

# EXPLORING ALAMGIR HASHMI'S POEM “EID” EMPLOYING HALLIDAYAN THEORY OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to examine M.A.K. Halliday created linguistic framework known as Systemic Functional Grammar. The idea of SFG offers a point of view about the phenomena of language helping to do literary analysis. The present study focuses on pointing out the useful components used in the poem “Eid” written by Alamgir Hashmi. The poem was analyzed by applying the three core functional methodologies, the Ideational, interpersonal and textual functions of language. The first method was applied to represent the part of language that works as a communication tool between the reader and the writer and speaker and listener as well. The second strategy discusses about the grammatical analysis of the individuals and interpersonal connections. Textual analysis was also carried out on textual meaning and other impressions formed by recent findings. The current study also focused on the theme and the core functional notion that was passed on through poetry. It is concluded with the number of evaluation and analysis of the poem that the poet's importance was on eradicating the root cause of poverty by solidifying cultural and religious bonds of Muslim community.

**Keywords:** Systemic functional Grammar, textual, interpersonal, ideational, experiential, Mood, Modality, transitivity patterns, Pakistani English poetry.

## **1. INTRODUCTION TO THE POET**

Alamgir Hashmi is a well-known Pakistani literary figure in the history of English literature. He was born in Pakistan in 15, 1951. It was the role of his parents who motivated him to take keen interest in reading, writing and listening at the early age of his life. He has written a large number of poetry and prose in a different literary style. He worked as a professor of English literature in different institutions, also served as an editor of scholarly and literary publications. He has a number of experiences working as a translator, broadcaster and critic in the field of English

literature. He received international recognition due to his 40 years of literary performance and valued his own life as a gift of nature.

## **2. INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM ‘EID’**

Eid is a very short and stimulating poem. It appears to be a kind of joy poem but representing the darker image of society. The poem observes an innocent and sensitive child who is experiencing the Eid days and watching different people doing various jobs. Eid is a religious festival that is celebrated after the holy month of Ramadan. The Muslim people all over the world exchange sweet dishes to their relatives. This poem is basically representing the religious and cultural values of Muslims living all around the world. It portrays the worth of humanity and brotherhood which should not be treated only on Eid but ever in life. We should not neglect the true image of Islam as being a Muslim because Eid is a day to remember and take care of those needy people who are facing hardships in life.

## **3. Significance of the Study**

The current study is very important because different transitivity elements are exposed while analyzing the poem ‘EID’ written by Alamgir Hashmi. This paper focuses on emphasizing the significance of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) at a deeper level.

## **4. Research Objectives**

- a. To find out the use of the total percentage of transitivity process and personal pronouns involved in the poem.
- b. To find out the experiential meanings are represented about the world experience within the clause.

## **5. Research Questions**

- a. What percentage of transitivity process and personal pronouns are involved in the poem ‘EID’?
- b. How the experiential meanings are represented about the world experiences within the clause?

## 6. INTRODUCTION TO THE HALLIDAYAN THEORITICAL FRAMWORK

The Hallidayan theory of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a well-known approach to evaluate the language and its environment in function. This prominent theory for linguistics analysis was developed by the Austrian linguist Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday, also known as M.A.K. Halliday. He is very famous in developing linguistics theories and framework for the analysis of language which is used in speech and literature. Systemic Functional Grammar consist of two main components are Systemic Grammar and Functional Grammar which are used to form syntactic and semantic theory.

Systemic Functional Grammar shows that language plays an important role as a tool for social interaction which is formed to use as function and rather than being focused on structures. Halliday asserts on three phases of style: style, interpretation, and assessment. The three stages comprise of linguistics analysis of meta-function that are more abstract and translated.

### a. Ideational Function:

In accordance with the Halliday, this is regarded as the first quality of language. This function is used by the writers or speakers to convey their thoughts regarding the real world situation, comprising of internal consciousness- for instance, feelings, thoughts, perception, information and comprehension. Ideational function displays the experiences and activities of subjective and objective world while interacting with the fresh knowledge and communication stuff where reader and listener find themselves unfamiliar. Ideational function is established due the sub function of “transitivity” and “voice” Hu Zhuanglin, Chinese linguist. **In accordance with (Hu Zhuanglin, 1988: 312) this function does not only specify the available option but also structural realization of nature is determined.**

Ideational function reflects our subjective and objective world at the same time (M.K Halliday). According to (Halliday, 1971) this function is linked with the speaker’s enjoyment of the phenomena of the real world, comprising their perception, cognition, response and acts of language for knowledge and comprehension. It gives the readers and listener the new information. This function is established with involvement of the six processes of transitivity which are the followings.

- **Material process:** it involves the expression of actions
- **Mental process:** it consists of perception, cognition and reaction
- **Verbal process:** it is of exchanging information
- **Relational process:** it is for attributive or identifying
- **Behavioral process:** physiological and psychological behavioral
- **Existential process:** present of presence of something

**b. Interpersonal Function:**

This function of Systemic Functional Linguistic is the second component for language aspect. This function acts as the speakers' involvement in the speech events by employing the language; it may be the speakers' attitudes, beliefs and association of audiences, as emphasized by Halliday. This is performed by agreeing conversational function, containing the information, persuasion, introduction and self-inquiring (Halliday, 1971: 313), (Hu Zhuanglin, 1988) explains it more.

**“The features of interpersonal function represent to use the language for exploiting social and private relations. It is containing with lots of methods the speaker come with a speech state of affairs and perform the speech act.”**

Language interpersonal functions are expressed by using **Modality** and **Mood**.

**a. Mood:**

Mood represents clause as exchange and it is the arrangement of as interpersonal resources. It discusses about the role of the speakers in situation to highlight the position of the addressee. Here the speaker employs the vital mood and assumes the function of providing guidelines and throws the addressee inside the function of someone who is expected to obey as within the word “throw me the book”, Hu Zhuanglin 1988.

**b. Modality:**

It is all about the speaker's point of view and judgments on the specific text and the speech function within the clause. Modality describes the attitudes of speakers in order to focus the truth of proposition. It shelters the semantic spaces between yes and no and gives various ways where language speakers

can interfere the message for the expression of attitudes and judgment. Modality discusses about the area where positive and negative polls fall.

### **c. Textual Functions:**

Textual function is the third function of language by Halliday. Textual function is used to illustrate the grammatical system that controls the flow of written and spoken discourse. Hu Zhuanglin (1988) says that the way that permits spoken or written discourse to be consistent and associated, reworking a group of random phrases into a stay passage is known as the textual function of language. There may be a difference between two sentences with respect to the textual coherence, despite their important role for identical ideational and interpersonal. The need that language is to be functionally pertinent in a situation or context from the true global sets a live passage other than a plain entrance in a dictionary.

While the generalized interpersonal function of language allows us to use it for social interaction and perspective The textual part of meaning, which links language to itself and its contexts of application, is essential for language to be functional well in both of these capacities. The importance of language would be worthless without the capability to communicate through the text (1971, Halliday).

## **7. Research methodology**

### **a. . Research Design**

The research design for the current study is based on qualitative approach and descriptive in nature. The importance of qualitative methodology focuses on establishing meaning by examining and analyzing the text with reference to its meaning of phenomena and consequences based on social grounds. The poem 'Eid' is representing the true culture of our society. It manifests a big difference between poor and rich people in terms of celebration of Eid.

## **8.Data Analysis and Findings**

### **8.1. Ideational Functional Analysis:**

Ideational functional represents the part of language that works as a communication tool between the reader and the writer and speaker and listener as well. This part of systemic functional grammar is utilized in order to analyze the transitivity process in different sentences. Process, participants and circumstances are three elements of Transitivity. According to Santosa (2003:78) transitivity analysis

is grammar that discusses about the structure of the clause in a sentence level to represent the ideational and experiential meaning. It is therefore termed as grammar system that uses process, participants, and circumstances to show the real world experiences.

Transitivity analysis is carried out from the verb patterns and sentence structure. The following tables show the transitivity process from the selected poem. Transitivity analysis of the text is generally used to understand the language of different speakers and writers. The researcher tried to reveal the meaning of certain literary text while doing transitivity analysis of the poem.

*Table 1 The Result of Transitivity Analysis*

Type of Process	Eid		
	Word Process	Number	%
<b>Mental Process</b>	Convinced, Suffered, Spoon, Believe, Promise, Expiate, neglect, hovered, watch, looking,	10	41.66%
<b>Material process</b>	Hold, Eat, Begin, Left, button hold, cushion , anchor, blotted out,	9	37.5%
<b>Verbal Process</b>	Said, said,	2	8.33%
<b>Existential Process</b>	Was	1	4.16%
<b>Relational Process</b>	Is	1	4.16%
<b>Behavioral process</b>	Bend	1	4.16%
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

Transitivity analysis of the poem was carried out by calculating the total number of verbs found in the poem. There were total twenty-five word processes found in the poem. The calculation of percentage values for each process was calculated by multiplying the value of each process to total

hundred percent and then dividing it to the total number of verbs found in the poem. In accordance with the statistical table above, it shows that the poem is using a larger percentage of mental process in order to represent actions and events. Transitivity analysis of text will help the readers to understand the hidden meaning used by the author. In addition, the importance of transitivity analysis will help to find out the connection between meaning and wording that is used for recoding the connection of linguistics features in discourse. It is therefore, used by the many linguists to reveal the utilization of language for literary analysis.

### ***Mental Process***

Mental process is used to express the process of feeling, wanting, thinking and seeing. The following bolds words were taken out from the poems which represent the mental process.

*I was **spooned** to **believe**,*

*I **promised** God,*

*So **expiate** the neglect he **suffered**,*

*I was **convinced**,*

*But question **hovered** like flies,*

***Looking** for my face in it,*

*My Father said, **watch** that!*

It has been found out from line to line analysis of the poem the mental process contributed higher percentage as compared to the other processes. It shows that the writer has tried to use mental process to express about mental aspects of events. Mental process represents the form of sensing which are realized by the use of verb in cognition, affection and perception. Mental process is a type of process that shows someone who is sensing called (sensor) and something which is being sensed (phenomenon).

### ***Material Process***

On the other hand, Material process was found as the second highest in percentage, recorded as **37.5**. In accordance with Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), material clauses represent the form of doing and happening within the clause. Material process consists of two participants, actor and goal. The entity which performs the action is known as actor. The entity which the process is directed called as goal. According to Gerot and Wignell (1994:56) Creative and dispositive are two different varieties of material process.

*To **cushion** the prayer-keeper,  
 I have **left** behind my blotting paper,  
 I **held** the shining spoon to my mouth,  
 Be **bottled out** from the face of the morning,  
 I have **left** behind my blotting paper,  
 Eid could not **anchor** in their corduroy cheeks,  
 Outside, the beggars **buttonholed** us,  
 Over my plate as we **began to eat***

Material process comprises of actions which affect the people and objectives. Experiences that happen outside the world are encoded by the mental process. It consists of doing and happening of the actions. It is examined that number of verbs found in this poem representing the state of happening of events.

### **Verbal Process**

Thirdly, there is Verbal process which is having 8.33% of process. Verbal process represents the process of saying, asking, requesting and stating the action of any event. It is claimed by Halliday that the identification of this process is carried out by stating the report, claims and questioning by asking and inquiring and offering and commanding as well.

*The masters **said** in holiday there was no danger,  
 My Father **said**, watch that!*

It is found out that verbal process came out with in only two clauses. This type of process is having three types process are, sayer, receiver and verbiage

### **Existential Process**

This process is having 1 in number and with 4.16%. This process represents the events of existing of something. This process comprises of existence of something within the text. It portrays the existential meaning of the text and shows that something exists in the text.

*There was no danger*

The overall poem is consisting of only one clause that represents the existential process. This means that the writer did not focus more on existentiality.



### ***Relational Process***

Relational process came out with only 4.16% and in only sentence. This process is all about of being and having of something It is categorized by Sinaga and Elia (2013:17) Relational process is applied to identify or assign any quality to something.

*Perhaps Eid is more than a vermicelli thing*

Relational process identifies the similarities between the two entities. It denotes the manner, time and place of entity. The ownership of one entity by another is symbolized by this process (Halliday, 2014). It has been found that the poem is having only one clause to represent relational process

### ***Behavioral process***

This process reported with same the percentage as above. It is stated by Gerot and Wignell (1994:56) that Behavioral process is based on physiological behavior like smiling, looking, watching and breathing etc.

*I promised God to **bend** my knees*

The poem has come out with only one behavioral process. It shows that the poem is mostly aimed at sensing and happening of events.

## **8.2. Interpersonal Functional Analysis:**

This part of systemic functional grammar discusses about the grammatical analysis of the text interconnected. Speech act theory of discourse analysis is highly connected in this part of SFL.

**“Halliday implements the grammar for interconnected speech in order to focus on semantic values of the text. He pointed out the factors that whenever we use the language is basically linked to establish a relationship among us (Eggins, 1994).**

Table 3 Personal Pronouns

Types of Personal Pronouns	Personal Pronouns in Poem	Total Numbers of Personal Pronouns	Percentages % First Person
Possessive pronoun	My, my, my, my, my, my, their,	7	41.17%
First person	I, I, I, I, I	5	29.41%
Demonstrative pronoun	This, these, that	3	17.64%
Third person	He, it	2	11.76%
Total		17	100%

From the point of view of above statistical table, the calculation of percentage was measured by multiplying the total number of personal pronouns to hundred percentages and then dividing it by total number of the personal pronouns found in the poem. It is shown that possessive pronoun which is the highest in percentage having 41.17%. The possessive pronoun ‘My’ is reported to have been applied in most of the sentences in the poem. I promised God to bend **my** knees, my fellow knee-benders raised offertory, I have left behind **my** blotting paper, over my plate as we began to eat, **My** Father said, watch that!, I held the shinning spoon to **my** mouth, Looking for **my** face in it. Possessive pronoun ‘My’ is associated with the first person pronoun; on the other hand, the possessive pronoun ‘their’ is linked with the third person singular to point any special place or location. ‘Eid could not anchor in **their** corduroy cheeks’; it means that something belongs to someone.

Personal pronoun named ‘first person’ which has been used five times in the poem. It has the total percentage of **29.41%** with the sentence examples, **I** was spooned to believe, **I** promised God to bend my knees, **I** have left behind my blotting paper, **I** was convinced, **I** held the shining spoon to my mouth.

Demonstrative pronoun is holding 17.64% and three in number. In the mosque **this** morning, how can **these** spindling shapes, My Father said, watch **that**!

Third person singular reported with two in number and with 11.76%. The neglect **he** suffered, looking for my face in **it**.

It is quite different as compared to the other literary writing in nature. It has been noticed that throughout the poem, the higher percentage of possessive pronoun is used to represent the belongings of first person singular. The use of the first person with 29.41% is considered second highest percentage which represent that the poet is trying to link the natural circumstances and events that the poet suffered and experienced. There is no use of second person reference in the poem.

### 8.3. Textual Functional Analysis:

Textual function analysis is the third in number by Hallidayan theory of Systemic Functional Grammar. This function of SFG is to make readers realize that language has cohesiveness for written and spoken speech. Textual functional analysis works as a transformation for written and spoken communication into a deliberate composition with the use of cohesive literary structure. Analyzing sentence structure can make able to comprehend what is spoken to whom, in a more precise way it the theme and rheme found in the phrase.

*Table3. Theme and Rheme*

Theme	Rheme
<b>I</b>	was (spooned) to believe
<b>I</b>	Promised God to bend my knees
<b>Eid</b>	could not anchor in their corduroy cheeks
<b>The master</b>	said in holiday there was no danger
<b>I</b>	have left behind my blotting paper
<b>Eid</b>	could not anchor in their corduroy cheeks
<b>I</b>	held the shining spoon to my mouth
<b>I</b>	was convinced
<b>Question</b>	hovered like flies

According to Halliday (1994), participant, circumstance, or process performs as theme in the clause and the rest part of the sentence becomes rheme. Theme is the point in clause that serves as the starting point in the message, this represent about the status of clause (Eggins, 299). The theme appears at the beginning of the clause, followed by the rheme.

After the thorough analysis of the poem, it is found out that most of the clauses are performing their role theme and rheme. Theme is basically the point of departure and it gives information about the subject being discussed. Analyzing the text or sentence at the clause level, clause is an organized form of the sentence. It is basically consisting of two parts, the theme which is all about the subject and rheme that provides more information about the text.

### **Conclusion:**

The transitivity analysis is an important concept on the basis of analyzing the text semantically. Furthermore, it helps to find out the hidden meaning behind the text. After the evaluation and analysis of the poem, it can be completed that poem “Eid” is thought provoking. The poem narrates about the people who are suffering from hardships in life. It is our prime responsibility to alleviate the root cause of poverty by helping and financially supporting them. The poem helped to analyze the text by applying the three Meta functions of language, comprising of Ideational, Interpersonal and Textual function separately. Ideational functional represents the part of language that works as a communication tool between the reader and the writer and speaker and listener as well. This part of systemic functional grammar is utilized in order to analyze the transitivity process in different sentences. Interpersonal function part of systemic functional grammar helped to discuss about the grammatical analysis of the text interconnected. Speech act theory of discourse analysis is highly connected in this part of SFG. Textual function of SFG is to realize the readers that language has cohesiveness for written and spoken speech. Textual functional analysis works as a transformation for written and spoken communication into a deliberate composition with the use of cohesive literary structure.

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