

Transitivity as a Model: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Putin's and Zelensky's Speeches on the Russian and Ukrainian War

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Abstract—This work addresses an essential topic: how to turn the form of language into a communication purpose. The study examines two speeches by political figures Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky. These two statements were deliberately chosen as they took place during the same time period following their respective countries' declarations of war. The speakers intended to express and imply their ideologies, plans, and goals in these two speeches. This study uses Halliday and Mathiessen's (2004) transitivity model to examine the data. It is hypothesized that the first transitivity process is the material process, followed by the second-ranking relational process, which is then followed by another tool employed by the leader to attain his or her goals, the mental process. Following the use of this model, all of these hypotheses were tested qualitatively, with figures and statistics used to clearly demonstrate the analysis.

Index Terms—CDA, CL, transitivity, Putin, Zelensky

I. INTRODUCTION

Discourse analysis, as articulated by Brown et al. (1983), includes diverse activities spanning several domains such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, philosophical linguistics, and computational linguistics. Discourse analysis investigates linguistic patterns within texts and evaluates the interplay between language and the social and cultural circumstances of its usage. Discourse analysis examines how language usage conveys diverse perspectives of the world and varying interpretations. It analyzes the impact of interpersonal interactions on language usage and the consequent implications of language for social identities and relationships. It also examines how perceptions of the world and identities are formed through conversation.

The concept of discourse analysis was initially proposed by Zellig Harris in 1952 as a method for examining interconnected speech and writing. Harris focused on two primary areas: the analysis of language beyond the sentence level and the correlation between linguistic and non-linguistic behavior. Discourse analysis is a discipline that investigates the relationship between language and its environments, emerging from multiple fields in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It involves studying written and spoken texts, from conversation to institutionalized forms of speech, to understand the relationship between language and context.

Taylor (2013) defines discourse analysis as a study of language and its use to understand aspects of society and social life. It is related to sociolinguistics, which focuses on social interaction in conversations and the characteristics of social contexts. Fairclough (2002b) defines discourse as “language as a form of social practice” (p. 229). McCarthy (1991) states that discourse analysis is the study of language in relation to its use. Tistcher (2000) defines discourse analysis as a broad word with multiple definitions that cover a wide range of meanings.

A macro-analytical perspective on language is adopted by Critical Linguistics (CL), which is another name for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). This indicates that the analysis of this study considers both the text's relationship to the context (macro-analysis) and the text itself (micro-analysis). In order to identify overt or, more frequently, covert inequalities in social relationships, CDA research specifically considers how language functions within institutional and political discourses (such as those in education, organization, media, and government) as well as specific discourses (around gender and class) (Litosseliti, 2010). According to Paltridge (2006), CDA aims to help to reveal some of the hidden values, positions, and perspectives. Thus, it is a very special approach to discourse analysis and a very famous approach to analyzing language critically, which is different from the earlier approaches that the researchers of this paper had considered.

So, why is it called critical? Well, the main justification behind calling it critical is because of the way that each text, whether it is a sentence or the whole text, should have some sort of message. Sometimes it is easy for researchers to diagnose or elicit the messages out of a text or sentence, and sometimes it is difficult to discover the hidden messages. Thus, we have to read the text critically in order to discover the hidden messages elicited inside the text. The text is not

necessarily a whole text. According to Van Dijk, a text might be one sentence. One example of calling a text a text is the “newspaper headline”. When you read a newspaper headline, you can elicit many messages inside the text. That is referred to as block language. That is why we talk about direct and indirect in pragmatics.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The main components of this section imply that there are three items that should appear in the following order:

A. Discourse Analysis

The study of discourse analysis, which emerged from a variety of disciplines in the 1960s and early 1970s, looks at the relationship between language and its environments. To comprehend the connection between language and context, it entails examining both spoken and written materials, ranging from casual conversations to formalized forms of discourse. Discourse analysis, according to Tylor (2013), is the study of language and how it is used to comprehend facets of social life and society. It has a connection to sociolinguistics, which studies social interactions in dialogue and the features of social settings. Discourse, according to Fairclough (2002), is “language ...[in] a form of social practice” (p. 229).

B. Critical Discourse Analysis

According to Hodge (2012), both visual and linguistic elements contribute to a work's overall meaning and are used to transmit ideology. The secret ideology that is propagated, created, and strengthened through institutional and daily discourse is the main emphasis of CDA. There are two ways to define ideology: first, as a concept related to relativism, which refers to a set of ideas, beliefs, and behaviors; and second, as a concept related to critique, particularly in the context of Marxist ideology, which promotes the interests of social classes. According to Gee and Michael (2012), CDA is a critical social science method that aims to better understand the nature and traits of a subject.

C. Political Speeches

According to van Dijk (1998), political discourse is a group of genres that are characterized by the political realm rather than a separate genre. Political speeches, legislative talks, electoral debates, political programs, and governmental dialogues are therefore some of the genres that are linked to politics. Politicians with societal obligations use a communication style called political language to influence and persuade audiences. A number of areas, including the social, cultural, military, economic, and educational spheres, are directly impacted by political statements. In other words, throughout their conversations, they occasionally touch on issues like conflict, peace, war, or stability. Since political speech shapes and defines the future of the country, it is vital. Political speech, according to Schaffner (1996), is a form of discourse that falls into two categories: thematic and functional. A wide range of events and actions fall under the umbrella of politics. As a result, political discourse serves as a vehicle for their expression and is shaped by cultural and historical perspectives. It is thematic because it focuses on topics and themes that are primarily related to politics, such as political relations, acts, and concepts, and it is functional because it fulfills a number of functions resulting from various political events and activities. Language has developed into a powerful instrument for politicians, beyond its previous function as a simple collection of codes and symbols. Therefore, it is challenging to distinguish between language and politics. According to Schäffner, politics is seen as a cooperative endeavor to resolve conflicts of interest pertaining to freedom, power, wealth, and similar matters. Politicians can, however, achieve their specific objectives by intimidation, logical argumentation, persuasion, faulty tactics, or any other means they deem suitable. Political acts depend heavily on language, which supports and shapes them at different points in time (Schaffner, 1996).

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Sample of the Study

The research focuses on examining the political discourse in two presidential speeches delivered by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, selected from speeches given in the years 2022 and 2023, as it represents a crucial period influencing global events.

B. Research Design

When conducting research design, the researcher elucidates the methodology used to address the study issues. Hence, the significance of research design cannot be overstated. Furthermore, the appropriateness of the research design enables the researcher to obtain exact data gathering and analyzing, resulting in correct findings. The current study utilized a descriptive-qualitative method as the most appropriate research methodology for this topic. Ary (2010) states that descriptive qualitative research focuses on data offered in the form of words or images, rather than figures and statistics. The researcher opted for a descriptive methodology due to its appropriateness in the present study on transitivity types in the speeches of both the president of Russia and the president of Ukraine. Knupfer and McLellan (2001) observed that descriptive studies are generally focused on determining “what is” when investigating specific situations. According to Glass and Hopkins, as mentioned in Knupfer and McLellan, the procedures involved in a descriptive research study include gathering information about events and then arranging, tabulating, displaying, and

explaining the acquired material. Given that the analysis involved the collection, organization, interpretation, and depiction of the data, this approach was deemed suitable for this research.

C. Adopted Model

The analysis of this study is based on the model of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) that consists of three meta-functions: 1.) ideational, 2.) interpersonal, and 3.) intertextual meta-functions. Neglecting the second and third meta-functions and focusing on the first component of this theory is the core of this analysis.

Following data collection, the analysis was conducted in several stages. In SFL, transitivity constitutes a component of the clause's intention meta-function. It is described as "a system to interpret our experience" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 213). Halliday and Matthiessen also asserted that any clause is comprised of three components:

1. A temporal process in progression.
2. Participants are engaged in the process.
3. Conditions pertaining to the procedure.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) assert that "these three components are arranged in a configuration that establishes the modal or schema for interpreting our intentions." To clarify the manifestation of transitivity processes and participants in the collected data, two instances are presented below in Table 1.

TABLE 1
EXAMPLES OF HOW ELEMENTS OF TRANSITIVITY ARE REALIZED IN THE CURRENT STUDY

Participant/Nominal Group	Process/Verbal Group	Participants/Nominal Group	*
Who	has sent	a message	to the world
Change	has come	to Russia	

D. Types of Transitivity Processes as a Basis for Experiential Investigation in the Data

There are six types of transitivity processes: material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, and existential. The chosen text from the speeches varied according to the type of process, each assuming distinct functions inside the clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, pp. 213-223).

(a). Material Process and Its Participant

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) emphasize that material process within a phrase signifies the experience of activities. The individual performing the action is referred to as an "actor", which must be included in all material processes. Eggin (2004) mentions that the actor is an inherent participant in both intransitive and transitive material clauses, while the "goal" is inherent in transitive clauses. In addition to these two roles, there are also "scope", "recipient", and "client". Like the goal, both the recipient and client are affected by the process, but while the goal is the participant that is affected by the process, the recipient or client is the one that benefits from it. The scope of a material clause construes the domain over which the process takes place. Additional categories of participants include aim, beneficiary, and scope.

(b). Relational Process and Participants

Identifying and classifying processes are referred to as "relational processes" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Various types of verbs are used in relational processes: copular verbs such as "look", "become", and "appear"; the verb "to be"; and possession verbs like "possess", "have", and "own". The roles of participants differ based on the type of relational process. In this context, there are three categories of relational processes: intense, possessive, and circumstantial. Halliday and Matthiessen also argue that relational clauses serve to characterize and identify. These clauses are realized by "be" in the simple present and simple past. The clauses with characterization have no agnate reversed variant, while with identity they have an agnate reversed variant. They like mental clauses because they construe change as unfolding "inertly" without an input of energy. The fundamental properties of relational clauses derive from the nature of configuration of being, but not in the sense of existence, because there is a distinct category of existential clauses such as "there was a storm". Two elements of "being", involving two intrinsic players, make up relational clauses. The three main categories of relations in the English system are "intensive", "possessive", and "circumstantial", and they each have two different modes: "attributive" and "identifying". Attributive and identifying are the two ways that each category manifests. The fact that attribution refers to the entity having an attribute serves as a summary of the connection between attribution and identification. As seen by the sentence "My brother is tall", where the first component stands for "carrier = member" and the second stands for "attribute = class", these two parts are different in generality, with one embracing the other, but they are both at the same degree of abstraction. One member class changes into a value to which the member is allocated as a token if the two differ in abstraction.

(c). Mental Process and Its Participant

The senser and the phenomenon are two participants in a mental process that expresses inner experiences. The former refers to those who do the act of sensing, whereas the latter denotes the perceived objects. Once again referring to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), the mental process clause refers to a single human participant known as the "senser". He is the being that sees, feels, thinks, longs for, or discerns. A mental clause can express a different clause or a group of clauses that reflect ideas, opinions, and related concepts. "Idea clause" is the term used to describe the anticipated

clause. The simple present tense is the unmarked present tense in a thinking sentence. Perceptual, cognitive, desiderative, and affective are the four categories into which Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) divide mental processes.

TABLE 2
THE CATEGORIES OF MENTAL PROCESSES (HALLIDAY & MATTHIESSEN, 2014)

Type of Mental Process	Examples
Perception	Perceive, sense, notice, hear, sense, perceive, see, notice, glimpse, hear, feel, taste, smell
Cognitive	believe, suppose, think, expect, consider, dream, imagine, pretend, wonder, guess, remember, recall, forget, fear, realize, appreciate, hypothesize, doubt
Desiderative	want, would like, desire, decide, resolve, determine, agree, wish, intend, plan
Emotive	like, love, adore, dislike, hate, despite, regret, mourn, grieve

(d). Behavioral Processes and Participants

The intersection of behavioral, material, and mental processes shows that psychological traits are expressed through behaviors like “breathing”, “dreaming”, “waving”, “coughing”, and so on. Fontaine (2013) defines behavioral processes as those that act out the process of awareness, such as “He is laughing”, or they indicate physiological circumstances, such as “He is sleeping.” These actions are the external manifestations of internal processes. “Smiling”, “coughing”, and “dreaming” are examples of physiological and psychological actions that are typically associated with humans. They are the least distinct of the six process types because they lack well-defined characteristics. They are somewhat similar to the mental clauses because the participant who is acting (behaving) is typically a conscious entity like the sender. The normal unmarked present tense is called the present tense. In a behavioral process, the first participant is the “behavior”, or the thing exhibiting behavior; the second is the “range”, or the behavior itself. Table 3 provides examples of behavioral processes involving participants.

TABLE 3
EXAMPLES OF BEHAVIORAL PROCESS AND ITS PARTICIPANTS (THOMPSON, 2014, P. 110)

Behavior	Behavioral Process	Behavior
The daughter	gave	a faint sigh
The son	laughed	an embarrassed laugh

TABLE 4
SHOWS THE RELATION OF THE BEHAVIORAL PROCESS WITH OTHER VERBS

Mental Behavioral Processes	look, listen, think, dream, watch
Verbal Behavioral Processes	talk, argue, murmur, cry, laugh, smile, sob, nod, breathe, sneeze, cough, sleep
Material Behavioral Processes	sing, dance, sit (up, down), lie

(e). Verbal Processes and Their Participants

The act of articulating or conveying through speech is referred to as the verbal process. This procedure involves three parties: the “sayer”, who actually speaks; the “receiver”, to whom the message is addressed; and the “verbiage”, which indicates the utterance's substance. Verbal processes are described by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) as symbolic associations that are created in human awareness and expressed through language, as in the sentence “He said that he was a man.” These sentences serve as a valuable source in a variety of discussion types. By enabling the establishment of dialogic parts, they surely contribute to the story's growth. One participant represents the speaker, while another participant may represent the addressee. The “target” refers to the people that the “sayer” speaks to orally by insulting, abusing, praising, and flattering. Examples of linguistic processes and participants are shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5
EXAMPLES OF VERBAL PROCESS AND THEIR PARTICIPANTS

Sayer	Verbal Process	Receiver	Verbiage	Target
Sura	told	her father	the truth	
Joseph	is always praising	you		to my family

TABLE 6
VERBS THAT SERVE VERBAL CLAUSES

Type	Examples of Verbs	
Activity	Targeting	praise, insult, abuse, blame, criticize
	Talking	Speak, talk
Semiosis	Natural Quoting	Say, tell
	Indicating	Tell (sb that), report, announce, explain, argue, convince (that), persuade (sb that), promise (that)
	Impetrating	tell (sb to do), ask (sb to do), order, command, require, promise, threaten, persuade (sb to do), convince (sb to do)

(f). *Existential Process and Participant*

The existential process is connected to the existence or occurrence of an entity. The existential process clause usually contains the verb “to be” or other verbs that denote existence, such as “exist” or “happen”. Thus, a nominal group that represents the existent is added. The only entity engaged in the existential process is the “existent”, which may be an event or a phenomenon. Existential sentences are unique in that the item “there” usually replaces the subject, which is not present as a participant but instead indicates “existence” rather than the participant that exists, according to Eggins (2004). To exemplify his point, Halliday states, “Today, there is Christianity in the south” (p. 22). They represent anything that happens or is real. They are not commonly employed in discourse. The theme, represented textually by there, allows the addressee to prepare for the entrance of any information that is being presented as new information. The word “there” is neither a circumstance nor a participant in such a statement. It has no representational function in the transitivity of the clause. It displays the attribute of being alive. This process usually includes the verb “be” in addition to the verbs exist, persist, arise, occur, come about, happen, take place, sit, and lie. They typically contain a definite circumstantial element of time or place.

IV. DISCUSSION

Putin's political speeches were first analyzed by breaking up the transcription into paragraphs and categorizing the various processes into material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, and existential categories. These procedures were calculated according to how frequently they show up in political speeches that disclose President Putin's covert ideology as head of state of Russia. Table 7 shows that the speeches contain records of 64 processes. With 34 occurrences, or 53% of the total, the material process was the main process. Thirteen instances of relational processes, which make up 21% of the total, came after material processes. The most frequent processes, which made up 74% of the total, were the relational and material processes. Furthermore, the data indicates that there were seven mental processes, which make up 11% of the total. Verbal processes were mentioned six times, making up 9% of the total. The behavioral process occurred twice in Putin's political address, accounting for 3% of the total processes, whereas the existential process occurred twice, accounting for 3% of the total processes, as Table 7 demonstrates.

Regarding Zelensky's political speeches, 57 processes were examined. Twenty-two material processes made up 49% of the total. Twelve relationship processes made up 21% of the total. Approximately 70% of the total was made up of relational and material processes, which were the most frequent. Furthermore, there were six mental processes, which made up about 11% of the total. Six times throughout the speech, or 11% of the total, the verbal process took place. The behavioral processes made three appearances, making up 5% of the total. However, the existential processes took place twice, making up 3% of the entire process. The frequency and proportion of transitivity processes in each utterance in the question are displayed below in Table 7.

TABLE 7
FREQUENCY OF PROCESSES OF TRANSITIVITY AND THEIR PERCENTAGE IN ALL SPEECHES

The Process Type	In Putin's Speeches		In Zelensky's Speeches	
	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage
Material	34	53%	28	49%
Relational	13	21%	12	21%
Mental	7	11%	6	11%
Verbal	6	9%	6	11%
Behavioral	2	3%	3	5%
Existential	2	3%	2	3%
Total	64	100%	57	100%

The ideational function of the speaker is the expression of their internal and external experiences, including language behaviors and mental processes like perception, response, and cognition. Transitivity systems, which seek to identify the actors and situations involved, are mostly used in its execution. The functions of concepts are indicated by the transitivity semantic system. Its goal is to categorize people's experiences—both internal and external—into a series of “processes”. The transitivity system's basic foundation for the different processes is simple: it consists of “participants”, “environment”, and the “process” itself. The material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes are all included in the transitivity system.

The functions used in Presidents Zelensky's and Putin's political speeches will be discussed in this section. Putin's and Zelensky's understanding of their respective presidential duties and goals can be inferred from their awareness of the process types. The two elected presidents' use of transitivity processes to symbolize the event's subjects will be described in this part. Three processes—material, relational, and mental—were found to be primarily employed in both speeches on the chosen date. Furthermore, the three processes—verbal, behavioral, and existential—are used rather infrequently. These procedures are employed differently, nevertheless, for distinct purposes.

According to Halliday, the material process consists of “doing and happening”. It uses the verb that is given in the procedure to express an action. The actor and the goal, both denoted by a noun phrase, are recognized as two players in the material process. Either the active or passive voice may be used to express both participants. The main components

of speech are material processes, emphasizing action, judgment, and events. By portraying Russia as reacting to outside threats and aggression, these techniques seek to construct a narrative of resistance and defensive actions. The frequent use of material processes suggests a focus on the more concrete elements of politics, such as wars, invasions, military actions, and geopolitical plans. It highlights how actively Russia is defending its interests and preserving its sovereignty. Putin uses a number of concrete techniques in his speech to express his appreciation for the audience's work. Additionally, he stated his resolve to carry out a number of actions to protect and advance the nation through a number of tangible procedures.

Extract 1: *"We have already begun and will continue to build up a large-scale program for the socioeconomic recovery and development of these new subjects of the federation (territory annexed from Ukraine)."*

The verb "have begun" in this context signifies a material process, involving an action or activity initiated by an agent, such as a government or organization. The objective of the procedure is to initiate a comprehensive initiative "for the socioeconomic recovery and development of new entities within the federation." The verb "begun" signifies the initiation of an action integral to a broader scheme or continuous process, aiming to enhance or rejuvenate a region. The term "new subjects of the federation" signifies regions or territories that have just joined or been integrated into the federation. The verb "begun" positions the action as a substantial initiation or basis for something noteworthy, highlighting the actor's actions as a proactive agent driving recovery and development in newly integrated regions. From a psychological standpoint, the verb "begun" delineates the activity as an initiation, indicating a sense of urgency or imperative, possibly implying hope or optimism for beneficial improvements or advancements.

Like Putin, the use of material process was also the most dominant process in the speeches of President Zelensky. For example:

Extract 2: *"They may seem to play their own role, but in fact, they are helping set the stage for a Moscow actor."*

Zelensky's statement criticizes international actors, such as European states and global powers, for their oblique involvement in the current geopolitical situation. He uses the metaphor of "helping set" to highlight their support for Russia's actions, despite not directly acting on behalf of Russia. The phrase "set the stage" is a metaphor for creating the necessary conditions for Russia to achieve its objectives. The "Moscow actor" is the recipient of these conditions, benefiting from the "set stage" that has been prepared by "They". Zelensky criticizes these actors for indirectly aiding Russia, causing a sense of indirect accountability or complicity. By portraying these players as unintentional agents of a broader geopolitical change, Zelensky subtly opens the door for Russia's strategic moves, emphasizing the urgent need to reconsider global obligations and alliances in light of the Russian threat.

Extract 3: *"The responsibility is on the West and the Ukrainian elite and government, which does not serve the national interest."*

The phrase "The responsibility is on the West and the Ukrainian elite and government" is a relational activity, involving the inferred verb "is" and the subject "responsibility". (The sentence focuses "on the West and the Ukrainian elite and government" as the receivers of the moral or political obligation, implying that they bear significant responsibility for the situation. The choice of "responsibility" is ideologically crucial, as it signifies the speaker's intention to attribute blame or responsibility to these entities. The absence of an action verb highlights the condition of responsibility, potentially indicating a passive or indirect form of accountability. The statement serves as a rhetorical strategy to designate these entities as responsible for the negative repercussions, potentially shaping the audience's impression and potentially resulting in unfavorable sentiments or demands for action. Relational processes form the second dominant theme of Zelensky's political speeches. Thus, some important relations were conveyed in the speech, and the most important one was his relation to the Democratic party. For example:

Extract 4: *"Each war now can become final."*

The sentence "Each war now can become final" by Zelensky emphasizes the possibility of war reaching a final stage, which is irreversible and conclusive. The term "final" is crucial as it signifies the ultimate destruction or conclusion of war, potentially causing disastrous consequences for everyone involved. The sentence uses grammatical constructions and linguistic decisions to highlight the seriousness of war and its potential for finality. The modal verb "can" emphasizes the uncertain and potentially disastrous nature of conflict, while the temporal element "now" emphasizes the situation's immediacy and current significance. The sentence supports Zelensky's call for cooperation and action to stop further escalation, instilling a sense of urgency and dread.

Extract 5: *"I understand how unbearably hard it is now for the wives, sons, and daughters of fallen soldiers, and their parents."*

The verb "understand" signifies cognitive engagement with the emotional plight of families affected by the loss of servicemen. President Putin is acknowledging and empathizing with the emotional suffering of the families, expressing an empathetic reaction. The term "now" contextualizes emotional comprehension in the present, emphasizing the urgency of the situation. The speaker's understanding of the emotional suffering of families may help to rationalize actions and enhance moral authority. The expression "unbearably hard" intensifies the emotional impact, indicating the speaker's acute awareness of the situation. This mental process is employed by Putin and Zelensky to convey his vision to the audience and Russia.

Extract 6: *"We see towns and villages in Ukraine wiped out by Russian artillery."*

The speaker uses the verb “see” to assess the damage caused by Russian artillery in Ukraine, emphasizing the emotional and ideological effects of the war. The verb “see” functions as a mental process, highlighting the sensory experience of witnessing the destruction. The speaker emphasizes the direct and vivid sensation of seeing the devastation, developing an emotional bond with the audience. The verb “see” highlights the concrete reality of the destruction, potentially persuading world leaders and the international community to intervene. The speaker also distinguishes between the war's human cost and the impersonal political defenses often offered. The line elicits strong emotional responses by emphasizing the traumatic reality of witnessing the destruction.

Extract 7: *“We are talking about reviving enterprises and jobs in the ports of the Sea of Azov.”*

The Russian government's “reviving” initiative aims to stabilize the economy and create employment in annexation areas by restoring businesses and employment that were affected by political or conflict-related upheavals. The initiative involves business reopenings, infrastructure investments, and job creation. The “we” in this process represents the Russian authorities, particularly Putin's administration, which takes credit for the rebuilding initiative. The focus on job creation and economic revival portrays Russia as a benefactor, enhancing the lives of those living in these regions. The term “reviving” conveys optimism and fortitude, implying that the annexed areas have regained their life and sense of purpose. This psychological effect inspires hope and confidence in both the home audience and the local populace.

Extract 8: *“Look—for the first time in modern history, we have the chance to end the aggression on the terms of the nation that was attacked.”*

Zelensky uses the verb “look” to emphasize a historic opportunity to end aggression in Ukraine. The verb is a behavioral command, urging the audience to actively participate in the moment and focus on the unique chance for peace. Zelensky's message is based on a claim to justice and sovereignty, arguing that the victim of aggression should determine the right to peace. He supports an international system based on rules, where free and independent states can decide their own destiny without fear of invasion or compulsion. Zelensky's call to attention is psychological, asking the listener to acknowledge the moment's historical significance. The verb “look” is an imperative that compels mental involvement and communicates a sense of urgency. The opportunity to put an end to hostility elicits sentiments of moral obligation and group responsibility, giving the audience a sense of agency and empowerment. This message inspires them to act out of a sense of moral duty to defend the rules-based international order and Ukraine's sovereignty, rather than fear.

Extract 9: *“I am forced to announce today that Russia is suspending its participation in the strategic offensive arms treaty.”*

The verb “announce” in this example is a transitive verb, implying that the audience is the intended recipient of the message. The clause “I am forced to announce” adds a significant ideological twist, suggesting that Putin is pushed to make the proclamation due to external factors, possibly military or political pressure. This structure aims to portray Putin as responding to unavoidable political or military events, lessening direct culpability. The word “forced” can conjure up feelings of psychological strain or moral hardship, suggesting that Putin is under immense pressure. This framing encourages the audience to view Putin as a victim of external events, rather than the one who initiated the incident.

Extract 10: *“Yet, history shows it was Russia who deserved nuclear disarmament the most, back in the 1990s.”*

The verb “shows” in this sentence refers to a verbal process where history is the sayer conveying the belief that Russia most deserved nuclear disarmament. This verbal process involves history as an active agent, transforming it from a passive spectator into an active communicator. The phrase “back in the 1990s” is used to frame the disarmament discussion as a historical issue, implying that previous choices or lost chances have resulted in the current state of affairs. From an ideological standpoint, Zelensky's allusion to historical evidence suggests Russia was most deserving of nuclear disarmament in the 1990s, critiquing Russia's place in international security. This statement supports a more general anti-war and peace-focused philosophy, aiming to control and eradicate weapons of mass destruction to avert future conflicts. From a psychological standpoint, the term “history shows” encourages viewers to critically consider the past, particularly in light of Russia's nuclear disarmament.

Extract 11: *“This is a natural response.”*

The phrase “This is” serves as a primary representation of the existential process in Putin's speech, where he portrays Russia's actions as a “natural response” to Western assistance for Ukraine. This framing focuses the moral burden on the conduct of others, especially the West, and removes it from Russia. The existential process of “This is” frames Russia's actions as necessary and motivated by outside provocations, making them seem reflexive and inevitable. This approach minimizes ethical or legal issues with Russia's conduct, making them seem rational and reasonable. The term “natural” implies that Russia's actions are based on basic instincts for defense or survival, making the response feel universally valid and impenetrable. Psychological theory suggests that the existential statement “This is a natural response” gives the listeners' actions psychological legitimacy, moving the conversation away from other alternatives and mitigating moral or ethical criticisms. By promoting the sense that Russia's actions are typical and anticipated, Putin aims to elicit approval from the audience and portray Russia as a victim compelled to defend itself. The existential process constitutes the lowest percentage in President Zelensky's speech, and with discursive value conveyed to the public.

Extract 12: *“There are many conventions that restrict weapons, but there are no real restrictions on weaponization.”*

The existential process is used to highlight the existence of conventions that regulate weaponry, focusing on the existence of many conventions that restrict weapons. This technique lays the groundwork for a critique of the conventions' shortcomings in light of contemporary weaponization tactics. The speaker emphasizes the existence of international accords and standards intended to limit the use of weapons, implying a system in place to stop abuse. However, the speaker criticizes the current international legal system for being insufficient by contrasting the existence of treaties with the absence of thorough prohibitions on weaponization. The existential process may arouse feelings of certainty or hope, suggesting global initiatives to prevent conflict and protect people. However, it also lays the groundwork for discontent and urgency to fortify international rules.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper analyzes the ideational function of systemic functional grammar via transitivity, concentrating on the principal themes articulated in the political speeches of Putin and Zelensky. The data analysis is confined to demonstrating the types of transitivity processes. The study seeks to elucidate the creation and portrayal of the transitivity system in the speeches of the two presidents. Halliday and Matthiessen's model posits that the transitivity processes utilized in the chosen speeches fulfill distinct discourse functions influenced by ideological importance, social authority, and communicative aims; hence, linguistic selections should be emphasized at the discursive level. The study reveals that Putin's and Zelensky's speeches heavily utilize transitivity processes, a fundamental building block of representation. Putin's speeches use transitivity more than Zelensky's, indicating a higher percentage of this process in their speeches. Transitivity processes reveal political ideologies in speeches of Putin and Zelensky, revealing multiple hidden ideologies. Understanding these ideologies is challenging due to cultural differences, cognitive biases, and individual deviations. Politicians use ideologies more adeptly than non-politicians, but their unique expression can make them implausible.

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