

# ANALYSIS EXPERIENTIAL FUNCTION OF MAN AND WOMAN IN WRITING OPINION

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## Abstrack

*The aim of this study was to describe the types of process of experiential function using by men and women in writing opinion [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com). The research was designed with qualitative descriptive method. The source of the data was men and women's text who wrote their opinion in Bahasa Indonesia, which wrote at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com). The data were obtained by implementing analysis. The analysis of this research was interactive method by Miles and Huberman approach. The research finding showed that the dominant type of process in men's text is relational process, while women's text is material process. It was also found that there are five types of process experiential function in men's text, they are relational process, material process, mental process, verbal process, and behavioural process . while women's text found six types of process they are relational process, material process, mental process, verbal process, behavioural process and existential process. Women use more relational process than men, and it also found women use more material process than men. The total number of the process of experiential function using by men and women in writing opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com) is different but it did not show a significant differences. The reason of the different between men and women is the different brain structure. It means, between men and women have different skill to thinking, sensing and giving opinion. Thus, between men and women are different in using types of process in rubric opinion.*

**Keywords:** Social Functional Grammar, Experiential Function, Gender , Men and Women differences

## A. Introduction Background

The study of gender is always investigate. There are still many rooms to investigate about the phenomenon happen in gender. Especially, discourse and gender. In this study, experiential function is used to see as far as the different between gender namely men and women in writing opinion in internet (website

[www.kompasian.com](http://www.kompasian.com)).It's about kinds of peocess found in men's and women's text in rubric opinion. Dealing with Systematic Functional Linguistic, especially about kinds of process dominantly used by men and women, the phenomena about what types of dominantly used by men and women when they write opinion in internet, how are the way experiential

function realized by men and women and the reason of the difference become actual researches. It is in line with the different subjects with different gender analysis and also different approaches applied so it results different findings by those researchers.

For example about the phenomenon of different process used by men and women in writing opinion can be seen in this example:

Man's text

*Pimpinan kedua kubu yang berseberangan, sebaiknya segera **duduk** (material) bareng untuk **memusyawarahkan** (material) persoalan yang **menjadikan** (relational) mereka terpecah. Untuk **memuluskan** (material) terwujudnya pertemuan perlu mediator. Presiden Jokowi sebaiknya **memprakarsai** (material) pertemuan silaturahmi pimpinan partai politik untuk **mendengar** (mental) saran dan pandangan mereka. Untuk **memuluskan** (material) pertemuan, ada baiknya **dibentuk** (relational) tim advance yang akan menjajaki pertemuan dengan pimpinan partai politik.*

*Oleh karena itu, DPR yang terbelah, bisa **diselesaikan** dengan cepat melalui musyawarah pimpinan partai politik.*

Woman's text

*Koalisi Indonesia Hebat di DPR yang terdiri dari Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan, Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa, Partai Persatuan Pembangunan, Partai Hati Nurani Rakyat dan Partai NasDem **meminta** (material) Presiden Joko Widodo*

***mengeluarkan** (material) Peraturan Pemerintah Pengganti Undang-undang MPR, DPR, DPD, DPRD (MD3).*

*Ferry **mengingat** (mental) penyelesaian masalah di DPR dapat dilakukan melalui musyawarah mufakat. "Itu seninya. Yang belum dipakai seni itu. DPR kalau tensi tinggi jangan dilawan keras, harus diredakan. Skors, lobi," ujarnya. Menurut Ferry, yang perlu **didorong** (relational) bukan Perppu MD3 tetapi agar mereka lebih **menggunakan** (material) seni dalam berpolitik yaitu musyawarah mufakat. "Cara yang lebih baik dari DPR, kembalikan lagi musyawarah mufakat," **katanya** (verbal).*

From the examples above, both of man and woman have the similar opinion to solve the problem. They have same suggestion in their text, that is to do *musyawarah*. Hence, the processes of their text is different. In men's text found relational process is dominantly, while women is dominantly used material process. Different people have different perception about something, so, they also have different way in writing idea or opinions. Gender differences make difference language in conveying the ideas (Alnes, 2009:8). It means that every people have different idea about something, especially men and women have different way in convey their ideas based on their perception or experience. When exploring the ideas of gender, discourse is important area

to focus on. In general, men and women are known to use language differently, but sometimes they may unintentionally exhibit feminine or masculine language characteristic respectively when they talk and also write.

Tannen (1990) stated that women use rapport talk to establish meaningful connection with others, while men use report talk to gain status in relation to others. Because women and men use language differently. It means that's why in the gathering women open the introduction and men to conclude. Women has nature characteristic because women to rapport and men to report.

Some studies have reported significant differences in the opposite direction. Philips et al. (1987) display key political and public-speaking roles and speech genres in which women participate rarely, or not at all. In public speaking, women participate rarely than men. It show that men have greater command of the discourse of power than women, which it men do more actions, events, while women more emotion, sensitive. However, the study showed that men used more material process in written form whereas women used longer sentences

by using some process which is mental process was dominant.

Another studies have reported that women occur as actors in material processes far more frequently than men, which is indication that women's agency is emphasized more than men's (El Biadi, 2013). He argued that the general stereotyped image about men is that they have tendency to lose their temper more easily than women and that they are endowed with more physical strength which justifies the violence they commit. While in Goal of material process men also occur with higher frequency.

In addition, this study also wants to analyze what kinds of process dominantly used by men and women in writing opinion and why do it happen. The ten subjects consist five men and five women are decided in this research

Based on the background of the study above, the problems are formulated in questions as the following:

1. What kind of process is dominantly used in the writing opinion article of men and women at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com)?
2. How are different ways of experiential functions realized by

men and women in writing opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com)

?

3. Why do men and women use experiential function differently in writing opinion at [www.Kompasiana.com?](http://www.Kompasiana.com?)

## **B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 Metafunction of Language**

The basic theory used in this study is the Systematic Functional Linguistic (SFL). Halliday in his systematic functional linguistic identifies three metafunctions of language namely, Ideational, Interpersonal and textual metafunctions.

- a. Language is used to organize, understand and express our perceptions of the world and of our own consciousness. This function is known as the ideational function. The ideational function can be classified into two sub functions: the experiential function and the logical. The experiential function is largely concerned with content or ideas. The logical function is

concerned with the relationship between ideas.

- b. Language is used to enable us to participate in communicative acts with other people, to take on roles and to express and understand feelings, attitude and judgments. The function is known as the interpersonal function.
- c. Language is used to relate what is said (or written) to the real world and to other linguistic event. This involves the use of language to organize the text itself. This known as the textual function.

### **2.2 Experiential Function**

Experiential meaning is an aspect of the ideational meaning of a text. The ideational function is described as the “informative function”; language in its representational aspect, a means of reflecting on things (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1999 :). It is concerned with the potential of a language to express content or subject matter of discourse in terms of the speaker’s experiences of the world and that of the speech community. It represents the speaker’s meaning potential as an observer.

Experiential function concerns with clauses that have been disguised as the way of representing patterns of experience. Bell (2001:121) states that experiential function expresses cognitive meaning; the fundamental idea that conveying the function of language. When we look experiential function metafunction, we are looking at the grammar of the clause as representation. There is one major system of grammatical choice involved in this kind meaning. This type is transitivity. Transitivity refers to a system for describing the whole clause, rather than just the Verb and its Object in traditional grammar (Thompson, 1996, 2000 :78). It shows how speakers or writer imagine in language their mental picture of reality and how they describe their experience of the world around them. The speaker represents a conversation through the language, involving verb(action), noun ( thing), and adjectives (attributive). Beside that, it involves some compliments, time,manner, place (adverbial).

According to the types of process in English, the process can be divided into material, relational, mental, behavioural, verbal and

existential process. Material, relational, mental are the three main types of processes. They are the “principal” types in that they are the cornerstones of the grammar in its guise as a theory of experience, they present three distinct kinds of structural configuration, and they account for the majority of all clauses in a text. The other three processes are located at each of the boundaries. Behavioural processes share the characteristics of material and mental processes; verbal processes share those of mental and relational processes, while existential processes are between relational and material processes (Halliday, 1994, 2000 :20).From the explanation above, process refers to semantic verb which describing or telling about what happening, doing, feeling, sensing, saying, behaving, and existing. Those are express like event, relation, physical, mental, or emotional.

### 2.2.1 Material Process

Material process is process of doing, that some entity physically does something and undertakes some action which may be done to some other entity. As Halliday (2004:171) state that the prototypical form of the ‘outer’ experience is that of actions and events: things happen, and people or other actors do things, or make them

happen. The participant of this process is called Actor.

Mereka	Akan	Motto	Dari
a	menemukan	brilyan	pegadaian
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance
	:		
	Material		

The Actor always find in the material process, and the optional or the second participant which represent affecting or being done to is called Goal, affected by the processes and circumstance that provides details of the verb in terms of place, time, manner, condition, etc. However, these are processes of doing, so we classify them as material process. Each involves two participants, Actor and Goal. And the others participants which we can find in all types of materials is called circumstance which are realized by adverbial groups.

### 2.2.2 Mental Process

Mental process is process of sensing, feeling, thinking and perceiving. Halliday (2004:197) stated that they are clauses of sensing: a 'mental' clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events taking

place in our own consciousness. This process uses feeling to describe about this world.

KMP	Tidak mau mendengar	Suara KIH
Senser	Process :	Phenomenon
	Mental	

In mental process, the participant is labeled senser which is experienced is given the label phenomenon. The senser has to be animate since only animate beings(people and animals) can think, feel or perceive. Phenomenon may be animate or inanimate.

### 2.2.3 Verbal Process

Verbal process is process of saying or of symbolically signaling.

Pepatah	mengatakan	Demikian
Sayer	Process :	Verbiage
	verbal	

From the examples above, we have the person who produces the utterances and to whom we give the self explanatory is called sayer, the verbal process here are mengeluh and mengatakan. And the other participant is verbiage which is really range within the framework of a special set of terms for verbal process.

### 2.2.4 Relational Process

Relational process involves states of being, including having. The processes set up a relationship between two concepts and can be labeled processes of 'being' and 'having'. The relationship is either 'identifying' or 'attributive'.

Saya	Sebagai seorang	Warga Negara
Carrier	Process: relational:attributive	Attribute

Jokowi	Hanya memperkeruh	Suasa
Token	Process : Relational : identifying	Value

Attributive is associated participants, they are carrier and attribute, while identifying is associated participants, they are token and value (Identified & Identifier). The first sets up a relationship between a more general category (value) and the embodiment of this value (token). Attributive processes have a carrier (a person or entity) that is given an attribute (Thompson, 2004:96-98).

#### 2.2.5 Behavioural Process

Behavioural process is process of physiological and psychological

behavior Examples : see, breath, cry, laugh, smile, dream, etc.

Mereka	akan tertawa	terpingkal-pingkal
Behaver	Process : behavioural	

These processes typically involve a behavior ( human participant that performs the process) and range ( the behavior, not really a participant, but specification of the process).

#### 2.2.6 Existential Process

This process is used in clauses that state the existence of an existent. The word or the existential words are : *there is/are* , *there was/were*.Circumstances of location are common in existential processes.

Ada	Lembaga	Yang berwenang mengaturnya
Process	Existent	Location

### 2.3 Discourse and Gender

When exploring about gender, the important thing we must to know is discourse area. Because, we use language not only in spoken way but also in wriiten form as a form of social practice. It appeared because there is relationship between text and situations. Wodak (1977:6) stated that situation, institution, and social structure that frame it the discursive

event is shaped by them, but it also shapes them. He argued one frame which involve situation, institution, and social structure is not permanent or it can move and change based on the people in using language which shapes them in interaction.

Gender division in writing and reading thus comes down to tendencies, not absolutes. Men more often concern themselves with actions, ideas, and analysis. Women more often concern themselves with processes, perceptions, and implications. Philip Ball observes, men talk more about objects, and women more about relationships. It also argued by Githen (2000:1) Women communicate for intimacy and to build community, while men use language for information and contest. It means, that the woman more use relational and sensitively while man act as informant which use action and power. It means, relate to our culture that women should be able to behave or politeness much more than men.

Therefore, it relates to the systematic functional grammar (Halliday,1994), this suggest that different characteristic the way male and female writers signal to the reader what 'things' are being talked about. The investigation suggests that the material processes the male character

uses have effect over the female and also show how his goal-minded and professional oriented soul are realized through his doings portraying him as a powerful character typically associated with the public domain. The analysis of the mental processes, which is the process most used by the female character highlights her emotional-oriented being, which is more concerned with feelings, affection and intimacy than with rational matters, although she wants to succeed in life. The relational processes help to deconstruct the view both characters have of themselves in relation to the situation they face, and how odd it is for them to realize each other's view of the world.( Barbara, 1973: 133). Thus, it found the different types of process used by men and women in writing opinion.

The different occurred between men and women is caused the brain structure among them. Bunz and Campbell (2003) discuss that male and female have different brain work. They discuss the theory in relation to the processing of information. It means, between men and women have different way in giving opinion and solve problem.



## C. RESEARCH METHOD

### 3.1 The Research Design

This study was conducted by applying a qualitative method. Bogdan & Biklen (1992:30) state that qualitative research is descriptive. Qualitative means to find out how a theory works in different phenomena whose data collected are in the form of words rather than numbers. In this case, it was suggested that numerical measure were used, and in dept, this description can be conducted in order to reveal the gender differences in use experiential function when writing opinion in internet.

The writer applied a multicase study because as Bogdan and Biklen (1992) said that a multi case study is the preferred strategy when researcher study two or more subjects, settings, or depositories of the data. Moreover, this study will do by using qualitative research, it is because multicase study.

### 3.2 The Instrument of the Data

*The data was collected by applying the documentary technique. Ary (1979:304) states many interesting and useful projects in the field have been concerned with information obtained by examining records or documents. It means the data collected through read the*

*opinions at [www. Kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com). The data is coosed from same topics. All the clauses of experiential function by man and woman in writing opinion will be analyzed. The processes of experiential function are material,mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and exixtential process.*

### 3.3 The Technique of Data Analysis

The data was analyzed by using Miles and Huberman (1994) models. There are three models of data analysis :a)Data reduction is the process of selecting the data, in this study writer will select the written of man and woman's opinion which occur in article opinion at [www. Kompasian.com](http://www.kompasian.com).b)Data display is the process of organizing the data. The display of this study is in the from article opinion. Therefore in this study, the researcher will display the experiential function, different ways of process between man and woman in write opinion and the reason why do man and woman use process differently which write by man and woman in article opinion of [www. Kompasian.com](http://www.kompasian.com) .c)Conclusion drawing can be through deciding what the data means or finding after reading the display or print out in this study.

#### IV. DATA ANALYSIS

In this section, the types of process used by men and women was analyzed to find the kinds dominantly used by men and women, the percentages of these processes according to how often they are used in the text of rubric opinion at [www.kompasian.com](http://www.kompasian.com). It will be will be illustrated with the tables for more detailed statistical results.

##### a. The kind of process is dominantly used by men writing opinion.

There are 91 relational process found in the rubric opinion. The dominantly process used in men's text is relational process. While material process is 84 , mental process is 43, behavioural and verbal are 12 and 27.

From the data above, the total clauses are 257 clauses from five men's written of rubric opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com). From total number of relational process (35.2%) , the second is material process (33%), the third is mental process (16.6%) , verbal (6.2%), and behavioural (12%). It means that the dominant type of process found in men's text of rubric opinion is relational process.

##### 4.1.2 The types of process used by women

There is 99 of material process found in women's text. The material process is the dominant process found in women's text. Material process are process of doing (verba action) (Halliday :103). It means that the process explain about process of doing. While mental process is 33, relational is 97, extensial process is 6,behavioural and verbal are 8 and 22.

From the data above, the total clauses are 265 clauses from five men's written of rubric opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com). From total number of material process (37.3%), the second is reational (36.6%), the third is mental process (12.4%) , verbal (22%), extensial (2.2%) and behavioural (3%). It means that the dominant type of process found in women's text of rubric opinion is material process.

##### b. The comparison of experiential process realized by men and women in writing opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com).

There are five kinds of process used by men in the opinion rubric. They are a) material process,b) behavioural process, c) relational

process, d) mental process and e) verbal process. It means that men didn't use existential process in the text. Meanwhile, in women's text found six processes they are relational process, material process, mental process, verbal process, behavioural process and existential process. The comparison of experiential process realized by man and woman in writing opinion at *www.kompasiana.com*. It can be seen in data below.

From the data, it found more the material process and relational process in women's text. Men's text has 84 clauses of material and women's text has 99 clauses of material, there is a significant different about 15. Relational process found 91 clauses in men's text and 97 clauses in women's text. It shows that there is not significant different between men and women. As the qualities of active and passive are linked to, respectively men and women. From the data above, it means that women often in the role of actor and role of carrier. Meanwhile, men's text lead to more mental process and verbal process. In men's text, it found 43 clauses of mental process and women's text found 33 clauses. While, verbal process in men's text is 27 clauses and women's text is 22 clauses. It shows that men use cognitive,

apperceptive, and also express comment in rubric opinion. There are not many behavioural and existential clauses in this research. It allowed themselves to comment explicitly through mental clauses in not confirmed.

#### **4.3 The reason of the different use processes by men and women in writing opinion**

The structural differences in the brain of men and women. Women on the other hand have four times as many brain cells connecting the right and left side of their brain. Thus, women can focus on more than one problem at one time. Women tend to be intuitive global thinkers, while men tend to focus on one problem at a time or a limited number of problems at a time. It can show that women used six types of process while men five types of process. There is evidence to suggest that a great deal of the sensitivity that exist within men and women has a physiological basis. It means that women have physical response to something, they have greater reactivity than men. In addition, the culture of men as report talk, it means shows that men are more likely to engage in talk only when it makes them look good, strong, competitive, or independent. While, Women engage in

communication to build and maintain relationships with others. Because Women express emotions, share personal feelings, relate stories, and listen empathically (rapport talk) . thus, it is clear that men and women have different process in solve problem or ideas, although they can solve problem equally well. The shapes of the brain both of them influence their way in world's perception.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

##### **5.1 Conclusions**

Based of the data analysis, the conclusions are presented in this following:

1. The dominant process of experiential function used by men in writing opinion is relational process. Because, men use report talk to gain status in relation to others. It shows that men tend to describing and identifying about something based on their perception. Whereas women tend to fear sticking out. The dominant process of experiential function used by women in writing opinion is material process, because women talk for interaction, or to build rapport.

2. The difference of process of experiential function using by men and women in writing opinion at [www.kompasian.com](http://www.kompasian.com) is found that there are only five types of process experiential function namely relational process, material process, mental process, behavioural process and verbal process. Then, there are six types process of experiential function in women's written which are found in this study. They are relational process, material process, mental process, behavioural process, verbal process, and existensial process. It is also found that the women use more material process than men in writing opinion. It show that says that the main difference between men's and women's communication styles are that men simply talk for information, hence the lable "report talk." Men tend to feel overwhelmed and may even feel "dizzy" when women include a large amount of information that men deem as unnecessary.

3. The reason of the difference men and women in using process of experiential function in writing opinion at [www.kompasiana.com](http://www.kompasiana.com) is the brain structure. It make them different in thinking and response something. Because most women, sharing and discussing something and usually more concerned about how problems are solved than merely solving the problem. While, for men solving a problems presents an opportunity to demonstrate their competence.

## 5.2 Suggestions

Based on the conclusions stated above, this study has some suggestions to the readers with may be different positions as follows :

1. To the other researchers, it is suggested to conduct the same topic with more subjects with different problems and more subjects to see the difference between them so the types of process of those subjects can be seen more accurately and clearly.
2. To students, the research on language and gender has just

begun and there is much room left for us to complete. The research involves many disciplines and many related aspects need to explore and research further.

3. To people, in create some ideas or give opinion about something in the internet should use appropriate types of process to make readers understand about the text.

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