bustam, 2011). Textual meta-function highlights how language is utilized to signify discourse. It postulates that language develops into a passage which is related to itself and to its context of use and condition. However, this paper primarily focuses on how meaning of Duterte's State of the Nation Addresses are expressed in the transitivity grammar of the clauses, which is an imperative element of an ideational meta-function.

Transitivity System

The transitivity system mainly argues that the conception of reality is composed of processes of doing, sensing, being, saying, behaving and existing. These processes are expressed through conceptual system of the language, using the structure of clauses (Kondowe, 2014). Thus, the clauses should be closely examined for their possibility to present both the outer and inner world of the speaker. Presentation of reality is articulated through a set of process patterns, the participant roles, and the circumstances in which they are used (Filho, 2004). The transitivity system is composed of six processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. The term 'process' is employed in a comprehensive sense to describe all phenomena and everything that is converyed by a verb; this may be an event, whether physical or not, state, or relation (Yumin, 2007).

Material process is a process of doing in the physical world. It puts across such cognitive phenomena as "perception" (see, look), "reaction" (like, please) and "cognition" (know, believe, convince). A cognitive process entails two participants: the Actor is an obligatory element who does the process and the Goal which is a discretionary element and communicates the person or unit whether living or non-living affected by the process (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Mental process is a process of feeling or thinking. This is an internal process, contrary to the external process of doing and speaking. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) note that, unlike material processes, mental process always has at least one individual participant who possesses the mind in which the process takes place. This participant is known as Senser. The Phenomenon is the unit which is perceived, felt or thought by the sensor.

Relational process is a process of being in the real world of abstract relations (Thompson, 2004). This process considers the abstract relationship between two participants, however, the participants does not influence other participant physically. A relational process has two types: Attributive and Identifying. Attributive relational process communicates what qualities an specific object has. This type of relational process essentially implies the connection of 'x carries the attribute y,' where an

Table 1

Summary of the Six Processes

Processes	Category Meaning	Participants	Sample Verbs
Material	Doing	Actor, Goal	elect, give, choose
	Happening	Actor, Affected	get, exposed
Mental	Perception	Senser-Phenomenon	see, hear, notice, feel, taste, smell
	Affection	Senser-Phenomenon	like, love, admire, miss, fear, hate
	Cognition	Senser-Phenomenon	think, believe, know, doubt, remember, forget
	Volition	Senser-Phenomenon	want, need, intend, desire, hope, wish
Verbal	Saying	Sayer, Receiver, Verbaige	say, teel, pledge, express, address
Relational	Attribute	Carrier-Attribute	to be, linking verbs, become, look, last
	Identifying	Token-Value	to be, equal, signify, define
	Possessive	Possessor-Possessed	have, has, posses, own
Behavioral	Behaving	Behaver	smile, look, sniff
Essential	Existing	Existent	to be

Source: (Halliday, 1985: 131)

attributive adjective is given to a participant. The connection between the attribute and the carrier is commonly conveyed by the verb be. On the other hand, the identifying relational process puts across the equal properties of two units. This process holds two independent participants: a Token that is the occupant to be defined, and a Value that defines the token by giving it implication, referent, purpose, condition, or position (Halliday, 1994).

Behavioral process is a process of physiological and psychological behavior. It receives the slightest prominent out of the six process types. Behavioral process has an indefinite boundary, it is partially material and partially mental (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). This process represents outward materializations of inner thoughts, the acting out of processes of awareness and physiological conditions. The participant who behaves is called Behaver.

Verbal process is the process of saying. This process lies in between mental and relational processes. It conveys the

relationship between thoughts created in human consciousness and the thoughts expressed using the language (Thompson, 2004). It has three participants: the Sayer who does the talking; the Target who is the receiver of the message; and the Verbiage or the actual message.

Existential process is a process of existing and happening. Existential sentences usually have the verb be, and the word that essential as a Subject though it has no figurative function (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). The object or event that is expressed to exist is called Existent. An Existent may be any sort of phenomenon, such as a person, action, object, event, thing, or institution.

Purpose of the Study

Political speeches greatly influence the public. They are often used by politicians to influence their constituents on the validity and sincerity of their political agenda. To assert this influence, linguistic choices are purposely employed through which the

politicians' beliefs, motives and ideologies towards various issues are expressed either consciously or unconsciously. Premised on the framework of Halliday's Transitivity System, the paper critically analyzes the language structure and discourse feature in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 State of the Nation Addresses of Rodrigo Duterte.

Specifically, the paper has two-fold objectives:

1. To identify the major process types and their associated participant roles as employed in the addresses; and

2. To determine the communicative implications of the process types in helping the speaker convey his intention.

Methodology

Research Design

The paper employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Quantitative approach is applied to represent the numeral data and distinguish the processes and participants used in the addresses for objectivity purposes. The qualitative approach is applied using interpretive content analysis of the sample corpora for in-depth explanation of the meanings of each element of the process types, participant roles within each clause and their communicative implications.

Materials and Sources

The sample corpora of this paper are the three State of the Nation Addresses of President Rodrigo Duterte. In the Philippines, the SONA is a yearly tradition and a constitutional obligation of the President of the Republic as mandated in the Article 7, Section 23 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. It is one of the few avenues, yet highly anticipated through which the President communicates with his constituents. Therefore, it should ideally deliver its three-fold functions. Firstly, it must inform the people on the status of developments promised in the earlier year's SONA. Secondly, it should inform the people on the presently launched initiatives and reforms. Lastly, it should lay down the President's vision and planned programme of governments for the future. The address serves as tool that shapes people's understanding, trust and confidence on the system of government at both theoretical and functional levels (Adjie, et al.,2015). The three SONAs were delivered at Batansang Pambansa Complex, Quezon City, Philippines on different occasions. The first was delivered on July 25, 2016, the second was on July 24, 2017 and the third was on July 23, 2018.

The full transcripts of three addresses are retrieved from the website of the Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. The description of the addresses is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Features of the SONAs

Features	Points		
	2016	**2017**	**2018**
Words	9,671	13,023	4,775
Clauses	1,035	1,429	416
Sentences	625	848	260
Paragraphs	158	198	92
Length	1:33 min.	2hours	48 min.

Data Analysis

After retrieving the addresses, the clauses are examined based on M.A.K. Halliday's Transitivity System paying attention to process patterns of clauses which operate as indexes. Identification of the process

types and categorization into six groups are done. Next, the processes are interpreted to reveal their communicative implications. Transitivity analysis is further carried out by adopting the three steps developed by Bruto (1982) as cited by Adjie and colleagues (2015). These are: (1) individual isolation the processes to determine which participant (who or what) is doing each process; (2) classification of the process types, and the participant who is involved in which type of process; and (3) identification of who or what is affected by each of the processes.

Results and Discussion

Transitivity is a basic semantic/conceptual system which interprets experiences into sets of process types (Wang, 2010). Halliday classifies these processes into six types: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential.

Major Process Types and their Associated Participant Roles

A total of 1,035, 1,429 and 416 process patterns of clauses are found in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 SONAs respectively, and all the six processes are found to have occurred in the addresses. The process type that appears to be used most predominantly among the addresses is material process with a representation of 42.6% in 2016, 38.9% in 2017 and 34.9% in 2018. Verbal process comes in distant second in the two addresses with 31.8% in 2016 and 22.6% in 2017 while relational process comes in second order in 2018 SONA with 27.9% representation. The third most frequently used process type is relational process in 2016 and 2017 addresses with a representation of 11.7% and 18.8% respectively while mental process is observed in third order for 2018 SONA with 16.6% representation. These top three processes are the focus of the analysis and the results are presented below.

Material Process

In three addresses, material process takes the highest representation. Material process is a process of doing actions frequently concrete ones, which affords the audience a feeling of authority and power. They are divided into actor and goal. The actor is the doer of the action and goal is the action taken by the doer (Adjei et al., 2015). In the addresses, the identified "material" clauses are 441 in 2016 SONA, 547 in 2017 SONAs and 145 in 2018 SONA. These clauses are labeled "Mt-(year)" with equivalent clause number based on its counting in the addresses. The roles of the participant are

Table 3

Frequency of Occurrence of the Process Types in the Addresses

Process Types	2016 SONA		2017 SONA		2018 SONA	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Material Process	441	42.6	547	38.2	145	34.9
Mental Process	89	8.6	234	16.4	69	16.6
Relational Process	121	11.7	267	18.8	116	27.9
Verbal Process	329	31.8	323	22.6	53	12.7
Behavioral Process	18	1.7	13	.9	23	5.5
Existential Process	37	3.6	45	3.1	10	2.4
Total	1,035	100	1,429	100	416	100

presented in the following clauses found in the addresses:

Mt15-(2016): We **(ACTOR)** will create **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** an Inter-Agency Committee on Illegal Drugs that will integrate efforts and strengthen the partnership **(GOAL)** of all stakeholders **(RECEPIENTS).**

Mt17-(2016): We **(ACTOR)** will also prioritize **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** the rehabilitation **(GOAL)** of drug users **(BENEFICIARIES).**

Mt20-(2016): My administration **(ACTOR)** shall implement **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** a human approach **(GOAL)** to development and governance **(CIRCUMSTANCE).**

Mt19-(2017): I **(ACTOR)** will not allow **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** the ruin of the youth, the disintegration of families and retrogression of communities, **(GOAL)** forced by criminals **(ACTOR).**

Mt67-(2017): I **(ACTOR)** am holding **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** all mining companies and its official **(RECEPIENTS)** responsible for the full and quick clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation of all areas damaged **(GOAL)** by the mining activities **(CIRCUMSTANCE).**

Mt289-(2017): We **(ACTOR)** have embarked **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** on various initiatives to advance our national interest **(GOAL)** in the global community **(CIRCUMSTANCE).**

Mt16-17(2018): While we **(ACTOR)** run after **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** those who steal **(GOAL)** the people's money **(CIRCUMSTANCE),** we **(ACTOR)** are also enhancing **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** the government's delivery of frontline services **(GOAL).**

Mt32-(2018): On international relations **(CIRCUMSTANCE),** we **(ACTOR)** shall continue **(MATERIAL PROCESS)** to assert and pursue an independent foreign policy **(GOAL).**

Duterte uses *I* and *We* pronouns as actors to express material processes in the clauses. A closer look at the identified actors and their roles point that they are ideologically grounded. The observation suggests that Duterte considers himself as prime mover of major developmental plans for the country. However, the use of *We* actor, for example in Mt15-(2016), Mt17-(2016), Mt289-(2017), Mt16-17-(2018) and Mt32-(2018), conveys the intent of Duterte for inclusive efforts and actions, at the same time, to seek everyone's support in realizing his reforms to bring a genuine and meaningful change for the Filipino people.

All throughout the three addresses, Duterte highlights two banner programs under his administration- drugs and corruption. He used material process to elucidate his conviction to stop these deeply rooted social ills. Duterte's ideology on drugs is manifested using material process found in Mt14-15 (2018*) "That is why, I have resolved that no matter how long it takes, the fight against illegal drugs will continue because that is the root cause of so much evil and so much suffering that weakens the social fabric and deters foreign investments from pouring in."* This implies that Duterte believes that social problems and sufferings of the country are all due to illegal drugs. Thus, he explicitly mentions in Mt6-(2016) that *"We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financer, and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars or below the ground, if they so wish".* This implies about his seriousness to put an end to drugs in the country.

The prevalence of material process implies that President Duterte represents himself as an active participant who fulfills his promises of lowering crime rate and

purging illegal drugs, ending corruption in the government, lowering poverty rate and achieving peace and order in the country. According to Wang (2010), material process is an excellent preference in presidential speeches to display his accomplishments, carry out his plans and developments in various aspects of the administration.

Verbal Process

Verbal process places second in order of representation in 2016 and 2017 addresses. Verbal process is a process of saying which programs the mental functions by the physical actions of "saying", hence, it falls midway between mental and material processes. The main participants are the Sayer, Receiver and Verbaige (Adjie et al., 2010). Duterte uses verbal process 329 times in 2016 SONA and 323 in 2017 SONA for different purposes. Clauses with verbal process are labeled "Vl-(year)" with their parallel clause number as counted in the addresses. The underlined words signify the different components of the clause, while the subscripts refer to the functional names allocated to the components. The different roles of the participants are further identified in the following:

> Vl8-(2016): During my inauguration last June 30, 2016 **(CIRCUMSTANCE),** I **(SAYER)** said **(VERBAL PROCESS)** that the fight against criminality and illegal drugs and corruption will be relentless and sustained **(VERBAIGE).**

> Vl10-11-(2016): To our police officers and other officials **(RECEIVER),** "Do your job **(VERBAIGE)** and you **(RECEIVER)** will have the unwavering support of the Office of the President **(VERBAIGE).**

> Vl8-(2017): As president **(CIRCUMSTANCE),** I **(SAYER)** am reiterating my unwavering support and commitment **(VERBAIGE)** to

the soldiers of our Armed Forces and the members of our police force **(RECEIVER).**

> Vl126-128-(2017): "Yan ang problem ninyo kaya minumura **(VERBAIGE)** ko **(SAYER)** kayo **(RECEIVER).** Walang presidenti na putang-ina **(VERBAIGE)** kayo **(RECEIVER)** because you **(RECEIVER)** are not behaving" **(VERBAIGE).** (That's your problem that's why I am cursing you. I said you are mother fucker because you are not behaving)

> Vl115-(2017): "Wag ninyo ako takutin **(VERBAIGE)** (Don't threat me). I **(SAYER)** am willing to go to prison for the rest of my life." **(VERBAIGE)**

Unlike other studies on political speeches that do not recognize verbal process as the prevailing process for provoking audience emotion, this study discovers that verbal process ranks second as to the number of occurrences in the first two addresses. Duterte habitually regards himself as a direct sayer of verbal process through the use of pronoun *I*. He uses verbal process to stress his convictions and directives like his relentless fight against drugs and criminality. Duterte is known as a great combatant against illegal drugs and other form of criminality. In the three addresses, verbal process is employed when he emphasizes his points like when he vows to double, even triple the efforts until he can hound the culprits of illegal drugs in the country. Moreover, he employs verbal process to reiterate his support for the policemen who are at the forefront of his campaign against drugs as stipulated in Vl8-(2017). Although his dedication for the welfare of the brave troops and the general public is exemplary but his manner of showing his support can at times be questionable. His direct statements can be perceived by some sectors and critics as offensive and tasteless. This may be attributed to his mechanism in

talking and his different brand of humor and brand of speech. In addition, the seemingly casual way of talking and addressing conservative issues like rape and morality has been seen as tasteless by pro-women's right groups and even the religious groups have raised criticism on this (Santos, 2018).

However, verbal process comes in fourth order as to the number of representation in 2018 SONA. Duterte, who is known for straying from prepared speeches, does not veer away from his script when he delivers his 2018 SONA. Noticeably, he departs from his convention when he delivers his shortest address. While Duterte's previous SONAs were longer, more confusing and challenging to follow, they were quite entertaining because of his usual charisma and humor. This quality is lost in his 2018 address. He chooses to break traditions of highlighting the previous year accomplishments but instead the iron-fist leader addresses as a *"father of the Filipinos"* and focuses on expressing his desire for genuine and meaningful change for the people.

Relational Process

Relational process comes third in order of occurrence in 2016 and 2017 SONAs while it ranks second in 2018 SONA. Relational process is a process of being and becoming. It involves two modes, attributive mode and identifying mode. Attributive process describes the unit and contains two participants- Carrier and Attribute. Identifying process is the kind of process which identifies one unit in terms of another. Further, identifying process contains two participants namely, the identified and the identifier (Adjei et al., 2015).

In the three addresses, a total of 121 in 2016 SONA, 267 in 2017 SONA and 116 in 2018 SONA are observed. All relational process are labeled "Rp-(year)" with their assigned number corresponding to their occurrence in the addresses. The underlined statements refer to the parts of the clauses and the subscripts indicate the functional attribute as used in the addresses. The participant roles are laid down in the following:

Rp2-(2016): Finger pointing **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** not the way **(ATTRIBUTE).**

Rp3-(2016): It is the present **(TOKEN)** that **(CIRCUMSTANCIAL RELATIONAL PROCESS)** we are concerned with and the future that we should be prepared for **(VALUE).**

Rp7-(2016): Vindictiveness **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** not in my system **(ATTRIBUTE).**

Rp21-22–(2017): The vanguard of our struggle for peace and order **(POSSESSED)** are **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** our Armed Forces and Police **(POSSESSOR).** They **(CARRIER)** are **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** the salient heroes who risk their lives every day for our countries security **(ATTRIBUTE).**

Rp23-24-(2017): Ours **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** a rich country **(ATTRIBUTE).** Wealth **(CARRIER)** that the country **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** endowed with **(ATTRIBUTE)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** a gift from god to be utilized for people's welfare and common good **(ATTRIBUTE)**

Rp10-13-(2018): Your concern **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** human rights **(ATTRIBUTE),** mine **(CARRIER)** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)**

human lives **(ATTRIBUTE).**The lives of our youth **(CARRIER)** are **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** being wasted **(ATTRIBUTE)** and families **(CARRIER)** are **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** destroyed and all because of the chemicals called shabu, cocaine, cannabis and heroine **(ATTRIBUTE).**

Rp15-16-(2018): Corruption **(CARRIER),** is **(INTENSIVE RELATIONAL PROCESS)** like a leech **(ATTRIBUTE)** that it **(TOKEN)** bleeds **(CIRCUMSTANCIAL RELATIONAL PROCESS)** the government of funds programmed for its infrastructure and other social development projects **(VALUE).**

In Rp2-(2016), Rp3-(2016) and Rp7-(2016), Duterte utilizes relational process to attribute the accountability of those who have sinned against the public and the government. He therefore departs from the usual practice of putting blame on the past administration. Since time immemorial, the ills of any nation are remnants from the past but he chooses not to look for blame but to steer those in government to remain dedicated, transparent and clean as his solemn promise of governance. This relational process is powerful because it is way of accepting change, letting go and moving forward. Meanwhile, his desire to end corruption is also manifested using relational process. In Rp15-16-(2018), Duterte brings up corruption in government, which he compares to a leech that drains government funds for services and projects and saps morale of honest government workers. To this end, he warns government agencies to stop corruption or otherwise suffer adverse consequences. The use of material process effective facilitates in putting across Duterte's message.

Communicative Implications of the Process Types to Convey Duterte's intention

Undeniably, Duterte consciously chooses the use of process types to convey his political intentions in his addresses. He habitually employs material process to account his accomplishments especially on war against drugs, criminalities and corruption and plan programme of government to increase the trust and optimism of the people for his government and to win their support for his administration. He concretizes his vision for the Philippines and his promise of change for the Filipinos during his campaign using material process. Therefore, Duterte effectively employs material process to express his political and economic ideologies governing his administration. Through this process type, he avows his commitment to end the drug menace and to eradicate corruption and criminality in the country. He assures the states that by the end of his term, he hands over a transformed Philippines that is safe, orderly, peaceful, drug-free, transparent and progressive. He foregrounds himself as the prime doer with the responsibility to bring change in the government, change that is permanent and not transitory.

On the other hand, verbal process is realized through the insertions of Duterte's extemporaneous remarks either in Filipino (*National Language of the Philippines)* and Cebuanong Bisaya (*Language spoken in some parts of the Philippines*). Duterte uses direct quotations to emphasize his innermost thoughts on some issues. For instance in Vl115-(2017), "*Wag ninyo ako takutin (Don't threat me). I am willing to go to prison for the rest of my life."* He uses direct quotation to throw some rants to some new organizations like ABS-CBN and Rappler for their alleged biased stories about him. Verbal process is also applied in his cursing like in Vl126-128-(2017). As a result, the addresses afford the audience with colorful and deeper thoughts of his mind. Duterte is known for his being

straightforward and for his fiery statements. The ad-lib-filled addresses show that the tough-talking president cannot be packaged but he knows precisely how to communicate with the audience using the "language" of the people. This suggests that Duterte is very complicated to figure out (Monteil, 2016).

Nevertheless, Duterte uses relational process to attack his critics-the human right advocates and church leaders who bluntly criticize him on his intensive war on drugs campaign as reflected in Rp10-13-(2018). Relational process is a useful way to emphasize Duterte's ideology behind his war on drugs campaign. He provides a very powerful analogy about his concern on human lives more than human rights. He further utilizes most relational clauses to regard himself as the chief carrier who leads a new foundation to construct a better Philippines. He uses these relational clauses to give clarity of the power he wields and the political and economic conditions of the country. He therefore plays as an forward planner of the current situations of the country who assigns qualities to the participants involved. Just like Obama's speech, as observed by Wang (2010), Duterte opts for relational process as a fitting way to elucidate the multifaceted relationship between some intangible items such as "precious and time" and "vital and consensus building" etc. because they sound exact. This process elaborates the bond between principles and speaker's beliefs which can accomplish their intention of making the logic obviously and involuntarily accepted by the audience. Duterte's use of the relational process gives details on how he intends to use his position and authority to impose reforms towards a clean and progressive Philippines.

A closer look in the addresses suggests that although a genuine and meaningful change is always hard to achieve but Duterte gives us hope that it can be done through strong political will, bold action and unified effort of everyone. Overall, the most recent Pulse Asia survey reveals that majority of the Filipinos considers the war on drugs as Duterte's most significant achievement. The survey further provides an impressive feedback on Duterte's fight against crime, salary increase for police officers and soldiers, fight against graft and corruption, free hospitalization and free tuition in public universities and colleges ("Duterte SONA 2018", 2018).

Conclusion

The paper is premised on the framework of Halliday's Transitivity System to critically analyze the language structure and discourse feature in the three SONAs of Rodrigo Duterte. Results in this study are significant to add to the literature on discourse analysis using Functional Linguistic, particularly Transitivity Analysis, as a theoretical foundation to critically analyze presidential speeches. This study contains rich and authentic source of linguistic materials for language-based studies.

Results indicate that Duterte predominantly used material process in the three addresses. Material process is used to account and concretize Duterte's tangible actions and developmental plans for the country. Moreover, verbal process comes in distant second to stress Duterte's convictions and directives and to emphasize his charismatic and humorous style of talking. This affords us to understand Duterte's colorful, direct and innermost measure of the intimate and salient thoughts of his mind. Duterte's use of relational process is an effort to identify himself as the main carrier who leads a new foundation to construct a better Philippines. He uses these relational clauses to provide definitions and explanations of the power he wields and the political and economic state of the country. The dominant process types found out in this study validate the emerging process

types from existing literature that used transitivity system.

The transitivity analysis of the addresses is very helpful to reinforce Duterte's political ideologies and promise of meaningful and permanent change which may seem vague and ambitious at first but are precisely established in his three addresses. The investigation confirms that the choice of linguistic forms of political discourse is ideologically motivated. Speaker has different ways to use language to put across his ideologies and intensions. Purposely, politician favors a specific linguistic choice over the other to express his message either consciously or unconsciously. Finally, transitivity system supports the way the speaker communicates their thoughts, experiences and perceptions of reality. It facilitates the production of meanings and ideologies. This indicates that transitivity is instrumental in disclosing and understanding the speaker's attitude, the participant's involvement, and their roles in the discourse.

However, this study poses limitations. It only investigates the State of the Nation Addresses of Duterte for three consecutive years as sample units of analysis. These addresses are usually scripted and prepared by a speech writer other than the speaker. Hence, the wordings and the flow of thoughts may come from other person with consent from the speaker himself. Therefore, further study should be conducted to include other speeches preferably those delivered impromptu by Duterte to delve deeper in his innermost thoughts so that his political agenda will be conveyed naturally. Moreover, the use of transitivity system as theoretical lens does not reveal explicitly the ideologies of the speakers but it only explores the linguistic features of the speech to reinforce their ideologies. Thus, this study is never meant to make political claims.

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