

A transitivity analysis of English-language news headlines on COVID-19 from Thai websites

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Abstract

The discourse analysis of technological media examining the events and impacts of the infectious disease COVID-19 has been steadily advancing. Consequently, this study investigated the representation of the processes embedded in COVID-19-related news headlines in the Thai context, since the interpretation of the relation between the participant and process-type choices affects how we perceive the ideologies behind such a global phenomenon. This study employed Halliday's transitivity framework. Transitivity was analyzed in 100 English-language news headlines. Data were randomized sampling collected from three online press websites, specifically the Bangkok Post, the National News Bureau of Thailand (NNT), and The Nation Thailand. Data were obtained from April to August 2021. The headlines were categorized according to process type based on their verbs and types of participants, and the circumstances based on the surrounding elements. The findings demonstrated that the use of each process serves a distinct purpose for managing the crisis. The results revealed the material process as being dominant, followed sequentially by the verbal, mental, relational, existential, and behavioral processes. The material process depicted various administrations' responses to the communicable disease, with the actors mostly being authoritative agents. Additionally, the verbal process was used by actors, i.e., concerned parties, to broadcast information and regulations concerning COVID-19. Based on these findings, the interpretation of the Thai context's microstructural headlines analysis affirms the SFG methodology of ideological insight revelation. The results reveal that the representation of the COVID-19 situation in the Thai context was focused on government operations and proposed solutions to the crisis.

Keywords: transitivity, types of process, COVID-19 news headlines, systemic functional grammar

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Introduction

In these unprecedented times, the world is in a fragile state due to the newly emerged coronavirus, COVID-19, which has had a devastating impact upon all sentient beings. There have been many fatalities, and all aspects of our lives have been affected, whether socially, economically, culturally, financially, or politically. This pandemic has evolved from a health crisis and has become a "human crisis" (United Nations, 2021). Given their distinct backgrounds and resources, countries around the world have responded to the pandemic in their own ways. Publishing news about these events has been one approach to informing readers, both citizens and foreign residents, of a country's actions with respect to the COVID-19 situation. Moreover, guided by the work of numerous linguistics scholars, Li (2010) explained that news coverage contributes significantly to the formation of social thought and conveying socially accumulated wisdom about national interests.

The first thing that catches the eye, news headlines hold the gist of a story and guide readers to unravel the text from a certain angle; for example, from a particular ideology that the author wishes to convey (Van Dijk, 1989; Bell, 1991). Hence, a headline's embedded ideology and power relations can be unfolded by a transitivity system analysis.

The analysis of clause representation has frequently used transitivity. M.A.K. Halliday is

acknowledged for developing this concept (Halliday, & Matthiesen, 2014). It keeps a point of view on language that is based on how language is employed to construct reality. Transitivity is a crucial tool for revealing the relationship between participants, processes, circumstances, and how these elements are represented. Furthermore, Simpson (1993) defines transitivity as the way that clauses express meanings. Fairclough (1992, 1995) also claims that the selected participants and processes in transitivity analysis construct reality and are ideologically represented in news headlines. Transitivity has been widely used as a tool to compare and analyze the ideology and representation in news headlines via actors and processes in social events. Studies have shown that an author's various ideas can be embedded in alternate choices within transitivity patterns (Li, 2010; Seo, 2013).

Research exploring trends of linguistic perspectives, choices, and styles concerning the COVID-19 pandemic has gained popularity since the virus outbreak. The language used in the media concerning the virus has been examined both globally and linguistically (Hutabarat, Herman, Silalahi, & Sihombing, 2020; Chiewchan, 2021; Liu, 2021; Luporini, 2021; Putri, Mukhlis, Damastuti, & Puspita, 2021; Wang, 2021). For instance, Abbas (2021) found that discourse analysis devices (namely, lexicalization, transitivity, evidentiality,

and clause complexing) can reveal the political ideology embedded in news headlines and texts. It was found that vaccines, a key solution to the pandemic, are heavily politicized and used ideologically when a country praises its own vaccines and condemns those of others. Details can be depicted by the analysis of transitivity; as participants highlight the positive actions of their own vaccines and the negative actions of those of other countries. Furthermore, Putri, Mukhlis, Darmastuti, & Puspita (2021) examined The Jakarta Post's headlines through a transitivity framework, by which the processes were investigated and their representations interpreted. The results showed the variant of process type that enacted the representation of the COVID-19 situation. For example, the material process was found most frequently, which showed the authorities' solutions to the COVID-19 problem. Furthermore, the verbal process represented the stakeholders who were being informed about the pandemic. This demonstrates that analyses of news headlines dealing with COVID-19 that apply transitivity have been conducted in many countries globally. These studies present convincing arguments that transitivity can reveal the distinct representation of events via news headlines.

It is clear that these studies analyzing news headlines employed a transitivity analysis to portray the perspectives of events represented by the

media. Given that the entire world has had to cope with the newly erupted COVID-19 infectious disease, every country has had its own style of managing and preventing its spread. Notwithstanding, little emphasis has been placed upon what topics have been broadcasted about COVID-19 in English and how the portrayal of news headlines has been represented. Hence, the present researchers determined to examine how the portrayal of news headlines was represented by transitivity choice analysis. The study was examined using Halliday, & Matthiessen (2014) because transitivity analysis reveals the point of view of the COVID-19 situation in the Thai-context.

Although many studies have been published on the linguistic analysis of the language used in media coverage, there have been few studies on English-language news headlines in Thailand regarding COVID-19. Thus, it remains largely unanswered what issues English news reports in Thailand have presented to foreigners, particularly since it can be comparatively demonstrated that Thai-language news broadcasts have addressed many dimensions, addressing the economy, the impacts of specific COVID-19 outbreaks, the administration and operation of the country's control measures, the issues faced by patients, and so on. The purpose of this study is, therefore, to employ a transitivity process analysis to scrutinize the representation of English-language news headlines

about COVID-19 published by three Thai news websites.

Methodology

Systemic Functional Linguistics is used in the study. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a framework proposed by Halliday that considers a language as a network of consolidation preferences. Halliday proposed a three-way linguistic function: First, the experiential (ideational) meaning, which focuses on expressing the experiences of the speaker, is analyzed by transitivity. Second, the interpersonal meaning is addressed, which focuses on participating in or intervening socially and the personal meaning of the speaker. Third, the textual meaning is analyzed, which addresses the relation of clauses to the text (Halliday, & Matthiessen, 2014).

This study aims to examine English news headlines about COVID-19 in the context of Thailand. When news about COVID-19 in Thailand is represented on English news websites, the point of view of the COVID-19 situation in the Thai context is represented by using a transitivity framework.

As mentioned earlier, transitivity consists of three elements: participants, processes, and circumstances. Participants, as realized by noun phrases, are those directly involved in the process. Processes are realized by the verbal groups in the

clause, which represent what occurs. Circumstances are the optional adverbial groups, which add information to the clause. Processes are divided into six sub-types in a transitivity framework: material, mental, relational, verbal, existential, and behavioral.

The COVID-19-related news headlines were collected from three different English-language websites based in Thailand; namely, the Bangkok Post (<https://www.bangkokpost.com>), the National News Bureau of Thailand (NNT) (<https://thainews.prd.go.th/en>), and The Nation Thailand (<https://nationthailand.com>). A simple random sampling method was applied. From each website, 60 headlines were retrieved, making a total of 100, which were randomized into groups of 33, 33, and 34. Each news agency, The Bangkok Post, NNT, and The Nation Thailand, was labelled with the letters, A, B, and C, respectively. After that, all headlines were numbered. The data were collected during a third pandemic wave, which lasted from April to August 2021.

The three chosen newspaper websites were selected because they are mainstream news sources in Thailand; moreover, NNT is the governmental news agency that publishes articles daily in English and is popular among foreigners. Following this, the English-language COVID-19 headlines were examined based on a transitivity analysis of the participants,

processes, and circumstances (Halliday, & Matthiessen, 2014). In this analysis, the primary procedure was to note the type of process occurring by examining the verbal words in the headlines. In case where headlines were nominalized, they were categorized as existential processes, since "there is/are" was omitted; for example, (A02) "[There is a] sharp

increase in Thai COVID cases Monday." After the headlines were grouped by process, the participants and the circumstantial elements were analyzed and calculated by frequency and percentage, after which findings were discussed and conclusions were drawn. (Figure 1) shows framework used in the study based on the transitivity analysis.

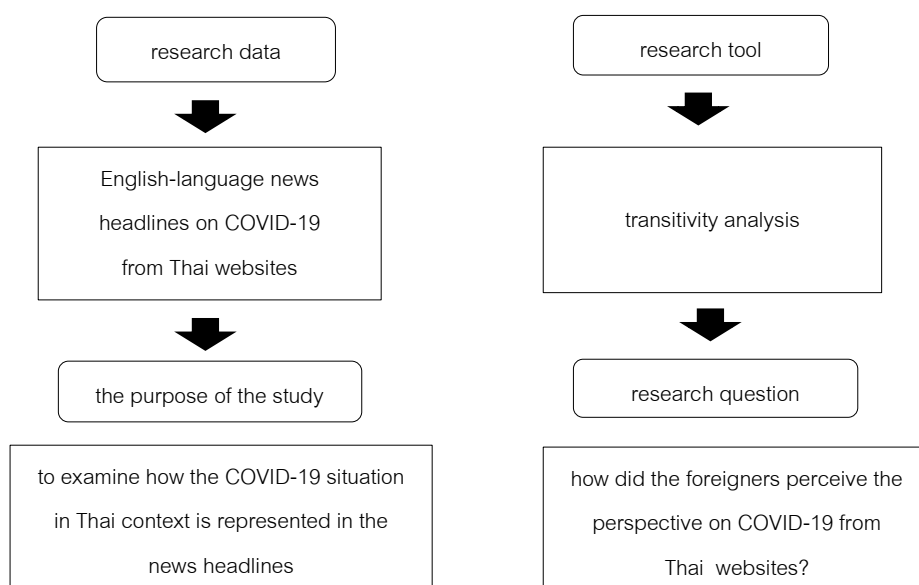


Figure 1 Research Framework.

Results

The study focuses on the transitivity processes, used in English-language COVID-19 headlines from Thai online newspapers websites. Each headline was analyzed into a transitivity system including processes, participants, and circumstances. The result is divided into two topics, The first is the distribution of the process

type in the data and the second is the example of each type of process used in the English-language COVID-19 headlines.

The distribution of the process types used in English-language COVID-19 headlines

As for the analysis of the transitivity process used in English-language COVID-19 headlines, it focuses on the choice of a process and the

participant role. There are 100 headlines from 3 news websites. The types of processes were material, verbal, mental, relational, existential, and behavioral as illustrated in (Table 1).

Table 1 The distribution of process types found on three news websites.

type of process	Bangkok Post	National News Bureau of Thailand (NNT)	The Nation	total (%)
material	24	18	20	62
verbal	3	6	7	16
mental	3	4	3	10
relational	1	4	1	6
existential	1	1	3	5
behavioral	1	-	-	1
total	33	33	34	100

From (Table 1), It showed that six process types have been identified. It can be seen that the primary transitivity process found in this research was the material process, which accounted for more than half of the headlines, specifically 62%. The verbal process comes in the second place (16%). The third place is the mental process (10%). relational (6%), existential (5%), and behavioral (1%), respectively. Evidently, the material process was the dominant process in the headlines.

The example of the process types used in English-language COVID-19 headlines

This section illustrates examples of the types of processes used in headlines. Only 5 types of processes are represented in the

example. The behavioral process is excluded because it found only 1 headline in the data.

Material process: The material process is concerned with the concept of "doing" and "happening." It is the most common among the other processes because it focuses on physical action and the experience of the material world (Halliday, & Matthiessen, 2014). In this research, this process was responsible for 62 headlines in this study. The examples are as follows:

The data shown in (Table 2) represent the headlines primarily reported about the situation or events concerning the remedy or treatment of COVID-19 and how the authorities were managing the pandemic. The material process, which concerns doing and happening, occurs

most frequently and can be seen through examples such as "handle," "defend," "tighten," "set," and "procure." Additionally, examples such as "Govt," "Government," "PM," "Prayut," and "Health ministry" show participants functioning as the actors.

Table 2 Material process.

heading	participant	material process	participant
A03	NHSO hotline (actor) ^{1/}	to handle	bed inquiries (goal)
A05	Govt (actor)	defends	Chinese vaccine amid social media concern (goal)
A10	Army (actor)	tightens	border controls amid crisis (goal)
A18	Prayut (actor)	sets	120-day deadline for fully reopening Thailand (goal)
A26	all medics (recipient)	to receive	Pfizer shots (goal)
A29	US Pfizer vaccines (goal)	issued	to 13 dark-red zone provinces (beneficiary)
B03	Health ministry (actor)	yet to allow	self-care at home for confirmed COVID-19 patients (range)
B10	Government (actor)	procures	5.50 million tablets of Favipiravir to ensure availability (goal)
B30	over 90% of COVID-19 patients in Thailand (goal)	are infected	by Delta variant (actor)
C27	PM (recipient)	receives	donation of AstraZeneca vaccine from UK (range)

Note: ^{1/} Parentheses are used to indicate the participants, processes, and circumstances.

The material process claimed the highest proportion of headlines out of all the processes. Given the participant role, it can be seen that headlines showing the verbs of a material process are involved with the public affairs of the government and its related agencies regarding the spread of COVID-19. Since these results found that the material process was dominant, it can be seen that news headlines in Thailand primarily represented operations regarding COVID-19 and how the government attempted to solve the mentioned problems.

Verbal process: The verbal process, according to Halliday, & Matthiessen (2014), involves the act of "saying" and "symbolic meaning exchange of every type." The participants in this process include the sayer (the one who says), the verbiage (what was said), the receiver (to

whom it was said), and the target (things affected by the sayer). The findings are divided into two categories, using the sayer as a criterion: first, the government sector, and second, the private

or non-government sector. (Table 3) illustrates the verbal process examples with government authorities as the sayer, and (Table 4) illustrates those with non-government sectors as the sayer.

Table 3 Verbal process with governmental sayer.

heading	participant	verbal process	participant
A23	DDC (sayer)	defends	Sinovac jab purchase (verbiage)
B15	Authorities (sayer)	ask	factories (receiver) to complete preventative measure self-assessments (verbiage)
B20	Thailand (sayer)	announces	new restrictions in Bangkok to contain COVID-19 spread (verbiage)
B21	Thai government (sayer)	says	existing restrictions are adequate to handle the COVID-19 situation (verbiage)
B26	Thai research (Sayer)	indicates	vaccine cocktail of Sinovac and AstraZeneca is very effective (verbiage)
B31	Bank of Thailand (sayer)	suggests	additional state borrowing to address COVID-19 economic impacts (verbiage)
C06	Ministry (sayer)	announces	vaccination registration dates for the public via Mor Phrom (verbiage)
C07	Governor (sayer)	vows	to contain the Klong Toei cluster within two weeks (verbiage)
C31	no VIP list for Pfizer shots (verbiage)	insists	state hospital (sayer)
C32	Anutin (sayer)	promises	all expats will get jabbed soon (verbiage)

The data shown in (Table 3) and (Table 4) indicate that 6 out of 16 headlines with a verbal process had non-government sectors acting as

sayers; thus, those with government sectors acting as sayers were predominant, since they accounted for 10 out of 16 headlines.

Table 4 Verbal process with non-governmental sayer.

heading	participant	verbal process	participant
A21	Govt (target)	[is] blasted	for jab delay (verbiage)
A15	Chamber (sayer)	calls for	urgent state aid (verbiage)
B32	Private sector (sayer)	proposes	"Bangkok Sandbox" model (verbiage)
C09	Industrial estates authority (sayer)	offers	to help with vaccine rollout (verbiage)

Verbal processes with a government sector as the sayer indicate an announcement or the delivery of information from officials regarding the enforcement of restrictions against the spread of COVID-19; for example, the officials "ask," "announce," "say," and "suggest." Noticeably, the sayers among the B headings (NNT) obviously emphasized "Thai" in the participant role (i.e., "Thailand," "Thai government," "Thai research"), as NNT is a news agency publishing and promoting information under the government's supervision. Moreover, there are commissive verbs, such as "vow" and "promise," which pledge to do something for the people to contain the pandemic situation. Headings A23 and B26 point out the benefits of the purchased Chinese vaccine, Sinovac, by using the words "defend" and "indicate" in order to show that it is effective. This presupposes that if the vaccine needs to be defended, it's an indication that the public is still skeptical about its purchase. This finding is in accordance with Abbas (2021) claim that the vaccines are politicized. The Chinese vaccine is

represented favorably in this context, as Thailand had chosen to procure it. The sayers are the officials and the researchers, which are ideologically represented.

On the contrary, the sayers for the private sector included "Chamber," "Industrial estates authority," "Private sector," "Sudarat," and "Foreign tourists." The verbs used as a sayer included "call for," "propose," "offer," "urge," and "voice." It can be observed that these verbal groups are concerned with the demand for something or the suggestion for action, and that they address problems the government must handle in the pandemic situation. The verbiage highlighted the lack of facilities and access to healthcare, for example, "state aid" and "vaccine rollout." Hence, it can be assumed from the verbiage that the government failed to adequately look out for the public health of its citizens. In addition, it can be seen in headline A21, "Govt (target) [is] blasted for jab delay (verbiage)," that the sayer is not shown; thus, it can be assumed that the sayer "by Thais" was omitted. The voice of the

Thai people is not represented in any headlines; though, foreigners can be seen voicing their displeasure about the Thai government's pilot project for re-opening the country (headline C16).

Mental process: According to Halliday, & Matthiessen (2014), the mental process involves

sensing "our experience of the world of our own consciousness." It is categorized into two classes: higher order (cognition and desideration) and lower order (perception and emotion). The headlines that revealed mental processes and their subtypes are illustrated in (Table 5).

Table 5 Mental process.

heading	participant	mental process	participant
A07	FTI (sensor)	expects (cognitive)	clear vaccine distribution plan from PM (phenomenon)
B25	majority of people (sensor)	think (cognitive)	the current COVID- 19 situation in Thailand is an extremely serious (phenomenon)
A22	Delta strain spread (phenomenon)	worries (emotive)	authorities (sensor)
B04	DDC (sensor)	discourages (emotive)	inter-provincial travel as Songkran comes to an end (phenomenon)
C20	more people (sensor)	depressed (emotive)	planning suicide due to stress from COVID crisis: study (phenomenon)
A32	Sinovac recipients (sensor)	need (desiderative)	3rd dose (phenomenon)
B09	BMA (sensor)	aims to (desiderative)	vaccinate 70% of Bangkok residents (phenomenon)
B23	Thai health authorities (sensor)	agree (desiderative)	to use rapid antigen tests to detect COVID-19 (phenomenon)
C05	Phuket (sensor)	hopes to (desiderative)	overcome the virus crisis and welcome foreign tourists from July (phenomenon)
C30	private sector (sensor)	wants (desiderative)	govt to allow firms to freely import COVID-19 vaccines (phenomenon)

As shown in (Table 5), there are five desiderative processes ("need," "aim to," "agree," "hope to," and "want"), three emotive processes

("worry," "discourage," and "depress.") and two cognitive processes ("expect" and "think"). No instances of the perceptive process were found.

It can be seen that there are three groups of sectors: the government sector, the non-government sector, and the people. The government sectors included "authorities," "DDC" (Department of Disease Control), "BMA" (Bangkok Metropolitan Administrator), and "Phuket." The processes such as "aim to" and "hope to" used in this group indicated that the bureaucrats were declaring their ongoing action plan, which they hoped to accomplish. Furthermore, the approval and disapproval regarding public actions were portrayed in processes such as "discourage" and "agree." As for the "FTI" (The Federation of Thai Industries) (A07) and "private sector" (C30), it can be seen that they demand action from the

government concerning the vaccine situation. Presumably, they were not satisfied by the bureaucratic mismanagement of the vaccines. Finally, for headings B25 and C20, in which the people acted as the sensor, it can be seen that the general public's state of mind was unhealthy and depressed.

Relational process: According to Halliday, & Matthiessen (2014), the relational process is one of "being" and "having" or "possessing." This process can be grouped into two modes: attributive and identifying. Li (2010) pointed out that the relational process can be used to give meaning to, to categorize, or to form an opinion about an entity, participant.

Table 6 Relational process.

heading	participant	relational process	participant
A31	temples (identified)	[are]	a refuge (identifier) for COVID victims (cir; cause, behalf)
B12	hospitals and field hospitals	are	ready to receive COVID-19 infected workers
B14	prison inmates	[are]	in urgent need of vaccines
B24	Thailand	has	world's 8 th -highest number of serious or critical COVID-19 cases
B27	Health Min	[is]	confident an extension of elevated measures will cut infection rates
C17	Prayut	[is]	sorry for "many problems" with the mass vaccination drive

The data shown in (Table 6) reveal the states of being of the entities, specifically in relation to the COVID-19 situation, such as temples being

turned into quarantine facilities and hospitals being ready. Additionally, this process was used to address the demand for vaccines for prisoners

(B14). The process of possessing was found in only one instance, illustrating the global rank of Thailand's serious cases (B24). Finally, the attributive process was found respecting certain leaders, "Health Min" (B27) and "Prayut" (C17), who were responsible for controlling the disease and who are described as showing a state that they were experiencing inside.

Existential process: The existential process represents "existing" and "happening" and is used to introduce something. This process can be easily analyzed through the verb "to be" in constructions such as "there is/are." The word

"there" is used to indicate the characteristic of existence, and the existent is the participant in this process (Halliday, & Matthiessen, 2014). The findings regarding the existential process in the collected online COVID-19 headlines are not initially apparent, as "there is/are" was consistently omitted, presumably in an attempt to make the headlines snappier and more attention-grabbing. Furthermore, the suggestion proposed by the founder of transitivity is that the clause already holds the main idea, the thematic; thus, "there is/are" can be elided.

Table 7 Existential process.

heading	participant (existent)	circumstance
A02	[There is a] Sharp increase in Thai COVID cases	Monday (cir; location, time)
B02	[There is] No quarantine	for travelers from risk areas to home provinces for Songkran
C04	[There are] No domestic flights	from 11 pm to 4 am to contain COVID-19 surge
C19	[There is a] Frantic search for more beds	in Bangkok to treat the rising number of COVID-19 patients
C26	[There is] Mother's last advice	to her young daughters

The existential process, as it occurred in the headlines in (Table 7), can be seen as the embodiment of an announcement itself, reporting a situation to the public. Intriguingly, headlines A02 and C19 illustrated the situation with "adjective + noun" forms ("Sharp increase" and "Frantic search") whose adjectives denote the seriousness of the

situation. Conversely, the reports on restrictions announced by the administration, which are seen in headlines B02 and C04, can be interpreted as a neutral source of information. Moreover, this process also revealed the dramatic story of a mother who lost her life due to COVID-19 and who wished to offer her children one last piece of advice.

Discussion

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a multitude of problems for both health and the economy. Governments and health organizations all over the world have used the media to inform citizens about their containment and intervention policies. News headlines are a significant form of media representation because they represent events. Furthermore, Headlines highlight a variety of perspectives on perceived reality.

News headlines are the first thing that draws the attention and directs readers to unravel the text from a specific aspect, such as from a particular ideology that the author wishes to convey (Bell, 1991; Van Dijk, 1989). Hence, a headline's embedded ideology and power relations can be unfolded by a transitivity system analysis. Jones, Jaworska, & Aslan (2020) explained that in the process of news writing, journalists may choose to omit or highlight the doer or the passive entity, one who receives the action of the verbs, in the position of the subject or the object. Fairclough (1992, 1995) also indicates that the chosen participants and processes under transitivity analysis construct reality and are represented ideologically in news headlines. Transitivity has been widely used as a tool to compare and analyze the ideology and representation in news headlines via the actors and the processes in social events. Studies

have shown that various ideas of an author can be embedded in the alternate choices within transitivity patterns (Li, 2010; Seo, 2013).

Some researchers have been investigating transitivity pattern trends in recent years. Putri, Mukhlis, Darmastuti, & Puspita (2021) investigated the headlines of two news agencies using transitivity, namely The Jakarta Post, a daily English-language newspaper in Indonesia, and Channel NewsAsia, a Singapore-based news channel and website. The results show that the material process appeared most, among the headlines of Channel NewsAsia, only the material and the verbal processes were found. The researchers suggest that material processes portrayed officials dealing with COVID-19 problems and that verbal processes portrayed authorities informing the public of COVID-19-related news. Kuswoyo, & Fadilah (2021) examined five online news texts in The Jakarta Post by selecting pieces from March to June and from December 2020. Within these texts, they predominantly found material processes, though remarkably, the proportions of their findings were peculiar: The material process took up 70 percent, and the mental process came in second at 17 percent. Finally, Hutabarat, Herman, Silalahi, & Sihombing (2020) examined only four positive news texts about COVID-19 from The Jakarta Post.

These studies, designed to investigate news texts and headlines in Indonesia and Singapore, all applied the transitivity system as a research tool. To summarize their findings, the material process ranked first above all other processes. Because each step serves a different function for the author, it was found that the material process depicted how authorities handled the COVID-19 crisis. These studies conducted similarly explored the material process that was used dominantly in the COVID-19 headlines. For Thailand context, the representation of the COVID-19 situation in the English language involves the operations regarding COVID-19 and how the government attempted to solve the mentioned problems.

In Thailand's context, the English description of the COVID-19 crisis includes the operations involving COVID-19 and how the government attempted to tackle the aforementioned difficulties. In this vein, Liu (2021) conducted research to inspect how China is represented by the Asian world, focusing on Singaporean news outlets The Straits Times and Channel NewsAsia, since the predominant research trend has been to focus on renowned American or British newspapers. Through three levels of analysis, the results found the processes by which China was represented in the media and concluded that the ideologies constructed toward China were neutral and

perplexing. Moreover, Abbas (2021) observed that the media of the U.S. and China politicized their vaccines and condemned those of other countries. It was found that choices in transitivity patterns were wisely represented; for example, the sayers in the verbal process have been carefully selected to "say" certain information about the vaccines. The scientific proof has not been sufficiently reported. By composing headlines skillfully, media organizations can promote certain beliefs in a society.

The study examined the English language on online newspaper websites via transitivity analysis. It represents the choice of meaning in the COVID-19 situation. Moreover, the English headline on online websites can be a teaching tool for L2 students. According to Verapreyagoon, & Channarong (2020), social media has a significant impact on the effectiveness of active learning through online media. Some of the vocabularies in the COVID-19 news headline were new lexicons for COVID-19 situation. It can be analyzed using semantic mapping to develop reading skills in English. Sittisara (2019) pointed out that the students' reading skills significantly developed after using semantic mapping.

Conclusion

The findings show that various types of processes were enacted in the headlines to

illustrate certain situations, such as the solution of crisis-related difficulties and the management of the vaccine situation. The most frequent type of process in the headlines was the material process, seen in such examples as "defends" and "tightens," with figures such as "government," "PM," and "Prayut" placed in the role of actor. This type of process was used to show how the government and authorities were managing the issues of the pandemic. The second most frequent process was the verbal process, seen in examples such as "defend," "ask," and "say," with sayers such as "governor," "Ministry," and "Anutin." This process was used to represent the voices of the government and private sector with regard to how they were managing vaccines and promoting solution-focused information. The verbal process showed that the sayer "Thais" was omitted in headlines, the point of view of the readers also perceived only Thai governments. The results show that COVID-19 coverage in the Thai context focused on the governments and authorities' management of the crisis.

This study examined online English-language news headlines in Thailand about COVID-19 using Halliday, & Matthessen (2014) system of transitivity analysis. A transitivity analysis can reveal various points of view as well as the distinct usage and style of a news report, which can affect a reader's perspective and understanding of a particular event.

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