

**A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President El-Sisi's
Political Speeches**

د/رحاب حسن محمود السيد

قسم اللغات كلية اللغة والاعلام الأكاديمية العربية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا والنقل البحرى الاسكندرية

Abstract

There have recently been significant developments in political discourse research; yet, there are few studies on Arabic political discourse which requires more attention, particularly in the last decade. The present study employs a corpus-based approach in presenting a linguistic analysis of President El-Sisi's political speeches in 2022. It aims to explore an argumentation strategy beyond the linguistic form of discourse in order to offer a better linguistic understanding of the manipulative use of language in President El-Sisi's political speeches. The paper employs Halliday's Transitivity Theory, which is an essential tool of Systemic Functional Linguistics for investigating the ideational meta-function of language and focusing on the lexico-grammatical significance of texts. The data were obtained from the official website of the Egyptian presidency and consisted of 45 speeches during 2022. A mixed quantitative and qualitative method was employed for the analysis. The Transitivity analysis as well as the frequency of a number of lexical items were investigated by using two software programmes; that is, UAM (2023) and AntConc (2022), which help identify the different types of processes which are frequently used and distributed in the speeches. Results demonstrate a preponderant use of the material process, which not only contributes to the speaker's construction of meaning, but also presents actions and events in the physical world. Other process types such as mental, verbal and relational processes are minimally used and distributed in order to establish relationships between actions and participants.

Keywords: Corpus Linguistics, Political Discourse, President El-Sisi, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Transitivity

I. INTRODUCTION

Language, as a means of communication with multi-faceted functions, exists in society as it plays a crucial role in society as social practice because by means of language power relations are created and produced. Political speeches aim to convey the interpretations of important events occurring in the physical world. Accordingly, speakers make particular linguistic ideologically-loaded choices to convey their meanings to their readers.

According to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), language is a major element in the meaning-construction process as it has three generalized meanings or meta-functions; that is, ideational, textual, and interpersonal. This theory “conceptualizes language as a semiotic tool intimately involved in the negotiation, construction, organization, and reconstruction of human experiences” (p.3481) (Hasan & Martin, 1989; Sameer & Al Dilaimy, 2020). It contributes in how these lexico-grammatical choices help in the understanding of the social context of the text in a systemic way. Halliday (2009, p. 8) states that language is “a part of reality, a shaper of reality, and a metaphor for reality”. As a result, SFL does not focus on “the way language is represented or processed in the human brain, but it would rather seek to see discourses in their social settings” (O’Donnell, 2011, p. 2). It provides not only the internal structure of language, but also the external relations among the clauses in the text.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The present study provides a further understanding of Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly, of the Transitivity Theory. It aims to investigate the different types of transitivity processes in President’s El-Sisi’s political speeches in 2022. That is, it would identify all transitivity processes as well as the prevailing one which is frequently used and distributed in the speeches by means of the linguistic choices of the Egyptian president. It might also help highlight how the linguistic analysis

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

of political discourse can contribute in interpreting the argumentation strategies of presidents and leaders. As a result, it might contribute in the readers' understanding of how a speaker not only perceives the realities of the context, but also tries to convince them with the underlying messages. Another main objective is to conduct a frequency analysis of a number of lexical items which are frequently used and distributed in the political speeches under study and which are associated with significant domestic, regional, and international dossiers.

A third main objective is to prove the relevance of using two software programmes in the linguistic analysis of the speeches under study, by investigating the similarities and differences between all the speeches and exploring the pattern of the frequencies of the used linguistic choices. This is conducted by shedding some light on the extent to which concordances can be used to obtain concise and accurate results of the frequency analysis. As a result, it contributes in showing the effective integration of software programmes, linguistics, and political discourse analysis.

1.2 Significance of the Study

Selecting 45 political speeches delivered by President El-Sisi enables the researcher to offer a more comprehensive and enlightening investigation of Arab political discourse. The rationale for choosing President El-Sisi's political speeches to analyze in the present study is due to the fact that Egypt, represented in President El-Sisi, has been facing a number of economic challenges as a result of such world events as pandemic COVID-19, climate change, and the Russian-Ukrainian war as well as a growing population. The significance behind choosing 2022 when the selected political speeches were delivered is the fact that President El-Sisi has declared 2022 to be the year of Civil Society in which it is crucially important for Egyptian people to have a decent lifestyle. This is reflected in the

list of key lexical items and linguistic choices which are manifested and realized in the speeches.

Most previous studies of Arab political discourse focus on a few number, five at most, of political speeches, but there is no previous research on such a large corpus of political speeches. Moreover, no previous studies have been conducted on President El-Sisi who is considered one of the most powerful Arab leaders in the Middle East. As a result, the present study is an initial point for researchers to embark on more linguistic analyses. The significance of the study also lies in the fact that it might be of much interest not only to linguists, future researchers, but also for language learners.

1.3 Research Questions

The present study seeks to find answers to the following questions:

1. What are the transitivity process types which are manifested in President El-Sisi's political speeches?
2. What is the most frequently used transitivity process type in the speeches?
3. What are the most frequently used lexical items in President El-Sisi's political speeches?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Radhi et al. (2016) cites how Fairclough (1995) defines language as “the main tool to persuade people to accept certain representations of news events which must be organized logically and naturally for the sake of spreading the views of dominant people and then accepting them as common-sense knowledge providers” (p.142). Youssef and Albarakati (2019) regard politics as a social act which “uses language as one of its several tools used by politicians, who tend to use language for several purposes, including persuading their audience with their ideologies and views” (p.85). Charteris-Black (2011) argues that politics “have relied on the spoken word to convince others of the benefits that arise from their leadership” (p.34). Accordingly,

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

Asaad (2019) regards political discourse as “one of the field that intersects with discourse linguistics which deals with political matters, actions, beliefs, and practices of certain political members or groups” (p.224). He also cites how Beard (2000) argues that the language of politics is “a merit that distinguishes itself from other kinds of discourse” (p.225).

van Dijk (2008) provides a comprehensive definition of political discourse, as quoted below

Political discourse is identified by its actors or authors, viz., politicians...Indeed, the vast bulk of studies of political discourse as about the text and talk of professional politicians or political institutions, such as presidents and prime ministers and other members of government, parliament or political parties, both at the local, national and international levels (van Dijk, 2008, p. 12).

van Dijk (2008) also considers a political speech to be “a form of public speaking represented by a politician like a president, a prime minister or one who is in charge of doing so” (p.68). He adds that a political speech is “a communicative act which attempts to affect the audience and therefore reflects shared ideologies” (p.68). There are many types of political speeches such as elections, campaigns, speeches, press conferences, and political debates. Youssef and Albarakati (2019) define political speeches as “well-crafted monologues manifesting thoughts, ideas, and ideologies, among other things” (p.86). They also argue that powerful speakers exhibit a degree of power in their speeches or discourse in order to influence their audiences by means of different language tools.

Mushtaq et al. (2021) cites how Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) argue about Systemic Functional Linguistics which “provides a scientific description of how language accommodates both the internal organization of the language being used and the external relations associated with the phenomenon under observation” (p.1). They also cite how Martin and Rose (2003)

argue that the clause structures “can be expressed through simultaneous strands of meaning; that is, ideational meanings which explain the clause as a representation; interpersonal meanings which explain the clause as an exchange; and textual meanings which explain the clause as a message” (p.2). Salama and Dick (2014) regards the Systemic Functional approach as “a descriptive and interpretive framework wherein language is viewed as a meaning-making resource” (p.1). Such approach is based on the concept of realization or encoding; that is, “the lexico-grammar of language realizes or encodes three major functional semantic components, namely, ideational, textual, and interpersonal” (Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

Halliday et al. (2014) argue that one of the significant grammatical structures of the ideational meta-function in Systemic Functional Linguistics is transitivity which “includes the processes (in the verbal group), the participants who are participating in these processes (in the noun group), and the circumstances in which the processes occur (in the prepositional group)” (p.124). The Mood resource deals with realizing or encoding the interpersonal meaning, whereas the Theme resource is concerned with realizing or encoding the textual meaning.

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), transitivity is not only a process of transmitting a worldview, but also it connects the meta-functions of language to the grammar of clauses. Accordingly, it is a principal element in the experiential role of a clause which, as a representational unit, is concerned with the transmission of ideas and thoughts that reflect these processes, actions, or events. According to Halliday et al. (2014), transitivity deals with “construing the world of experience (physical or mental) into a manageable set of process types” (p.170).

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

There are six types or paradigms of processes; that is, material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioural, and existential. Whereas the material process reflects happening or achievement, the mental process involves feelings and senses. There are two parts of the material process; namely, the agent and the goal. The former is the actor or participant who carries out the action or process, and the goal is the achievement getting affected by the process. As for the latter, it has four subtypes; that is, cognition, perception, affection, and desire. The verbal process is that of saying, whereas the relational process is that of being. The behavioural process coexists with behaviour.

One of the most significant strategies or features of politicians is to persuade their audiences with their ideas, thoughts, or actions by employing some techniques, one of which is repetition which is defined by Asaad (2019) as “the reoccurrence of some lexical items in the same discourse either for rhetorical purposes or as cohesive devices which are often functioned as generating lexical cohesion” (p.225). Halliday and Hasan (1976) state that repetition “creates the cohesion of the text, whereby lexical items across sentences and paragraphs form a cohesive link which assists readers to understand the meaning and ideas” (p.176). Asaad (2019) cites how Johnstone (1991) argues about repetition in Arabic political discourse as “part of language structure as well as a stylistic feature of Arabic” (p.227).

Corpus linguistics provides text analysts and researchers with important tools which would help them in their analyses. A concordancer, as a computational programme, aims to access different types of texts in order to explore particular features of those texts such as frequency of key words and collocations under analysis. It also provides information about the contextual environment of any specific word under study.

III.Methodology

From a linguistic perspective, the present study adopts Kress and Leeuwen (1996) Transitivity Theory, which is based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This approach to meaning construction distinguishes three types of meaning; that is, textual, interpersonal, and ideational which transitivity realizes or encodes. It also emphasizes the factors that influence people's word choices by means of these three meta-functions which complement together in order to convey meaningful communication. The study also explores one of the political strategies of President El-Sisi in his political speeches in 2022; that is, repetition of a number of lexical items for the sake of convincing his audience with his ideas, thoughts, and actions.

3.1 Data Collection

Data were collected from the official website of the Egyptian presidency, which displays the written scripts of all the political speeches delivered by President El-Sisi. The speeches are presented in both languages; i.e. English and Arabic. The English version of the speeches is the one selected for the present study, which is considered a manageable corpus for the analysis. Its size is large enough to provide a sufficient number of occurrences of the lexical items under investigation. President El-Sisi gives a number of 45 political speeches in 2022, which constitute the primary corpus of the study, with a total number of 102,824 words. These speeches fall into three categories; that is, speeches in press conferences, speeches in Egyptian occasions, and speeches in international events. Table 1 shows more detailed information about the speeches which are the corpus of the study.

Table 1

President El-Sisi's Political Speeches in 2022

Speech	No.	No. of words	Percentage	No. of Units/Clauses	Percentage
Press Conferences	11	9,035	8.78%	3,372	9.13%
Egyptian Occasions	16	45,743	44.48%	16,783	45.47%
International Events	18	48,046	46.72%	16,747	45.38%
Total	45	102,824	100	36,902	100

As shown in the above table, the largest number of political speeches is delivered by President El-Sisi in international events, as they comprise approximately 47% of all his political speeches, followed by the ones he gives on Egyptian occasions, which comprise approximately 46% of all speeches. The number of words of the political speeches delivered in both Egyptian occasions and international events is nearly the same as they constitute nearly 91% of all the words under study. Table 2, 3, and 4 provide detailed information about each category of the political speeches under study.

Table 2
Detailed information about the political speeches in press conferences

Speech	Occasion	Date	No. of words	Percentage	No. of Units/Clauses	Percentage
1	Joint Press Conference with President S. Korea	20/1	704	7.79	206	6.10
2	Press Conference with the President of Algeria	25/1	790	8.74	388	11.50
3	Joint Press Conference with President of Senegal	29/1	795	8.79	362	10.73
4	Joint Press Conference with President of Djibouti	7/2	675	7.47	256	7.59
5	Press Conference with President of Tajikistan	10/3	499	5.52	189	5.60
6	Joint Press Conference with President of Rwanda	26/3	866	9.58	305	9.04
7	Joint Press Conference with the President of Poland	30/5	1058	11.71	447	13.25

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

8	Press Conference with Head of Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council	11/6	734	8.12	236	6.99
9	Joint Press Conference with President of the European Commission	15/6	1201	13.29	384	11.38
10	Joint Press Conference with the German Chancellor	18/7	954	10.55	281	8.33
11	Joint Press Conference with the President of Serbia	20/7	759	8.40	318	9.43
Total			9,035	100	3,372	100

As illustrated in the above table, all the political speeches are arranged chronologically. The longest political speech delivered by President El-Sisi in the eleven press conferences in 2022 is the one with the President of the European Commission, which comprises approximately 13% of all the press conference speeches; whereas the shortest speech is the one with the President of Tajikistan which comprises nearly 6% of all speeches. The former is made up of 384 units or clauses; whereas the latter one is made up of 189 units or clauses.

Table 3
Detailed information about the political speeches in Egyptian occasions

Speech	Occasion	Date	No. of words	Percentage	No. of Units/Clauses	Percentage
1	Celebration of Police Day	23/1	756	1.65	415	2.47
2	The 35 th Armed Forces Cultural Symposium	9/3	790	1.72	411	2.44
3	The Egyptian Woman's Day	23/3	888	1.94	400	2.38
4	The 40 th Anniversary of Sinai Liberation	25/4	705	1.54	341	2.03
5	The Egyptian Family Iftar	26/4	1944	4.24	614	3.65
6	The Occasion of Laylat-ul-Qadr	27/4	602	1.31	193	1.14
7	The Occasion of Labour Day	1/5	32015	69.98	11319	67.44
8	The 3 rd Edition of Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development	21/6	1136	2.48	493	2.93
9	The Anniversary of June 30 th Revolution	30/6	923	2.01	400	2.38
10	The Anniversary of July 23' 1952 Revolution	23/7	747	1.63	195	1.16
11	At the Cultural Symposium Marking October War Victory	4/10	1007	2.20	318	1.89
12	Commemorating Prophet Mohammed's Birth	5/10	627	1.37	218	1.29
13	At the Opening of Cairo Water Week	16/10	1092	2.38	561	3.34
14	The Inauguration of Phase 1 of Green Hydrogen Production Project	8/11	819	1.79	295	1.75
15	The Inauguration of New Mansoura City	1/12	663	1.44	298	1.77
16	The Differently-Abled Celebration for People of Determination	28/12	1029	2.24	312	1.85
Total			45,743	100	16,783	100

As illustrated in Table 3, all the political speeches are arranged chronologically. The longest political speech delivered by President El-Sisi in the sixteen Egyptian occasions in 2022 is the one delivered on the occasion of Labour Day, which comprises approximately 70% of all the speeches delivered in Egyptian occasions; whereas the shortest speech is the one on the occasion of Laylat-ul-Qadr which comprises nearly 1% of all speeches. The former is made up of 11319 units or clauses; whereas the latter one is made up of 193 units or clauses.

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

Table 4

Detailed information about the political speeches in international events

Speech	Occasion	Date	No. of words	Percentage	No. of Units/Clauses	Percentage
1	Closing Session of World Youth Forum	13/1	1137	2.36	444	2.65
2	The One Ocean Summit	11/2	851	1.77	295	1.76
3	The WHO Session	18/2	374	0.77	181	1.08
4	Opening Session of 25 th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum	17/6	1159	2.41	373	2.22
5	Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change Summit	17/6	1037	2.15	157	0.93
6	High-level Dialogue Session on Global Development, BRICS Plus Summit	24/6	1145	2.38	469	2.80
7	The Jeddah Summit for Security and Development	16/7	2318	4.82	822	4.90
8	High-level Session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue	18/7	1510	3.14	499	2.97
9	At the Closed Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change	21/9	709	1.47	226	1.34
10	The 50 th Anniversary of Egyptian-UAE Relations	26/10	494	1.02	142	0.84
11	The 31 st Arab Summit in Algeria	2/11	1642	3.41	605	3.61
12	The Opening Session of COP27	7/11	1577	32.81	772	4.60
13	The Middle East Green Initiative Summit	7/11	946	1.96	201	1.20
14	At Round Table on "Investing in the Future of Energy: Green Hydrogen"	8/11	1060	2.20	377	2.25
15	The AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Week	21/11	400	0.83	120	0.71
16	The First China-Arab States Summit in Riyadh	9/12	1470	30.58	428	2.55
17	President Signs the Guestbook of the US Department of Defense in the Pentagon	15/12	184	0.38	57	0.34
18	Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership	20/12	30033	62.50	10579	63.16
Total			48,046	100	16,747	100

As illustrated in Table 4, all the political speeches are arranged chronologically. The longest political speech delivered

by President El-Sisi in the eighteen international events in 2022 is the one delivered in Baghdad Conference, which comprises approximately 63% of all the speeches in international events; whereas the shortest speech is the one given by the President when he signs the guestbook of the US Department of Defense in the Pentagon which comprises nearly 0.3% of all speeches. The former is made up of 10579 units or clauses; whereas the latter one is made up of 57 units or clauses.

For the sake of analysis, the 45 political speeches are converted into a readable format by the two software programmes employed in the study. In the first part of the linguistic analysis of the present study, based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar in general and its ideational function in particular to investigate the lexico-grammaticalization of transitivity, the software programme, namely, UAM corpus tool (version 3.3, 2023) provides the six transitivity process types; that is, material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioural, and existential, in every uploaded document in a readable format.

In the second part of the linguistic analysis, aiming to examine the lexical items needed for the linguistic description of the corpus, another software programme, namely AntConc (version 4.2.0, 2022), used in the present study provides the researcher with a key list of all the frequently used lexical items in each speech. This is a concordance software programme, by means of which the corpus is uploaded as a text document in order to search for the lexical items under study. This concordance software programme is used because by means of its main feature 'Keywords', it provides a list of all the key words that are proved to be frequent in the file or corpus under study. Accordingly, it helps build up a linguistic profile of the most frequent words in the corpus which reveal the key semantic associations. The long list provided by the programme is filtered to obtain a manageable list of the most significant and frequently used lexical items in the corpus. It comprises 50 lexical items,

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President which fall into three categories; namely, 8 pronouns, 1 proper name, and 41 topic-based lexical items. Table 5 demonstrates the list of all the lexical items under study. The words in each group are alphabetically ordered.

Table 5
List of the lexical items under study

Category	Lexical items	Lexical items	Lexical items	Lexical items	Total
Pronouns	I	Me	My		8
	Our	Us	We		
	You	Your			
Proper nouns	Egypt				1
Topic-based	Challenge	Citizen	Civilization	Climate	41
	Community	Country	Crisis	Development	
	Dignity	Domestic	Economy	Egyptian	
	Energy	Government	Growth	Homeland	
	Human	International	Investment	Issue	
	Land	Local	Nation	Opportunity	
	Peace	Pride	Project	Prosperity	
	Reform	Region	Security	Society	
	Solidarity	Social	Stability	State	
	Strengthen	Strong	Solution	Sustainable	

IV. Analysis and Discussion

The first part of the linguistic analysis of all political speeches under study is based on the examination of the transitivity process types which are manifested in the corpus. In an answer to the first research question; that is, the transitivity processes which are manifested in the 45 political speeches under study, all the six transitivity process types are manifested with different distributions and frequencies in the corpus of the study. Tables 6, 7, & 8 demonstrate both the occurrences and frequencies of all transitivity process types in each category of the political speeches.

Table 6
Occurrences and frequencies of all transitivity process types
in the Press Conference speeches

Speech	No. Units/Clauses	Total Process Types		No. Material		No. Mental		No. Verbal		No. Relational		No. Behavioural		No. Existential	
		No. Material	%	No. Mental	%	No. Verbal	%	No. Relational	%	No. Behavioural	%	No. Existential	%		
1	206	46	36	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	388	90	75	8	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3	362	78	65	7	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	256	56	45	5	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	189	42	31	5	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
6	305	60	47	9	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	447	101	84	3	5	7	2	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
8	236	51	37	5	2	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	384	90	69	6	3	9	2	9	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
10	281	64	43	6	4	9	2	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
11	318	73	56	9	2	5	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,372	751	588	78.29	67	8.92	27	3.59	57	7.58	9	1.19	3	0.39	0.39

The material process is frequently used and distributed in the Press Conference speeches delivered by President El-Sisi in order to demonstrate that the main focus of these speeches is the actions, doings, happenings, and achievements rather than senses or feelings or sayings. The material process comprises approximately 78% of all process types realized in the eleven speeches. The other transitivity process types are used, but with a minimal distribution.

Table 7

Occurrences and frequencies of all transitivity process types in the speeches of Egyptian Occasions

Speech	No. Units/Clauses	Total Process Types		No. Material		No. Mental		No. Verbal		No. Relational		No. Behavioural		No. Existential	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	415	80		55		7		0		17		0		1	
2	411	83		67		8		1		7		0		0	
3	400	91		66		8		6		10		1		0	
4	341	67		53		5		4		5		0		0	
5	614	130		101		4		7		17		1		0	
6	193	40		28		7		1		3		0		1	
7	11319	2,514		1888		184		80		315		36		11	
8	493	112		87		4		2		14		4		1	
9	400	81		51		9		4		17		0		0	
10	195	39		31		3		1		4		0		0	
11	318	68		53		4		0		9		0		2	
12	218	48		32		4		1		10		1		0	
13	561	124		99		10		0		15		0		0	
14	295	66		47		5		3		10		0		1	
15	298	68		44		4		2		18		0		0	
16	312	75		58		7		5		4		1		0	
Total	16,783	3,686		2,760	74.87	273	7.40	117	3.17	475	12.88	44	1.19	17	0.46

In the speeches on Egyptian occasions, the material process is also frequently used and distributed in order to transfer the message that the main focus of these speeches is the actions, doings, happenings, and achievements rather than senses or feelings or sayings. The material process comprises approximately 75% of all process types realized in the sixteen speeches. The other transitivity process types are used, but with a minimal distribution.

Table 8
Occurrences and frequencies of all transitivity process types
in the speeches of international events

Speech	No. Units/Clauses	Total Process Types		No. Material		No. Mental		No. Verbal		No. Relational		No. Behavioural		No. Existential	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	444	90	63	4	4	4	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
2	295	69	57	3	0	8	1	0	8	1	0	1	0	0	
3	181	42	37	2	1	4	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	
4	373	82	65	2	2	11	2	2	11	2	0	2	0	0	
5	157	41	38	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
6	469	108	82	9	5	11	1	5	11	1	1	1	0	0	
7	822	183	141	10	3	24	5	3	24	5	0	5	0	0	
8	499	106	88	6	2	9	1	2	9	1	1	1	0	0	
9	226	49	34	2	3	9	1	3	9	1	1	1	0	0	
10	142	30	19	5	1	5	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	
11	605	132	99	8	4	20	1	4	20	1	1	1	0	0	
12	772	180	115	20	6	34	3	6	34	3	3	3	2	2	
13	201	41	33	3	0	4	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	
14	377	79	55	4	1	16	2	1	16	2	2	2	1	1	
15	120	35	25	5	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	
16	428	88	67	6	2	11	0	2	11	0	0	0	2	2	
17	57	12	8	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
18	10579	2,348	1757	174	72	300	34	11	300	34	34	34	11	11	
Total	16,747	3,717	2,783	74.87	266	7.15	110	2.95	487	13.10	54	1.45	17	0.45	

In the speeches delivered by President El-Sisi in international events, the material process is also frequently used and distributed in order to emphasize the main focus of these speeches as well, which is the actions, doings, happenings, and achievements rather than senses or feelings or sayings. The material process comprises approximately 75% of all process types realized in the eighteen speeches. The other transitivity process types are used, but with a minimal distribution.

In the second part of the linguistic analysis of the present study, a number of lexical items or choices is examined in order to investigate how President El-Sisi uses such lexical items to convince the audience with his ideas, thoughts, and actions.

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President

Using repetition not only as a linguistic device, but also as a rhetorical device, it functions as a crucial and effective strategy for emphasizing the main focus of all his messages. Another common feature used in political discourse for the sake of persuading the audience is the use of pronouns. All personal pronouns are used with different frequencies and distributions in all speeches. Table 9, 10 & 11 demonstrate the frequencies and percentages of using personal pronouns in each category of President El-Sisi’s political speeches.

Table 9
Personal pronouns in the Press Conference speeches

No. Speeches	No. Units/Clauses	No. Pronouns					%								
		I	Me	My	Total	%	We	Us	Our	Total	%	You	Your	Total	%
11	9,025	85	15	31	131	31.19	77	6	117	200	47.61	38	51	89	21.19

The above table demonstrates that the use of the first person plural pronoun *we*, *us*, *our* is frequently used in the Press Conference speeches delivered by President El-Sisi with a high degree of distribution in order to emphasize the idea of solidarity, coalition, and group identity. He sympathizes with the Egyptian people who are facing a large number of challenges and problematic issues in the current situation. Whereas the first person plural pronoun comprises approximately 48% of all the pronouns used in the speeches under study, the first person singular pronoun comprises 31%. Both types of pronouns emphasize the idea that President El-Sisi aligns himself with the Egyptian people for the sake of achieving the national goals of the country.

Table 10
Personal pronouns in the speeches of Egyptian occasions

No. Speeches	No. Units/Clauses	Total Process Types				Total	%				Total	%			Total	%
			I	Me	My			We	Us	Our			You	Your		
16	45,743	1,590	267	54	80	401	25.22	286	103	442	831	52.26	212	146	358	22.51

Table 10 demonstrates that the use of the first person plural pronoun *we, us, our* is frequently used in the speeches delivered by President El-Sisi on Egyptian occasions with a high degree of distribution in order to emphasize the idea of solidarity, coalition, and group identity. He sympathizes with the Egyptian people who are facing a large number of challenges and problematic issues in the current situation. Whereas the first person plural pronoun comprises approximately 52% of all the pronouns used in the speeches under study, the first person singular pronoun comprises 25%. Both types of pronouns emphasize the idea that President El-Sisi aligns himself with the Egyptian people for the sake of achieving the national goals of the country.

Table 11
Personal pronouns in the speeches of International events

No. Speeches	No. Units/Clauses	Total Process Types				Total	%				Total	%			Total	%
			I	Me	My			We	Us	Our			You	Your		
18	48,046	2,212	332	50	79	461	20.84	290	142	502	934	42.22	194	162	356	16.09

Table 11 demonstrates that the use of the first person plural pronoun *we, us, our* is frequently used in the speeches delivered

A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President _____
 by President El-Sisi in international events with a high degree of distribution in order to emphasize the idea of solidarity, coalition, and group identity. Whereas the first person plural pronoun comprises approximately 42% of all the pronouns used in the speeches under study, the first person singular pronoun comprises 21%. Both types of pronouns emphasize the idea that President El-Sisi intends to convey his messages to the audience with a high degree of solidarity.

Because the main objective of all speeches, whether Press Conferences, Egyptian occasions, or International events is to focus on the internal dossiers of Egypt, President El-Sisi, as the most powerful representative of the country, frequently uses the word *Egypt*, whether directly or indirectly by means of such lexical items such as *country*, *nation*, *homeland*. Table 12 presents the occurrences and frequencies of the proper noun as well as the associated lexical items in all President El-Sisi's political speeches.

Table 12
Proper nouns in all speeches

Speeches	No. Speeches	No. Units/Clauses	Total	Egypt – Country – Nation - Homeland	%	Egyptian – People - Citizens	%
Press Conferences	11	9,025		220	10.78	59	7.62
Egyptian occasions	16	45,743		973	47.69	410	52.97
International events	18	48,046		847	41.51	305	39.40
Total	45	102,824	2,814	2,040	72.49	774	27.50

The above table demonstrates that the proper noun *Egypt* and its indirect referents comprise approximately 72% of all lexical items; whereas such words as *Egyptians*, *people* or *citizens* are realized approximately 28%. This highlights the main focus of all speeches, which is the current internal situation of Egypt as a developing country.

The use and repetition of a number of lexical items in all President El-Sisi's political speeches helps pave the way for a deeper linguistic analysis of the speeches, for the sake of examining the context of the clauses under study. The most frequently used topic in the speeches is the economic situation of Egypt as well as its reform programme towards the sustainable development amidst all the challenges faced by the Egyptian people. Table 13 demonstrates the frequencies and percentages of all the lexical items related to the economic situation, development, and prosperity.

Table 13
Topic-based nouns in all speeches

Speeches	No. Speeches	No. Units/Clauses	Total Lexical Items	Crisis – Challenge – Issue – Problem - Opportunity	%	Development – Economy – Investment – Reform – Prosperity – Progress – Project	%
Press Conferences	11	3,372		73	9.81	72	5.46
Egyptian occasions	16	16,783		319	42.87	784	59.48
International events	18	16,747		352	47.31	462	35.05
Total	45	36,902	2,062	744	36.08	1,318	63.91

The above table demonstrates that President El-Sisi emphasizes that the Egyptian people are facing a number of challenges such as a growing population, the effects of pandemic COVID-19, the Russian-Ukrainian war, and the world economic crisis, by means of repeating such words as *crisis*, *challenge*, *issue*, *problem*, with a frequency rate of approximately 36% of all words. He also intends to seek public legitimacy to the economic measures and actions required not only to achieve the national goals of the country, but also to lead to opportunities of prosperity and progress. Words such as *development*, *progress*, *prosperity*, *reform* comprise approximately 64% of all the frequently used words in all the speeches under study.

Conclusion

The analysis of the transitivity process types as well as the frequency analysis of a number of lexical items shows that both levels of analysis complement each other in unison in order to transfer the principal message of President El-Sisi's political speeches to the audience. The linguistic elements which are frequently used in the selected speeches emphasize the persuasive method of conveying President El-Sisi's ideas, thoughts, and actions to the audience. The preponderant use of the material process in all the speeches highlight the speaker's focus on doings, actions, and happenings rather than senses, feelings, or sayings. This highlights the fact that the present study is not subjective or politically-biased, but it is rather objective and neutral. The occurrences and frequencies not only of the transitivity process types, but also of the lexical items under study show that there is a pattern in using such features in Arab political discourse. The repetition of such elements has an intensifying, emphatic, and purposeful impact on the audience.

REFERENCES

- Asaad, W. A. M. (2019). The impact of ideology on repetition in the political discourse of Arab leaders. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 8(1), 224-229.
- Beard, A. (2000). *The Language of Politics*. London: Routledge.
- Charteris-Black, J. (2011). *Politicians and Rhetoric: The Persuasive Power of Metaphor*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Media discourse*. New York: Arnold.
- Halliday, M., Matthiessen, C. M., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* London: Routledge.
- Halliday, M. A. (2009). *The essential Halliday*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Halliday, M. A., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman.
- Halliday, M. A., & Matthiessen, C. M. (2013). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar*. New Delhi: Routledge.
- Hasan, R., & Martin, J. R. (1989). *Language Development: Learning Language, Learning Culture*. New York: Ablex Publishing Corporation.
- Johnstone, B. (1991). *Repetition in Arabic Discourse: Par-adigms, Syntagms ,and the Ecology of Language*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kress, G., & Leeuwen, T. (1996). *Reading Images: The Grammar of Visual Design*. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Martin, J. R., & Rose, D. (2003). *Working with discourse: Meaning beyond the Clause* .London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Mushtaq, M., Saleem, T., Afzal, S., & Saleem, A. (2021). A corpus-based ideational meta-functional analysis of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at United

- A Corpus-based Transitivity Analysis of President**

- Nations general assembly. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 7(1), 1.856999
- O'Donnell, M. (2011). Introduction to systemic functional linguistics for discourse analysis. *Language, Function and Cognition*, 12, 1-8.
- Radhi, H., Pandian, A., & Sepora, T. (2016). Arab Spring...Islamists-Seculars Struggle to Control Egypt A CDA Study from AJE's Ideological Perspective. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 5, 142-153.
- Salama, A., & Dick, A. (2014). Decoding the socio-political meanings of Presidential "I" in Mubarak's last presidential speech: A systemic-functional approach. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 1, 977554.
- Sameer, I., & Al Dilaimy, H. (2020). Ideational aspect of systemic functional grammar in bush's and al-assad's first inaugural speech. *Journal of Talent*, 4, 3481-3491.
- van Dijk, T. A. (2008). *(Discourse and Context: A Sociocognitive Appro.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Youssef, S. S., & Albarakati, M. A. (2019). Features of Arabic and English use of self and other-presentation in political discourse. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 8(1), 85-92.
-

الملخص العربي

حدثت مؤخرًا تطورات هامة في الأبحاث التي تهتم بالخطاب السياسي ، ومع ذلك فهناك القليل من الدراسات التي تدور حول الخطاب السياسي العربي والتي قد تتطلب المزيد من الاهتمام ، خاصة في العقد الماضي. أما الدراسة الحالية فهي تعتمد على نهجًا مختلفًا قائمًا على مجموعة من النصوص الخاصة بالخطب السياسية للرئيس عبد الفتاح السيسي وقامت بتقديم تحليل لغوي لهذه الخطب التي تم القائها في عام 2022. وتهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى فحص الاستراتيجية الخاصة بتقديم الحجج المختلفة بحيث تتجاوز الدراسة الشكل اللغوي للخطاب من أجل تقديم فهم لغوي أفضل للاستخدام اللغوي لبعض المفردات التي تمثل اللغة المستخدمة في خطب الرئيس السيسي السياسية. توظف الورقة نظرية التعد الخاصة بهاليدي، التي تعتبر أداة أساسية في علم اللغة الوظيفي النسقى للتحقيق في الوظيفة الفوقية الفكرية للغة والتركيز على الأهمية المعجمية النحوية للنصوص قيد البحث. وقد تم الحصول على البيانات من الموقع الرسمي للرئاسة المصرية بحيث تألفت من 45 خطاب سياسي خلال عام 2022. وقد تم استخدام أسلوب كمي ونوعي مختلط للتحليل. كما تم فحص تحليل التعد في الجمل المختلفة وكذلك تكرار عدد من المفردات المعجمية باستخدام برنامجين وهما يوام (2023) و أنتكوم (2022) ، وقد ساعد البرنامجان في تحديد الأنواع المختلفة من عمليات التعد في الجمل من الناحية اللغوية التي يتم استخدامها بشكل متكرر وتوزيعها في خطب الرئيس السيسي السياسية. وتوضح النتائج استخدامًا مرجحًا لأحد العمليات التي تمثل الأفعال والأعمال والأحداث ، والتي لا تساهم فقط في بناء المعنى لدى المتحدث ، ولكنها تعرض أيضًا الإجراءات والأحداث في العالم المحيط. كما ظهر استخدام أنواع العمليات الأخرى مثل العمليات العقلية واللفظية بمعدل ضئيل في الجمل المختلفة في الخطب السياسية قيد البحث.

الكلمات المفتاحية – لغويات المتون، الخطاب السياسي، الرئيس السيسي، التكرار، اللسانيات الوظيفية النسقية، التعد