

# Transitivity Processes in King Charles III's Speech on State Banquet with the United States: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Study

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## Abstract

This study explores the relationship between clause structure and the social construction of meaning found in verbal speeches. Drawing on Halliday's theory of the transitivity system, particularly on the process elements which are part of the Systemic Functional Linguistics theory. This research aims to investigate the distribution of transitivity processes found in King Charles III's speech at the state banquet in 2025, welcoming the state visit of US President Donald Trump at Windsor Palace. Furthermore, using descriptive qualitative analysis, this study focuses on analyzing the functions expressed in the transitivity process theory found in the speech. The data used in this study consist of 50 clauses from King Charles' speech at the state banquet with US President Donald Trump in 2025. Moreover, this study found that six transitivity processes were identified in the research. The processes found in this study are material, relational attributive, relational identification, mental, verbal and behavioral processes. Each process plays a different role and function in the speech. All the processes present in the State Banquet speech were used by King Charles III to representing experience and constructing political discourse, strengthening diplomatic relationship by defining ideological themes like historical events, cultural and language similarities, also boosting cooperation in various fields. In conclusion, this study provides information on how linguistic structures are used by a head of state strategically employ language not only to communicate information but also to construct ideological meanings and reinforce diplomatic objectives to maintain the continuity of diplomatic relationship.

**Keywords :** *Transitivity System, Process Types, State Banquet of King Charles III, Systemic Functional Linguistics*

## Introduction

On September 17th, 2025, King Charles III welcomed a state visit from the U.S. President Donald Trump at the Windsor Palace. This state visit was aimed at strengthening diplomatic relations between the UK and the United States. As part of the series of events during the state visit, there was a state banquet dinner where King Charles III, as the host, delivered a state speech to the audience. King Charles III discussed many important issues, from past relations to plans for future cooperation. The context of King Charles III's speech reflects how the diplomatic relationship between the UK and the United States change over time dynamically. State dinners represent one of the highest forms of diplomatic engagement, where presidents of the United States and other heads of state gather to reinforce bilateral relations through formal ceremonies and official

speeches (Schubert, 2025). Within the broader field of political rhetoric, state dinner speeches are categorized as epideictic discourse, as they primarily serve to commemorate significant occasions and express respect and appreciation toward distinguished foreign leaders (Reisigl, 2008). As a written-to-be-spoken genre, state dinner speeches are delivered within a highly structured and ceremonial setting, functioning as an important medium of political communication (Chanley, 2004). Stated from the official website of the Royal Household, state dinners constitute an essential component of an inbound state visit. Such visits are arranged through diplomatic coordination, with foreign monarchs, presidents, or prime ministers invited to visit The King based on the advice of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Similarly, invitations for The King to undertake overseas state visits are issued through the same institution. Although the specific programme of each inbound state visit may differ depending on the circumstances, these visits generally follow a number of established ceremonial traditions and diplomatic protocols (Household, 2025).

According to John Searle that speech is the dissemination of ideas intended to communicate those ideas to a target audience. More specifically, speech involves a speaker who produces utterances, an audience, and the utterances themselves (Searle, 2003). One-way individuals gain sympathy and support from others is through speech delivery, as speech constitutes a part of social integration. A good speech is one whose content and message can be effectively received and understood by the audience. Speech may be delivered through either spoken or written discourse. Discourse itself refers to a sequence of utterances or texts that embody particular values and beliefs. These beliefs shape human perspectives toward their social environment and represent experiences that are subsequently understood as ideology. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an analytical approach that examines the relationship between language, power, and ideology as they are realized through discourse. Fairclough argues that discourse extends beyond its communicative function, serving as a social practice through which power relations are established, maintained, challenged, and transformed. Consequently, CDA moves beyond the analysis of linguistic features at the textual level by exploring the broader social, political, and ideological contexts in which discourse is produced and interpreted. From this perspective, language is regarded as a powerful instrument for shaping social reality and influencing public perceptions. This is particularly evident in political discourse, where leaders strategically employ language to construct authority, legitimize policies, reinforce ideological positions, and persuade audiences. Accordingly, CDA provides a valuable framework for uncovering the underlying meanings and power structures embedded in political texts and speeches (Fairclough, 2007).

The speech in this research is a combination of political discourse and public diplomacy because it is delivered by a Head of State who has political power and a symbol of the state. Besides that, this speech also aims to welcome state guests, strengthen diplomatic relations, build a friendly image, remember shared history, and convey diplomatic messages subtly. Teun A. van Dijk argues that political discourse comprises a distinct group of discourse genres characterized by political elements, such as political speeches, legislative discussions, electoral debates, political programs, and governmental dialogues. Politicians employ a form of social communication known as political language in order to influence and persuade audiences. Political speeches may contain various messages and themes related to social, cultural, military, economic, and educational issues (van Dijk, 2013). Melissen argues that public diplomacy is an activity of starting dialogue and building long-term relationships so that it can establish trust relationships carried out in a two-way manner to engage the public. Various activities are used in

applying public diplomacy (Melissen, 2005). d'Hooghe believes that public diplomacy activities include citizen diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, strategic communication, and sometimes nation-branding. Public diplomacy is an activity that involves many actors, ranging from the government, private sector, to the general public. Government actors are spread from the central government to local governments. At the central level, these actors can include national leaders, ministers and officials in ministries, as well as diplomatic representatives, military representatives, royal family members, and trade and tourism promotion offices (d'Hooghe, 2015).

The researcher employs the transitivity theory proposed by M. A. K. Halliday to analyze the clause in the speech text. The selection of these speech texts is based on several considerations. First, the speeches were delivered in an international forum, specifically during the reception of state guests from allied countries that have established diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom. Second, the speeches are composed using careful and direct diplomatic language that reflects long-standing intergovernmental friendship. The lexical and clausal choices employed in the speeches aim to strengthen diplomatic relations and enhance cooperation across various sectors. In addition, the speeches encourage discussion and collaboration in addressing ongoing global issues and challenges. Third, transitivity analysis within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics enables the researcher to examine and uncover structures of meaning and function at the clause level within the speech texts. Fourth, this analysis facilitates the exploration of how complex issues are represented in the speeches. Fifth, it allows the researcher to investigate how the roles and actions of actors, as well as affected parties, are portrayed and contextualized through the grammatical choices employed in the discourse.

The author refers to several previous writings that serve as references for research materials related to systemic functional linguistics, focusing on the aspect of transitivity with political speeches as the research object. Firstly, research by Kusumawardani et al. (2022)(Kusuma & Darma Laksana, 2020) entitled "Transitivity System in the Inauguration Speech Text of the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo." This research analyzes the types of transitivity consisting of processes, participants, and circumstances found in the inauguration speech text of President Jokowi for the 2014-2019 period. Secondly, the second article referenced by the author was written by Aliyah et al. (2024) entitled "The Verb Transitivity System in the 2024 Presidential Candidate Speeches on Kompas TV's YouTube Channel." This study reveals the transitivity in the 2024 presidential candidate speeches on Kompas TV's YouTube channel. Thirdly, the article from Anggraini et al. titled "Transitivity Process and Ideological Construction of Donald Trump's Speeches." This study discusses how the collaboration between the transitivity process theory and critical discourse analysis theory can be used to reveal the ideology in Donald Trump's speech texts during his campaign and after the inauguration as President of the United States.

These previous studies have significantly contributed to the understanding of transitivity in political discourse, they have largely focused on presidential speeches delivered in domestic political contexts, such as inauguration ceremonies, election campaigns, or governance. In contrast, the present study investigates King Charles III's speech at the State Banquet with the United States, a diplomatic speech delivered in the context of international relations. Unlike presidential campaign or inaugural speeches, a state banquet speech serves ceremonial and diplomatic purposes, emphasizing mutual respect, strategic partnership, shared historical values, and international cooperation. Consequently, the linguistic realization of transitivity in this context may reflect different

communicative purposes and ideological meanings. Furthermore, this study not only identifies the dominant transitivity processes in King Charles III's speech but also interprets how these linguistic choices construct diplomatic ideology, power relations, and national identity through the lens of Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis. By integrating Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics with Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA framework textual analysis, discursive practice, and social practice this research provides a deeper explanation of how grammatical structures contribute to the production of diplomatic discourse and the maintenance of political relationships between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Many researchers have discussed studies on the political speeches of a national leader, but there has been little research on the political speeches of a King from one of the oldest countries and with the largest number of Commonwealth countries in the world. Therefore, the novelty of this research lies in three main aspects. First, it examines a royal diplomatic speech, a discourse genre that has received relatively limited attention in transitivity studies compared with presidential political speeches. Second, it combines Systemic Functional Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis to move beyond descriptive grammatical analysis toward a critical interpretation of ideology and power embedded in diplomatic language. Third, it explores how transitivity choices in King Charles III's State Banquet speech function as linguistic resources for representing diplomatic values, strengthening bilateral relations, and constructing the image of the British monarchy in the sphere of international diplomacy.

Consequently, this study contributes both theoretically to the application of SFL and CDA in political discourse analysis and practically to the understanding of language as a tool for diplomatic communication and ideological representation. In addition, there haven't been many studies on transitivity that discuss how monarchical diplomatic speeches build soft diplomacy through clause structures and how those clause structures can shape ideological themes aimed at strengthening diplomatic relations between countries. The researcher finds two questions in the research. First, what is the most dominant transitivity process in the King Charles III in the state banquet event with United States. Second, how the transitivity process in the speech implies the soft diplomacy from King Charles III. The discussion not only covers ongoing cooperative relations but also historical relations and plans for the enhancement of bilateral relations in the future.

## **Method**

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research method. Qualitative descriptive research is an approach that seeks to investigate and understand social phenomena and human-related issues through an interpretive methodology. It emphasizes the socially constructed nature of reality and recognizes the close interaction between the researcher and the participants being studied. Furthermore, this method aims to explore and interpret the meanings, perspectives, and experiences held by individuals or groups in relation to specific social or human concerns (Creswell, 2011). In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the primary research instrument, playing a central role in determining the research focus, selecting participants or informants, collecting and evaluating data, conducting data analysis, interpreting findings, and drawing conclusions. Establishing a clear research focus is essential to guide the investigation and ensure the relevance of the collected data (Al-Faraji & Sameer, 2025). The data in this study were analyzed using Halliday's (1985) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, with particular emphasis on the transitivity system. The

units of analysis consisted of clauses that were categorized according to the transitivity components, namely processes, participants, and circumstances. The primary data source for this study was the speech delivered by King Charles III at a State Banquet.

The observation and note-taking method were employed as the data collection technique by systematically and carefully examining the speech texts to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the context and content of the texts. The researcher then selected speech texts delivered during State Banquets held in United States. The speech text consisted of approximately three to five pages of transcript. In addition, to validate the data, the researcher also observed and examined the speeches delivered by King Charles III through the YouTube platform on The Royal Family Channel in order to synchronize the written speech transcripts with the spoken version delivered during the events.

The data collection procedure was conducted by searching for and downloading transcripts and video recordings of King Charles III's speeches that met the predetermined criteria, particularly state banquet speeches delivered in 2025 (Household, 2025). The authenticity and accuracy of the transcripts were verified by comparing them with publicly available video recordings of the speeches on the official YouTube account of the British Royal Family. Furthermore, the speech data had been collected, the speech texts were subsequently divided into basic units of analysis referred to as clauses. Within these clauses, there are participants or actors represented by nouns, processes represented by verbs, and circumstances represented by adverbial elements. These components were then classified into the types of transitivity processes proposed by M. A. K. Halliday, namely material processes, verbal processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, and existential processes. Moreover, the clauses had been classified according to their process types, the researcher proceeded to analyze the clause using the theoretical framework of clause as representation proposed by M. A. K. Halliday (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The stages of analysis conducted in this study are as follows:

1. **Clause Identification:** Each sentence within the speech texts was divided into individual clauses as the primary units of analysis.
2. **Process Identification:** Each clause was identified according to its type of transitivity process, including material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes.

After identifying the transitivity components, the subsequent stage of analysis involved interpreting the meanings embedded within the clauses and examining how the diplomacy is represented in these speeches. The researcher also investigated how the distribution of process types that reflects the diplomatic policy of King Charles III.

## Results

From the King Charles III Speeches used in present research, the researcher found that there are 50 clauses that contain transitivity processes. Those total numbers come from various types of transitivity processes. Based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014, pp. 213–223) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, the transitivity system consists of six process types: material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, and existential. The clauses identified in the selected speeches exhibit variation in the distribution of these process types, each of which performs a distinct experiential function in representing actions, events, states, perceptions, behaviors, and existence within the

clause. This variation reflects the speakers' different ways of construing experience and conveying meaning through language.

### Material Processes

According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), the material process represents experiences involving actions, events, or activities. The central participant in this process is the *Actor*, who carries out the action and is therefore an obligatory element in every material clause. As explained by (Eggins, 2004), the Actor functions as an inherent participant in both transitive and intransitive material clauses, whereas the *Goal* is characteristic only of transitive clauses and denotes the entity affected by the action. Beyond these primary participant roles, material clauses may also include *Scope*, *Recipient*, and *Client*. While the Goal is directly impacted by the process, the Recipient and Client refer to participants who receive or benefit from the action. The Scope, in contrast, specifies the domain or range within which the process occurs. Consequently, the participant structure of material processes may encompass the Actor, Goal, Recipient, Client, Beneficiary, Aim, and Scope, depending on the semantic configuration of the clause.

Table 1  
Examples of Material Process (Wiratno, 2018)

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| The dog | attack  | the man |
| Actor   | Process | Goal    |

### Relational Processes

Relational processes are used to describe states of being, identification, and classification. These processes are commonly realized through the verb *be*, as well as other copular verbs such as *become*, *appear*, and *look*, and possessive verbs such as *have*, *own*, and *possess*. The participant roles in relational clauses vary depending on the type of relational process. Halliday and Matthiessen classify relational processes into three main types: intensive, possessive, and circumstantial, each of which can occur in either the attributive or identifying mode. In attributive clauses, a quality or characteristic is assigned to a participant, known as the *Carrier*, while the characteristic is referred to as the *Attribute*. In identifying clauses, one participant identifies or defines another, involving the roles of *Token* and *Value*. Unlike existential processes, which express the existence of something, relational processes express relationships between two participants without indicating an action or event. Therefore, relational processes play an important role in describing, classifying, and identifying people, objects, or concepts within a clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Table 2  
Examples of Relational Attributive Process (Wiratno, 2018)

|           |                              |           |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| My mother | is                           | wise      |
| Carrier   | Relasional Atributif Process | Attribute |

Table 3  
Examples of Relational Identification Process (Wiratno, 2018)

|           |                                  |          |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| My father | is                               | our hero |
| Token     | Proses: Relasional Identifikatif | Nilai    |

## Mental Processes

Mental processes represent inner experiences related to perception, cognition, emotion, and desire. A mental clause typically involves two main participants: the *Senser* and the *Phenomenon*. The *Senser* is the conscious participant who experiences the mental process by thinking, feeling, perceiving, or wanting, while the *Phenomenon* is the entity, event, or idea that is experienced or sensed. In some cases, the *Phenomenon* may be realized as another clause that expresses a thought, belief, or opinion, often referred to as an *idea clause*. Mental processes are commonly expressed in the simple present tense and are classified into four types: perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, and emotive (affective), depending on the kind of mental experience being represented (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Table 4

The Categories of Mental Processes (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014)

| Type of Mental Process | Examples                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Perception             | perceive, sense, notice, hear, sense, 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, intent, plan                                                                            |
| Emotive                | Like, love, adore, dislike, hate, despite, despite, regret, mourn, grieve.                                                                                 |

## Behavioral Processes

Behavioral processes represent physiological and psychological behaviors that reflect a person's internal mental state. These processes are positioned between material and mental processes because they involve observable actions that result from inner experiences. Fontaine (2013) explains that behavioral processes express actions related to consciousness, such as *laughing*, or physiological activities, such as *sleeping*. Other examples include *smiling*, *coughing*, *breathing*, *waving*, and *dreaming*. Among the six process types, behavioral processes are considered the least clearly defined because they share characteristics with both material and mental processes. A behavioral clause generally includes the *Behaver*, the conscious participant who performs the behavior, and may also include the *Range*, which specifies the behavior itself. Behavioral processes are commonly expressed in the simple present tense to describe habitual or ongoing behaviors.

Table 5

Examples of Behavioral Process (Wiratno, 2018)

|            |                     |            |
|------------|---------------------|------------|
| My brother | praised             | my work    |
| Behaver    | Process: Behavioral | phenomenon |
|            | (verbal)            |            |

Table 6

|                               |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mental Behavioral Processes   | Watch, dream, think, listen, look                                                |
| Verbal Behavioral Processes   | Sleep, cough, sneeze, breathe, nod, sob, smile, laugh, cry, murmur, argue, talk. |
| Material Behavioral Processes | Lie, sit (up, down), dance, sing.                                                |

### Verbal Processes

Verbal processes represent acts of saying or communicating through language. These processes are used to express spoken or written messages and play an important role in constructing dialogue and interaction. A verbal clause typically involves the *Sayer*, who produces the message, and may also include the *Receiver*, the participant to whom the message is directed, and the *Verbiage*, which refers to the content of what is said. In some cases, the clause may also include a *Target*, representing the person who is affected by the speech, such as when someone is praised, criticized, insulted, or complimented. Thus, verbal processes describe the exchange of information and the relationships between participants involved in communication (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Table 7

Examples of Verbal Process (Wiratno, 2018)

|           |                |                                   |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| My father | said           | "I am tired" (that he was tired") |
| Sayer     | Verbal Process | Verbiage                          |

### Existential Processes

Existential processes express the existence or occurrence of an entity, event, or phenomenon. These clauses are typically realized by the verb *be*, although other verbs such as *exist*, *happen*, *occur*, *arise*, and *take place* may also be used. An existential clause generally includes one participant, the *Existent*, which refers to the entity, event, or phenomenon that is said to exist (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). As explained by (Eggins, 2004), existential clauses commonly begin with the word *there*, which functions as a grammatical element rather than a participant in the transitivity system. Instead, the *Existent* is the only participant in the clause. Existential processes are often accompanied by circumstantial elements of time or place to indicate when or where the existence or occurrence takes place.

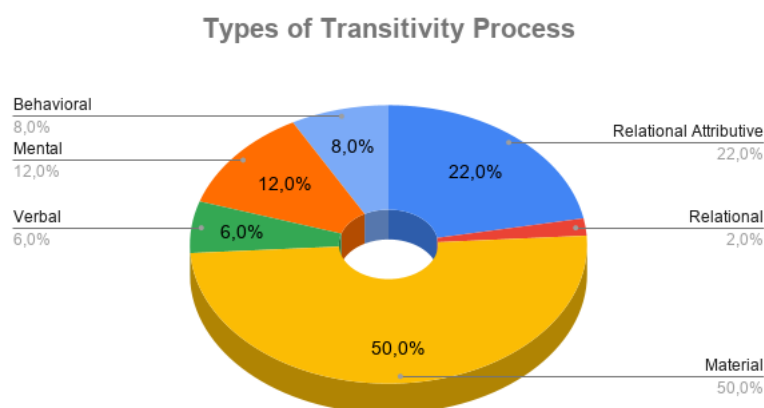
Table 8

Examples of Existential Processes

|       |                      |                     |              |
|-------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| There | are                  | a lot of university | in Bandung   |
|       | Process: Existential | Existent            | Circumstance |

The result of the transitivity process types that appeared in all speeches is generally illustrated in the following chart.

Table 9. *Types of Transitivity Process in King Charles Speech*



As has been previously mentioned, the present study is conducted to analyze the process types found in King Charles III speech at the state banquet and the function of the process types. Based on the result, it is found that King Charles III utilized six processes types in his speech. The material processes and relational attributive processes are the process types that make the highest proportion in the speech with 50% and 22% respectively. In addition, King Charles III also used a lot of mental processes with 12%. Meanwhile, the last three processes namely behavioral, verbal, and relational identification process, they are only 8%, 6% and 2% respectively. The Existential processes is not present in this speech. Hence, it can be said that the occurrences of mental, verbal, and relational identification processes, appeared to be insignificant compared to the major processes. The distribution of process types found in King Charles III speech is presented in the table below. Following this, the function of process types found in the speeches will be discussed afterwards.

Table 10. Process Types Distribution

| Process Types                     | Number of Occurrences | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Material Process                  | 25                    | 50%        |
| Relational Attributive Process    | 11                    | 22%        |
| Mental Process                    | 6                     | 12%        |
| Behavioral Process                | 4                     | 8%         |
| Verbal Process                    | 3                     | 6%         |
| Relational Identification Process | 1                     | 2%         |
| Existential Process               | 0                     | 0          |
| Total                             | 50                    |            |

The ideational metafunction represents the use of language to convey speakers' experiences of both the external world and their internal consciousness. It enables speakers to express actions, events, perceptions, emotions, thoughts, and other forms of experience through language. This metafunction is primarily realized through the transitivity system, which serves as a framework for representing how experiences are constructed in discourse by identifying the processes involved, the participants engaged in those processes, and the accompanying circumstances. In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the transitivity system classifies experiential meanings into different

process types, providing a semantic representation of how reality is encoded in language. Halliday identifies six major process types within the transitivity system: material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. Together, these process categories offer a comprehensive means of analyzing how speakers represent their experiences and interpret the world through language.

## Discussion

Table 2 above show the distribution of process types found in King Charles III speech. The speech is delivered mostly through material, relational attributive, and mental processes, and yet, out of six major processes material processes take the highest proportion with 50%. Concerning these material processes type is the processes of action. Material processes are the most dominant type found in King Charles III's state banquet speech with the U.S. This process deal with tangible action that is performed by the actor involved in the process. The process is mostly used to frame the U.K government collaborate with the U.S government. As stated by Halliday, material processes represent processes of doing and happening, expressing actions or events through action verbs. This process type typically involves two principal participants: the Actor, who performs the action, and the goal, which is affected by the action. These participants may be realized in either active or passive constructions depending on the grammatical structure of the clause.

In the present study, material processes constitute the most dominant process type in King Charles III's State Banquet speech. Their frequent occurrence emphasizes concrete actions, achievements, and historical events rather than abstract ideas or emotional experiences. Through the extensive use of material processes, King Charles III constructs a discourse that highlights the enduring diplomatic relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States. References to historical cooperation, economic partnerships, scientific innovation, military collaboration, and future strategic initiatives portray the bilateral relationship as one built upon continuous collective action and shared accomplishments.

Moreover, the predominance of material processes reflects the King's intention to present the United Kingdom as an active and reliable international partner. By emphasizing actions such as strengthening alliances, promoting technological cooperation, safeguarding peace, and addressing global challenges, the speech reinforces Britain's commitment to maintaining its diplomatic influence and soft power on the international stage. The use of these action-oriented processes also enables King Charles III to express appreciation for the longstanding partnership between the two nations while simultaneously conveying his determination to foster deeper cooperation and pursue future initiatives that contribute to mutual prosperity, security, and sustainable development. Here are clauses that imply the material processes:

- a. *Our people have **fought** and **died** together for the values we hold dear.*
- b. *We have **innovated**, **traded** and **created** together, fueling our economies and cultures through myriad forms of exchange.*
- c. *Together, we **laid** the foundations of nuclear science, mapped the human genome and built the internet, upon which all contemporary commerce, communication and defense are based.*

The three excerpts demonstrate King Charles III's strategic use of material processes to construct a discourse of shared history, collective achievement, and enduring cooperation between the United Kingdom and the United States. Through action-oriented

verbs, King Charles III represents the bilateral relationship as one that has been actively established and continuously strengthened through common experiences and mutual contributions. From the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis, this linguistic pattern serves not only to describe historical events but also to reinforce a particular ideological representation of the "special relationship" between the two nations.

In excerpt (a), Our people have fought and died together for the values we hold dear, the material processes fought and died portray both nations as active participants in defending shared principles such as freedom, democracy, and security. The inclusive pronoun our people constructs a collective identity that transcends national boundaries, while the expression together emphasizes solidarity and equality. From a CDA perspective, this clause legitimizes the historical military alliance by framing past conflicts as necessary efforts undertaken to protect universally valued ideals rather than national interests alone.

Similarly, excerpt (b), We have innovated, traded and created together, fueling our economies and cultures through myriad forms of exchange, employs a sequence of material processes innovated, traded, created, and fueling to construct an image of continuous cooperation extending beyond military affairs into economic, scientific, and cultural domains. These processes present both countries as joint actors responsible for generating prosperity and development. The repeated use of the inclusive pronoun we minimizes distinctions between the two nations and instead foregrounds partnership and reciprocity. Ideologically, the statement promotes globalization, innovation, and economic interdependence as positive outcomes of the Anglo-American relationship, thereby reinforcing the legitimacy and importance of maintaining close diplomatic ties.

Excerpt (c), Together, we laid the foundations of nuclear science, mapped the human genome and built the internet, upon which all contemporary commerce, communication and defense are based, further strengthens this discourse by attributing major scientific and technological achievements to collective action. The material processes laid, mapped, and built represent the United Kingdom and the United States as active creators of innovations that have shaped the modern world. These achievements are portrayed not merely as national successes but as contributions benefiting humanity as a whole, this representation functions to legitimize the leadership roles of both nations by constructing them as pioneers of scientific progress and international development.

In conclusion, these excerpts reveal how King Charles III strategically employs material processes to foreground action, achievement, and cooperation while minimizing conflict or disagreement. The discourse constructs the United Kingdom and the United States as equal partners whose shared history is characterized by sacrifice, innovation, and global leadership. Through this representation, the speech reproduces the ideology of the "special relationship" portraying the bilateral alliance as historically justified, mutually beneficial, and essential for addressing contemporary global challenges. Consequently, the predominance of material processes not only reflects experiential meaning but also serves a persuasive ideological function by legitimizing continued diplomatic, economic, scientific, and security cooperation between the two countries.

Secondly, the relational attributive processes mean the process of being and having are used to describe the relationship between U.K and U.S from the past and the future. King Charles III used words that imply great diplomatic relationship. The examples of relational attributive processes found in the speeches can be seen in the excerpts below.

- a. *Mr. President, as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next year, it is **remarkable** to think just how far we have come.*

- b. *Mr. President, from York to New York, from Birmingham, England, to Birmingham, Alabama, we **are united** by a common language and shared heritage.*
- c. *Today, our alliance **spans** every field of endeavor and shows vast potential for growth.*

In the example above, King Charles III employed relational attributive processes to point out that the relationship between U.K and U.S is built on the same language and heritage. Moreover, the relational processes identified in these excerpts reveal how King Charles III constructs a discourse of unity, continuity, and shared identity between the United Kingdom and the United States. Unlike material processes, which emphasize actions and events, relational processes function to assign attributes, establish identities, and define relationships. From the perspective of Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis, these linguistic choices are not merely descriptive but also ideological, as they shape the audience's perception of the Anglo-American relationship as enduring, natural, and mutually beneficial.

In the first excerpt, "Mr. President, as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next year, it is remarkable to think just how far we have come," the relational attributes process focus on the quality of being remarkable to the historical development of the relationship between the two countries. Rather than emphasizing political disagreements or the historical conflict that led to American independence, the King encourages the audience to focus on the remarkable transformation from former rivals into close allies. The embedded expression "we have come" metaphorically represents the long historical journey of diplomatic reconciliation and cooperation. By presenting this development as something extraordinary, the speech invites the audience to appreciate the resilience of the bilateral relationship and to interpret its current strength as the result of shared historical progress. This linguistic choice reinforces a positive historical narrative while legitimizing the continuation of close diplomatic relations.

The second excerpt, "Mr. President, from York to New York, from Birmingham, England, to Birmingham, Alabama, we are united by a common language and shared heritage," further strengthens this discourse through the relational process are united. Here, unity is represented not as a temporary political objective but as an existing and enduring condition grounded in common language and cultural heritage. The geographical references to York and New York, as well as Birmingham in both England and Alabama, symbolically illustrate the historical and cultural connections between the two nations. These examples remind the audience that the relationship extends beyond political alliances and is rooted in centuries of shared history and cultural exchange. From a Critical Discourse Analysis perspective, this representation naturalizes the idea that the United Kingdom and the United States belong to the same cultural community. As a result, political cooperation is portrayed as a logical consequence of this shared identity rather than merely a strategic or diplomatic choice.

Similarly, the third excerpt, "Today, our alliance spans every field of endeavour and shows vast potential for growth," projects the bilateral relationship into the future. The expressions spans every field of endeavour and shows vast potential for growth represent the alliance as comprehensive, dynamic, and continuously developing. Rather than limiting cooperation to defence or diplomacy, the speech expands its scope to include science, technology, trade, environmental protection, and other areas of mutual interest. This representation constructs the alliance as adaptable to changing global circumstances while emphasizing its capacity for future development. Ideologically, the statement legitimizes the expansion of bilateral cooperation by portraying it as both necessary and beneficial for addressing contemporary global challenges.

All of these relational processes perform an important persuasive function within the speech. They construct the United Kingdom and the United States as partners connected not only by shared political interests but also by common history, language, culture, and values. Through these representations, King Charles III minimizes historical divisions and emphasizes continuity, solidarity, and mutual trust. In Fairclough's terms, the speech reproduces a discourse that legitimizes the "special relationship" by presenting it as an enduring and natural partnership rather than a temporary political arrangement. Consequently, the relational processes contribute to the broader diplomatic objective of reinforcing bilateral cooperation while strengthening the symbolic identity shared by both nations.

Mental processes are the third process type that has a higher frequency compared to the other processes in King Charles III state banquet speech. Mental processes involve two principal participants: the senser and the phenomenon. The senser refers to the conscious entity that experiences or perceives a mental activity, while the phenomenon represents the entity, event, or idea that is sensed, thought about, desired, or felt. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), a mental process clause typically includes a single conscious participant, known as the senser, who engages in processes such as perceiving, thinking, feeling, wanting, or understanding. Mental clauses may also project another clause or a group of clauses that express ideas, beliefs, opinions, or other forms of cognition, commonly referred to as idea clauses. In terms of tense, the simple present is considered the unmarked form for expressing mental processes, particularly those related to cognition. In the analysis, mental process is used in words like *wonder*, *understand*, and *admired*. Here are the clauses:

- a. *I cannot help but **wonder** what our forebears from 1776 would make of this friendship today.*
- b. *But I **understand** that British soil makes for rather splendid golf courses!*
- c. *For my part, I have always **admired** the ingenuity of the American people; and the principles of freedom which your great democracy has represented since its inception.*

The following clauses realize mental processes, which represent the speaker's thoughts, perceptions, understanding, and attitudes. From a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective, these mental processes are not merely expressions of personal feelings but also function as rhetorical strategies that construct ideological meanings and reinforce diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the United States.

In the first excerpt "I cannot help but wonder what our forebears from 1776 would make of this friendship today. This clause contains the cognitive mental process wonder, with "I" functioning as the senser and "what our forebears from 1776 would make of this friendship today" serving as the projected phenomenon. The King's use of the cognitive process presents him as a reflective leader who contemplates the historical transformation of Anglo-American relations. By referring to the "forebears from 1776," the speech evokes the historical conflict surrounding American independence while contrasting it with the present-day alliance between the two nations. From Fairclough's perspective, this statement reconstructs historical memory to support a contemporary political narrative. Rather than emphasizing past division, the discourse reframes history as evidence of reconciliation, thereby legitimizing the current diplomatic partnership and encouraging the audience to view the relationship as an extraordinary historical achievement.

Similarly, the second excerpt "But I understand that British soil makes for rather splendid golf courses!". In this clause, the verb understand realizes a cognitive mental process, where "I" is the senser and "that British soil makes for rather splendid golf

courses" is the phenomenon. Although the statement appears humorous, it performs an important interpersonal function within the speech. The King demonstrates awareness of an interest commonly associated with his American audience, particularly President Donald Trump, who is well known for his involvement in golf. Through this light-hearted remark, the discourse reduces social distance between the speaker and the audience, creating a relaxed atmosphere while maintaining diplomatic formality. From a CDA perspective, humor operates as a discursive strategy that humanizes political authority and strengthens interpersonal solidarity, making the broader political message more accessible and persuasive.

The third excerpt "For my part, I have always admired the ingenuity of the American people; and the principles of freedom which your great democracy has represented since its inception.". The verb *admired* represents an affective mental process, with "I" functioning as the senser and "the ingenuity of the American people and the principles of freedom" as the phenomenon. This clause explicitly expresses the King's positive evaluation of American society and its democratic values. The use of the adverbial expression *have always* emphasized the continuity and sincerity of this admiration, suggesting that these positive attitudes extend beyond temporary political circumstances. In Fairclough's framework, this evaluation contributes to the ideological construction of a shared identity between Britain and the United States. By praising American innovation and democratic principles, the King reinforces common values that underpin the so-called "special relationship." Consequently, the discourse legitimizes continued political cooperation by presenting both nations as partners united through shared ideals of democracy, freedom, and mutual respect rather than merely strategic interests.

Fourthly, behavioral processes, as proposed by (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), refer to processes that express the physiological and psychological manifestations of human consciousness. They occupy a transitional position between mental and material processes because they encode observable behaviors that originate from internal cognitive or emotional states. Common behavioral processes include actions such as *laughing, smiling, coughing, sleeping, and dreaming*, all of which are typically associated with conscious human participants. Behavioral processes identified in these excerpts reveal how King Charles III constructs the Anglo-American relationship not only through political and diplomatic cooperation but also through shared emotional experiences, cultural connections, and collective identity. In Halliday's transitivity system, behavioral processes represent the outward expression of internal psychological or emotional states. From the perspective of Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis, these processes serve an important persuasive function by humanizing international relations and presenting diplomacy as a relationship founded on mutual understanding, shared experiences, and emotional solidarity rather than solely on political interests.

- a. *We have **celebrated** together, **mourned** together and **stood** together in the best and worst of times.*
- b. *Today, however, we **celebrate** a relationship between our two countries that surely neither Washington nor King George III could possibly have imagined.*
- c. *Our cultural connections, too, continue to flourish, with our actors, musicians, writers and television presenters **prospering** in the hearts of transatlantic audiences.*

In the first excerpt, "*We have **celebrated** together, **mourned** together and **stood** together in the best and worst of times,*" the behavioral processes *celebrated, mourned, and stood together* portray the United Kingdom and the United States as partners that have shared both moments of joy and periods of hardship. Rather than focusing exclusively on historical achievements or political agreements, the King emphasizes the emotional

dimension of the bilateral relationship. The repeated use of the adverb *together* reinforces the idea of unity and mutual support, suggesting that the two nations have experienced history collectively. This representation minimizes national differences and constructs a shared identity based on common experiences. From a Critical Discourse Analysis perspective, such linguistic choices legitimize the "special relationship" by portraying it as an enduring partnership strengthened through both success and adversity.

Similarly, the second excerpt, *"Today, however, we **celebrate** a relationship between our two countries that surely neither Washington nor King George III could possibly have imagined,"* employs the behavioral process *celebrate* to express collective appreciation for the current state of bilateral relations. The contrast between the historical conflict represented by George Washington and George III and the present atmosphere of friendship highlights the remarkable transformation of the relationship over time. By inviting the audience to celebrate this achievement, King Charles III encourages a positive interpretation of history in which former political divisions have evolved into cooperation and mutual respect. Ideologically, this representation reinforces reconciliation and presents contemporary diplomacy as evidence of historical progress and political maturity.

The third excerpt, *"Our cultural connections, too, continue to flourish, with our actors, musicians, writers and television presenters **prospering** in the hearts of transatlantic audiences,"* extends the discourse beyond governmental relations to emphasize the role of culture in strengthening bilateral ties. The behavioral process *continues to flourish* depicts cultural relations as vibrant and continuously developing, while *prospering* highlights the positive reception of British and American cultural figures among audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Rather than portraying culture as a tool of political influence alone, the speech represents cultural exchange as a natural consequence of shared language, values, and historical connections. From a Critical Discourse Analysis perspective, this discourse contributes to the construction of soft power by presenting cultural interaction as an important foundation of diplomatic relations. It suggests that the strength of the alliance is sustained not only through political institutions but also through everyday cultural engagement and public appreciation.

These behavioral processes construct the relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States as one characterized by shared emotions, collective memories, and enduring cultural affinity. Unlike material processes, which emphasize concrete actions and achievements, the behavioral processes foreground the human and emotional dimensions of diplomacy. Through these linguistic choices, King Charles III represents the alliance as a relationship that has developed through common experiences, mutual support, and cultural interconnectedness. In Fairclough's terms, this discourse reproduces an ideology of solidarity by presenting the Anglo-American partnership as a natural, emotionally grounded, and historically resilient relationship. Consequently, the behavioral processes strengthen the persuasive purpose of the speech by fostering a sense of collective identity and reinforcing the legitimacy of continued cooperation between the two nations.

The fifth process type found in King Charles is verbal processes. Verbal process refers to the act of communicating or expressing ideas through spoken or written language. Verbal processes represent symbolic exchanges that originate in human consciousness and are realized through linguistic expression. A verbal process typically involves several participants, including the *sayer*, who produces the utterance; the *receiver*, to whom the message is directed; and the *verbiage*, which refers to the content

or substance of what is said. In some verbal clauses, a *target* may also be present, representing the individual or entity affected by the speech act, particularly in expressions involving praise, criticism, insults, or compliments (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Verbal processes play a significant role in discourse because they enable speakers to communicate information, opinions, and attitudes while facilitating interaction between participants. Furthermore, verbal clauses often contribute to the development of dialogue by establishing relationships between the speaker and the addressee and by conveying messages that shape the progression of communication. For this reason, verbal processes are considered an important linguistic resource for analyzing how meaning is negotiated and how interpersonal relationships are constructed within discourse. King Charles III mentioned a statement that is made by the government of UK as exemplified below:

- a. *The rebel commander and pioneering first President, George Washington, famously **vowed** never to set foot on British soil.*
- b. *And my five times Great Grandfather, King George III, for his part, did not spare his words when he **spoke** of the revolutionary leaders.*

In the first excerpt, "*The rebel commander and pioneering first President, George Washington, famously vowed never to set foot on British soil*". This clause contains the verbal process *vowed*, in which *George Washington* functions as the *sayer*, while "*never to set foot on British soil*" serves as the *verbiage*, expressing the content of his declaration. The omission of a receiver emphasizes the public and symbolic nature of Washington's statement rather than a specific interpersonal exchange. From Fairclough's perspective, the King strategically invokes this historical declaration to remind the audience of the profound political hostility that once characterized Anglo-American relations. By referring to Washington's famous vow, the discourse acknowledges the reality of historical conflict while simultaneously preparing the audience to appreciate the remarkable transformation of that relationship. The reference therefore functions not to revive historical antagonism but to highlight how former enemies have become close allies, reinforcing the legitimacy and resilience of the present-day partnership between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Second excerpt, "*And my five times Great Grandfather, King George III, for his part, did not spare his words when he spoke of the revolutionary leaders*". In this clause, the verbal process *spoke* identifies *King George III* as the *Sayer*, while "*of the revolutionary leaders*" functions as the *target*, referring to those toward whom the King's speech was directed. The expression "*did not spare his words*" suggests that his remarks were severe and critical, although the exact wording is intentionally omitted. From a CDA perspective, this linguistic choice allows the speaker to acknowledge the confrontational rhetoric of the past without reproducing its hostility. As a descendant of King George III, King Charles III openly recognizes the historical tensions between the Britain and the American revolutionaries, demonstrating institutional self-awareness and historical transparency. Rather than assigning blame, the discourse reframes these past conflicts as part of a shared historical journey that has ultimately led to mutual respect and cooperation. This strategy supports Fairclough's view that discourse can reshape historical narratives to legitimize contemporary political relationships. By presenting both British and American historical figures within a balanced narrative, the speech constructs an ideology of reconciliation in which past divisions become evidence of the strength and endurance of the modern Anglo-American alliance.

The last processes are relational identification process. In Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the relational identifying process is a subtype of the relational process that serves to establish the identity of a participant by defining, specifying, or identifying one entity in terms of another. Unlike relational attributive clauses, which assign a quality or characteristic to a participant, identifying relational clauses express a relationship of identity in which one participant is recognized as being the same as another. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) explain that this process typically involves two participants: the *token* and the *value*. The *token* refers to the entity whose identity is to be established, whereas the *value* provides the identity, role, or definition assigned to the *token*. King Charles III mentioned a statement that is made by the government of UK as exemplified below:

*This unique and important occasion **reflects** the enduring bond between our two great nations.*

The clause "*This unique and important occasion reflects the enduring bond between our two great nations*" realizes a relational identifying process, in which "*This unique and important occasion*" functions as the token, while "*the enduring bond between our two great nations*" serves as the value. Through the identifying relational process *reflects*, the speaker establishes an identity between the state banquet and the long-standing relationship shared by the United Kingdom and the United States. Rather than describing the occasion as merely ceremonial, the clause constructs it as a symbolic representation of the diplomatic partnership between the two countries. From a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective, this relational identifying process performs an important ideological function by framing the event as evidence of a stable and enduring alliance. The lexical choices "*unique*," "*important*," and "*enduring*" positively evaluate both the occasion and the bilateral relationship, while the inclusive possessive pronoun "*our*" constructs a collective identity that transcends national boundaries. Furthermore, the phrase "*our two great nations*" attributes equal prestige and status to both countries, reinforcing a discourse of mutual respect and shared significance.

Additionally, all of the clause illustrates how language is used to legitimize political relationships by presenting them as natural, continuous, and historically grounded. The identifying relation encourages the audience to interpret the state banquet not simply as a diplomatic event but as a manifestation of a deeply rooted partnership founded on common values and mutual cooperation. Consequently, the discourse minimizes the significance of past conflicts and instead foregrounds unity, solidarity, and continuity. Through this representation, the speech contributes to the ideological construction of the Anglo-American "special relationship" as a durable and mutually beneficial alliance that remains relevant in the contemporary international context.

## Conclusion

This study examined the ideational metafunction of Systemic Functional Linguistics through the transitivity system, focusing on the speeches of King Charles III. The analysis was limited to identifying and interpreting the transitivity processes employed throughout the selected speeches. Drawing on Halliday and Matthiessen's transitivity framework, the study demonstrates that the linguistic choices embedded in the speeches perform distinct discourse functions shaped by ideological concerns, soft power, and the communicative goal of strengthening diplomatic relations. Accordingly, the analysis of transitivity at the discourse level provides valuable insights into how political meaning is constructed and conveyed.

The findings reveal that King Charles III makes extensive use of transitivity processes as a fundamental linguistic resource for representing experience and constructing political discourse. The analysis further indicates that these transitivity patterns encode a number of underlying ideological themes. Prominent among these are references to the shared historical experiences of the United Kingdom and its partner nations, particularly in relation to the defense of democratic values, the celebration of common linguistic and cultural heritage, and the promotion of cooperation and progress across political, economic, cultural, scientific, and security domains. Through these linguistic choices, the King presents diplomacy as a relationship grounded in historical continuity, mutual respect, and shared values.

In summary, the findings suggest that political leaders strategically employ language not only to communicate information but also to construct ideological meanings and reinforce diplomatic objectives. The transitivity system functions as an effective discursive resource through which political actors shape representations of history, identity, and international relations. Although the interpretation of these ideological meanings may vary according to audiences' cultural backgrounds, political perspectives, and contextual knowledge, the speeches consistently demonstrate how language serves as an instrument of soft power, fostering international solidarity and legitimizing long-term diplomatic partnerships.

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