# Realization of Ideational and Textual Meaning of German Language in *Tatsachen über Deutschland*

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**Abstract:** Ideational and textual meaning in systemic functional linguistics can be found in texts with non-fiction genre and written register. Both possess relationship with its characteristics as well as simplicity of clause, varieties of transitivity and thematization. This research aims to describe the realization of ideational and textual meaning of German language in *Tatsachen über Deutschland*, published in 2023. The paradigm and the location were qualitative and media. Systemic functional linguistics was the approach. In all nine chapters of this book, the analysis was in the form of lingual unit and involved two raters from purposive sampling. The data was obtained through document analysis method. The result showed that from ideational side, the delivery of text was dominated by simplex clauses. The number of complex clauses is its half. The transitivity varied from the most: material process, identifying relational process, circumstantive relational process, attributive relational process, mental process, behavioral process, existential process, verbal process, and possessive process. In textual realm, the mode was unmarked topical theme. Clause with marked topical theme as capital was the median. Textual theme emerged as the least. So is this research conducted. Further research in other realms of metafunction of this book is expected.

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## A. INTRODUCTION

*Tatsachen über Deutschland* is a manual book about Germany, that is published periodically. Inside the book, numerous kinds of reliable and up-to-date information regarding all modern living aspects in that country is contained. The various aspects referred are such as the politic system, both internally and externally, the economics, arts and culture, environment, education, culinary, and the living of its society. The writing of this manual book is a collaboration with German foreign ministry. This book does not only present the information utilizing clauses, but number and diagrams as explanation can be seen inside. Considering the name of the book and the contained information within, it is concluded, that this book belongs to texts with non-fiction genre. This conclusion is strengthened with the classification of genres by Martin (Eggins, 2004). Martin states, that inside the realm of systemic functional linguistics, there are four categories related to social activities. Those four genres are literature, fiction, non-fiction, and educational. Inside the group of literature genre are short stories, autobiographies, ballads, sonnets, fables, and tragedies. Romantic novels, detective stories, and sitcoms are in the side of fiction genre. In contrast, instructional manuals, news, reviews,

recipes, and procedures are und the umbrella of nonfiction genre. Lastly, teaching materials, tutorials, reports or essays, seminars, exams, and textbooks belong to educational genre.

Texts with non-fiction or scientific genre generally have written register. However, there are also written scientific texts, that are made spoken. This phenomenon can appear in films or series, that have relationship with non-fictions as well as documenters. In (Wiratno, 2018), several characteristics, that classifies a text to be in non-fiction genre, are simplicity in the clause structure, the use of technical vocabularies, the emerge of indicative-declarative clauses as the majority of the entire text, and the employment of passive clauses to stress the core of text. Besides, the scientific genre is only allocated with descriptive texts, procedure, explanation, exposition, and discussion. The other characteristics relate to ideational meaning, particularly the experiential meaning. As is known, if field context is being discussed, the ideational meaning in discourse is expressed with analysis of conjunction relation, lexical cohesion, references, and the order of activities. In the clause level, that meaning is realized with the emerge of interdependence, logicosemantics, and transitivity or types of process. The last characteristics describe, that scientific texts tend to employ more identifying relational process for making definitions and attributive relational process for the purposes of description. All of those above can also be found in the book Tatsachen über Deutschland. Thus, this description above strengthens the statement of how scientific this book is.

As an explanation of the statement above, the ideational meaning in functional systemic linguistics can be expressed in two ways, such as logical and experiential. One member of the logical aspect is interdependence. What is meant by the previous sentence, is that the relationship between clauses can merely appear in complex clauses. There are two types of complexity, as well as simplex or complex. Complex clauses have this relationship, while simplex clauses do not, because complex clauses emerge to use conjunctions, both explicit and implicit. From the appearance of these conjunctions, a complex clause can be categorized as paratactic and hypotactic. The first term refers to the parallelism of clauses, while the second refers to situation, where one clause has higher level than the others. Simplex clauses are said to have no interdependence relationship, because they only contain one type of event. Furthermore, from the experiential level, ideational meaning can be expressed by transitivity or process type. Here there are six types of processes, including material processes, mental processes, attributive, identifying, possessive and circumstantial relational processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, and existential processes. Going further to textual meaning, the one way of expressing is by thematization. In this term, theme-rheme patterns, that clarify the structure of the message or information in a clause, are discussed. There are three types of themes, namely textual themes, interpersonal themes, and topical themes. This last category carries two kinds of subcategories. Those are marked topical themes and unmarked topical themes. In the theory of German language, objects and complements as the capital of clauses are considered unmarked if they are accompanied by a definitive article (Kirkwood, 1979). This could have different analysis from the English clauses. Here are two examples of the analysis of ideational and textual meanings in the book Tatsachen über Deutschland.

In Deutschland herrscht ein gemäßigtes Klima. (TÜD/2023/21), 'In Germany, a temperate climate prevails'. As is displayed, the clause above is led not by other element, that is no subject, which is complement for location. Thus, it can be said that the theme here is marked topical

theme. This clause wants to stress that Germany plays the role as location, not the agent. The one and only subject is ein gemäßigtes Klima. The verb is herrscht 'prevail'. However, the actual meaning is about existence. Thus, the only suitable process here is the existential process. Lastly, the entire clause only contains one event or verb. That means, this is a simplex clause.

Sowohl der Bund als auch die 16 Länder verfügen über jeweils eigene Kompetenzen. (TÜD/2023/7), 'Both the federal government and the 16 states have each their own powers'. In the second example, we can see that, the form of the clause differs from the first one. This clause is led by conjunction both … and …, thus the theme being used here is textual theme. When the textual theme exists, it means that there is another theme. After that conjunction, the subjects appear, hence the second theme is unmarked topical theme. The verb in this clause is have. From this, we can conclude that there is possessive process. Lastly, the even though the clause looks simple, it has conjunction. It means that this is actually a complex clause that is being united due to the similarity of the elements other than the subjects.

Those two examples above show that the manual book Tatsachen über Deutschland, which are classified as scientific texts, has variety of complexity, transitivity and theme. However, all of these things still shows that this scientific level of this book prevails. This research was not conducted solely, but refers to related researches. (Najim, 2014) studied the transitivity system and its tendencies in literary texts. The results explained that the majority of processes that emerged are material processes and verbal processes. (Alaei & Ahangari, 2016) analyzed lexicogrammatical choices in the transitivity system used to express ideology in literary texts. (Rosa et al., 2017) in their research discussed about the comparison how students and practitioners translated history texts in systemic functional linguistics realm. (Arvianti & Wulansari, 2019) in their research stated, that the translation of comics experienced shift in ideational meaning. Their outcome said, that after the translation, the majority of material process prevailed, but the behavioral process stood in the second in target language. (Musrichah & Baskoro, 2020) discussed gender bias and its relationship to the lexicogrammar that was used. The results explained that material processes functioned to demonstrate the dominance, while modulation was used for consequential purposes in women. In the same year, there was also study of translation of thematization in the newspaper (Fisilla & Imperiani, 2020). Study about transitivity in short story inside the Kompas newspaper was also already conducted (Nurrahmah et al., 2020). (Jupply & Susana, 2021) compared the textual meaning of abstracts in English and Indonesian. The next study in the same year (Anis et al., 2021) discovered the pattern of translation of Sufi healing and the Al-Hikam aphorisms. (Irdayanti et al., 2022) also studied the translation of thematization. They discovered that in both languages, the unmarked topical theme was the most frequently emerged, because both authors and translator wanted to emphasize the subjects directly. These previous researchers mentioned above have conducted studies on the three parts of metafunctional meaning, namely ideational, interpersonal and textual. Some of them also studied the translation realm. However, there is a visible difference, that in all previous researches, they have not discussed the metafunction of German in scientific books. This background wakes this writer's spirit to conduct a research on metafunction of German language to describe the forms of complexity, transitivity, and system of thematization in that manual book.

## B.  METHOD

This research focused on metafunctional meanings of German language. Therefore, the object within is to describe and explain the variety of those meanings in German clauses. To make it clearer, the analysis of metafunctional meanings included ideational and textual meanings is one of the realms in systemic functional linguistics (Wiratno, 2018). Thus, systemic functional linguistics selected as this approach. The suitable research paradigm here was qualitative. The background or explanation, that were able to support the elaboration above was, that the character of this research was not context free, but this was tied closely with context. Furthermore, researched utilized single case study, because the main point or the core of this was merely the metafunctional meanings of German language. For researches, there are four kinds of location to apply, as well as demographic, geographic, media, and literature. Because this pointed on analysis toward manual book, hence this research used media as its location, particularly the German manual book titled *Tatsachen über Deutschland*, that was written by Carsten Hauptmeier, Arnd Festerling, Clara Krug, Dr. Helen Sibum, dan Sarah Kanning and published in 2023.

The data source of this research was taken from all nine chapters in this book. Specifically, those nine chapters are *Auf einen Blick* 'At a Glance', *Staat und Politik* 'Government and Politics', *Partner in Europa und in der Welt* 'Partners in Europe and Around the World', *Klima und Umwelt* 'Climate and Environment', *Wirtschaft und Digitalisierung* 'Economy and Digitalisation', *Bildung und Forschung* 'Education and Research', *Vielfältige Gesellschaft* 'Diverse Society', *Kultur und Medien* 'Culture and Media', and *Leben in Deutschland* 'Living in Germany'. The second data source was two informants that helped analyzing the metafunctional meanings. Both informants were selected through purposive sampling technique.

In the process of collecting the data, there are also four collecting techniques. Those are interview, questionnaire, group discussion, and document analysis. In this research, the document analysis was utilized to gather up the data. In this step, researcher did non-participant observation toward the data, that was the German source text. After that, together with informants, the researcher conducted a focused group discussion to talk about and discover all the metafunctional meanings in German language. Starting from the previous step, the validation process was conducted, such as triangulation of data source and triangulation of colleting method. By the first triangulation, the researcher checked once more all the clauses in those nine chapters of book *Tatsachen über Deutschland*, that the gathered data corresponded with the research object. By the second triangulation, that was triangulation of colleting method, data source was identified and classified according to the research object. The last step from this was conduction of focus group discussion.

## C.  RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the result of this research can be seen in the following. In the manual book *Tatsachen über Deutschland*, the majority of clauses is dominated by simplex clauses. As being said in the introduction, the characteristics of non-fiction texts are relational processes, especially identifying and attributive. However, the result showed that all the nine processes of transitivity appeared in this book. The material process turns up as the mode and the possessive relational process comes in the last place. From the textual meaning, the three

themes also enliven this text delivery. Same as the expectation, the amount of unmarked topical theme comes in the first place. The elaborated outcome and the elucidation are shown in the following.

**Table 1.** The Complexity in *Tatsachen über Deutschland*

| No | Complexity | |
|---|---|---|
| | Clause | Total |
| 1 | Simplex | 194 |
| 2 | Complex | 126 |
| | Total | 320 |

**Table 2.** The Transitivity in *Tatsachen über Deutschland*

| No | Transitivity | |
|---|---|---|
| | Process | Total |
| 1 | Material | 224 |
| 2 | Identifying Relational | 49 |
| 3 | Circumstantial Relational | 47 |
| 4 | Attributive Relational | 34 |
| 5 | Mental | 29 |
| 6 | Behavioral | 28 |
| 7 | Existential | 26 |
| 8 | Verbal | 26 |
| 9 | Possessive Relational | 15 |
| | Total | 320 |

**Table 3.** The Thematization in *Tatsachen über Deutschland*

| No | Complexity | |
|---|---|---|
| | Theme | Total |
| 1 | Unmarked topical | 331 |
| 2 | Marked topical | 152 |
| 3 | Textual | 71 |
| | **Total** | **320** |

1. *Freie und faire Wahlen sind Grundvoraussetzung für jede Demokratie.* (TÜD/2023/8)
   'Free and fair elections are a basic requirement for every democracy.'
2. *Er löste die CDU-Politikerin Angela Merkel ab, die Deutschland 16 Jahre regiert hatte.* (TÜD/2023/25)
   'He replaced the CDU politician Angela Merkel, who had ruled Germany 16 years.'
3. *Die Bundesregierung beschloss unter anderem, den gesetzlichen Mindestlohn in Deutschland auf 12 Euro zu erhöhen.* (TÜD/2023/27)
   'The federal government decided among other things, to increase the legal minimum wage in Germany to 12 euros.'
4. *Insgesamt unterhält Deutschland 226 Auslandsvertretungen.* (TÜD/2023/42)
   'Overall, Germany maintains 226 diplomatic missions abroad.'
5. *Die Bundesregierung unterstützt deshalb LSBTIQ*(lesbisch, schwul, bisexuell, transsexuell, intersexuell, queer)-Rechte sowie den Abbau von Diskriminierungen.* (TÜD/2023/120)
   'The federal government supports therefore LGBTIQ* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer) rights and the reduction of discrimination.'

In the example number (1) above, that clause only contains one verb, thus it belongs to the simple category. That predicate shows the relation between *Freie und faire Wahlen* and *Grundvoraussetzung*, which is an identification. Consequently, the process here is the identifying relational process. Both elements in this clause have the same rule, one of them can be assigned as subject. So, we can conclude, that the theme here is unmarked topical theme. The example number (2) hold two verbs. Accordingly, the clause is the complex one, but the hypotactic complex, because the second clause is in the lower level than the first clause. Based on the verbs, *ablöste* and *hatte regiert*, in the elaboration, they must have actor and goal. This explains, that both of them are categorized as material process, because the actors undergo visible actions. This complex clause also owns two themes. If we separate them, we can see, that both are led with subject, hence the themes are unmarked topical. The example number (3) shares the same kind of complexity with the previous data (2). This is a hypotactic complex clause, because the second clause is unable to stand alone without the first one. It will be meaningless. Different from the previous, here the process varies. The verb *beschloss* and *erhöhen* own disparate members by the process. The first verb needs sayer and what is being said. In contrast, the second needs actor and goal. Thus, the processes are verbal and material. If both clauses is separated, they are led with subjects, hence the themes are still the same as the previous, those are unmarked topical. The example (4) only has one event, so it is a simple clause. The predicate here is *unterhält*. This word has various meanings. The only suitable here is *have*. Thus, it is classified as the possessive relational process. Different from the other examples above, this clause has adverb as the beginning. Therefore, the theme is marked topical. The last example (5) is in the same kind simplicity as the example (4) above. The process contained here is different. The verb *unterstützt* is meaningful in the class of behavioral process. Lastly, in the realm of thematization, the theme is unmarked topical due to *Die Bundesregierung* as the subject in the beginning.

The examples taken here are only the representative from the entire data in the book *Tatsachen über Deutschland*. They proved, that the scientific text also needs sundry types of processes other than relational process, particularly the identifying and attributive. The purpose is to make the delivery less monotonous. It is said that the majority process is material. This aligned with the results stated from (Najim, 2014), (Alaei & Ahangari, 2016), (Arvianti & Wulansari, 2019), (Nurrahmah et al., 2020) and (Musrichah & Baskoro, 2020). The background from this outcome is that the author wants to stress the action of life in most lines of this book. The other research (Anis et al., 2021) also supports this. Although the processes are various, the scientific level is still alive, because the verbs that are utilized here, are not the basic verbs, but many of them are derived from technical vocabularies, which the meanings taken are not the literal ones. In the realm of complexity, the representative examples above told us, that the pattern of delivery is that the simplex clauses are the majority. Almost all of the complex clauses here belong to the hypotactic. That means, the complex clause only united two or more clauses with different level. Thus, every single clause that has similar level with one another is separated to be simple clauses. Even though there are also paratactic complex clauses, its number can be counted with fingers. Moving to the last meaning or the textual side, this result met the expectation that non-fiction text tends to be straightly to-the-point. Consequently, most of these 320 clauses employed unmarked topical theme to stress the subject as the agent

or topic of discussions. This result has the similar statement as from (Jupply & Susana, 2021) and (Irdayanti et al., 2022). The marked topical theme comes as the median, because in German, usually inversion sentence will be used to emphasize the core of the discussion. The textual theme stands with the lowest number, because they have the least appearance than the simplex clauses. This statement is supported by result from (Rosa et al., 2017) and (Fisilla & Imperiani, 2020), that non-fiction text tends to have short and individual clauses.

## D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the previous section, we can conclude that the book *Tatsachen über Deutschland* possesses various forms of metafunctional meaning, especially ideational and textual. In the ideational side, from all data, more than half percent was filled with simplex clauses. There were also complex clauses, but only the hypotactic complexity won, because this book did not unite the clauses with similar level. In the experiential class from ideational meaning, surprisingly all nine types of process were employed in this manual book to make the presentation of text less monotonous and capable to draw readers' attention to finish all nine chapters of the book. Different from the statement about process in the written non-fiction texts, the material process turned up as the mode. The possessive relational process showed up as the tail, with other words, with the least number. The thematization also was filled with all three themes. The unmarked topical theme occupied the first place. It was expected, because scientific texts are usually straightly to-the-point. Same as the purposes of diversity in delivery, marked topical theme stood as median or the second place, to emphasize the core of sentence without repeating the same pattern with subject or agent as the capital of clauses. Textual theme also joined with the least number. Most of them was to combine two or more clauses, that were combination of diverse clauses as representative of alphas and betas. So, this research was done. Somehow, this investigation of metafunction only covered a little from the ideational and textual part. The further researches toward metafunctional meanings of German language both in scientific and fiction texts by non-German speakers are expected from the writer to comply the study in the realm of metafunction.

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