

ABSTRACT

Transitivity Analysis of Donald Trump VS Joe Biden in 2020 American Presidential Election Debates

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Donald Trump and Joe Biden joined the selection of American presidential in 2020. By having a presidential debate event, the debater can convey their argument to Americans to vote for each of them. Hence, this current study is aimed at investigating transitivity properties (Processes, participants, and circumstances) of the presidential debate text between Donald Trump and Joe Biden in the presidential election debate in 2020. It further explored types of transitivity processes and the dominant process that appear in the debate texts.

The present writer used a library study and qualitative research to obtain the data. The data for this current study consisted of two debate texts, where the debate was held in September and ended in October. This current study used Halliday (1994) and Halliday & Matthiessen's (2014) theories to analyze the data. The present writer used codes to collect the data.

The findings reveal that all types of processes were present in the debate texts, namely material process, mental process, verbal process, relational process, existential process, and behavioral process. In the debate texts, the material process was prominently used. This showed that the debater had made it to the material process stage. In other words, they were conscious of the realization part of society's behavior because they were all focused on the speaker's objectives. To summarize, it was related to the aims, purposes, and directions of the arguments regarding the urgent issue that the US faced became highly essential in the presidential debate between Trump and Biden.

Keywords: *Presidential debate between Trump and Biden, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Transitivity processes.*