### P-ISSN:0852-7296 E-ISSN:2654-3915

# EXPERIENTIAL FUNCTION IN DEVOTIONAL SERMON IN THE ZENDING MONTH OF HKBP IN 2024

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#### **Abstrak**

Dalam penyampaian khotbah perlu diperhatikan penggunaan bahasa yang sesuai sehingga pesan khotbah yang ingin disampaikan dapat tersampaikan dengan baik kepada para jemaat yang mendengarkannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan mendeskripsikan realisasi penggunaan fungsi eksperiensial yang berfokus pada penggunaan jenis proses dalam penyampaian khotbah di bulan zending HKBP tahun 2024. Desain penelitian ini menggunakan desain deskriptif kualitatif. Data dalam penelitian ini merupakan klausa-klausa yang bersumber dari empat teks khotbah yang disampaikan oleh pendeta dalam tata ibadah bulan zending HKBP tahun 2024. Teknik pengumpulan data pada penelitian ini dilakukan dengan teknik dokumentasi dan observasi. Sementara itu, analisis data pada penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menerapkan teknik analisis model interaktif (Miles, Hubberman, dan Saldana, 2014). Data pada penelitian ini dianalisis dengan menerapkan sistem transitivitas (Halliday, 2014) yang difokuskan untuk mengetahui jenis proses yang terdapat pada teks khotbah. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keenam jenis proses direalisasikan oleh para pendeta dalam penyampaian khotbah mereka kepada jemaat. Namun, keenam jenis proses tersebut memiliki tingkat kemunculan yang berbeda. Proses material mendominasi penggunaannya sebesar 37,4%, disusul mental proses sebesar 24,8%, selanjutnya verbal proses sebesar 18,6%, berikutnya relasional proses 8,8%, kemudian behavioral proses sebesar 5,9%, dan yang terahkhir eksistential proses sebesar 4,5%. Dari hasil temuan penelitian ini ditemukan bahwa para pendeta menginginkan agar para jemaat untuk tetap melakukan ibadah dan pelayanan serta menyebarkan kabar sukacita dan injil kepada seluruh penduduk di dunia.

Kata Kunci: Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional; Metafungsi; Fungsi Eksperiensial; Sistem Transitivitas; Teks Khotbah

#### Abstract

In delivering the sermon, it is necessary to pay attention to the use of appropriate language so that the message of the sermon to be conveyed can be conveyed well to the congregation who listens to it. This study aims to find out and describe the realization of the use of experiential functions that focus on the use of process types in delivering sermons in the 2024 HKBP zending month. The design of this study uses a qualitative descriptive design. The data in this study were clauses sourced from four sermon texts delivered by pastors in the worship system of the 2024 HKBP zending month. The data collection technique in this study was carried out by documentation and observation techniques. Meanwhile, the data analysis in this study was carried out by applying interactive model analysis techniques (Miles, Hubberman, and Saldana, 2014). The data in this study was analyzed by applying a

**History:** 

Received : 25 Maret 2024 Revised : 10 Mei 2024 Accepted : 23 Juni 2024 Published : 27 Oktober 2024 Publisher: LPPM Universitas Darma Agung Licensed: This work is licensed under Attribution-NonCommercial-No

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transitivity system (Halliday, 2014) which was focused on finding out the type of process contained in the sermon text. The results of this study show that all six types of processes were realized by pastors in delivering their sermons to the congregation. However, the six types of processes have different levels of occurrence. Material processes dominate their use by 37.4%, followed by mental processes by 24.8%, then verbal processes by 18.6%, then relational processes by 8.8%, then behavioral processes by 5.9%, and finally existential processes by 4.5%. From the findings of this study, it was found that pastors want the congregation to continue to carry out worship and service and spread the news of joy and the gospel to all people in the world.

Keywords: Systemic Functional Linguistics; Metafunction; Experiential Function; Transitivity System; Sermon Text

#### INTRODUCTION

Delivering a sermon is an activity of conveying God's word carried out by God's servants or pastors to the congregation they serve. Therefore, when delivering a sermon message that is based on God's word, it is necessary to pay attention to the use of good language so that it can be understood by the congregation who listens. By using good and easy to understand language, the message of the sermon delivered by God's servants or pastors can be conveyed and understood well by the congregation. HKBP Church in welcoming the 125th anniversary of the HKBP zending (1899-2024) held a special HKBP zending month service which will be held in June 2024.

This research focuses on identifying the use of the types of processes found in each devotional sermon text delivered by pastors. Halliday (2014) states that there are six types of processes consisting of: material, mental, verbal, existential, relational, and behavioral. The use of this type of process is associated with the use of verbs in each clause used. Material processes relate to human physical activities or activities outside of humans such as: walking, swimming, hitting, and so on. Mental processes are processes related to activities within humans which include feelings, cognition and the five senses such as: hating, loving, knowing, seeing, hearing and so on. Verbal processes are processes related to conveying information such as saying, singing, praying, and so on. Relational processes are concerned with the relationship of one entity to another entity. Behavioral processes are processes related to physiological activities such as yawning, breathing, coughing, and so on. The process of existence is a process that shows the existence of an entity such as existing, appearing, growing and so on.

Several previous studies discussing the transitivity of processes are: Yuwana (2019); Kusumawardani (2020); Pasaribu (2020); Rejendra (2020); Siahaan (2021); Judge (2023); Sukiman (2023); Saragih (2024). From the previous research presented, it was found that no one had discussed the analysis of process types in sermon texts, especially in the HKBP zending month of 2024. Several previous studies focused their research on the realization of process types in song, novel and speech texts. So this research was conducted to fill research gaps that have not been studied by previous researchers.

The problems that are the focus of this research are: 1) what type of process is used in the devotional sermon text delivered by the pastor; 2) what type of process dominates its use in the devotional sermon text. Meanwhile, the objectives of this research are: 1) identifying the type of process used in the devotional sermon text delivered by the pastor; 2) identify the dominant type of process used in the devotional sermon text and describe it. Apart from that, the urgency of this research is that this research makes an important contribution to understanding the message of the sermon. It is hoped that the results of this research can be used as a reference and comparison for further research related to message analysis in sermon texts and this research provides research variations, especially those that use systemic functional linguistics.

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative descriptive research. According to Creswell (2013: 62), qualitative research is an effective inquiry strategy for examining and comprehending a central phenomenon. The data source in this study is sourced from 4 sermon texts obtained from the HKBP zending month worship system. The data in the study were collected using documentation and observation techniques. Furthermore, the data analysis technique in this study was carried out by applying the interactive model data analysis technique offered by Hubberman, Saldana & Miles (2104: 10) which consisted of: data collection, data condensation, data display and conclusion as seen in the following chart.

Data
Collection

Data
Display

Data
Conclusion

Figure 1. Interactive Model Data Analysis (Miles, Hubberman & Saldana, 2014: 10)

#### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This section gives the results of this research and the discussions of the findings of this research in examining the realization of types of processes namely: material, mental, verbal, behavioral, relational, and existential in the devotional sermon in the zending month of HKBP in 2024.

#### A. Result

After analyzing the data from this study, it was discovered that the six categories of process were employed in the text of devotional sermon in the zending month HKBP in 2024, with varied occurrences for each devotional sermon text, as shown in the following table.

Table 1. Type of Process Occurrences in Devotional Sermon Text

No.	Data Sermon	Types of Process						Total
		Material	Mental	Behavioral	Verbal	Relational	Existential	<del>_</del>
1.	Devotional	20	13	9	31	8	4	85
	Sermon Text1							
2.	Devotional	121	48	14	47	6	11	247
	Sermon Text 2							
3.	Devotional	30	37	10	15	11	11	114
	Sermon Text3							
4.	Devotional	71	62	5	27	32	3	200
	Sermon Text 4							
				TOTAL				646

From Table 1, it was shown that the fourth the pastor applied the usage of types of process for each of the devotional sermon text with different occurrences for each type of process. It was also shown that devotional sermon text 2 mostly used of types of process amount 247 processes, followed by devotional sermon text 4 amount 200 processes, then devotional sermon text 3 amount 114 processes, and the last devotional sermon text 1 amount 85 processes. In this case, the pastors in delivering the sermon message adjust the sermon to the topic of the sermon that will be delivered to the congregation. This can be seen from the large number of processes used in delivering sermons.

Meanwhile, the results of this study also show that of the six types of processes found in each sermon studied, it was found that the type of material process dominated its use in the delivery of sermons by pastors. Furthermore, the types of processes that dominate their use in succession are the types of mental, verbal, relational, behavioral and existential processes. The type of existential process in this study is a type of process that is rarely used in delivering sermons. The amount of number and percentage for each type of process in this study is shown in the following Table 2.

Table 2. Percentage of Types of Process in Devotional Sermon Text

No.	Types of Process	Amount of Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Material	242	37,4%
2.	Mental	160	24,8%
3.	Verbal	120	18,6%
4.	Relational	57	8,8%
5.	Behavioral	38	5,9%
6.	Existential	29	4,5%
	TOTAL	38	100%

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From Table 2, it is found that there are 646 processes in the delivery of sermons delivered by pastors in the zending month of HKBP in 2024 with a different number of processes for each type of process found. From the results of the research that has been carried out and seen from table 2, it is known that material processes dominate its use in delivering sermons with a percentage rate of 37.4% followed consecutively, namely the type of mental process with a percentage rate of 24.8%; type of verbal process with a percentage rate of 18.6%; type of relational process with a percentage rate of 8.8%; the behavioral process type with a percentage rate of 5.9% and the existential process type with a percentage rate of 4.5%.

Table 3 below provides an example of each process type's realization found in the devotional sermon texts used in this study.

No.	Sermon Text	le 3. Examples of Process Types in Devotional Sermon Text  Clauses in Sermon Text	Types of Process
1.	Devotional	Kita diajak untuk menyanyikan puji-pujian bagi Tuhan. (We are invit e d	Material process
1.	Sermon Text 1	to sing praises to God)	Material process
	Scinion rext i	Mengapa kita harus <b>melakukan</b> itu. (Why we should <b>do</b> that)	Material process
		Untuk itu, marilah kita <b>merenungkan</b> beberapa pesan. (In light of it, le t	Mental process
		us <b>consider</b> a few messages)	Wienan process
		Kita mengalami keintiman yang mendalam dengan Nya. (We have a	Mental process
		close intimacy with Him)	Wienan process
		Kita dia jak untuk <b>menyanyikan</b> puji-pujian bagi Tuhan. (We are invited	Verbal process
		to <b>sing</b> praises to God)	,
		Mari kita doakan juga satu sama lain. (Let's pray for each other too)	Verbal process
		Ini <b>adalah</b> panggilan untuk kita. (This <b>is</b> a call for us)	Relational process
		Tuhan adalah besar dan sangat terpuji. (God is great and highly	Relational process
		praised)	1
		Mari hidup dengan keyakinan. (Let's live with faith)	Behavioral Process
		Agar kita dapat <b>hidup</b> sesuai dengan panggilan hidup kita masing-masing.	Behavioral Process
		(So that we can <b>live</b> according to the calling of our respective lives)	
		Maka mari kita <b>menjadi</b> saksi hidup akan kasih-Nya. (So letus <b>become</b>	Existential Process
		as living witnesses of His love)	
		Keindahan ada dalam tempat kudus-Nya. (Beauty is in His sanc tuary)	Existential Process
2.	Devotional	Namun Yesus tetap dalam jalur itu dan mengerjakannya. (But Jesus	Material process
	Sermon Text 2	stayed on that path and worked on it)	
		Kita, gereja Tuhan, sudah mulai <b>mengerjakan</b> misi itu di HKBP. (We, the	Material process
		church of God, have started to <b>do</b> that mission at HKBP)	
		Yesus menginginkan gerejaNya tetap pada misi. (Jesus wanted His	Mental process
		church to remain on mission)	
		Tetapi Ia melihat dan mengasihi mereka. (But He saw and loved them)	Mental process
		Sebab demikianlah hakikatnya gereja, <b>memberitakan</b> injil ke luar dirinya.	V e rbal pro cess
		(Because that is the essence of the church, preaching the gospel	
		outside itself)	
		Yesus menyerukan pembebasan kepada semua orang. (Jesus calls for	V e rbal pro cess
		deliverance to all)	D 1 4 1
		Injil yang diberitakan itu adalah injil pembebasan. (The gospel preached	Relational process
		is the gospel of deliverance)	D 1 () 1
		Injil itu adalah berita sukacita tahun rahmat Tuhan. (The gospel is the	Relational process
		joyful news of the year of God's grace)	D.L. 1. 1D
		Tidak diam di wilayah lokal saja. (Not staying in the local area alone)	Behavioral Process
		Satu zona dengan kita merasa tersinggung, iri hati, kesal dan marah.	Behavioral Process
		(One zone with us is feeling <b>offended</b> , <b>envious</b> , <b>upset</b> and <b>angry</b> )	Exceptantial Dra
		Menjadi umat yang memikul tanggung jawab sebagai pekabar injil.	Existential Process

		(Becoming a person who bear the responsibility of evangelizing Maka pekerjaan itu menjadi sederhana. (Then the work becomes	Existential Process
		simple)	
3.	Devotional	Tidak berusaha mencarinya. (Not try ing to find it)	Material process
	Sermon Text3	Kebenaran yang sesungguhnya tidak perlu kita <b>cari</b> ke tempat yang jauh. (We don't need to <b>look far for</b> the truth)	Material process
		Ada orang yang menyadarinya. (There are people who are aware of it)	Mental process
		Ada pula orang yang merasa telah menemukan kebena ran. (There are also people who <b>feel</b> that they have found the truth)	Mental process
		Selanjutnya Paulus <b>menjelaskan</b> . (Next, Paul <b>explains</b> )	Verbal process
		Paulus mengatakan. (Paul said)	V erbal process
		Yesus <b>adalah</b> Tuhan. (Jesus <b>is</b> God)	Relational process
		Kebangkitan adalah dasar utama kepercayaan orang Kristen. (The resurrection is the main basis of Christian belief)	Relational process
		Ia masih tetap <b>hidup</b> . (He is still <b>alive</b> )	Behavioral Process
		Dengan kebangkitan-Nya, Ia <b>hidup</b> terus. (By His resurrection, He always <b>alive</b> )	Behavioral Process
		Kebenaran sejati yang <b>akan menjadi</b> jalan keselamatan baginya. (The true truth that <b>will be</b> the way of salvation for him)	Existential Process
		Ada orang yang menyadarinya. (There are people who are aware of it)	Existential Process
4.	Devotional Sermon Text 4	Jemaatnya giat melakukan pekerjaan-pekerjaan misi Kristus. (The congregation is active in carrying out Christ's missionary works)	Material process
		Artinya kemanapun kita pergi melangkah. (This means wherever we go)	Material process
		Sebagai umat Kristen Batak kita semua patut bangga. (As Batak Christians, we all should be proud)	Mental process
		Kita tidak melupakan sejamh. (We do not forget history)	Mental process
		Injil harus diberitakan. (The Gospel must be preached)	V erbal process
		Memberikan support dan mendoakan kesembuhan. (Provide support and pray for healing)	V erbal process
		Yang tergabung dalam HKBP <b>adalah</b> jemaat-jemaat missioner. (Members of the HKBP <b>are</b> missionary congregations)	Relational process
		Tugas wajib seorang Kristen <b>adalah</b> melakukan pemberitaan Injil. (The obligatory duty of a Christian <b>is</b> to preach the Gospel)	Relational process
		Tidak membuat sekitar kita tersandung jatuh. (Don't make those around us stumble and fall)	Behavioral Process
		<i>Menyambar bubur itu, memakannya, lalu mati</i> . (Grabbed the porridge, ate it, then <b>died</b> )	Behavioral Process
		Hanya ada dua jenis orang. (There are only two kinds of people)	Existential Process
		Kita mengabarkan injil dimanapun kita berada. (We preach the gospel wherever we are)	Existential Process

#### **B.** Discussion

Halliday (2014) revealed that the types of processes consist of six types, namely: material process, mental process, verbal process, relational process, behavioral process and existential process. The material process pertains to the physical act of doing, acting, creating, and occurring. The processes of thinking, feeling, and seeing are connected to mental process. Saying has a connection to the verbal process. The interpretation of two distinct modes—identification, signifying, and attribution—is connected to the relational process. The process of human physiological activities, which convey human physical behavior, is linked to the behavioral process. Existential processes are associated with an entity's existence. These types of processes are used by

pastors in delivering sermon messages to the congregation in the hope that the congregation understands the message of the sermon delivered, especially in the zending month of HKBP.

Based on the findings obtained in this study, it shows that the six types of processes based on Halliday's theory (2014) are realized by pastors in delivering sermon devotional delivered to the congregation as seen in table 1. The six types of processes found in this study are known to have different percentages from each other as seen in table 2 of this study. Pastors dominate the use of material processes in delivering sermons to the congregation. This is because material processes are related to the physical activities of humans or congregations. Thus, pastors want and expect the congregation not only to be listeners of God's words but as doers of God's words. Meanwhile, the type of mental process occupies the second position in its use in the delivery of the sermon message studied in this study. This is related to the process of thinking, feeling and seeing. In this case, the pastors want and expect the congregation to love and cherish each other. Meanwhile, the verbal process occupies the third position in this study. These verbal processes are related to saying. In other words, pastors want and expect HKBP congregations to preach the gospel and deliver good news to other congregations to continue to praise and glorify God. Moreover, in the month of zending HKBP in order to welcome the jubilee of the 125th anniversary of zending HKBP (1899-2024), pastors encourage the congregation to continue preaching the gospel to the surrounding environment either within the HKBP itself or outside the HKBP.

The implications of the results of this study show that pastors in delivering the message of the sermon realize different types of processes with different percentages for each topic of the sermon. This is evident from each sermon topic studied in this study showing a different number of processes as seen in table 1 of this study. Devotional sermon text 1 with the topic: preaching the good news and glorifying God through zending work using only 85 processes. Meanwhile, devotional sermon text 2 with the topic: Let the Gospel Go Public uses 247 processes. Next, sermon devotional text 3 with the topic: living in true truth using 114 processes. Next, sermon devotional text 4 with the topic: preach the gospel to all human beings using 200 processes.

This research is limited to only four sermon texts specifically for sermons in the zending month of HKBP in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended for future researchers to conduct further research on sermons that are different from this research such as wedding sermons, Easter sermons. This was done to see and find the realization of the use of process types for different types of sermons from this study. Thus, further insight can be obtained regarding the analysis of process types for different types of sermon texts to add theoretical contributions especially in Systemic Functional Linguistics.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted in this study, it is concluded that of the six types of processes offered by Halliday (2014) which consist of: material, mental, verbal, behavioral, relational and existential process were realized by the pastors in the delivery of sermons delivered in the worship system of the 2024 HKBP zending month. The type of process that dominates its use in the delivery of sermons is the type of material process, followed in succession by the types of mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, and existential processes. The results of this study conclude that pastors in delivering their sermons to the congregation are more focused on the congregation so that the congregation continues to act in real action in service and evangelism to the community and other congregations in the hope that it will be broadcast more and more followers of Christ in this world. In addition, in the 2024 HKBP zending month, pastors also want HKBP congregations to be more enthusiastic in reporting HKBP church services which is realized in the use of the type of verbal process that dominates its use by pastors in delivering sermons to congregations. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to research related to the Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially on experiential functions related to the use of transitivity systems. It is also hoped that there will be further research that discusses text analysis related to sermons to add research insight on text analysis.

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