Transitivity Analysis of Newspaper Headlines on Terrorism Attack in Kenya: A Case Study of Westgate Mall, Nairobi

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Abstract

This is a qualitative study that presents the findings of a linguistic analysis on newspaper headlines on terrorism in Kenya. The paper investigates the application of Halliday's theory of transitivity in the representation of Al-Shabaab attacks at Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The paper aims to identify and explain how the Al-Shabaab are portrayed and represented through language used in the headlines of newspapers by the reporters. The main question of this paper is how do reporters in Kenya construct the image of Al-Shabaab in a newspaper? To answer this question, the analysis employed Systemic Functional Linguistics and utilizes the framework of transitivity analysis, which identifies ideational meanings realized by grammatical choices. In this research the writer used the descriptive method to study the problem. Documentation method was used to collect data from the Daily Nation and the Standard Newspaper in the year 2013 from22 to 27th September2013. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the following steps, first, reading the headlines collected, second, segmenting the data in form of clauses, third, identifying the types of processes, participants and circumstances, fourth, classifying the clauses into categories and drawing conclusions from the analysis. Newspaper discourse was chosen because it is narrative based and therefore broadly applicable to the notion of transitivity. The analysis locates different perspectives expressed by grammatical choices in the newspaper headlines. There were 24 newspaper headlines collected from the Daily Nation and the Standard Newspaper. The findings show that material and relational processes, dominate the other processes, which indicates that the whole process of terrorism is concerned with actions and events. The analysis reveals the linguistic features that contribute to the construction of negative image of the Al-Shabaab. The findings also show that the grammatical choices in newspaper reports played a role to covertly express the writers' perspectives towards Al-Shabaab, which affects the readers' opinion making process.

Key words: Systemic Functional Grammar, Al-Shaabab, Transitivity, Terrorism and newspapers.

1. Introduction

Terrorism in Africa has become a frequent occurrence. Kenya has been the scene of various attacks attributed to terrorist elements. In 1998, the United States embassy bombings occurred on 7th August 1998, in which over 200 people were killed in nearly simultaneous truck bomb explosions in two East African cities, one at the United States Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the other at the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Since 2012, Kenya has seen an upsurge in violent terrorist attacks. In 2013 terrorist attacks were spurred by the Kenyan Army's active participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia, supporting the extant government of Somalia. Al-Shabaab, or "The Youth," is an al-Qaeda affiliate Somalia based terrorist organization (New York Police Department, 2013). The Al-Shabaab opposes both the current Somali government and external sources, such as Kenya, that support the current government. The stated goal of Al-Shabaab, also known as Harakat Al-Shabaab al-Mujahidee is the creation of a fundamentalist Islamic state in Somalia (New York Police Department, 2013).The Kenyan security forces believe that the terrorist attacks are carried out by Al-Shabaab in retaliation for Operation Linda Nchi (Ombati, 2012). Operation Linda Nchi is a coordinated military mission between the Somalian military, the Kenyan military, the Ethiopian military, the French military, and the United States military that began in October 2011, when troops from Kenya crossed the border into the conflict zones of southern Somalia (Ombati, 2012).

Thus, in recent years, Al-Shabaab has used improvised explosive devices, kidnapping, assassinations, and other terror tactics in attempts to coerce the Kenyan government to withdraw forces from Somalia. The attack on Westgate Mall was a continuation of this strategy. On Saturday, September 21st, 2013 at approximately 12:30 hours (local East African Time) four terrorists associated with the Somali based terrorist organization Al-Shabaab launched an armed assault using rifles and hand grenades at the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya (New York Police Department, 2013). The attack resulted in the deaths of 67 people and it took almost four days before authorities declared the scene safe.

The Kenyan print media covered this event under different headlines in Newspapers. Newspapers are often assigned a very powerful role when it comes to having influence over their readers. The current study aims to identify and explain how the Al-Shabaab are portrayed and represented through language used in the headlines of newspapers by the reporters. Language can be used in many different ways in order to reinforce and manipulate a message. Language is a means of expressing and transferring ideas or experiences among people. Halliday (1985) posits that a language is interpreted as a system of meanings, accompanied by forms through which the meanings can be realized and answer the question, "how are these meanings expressed?"

Van Djik (2006) observes that Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is an approach to understanding written texts as creating meaning, not just from the rules of grammar but also in the meanings that emerge from the choice of words used to describe the action, the person speaking, or the object and person being spoken of.

Fairclough (1989) on the other hand notes that using language is the most common form of social behavior and we depend on language in our public and private interaction, determining our relationships with other individuals and the social institutions we inhabit. Fairclough (2001) further claims that language is a material form of ideology, and language is infested by ideology. Thus, for Fairclough, social language or discourse is not only representational but intervenes in social change because discourse contributes to the creation and recreation of the relations, subjects and objects which populate the social world. Fowler (1986) makes the link between discourse and ideology even clearer when he defines discourse as socially and institutionally originating ideology, encoded in language. Simpson (1993) similarly notes that discourse is a way to mould and manifest ideologies, where "ideology" is defined as the everyday taken for granted collective set of assumptions and value systems that social groups share. News reports help in shaping and sustaining the opinions of the powerful elements, groups and countries in the international community. These opinions are then passed off as the natural or the inevitable reality. The publication of newspapers is considered to be an "industry and a business like any other business that should be profitable" (Fowler, 1991).

People's opinions and beliefs are always formed and shaped by commercial media institutions, which usually further the social, political and economic interests of the dominating elites (Fairclough, 2002; Herman and Chomsky, 2002). Thus, what the media will reflect is support for the social interests of the elite. The linguistic framing of issues and the proliferation of a particular point of view help in the interpretation of what constitutes reality to the general public. In fact, Gee (2005) claims that language has a magical property: when we speak or write, we design what we have to say to fit the situation in which we are communicating. The choice of words can reveal the writer's perspective of how the subjects should be represented. Hall (1997) states that representation is the active work of selecting, presenting, structuring and shaping; not merely the transmitting of an already existing meaning, but the more active labour of making things mean. SFG views language as a resource for making meanings (Halliday, 1978) or as a strategic, meaning-making resource.

The headline of a news story is the short summary which introduces the story at the beginning of a TV or radio news broadcast, or which appears above articles in a newspaper or on a website. Terrorism is a new challenge facing Kenya as a country. It is therefore important to see how Kenyan reporters represent Al-Shabaab in the headlines. With this idea in mind, this paper, examines the function of language as powerful social practice in the newspaper headlines and the process types they are associated with. The significance of this study lies in its attempt to show how Kenyans newsprint handles the dilemma of insecurity and the issue of Al-Shabaab in Kenya using a Systemic Functional Theory.

2. Literature Review

This section provides literature review on transitivity. The emphasis is on studies on transitivity analysis. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is the study of the relationship between language and its functions in social settings. SFG treats grammar as a meaning-making resource and insists on the interrelation of form and meaning. This language function is referred to Metafunction. Transitivity in this sense should not be confused with the term used to describe the transitive or intransitive nature of different verbs. According to Beard "[t]ransitivity involves looking at the language used to describe:

- what happens
- who the participants are (both those who do something and those affected by what is done)
- what the circumstances are." (Beard 2000:30)

Fowler, in referring to Michael Halliday, explains that "transitivity is the foundation of representation: it is the way the clause is used to analyze events and situations as being of certain types." (Fowler 1991:71) Transitivity, then, makes it possible to describe an event from different angles and could therefore be said to be indicative of different ideological viewpoints. Using SFG Halliday's (1973) study of William Golding's *The Inheritors* shows how certain choice of (one set of different) options rather than another can be said to have been motivated by what the speaker (or writer) wanted to mean -- to convey or emphasize. Yaghoobi (2009) makes a systemic analysis of news structures in two selected print media, namely *Newsweek* and the *Kayhan International*. By identifying processes and the role of participants involved in those processes, Yaghoobi's study proves that there presentation of the same news actors, Hizbullah and Israeli forces, by two different and ideologically opposed printmedia were opposite to each other.

Many studies (Fowler 1991, Reah, 1998) have also talked about the complexities involved in the production of news of representations. News is one of the most influential public spaces of contemporary society, perceived as offering trustworthy and accurate stories about the world, its events and people (Cottle, 2000; Fowler, 1991; Hartley, 1982; Herman and Chomsky, 2002; Richardson, 2007; Poole, 2002). Thus, for most people, reading the daily newspaper whether in print or online constitutes their most substantial and significant consumption of printed discourse. For most, it is second only to television as a window on the world. Fowler (1991) observes that these factors of quantity and of habit provide newspaper discourse with major ideological importance. Halliday's (1973) and Yaghoobi (2009) transitivity analyses and studies on media print (Fowler, 1991; Reah 1998) are fundamental examples of how language patterns, particularly transitivity, can convey the meaning and ideology of a literary text. The functional grammar analysis of English helps readers understand human interactions in social contexts and can be used to uncover ideological meanings within them.

2. Theoretical framework

2.1 Transitivity Analysis

SFG approach to discourse analysis is based on the model of "language as a social semiotic" outlined in the works of Halliday. Language is used functionally, that is, what is said depends on what one needs to accomplish. According to Halliday (1985), there are three major functions of language, namely: the ideational, the textual, and the interpersonal.

The ideational function is the use of language to express content and to communicate information. Where content is the focus, the emphasis is on transferring information clearly and effectively so that it can be comprehended quickly and easily. The other two functions of language are the textual and the interpersonal. The textual function is the use of language to signify discourse. Here, language becomes text, is related to itself and to its contexts of use, including the preceding and following text, and the context of situation. The textual can be classified into two structures, namely: thematic structure (theme and rheme) and Information structure (NEW and GIVEN). The interpersonal function is the use of language to establish and maintain social relations. This function involves modalities so that it is related to modus system. The system is signified by two main elements, namely: mood and residue. Halliday (1985) claims that the three types of meanings presented in language are not accidental but are necessarily in place because we need them to perform functions in social life. The ideational function is divided into two; transitivity and ergativity. In this study, the newspaper headlines on Al-Shabaab are analyzed in terms of transitivity because transitivity handles all the grammatical aspects. Halliday (1981) summarizes transitivity as the cornerstone of the semantic organization of experience'; it subsumes 'all participant functions' and 'all experiential functions relevant to the syntax of the clause'. Transitivity is usually considered to be a property of an entire clause (Hopper and Thompson, 1980). It is, broadly, the notion that an activity is transferred from an agent to a patient. In Halliday's (1973) terms, transitivity is a part of the ideational function of the clause. The ideational function represents processes or experiences: actions, events, processes of consciousness and relations.

There are three components of what Halliday (1994) calls a "transitivity process", namely:
- The process itself; what kind of event or state is being described
- Participants in the process; the entities involved in the process, e.g actor, sayer, senser, goal
- Circumstances associated with the process- specifying when, how, where and why of the process

Transitivity patterns can reveal the certain worldview framed by the authorial ideology in a literary text (Fowler, 1986). Clauses represent events and processes of various kinds, and transitivity aims to make clear how the action is performed, by whom and on what. Transitivity is an essential tool in the analysis of representation. Different social structures and values require different patterns of transitivity. Halliday (1994) identifies six process categories in his system of transitivity which are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Process types, their meaning and key participants, (Source: Halliday, 1994: 143)

Process type	Category meaning	Participants
Material: Action, Event	Doing, Happening-e.g. kick, run, paint, repair, send, burn,	Actor, Goal
Behavioral	Behaving	Behaver
Mental: Perception, Affection, Cognition	Sensing, Seeing , Feeling Thinking –e.g. see, hear, know	Sensor, Phenomenon
Verbal	Saying-e.g. say, tell, warn, argue, ask	Sayer, Target
Relational: Attribution , Identification	Being, Attributing, Identifying-e.g. be, have, become	Carrier, Attribute, Identified, Identifier, Token, Value
Existential	Existing	Existence

The significance of analyzing the data propositions in terms of Participant, Process and Goal types puts focus on the doers, the actions done and the recipients of the action; in other words, who is doing what to whom? This analysis relates to the ideational Meta function (Halliday, 1978, Eggins, 2004). The transitivity analysis is applied in the analysis of how Al-Shabaab is represented in the news headlines and the Process types they are associated with.

3.0 Research Method

3.1 Research design

The writer uses the descriptive method to study the Problem. Descriptive research is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. This research has a purpose to describe the process types in Transitivity systems which are involved in the newspaper headlines on terrorism attack in Kenya and to determine the function of the verbal clauses on the headline.

3.2 Source of Data

The data used for the research are taken from the Kenyan media outlets; namely; The *Daily Nation* and The *Standard* newspaper published from 22 September 2013 to 27[th]September 2013. The*Daily Nation* andThe *Standard* were chosen because of their popularity in Kenya. The researcher collected 13 headlines from the *Daily Nation* and 11 from the *Standard* newspaper. The headlines were separated and analyzed individually. To prepare the data for analysis, the texts have been divided into numbered clauses to make it easy to refer to in the analysis. These newspaper headlines deal with the same subject matter; that of terrorism attack of West gate Mall, Nairobi, Kenya.

4.0 Data Analysis

4.1 Transitivity analysis of newspaper headlines on terrorism attack in Kenya

Analyzing the newspaper headlines in terms of transitivity patterns highlights the ways the Al-Shabaab is represented in Kenyan newspapers: what they are represented to be doing and to who. The following analysis is in terms of processes (Halliday, 1994; Chen, 2005).

A. Material processes and relational processes

Material processes show what is going on outside oneself. Stated differently, material processes basically involve a participant (the actor/agent) doing something to another participant (the goal/object). Relational processes on the other hand relate two terms in a variety of ways (similar to how the verb "to be" is used in English).

Relational processes construe the relationships of being and having between two participants. Headline (H henceforth) 1 consist of material processes and relational processes as shown below from the *Daily Nation* of 22[nd]September 2013. The report carried a seven-page colour feature dedicated to the attack that demonstrates material processes as shown below:

H.1: Attackers shatters nation again

Attackers	Shatters	Nation	Again
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance

In H.1 the actor is **"attackers"** which refers to the Al-Shabaab. The actor is followed by the process *"shatters"* to show what they have done. The process *"shatters"* has a strong emotional connotation that equates to ruining hence linking the Al-Shaabab to destructors of *"a nation''* which is the goal. The goal in H.1 is the *"nation"* that is negatively affected by the process *"shatters".* Moreover, the goal is followed by a relational process *"again"* that is a circumstance of frequency to express the frequency of the terror attacks that Kenya as a country has experienced.

H.2 from *Standard* newspaper of 22nd September 2013 also depicts the effects of the material process by the actor in the clause.

H.2: *Gunmen* kill dozens in terror attack at Kenyan Mall

Gunmen	Kill	Dozens	in terror attack	At Kenyan Mall
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance	Circumstance

In H.2 the reporter uses the word "*Gunmen"* for the actor which has the same semantic equivalence to terrorists. The reporter thus puts focus on the doer of the action. The term "*Gunmen"* also shows the representation of Al-Shabaab negatively as a bloody terror group as shown by the goal *"dozens"* that show the intensity of human damage that was done by the Al-Shabaab during the terror attack. The reporter uses the active voice to focus the on the agent\actor (Al-Shabaab). In newspaper headlines the role of a participant may be emphasized, minimized or omitted entirely (Nordlund, 2003:9). The phrases "*in terror attack"* and "*at Kenyan Mall"* are relational processes. The first circumstance is circumstance of manner *"in terror attack"* showing how dozens of Kenyans died in Westgate Mall attack. The writer uses the circumstance of manner to show the brutal nature of the Al-Shabaab group. The second circumstance *"at the Kenyan Mall"* is the circumstance of location to show the place where the action took place.

H.3 below from Daily *Nation* of 22ndSeptember 2013 also shows material and relational processes. The material processes show the reporter's focus on the Al-Shabaab group and how they are associated with prejudice.

H.3: *Terrorist* told *Muslims* to get out before attack

Terrorist	Told	Muslims	to get out	before attack
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance	Circumstance

In H.3 above the actor\agent is"*Terrorist"* while "*Muslims"* is the goal.H.3tells the reader how the Al-Shabaab group segregated Christians from Muslims. The process *"told"* here is meant to sensitize the reader on how the Al-Shabaab group is out to divide Christians from Muslims. H.3 also has two relational processes. The first is *"to get out"* which is the circumstance of location specifically place and second is *"before attack"* which is circumstance of location specifically time. The circumstances, further, show the prejudice nature of the Al-Shabaab since it appears that the terrorists made some conscious effort to just target non-Muslims during the attack. The data collected also shows other participants apart from terrorists as actors. H.4 from the *Daily Nation* of22[nd]   September 2013 below shows the efforts that were made to bring the country back to normalcy by the security officers.

H.4: Security forces *move to end* Westgate Mall siege as death toll rises to 62

Security forces	*move to end*	Westgate Mall siege	as death toll rises to 62
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance

In H.4 the material process is shown by the actor *"Security forces"* who were trying to end the attack as shown by the goal **"Westgate mall siege".** The reporter focuses on the actor to show the efforts made by the Kenyan government to control the situation which an attribute **"siege".** The process *"move to end"* shows how urgent it was to stop the attack before more damage was done*.* However, the actors effort has been compared to the rising number of the dead people *"as death toll rises to 62"* which is a relation process; circumstance of comparison. The circumstance shows the extent of the violence by the Al-Shabaab group on the first day. The Westgate Mall attack brought the country to a standstill as sympathizers of Kenyans passed their messages as shown in H.5 below from the *Daily Nation*of 22[nd September] 2013.The paper also reports the president's address to the nation, the UN chief Ban Ki-moon and the United states President who expressed his solidarity with the victims of the attack.

H.5: *World leaders* condemn *Westgate Mall attack*

World leaders	Condemn	Westgate Mall Attack
Actor	Process	Goal

In H.5 the actor is "*World leaders"* and the goal is "*Westgate Mall".* H.5 tells the readers what other leaders feel about the terrorism attack in Kenya. The reporter uses the phrase **"World leaders"** for the actor instead of just leaders to show how terrorism is a global problem.

Though the goal is specific *"Westgate Mall"* the challenge was shared among World leaders as shown by the process *"condemn".* The exceptional nature of the terrorists' methods used in the Westgate Mall attack warranted the attention of Army commanders and world leaders since it provided the most dangerous scenario should a similar attack occur elsewhere in the world.

H.6 from *Standard* newspaper of the27[th]September 2013on the contrary shows how the traumatizing attack united Kenyans. This was reflected in their response to the appeal to donate blood.

H.6: Westgate tragedy unites Kenyans

Westgate tragedy	Unites	Kenyans
Actor	Process	Goal

The material process is shown by the actor *"Westgate tragedy"* though inanimate that had an impact to the goal *"Kenyans"*. The verb *"unites"* shows the aftermath of the Al-Shaabab attack. It shows the solidarity of Kenyans after the heinous act. This was shown by massive response of Kenyans by donation of blood to save lives of the victims. Material processes can also have the actor omitted in passive sentences. Passive is a common structure in headlines, it saves space, it is chosen not only for brevity but also because of the official or bureaucratic nature of the events referred to (Fowler, 1991:79). H.7 from *Standard* newspaper of   23rd September 2013 is in passive form to put focus on the attack as shown by the attribute *"worst"*.

H.7: Worst terror attack *since August 1998*

Worst terror attack	Since August 1998
Goal	Circumstance

Passive voice creates a different effect; the agent\actor becomes less prominent and the person or thing affected by the action is the focus as in H.7 where the focus is on the attack. H.7 also has a relational process shown by the circumstance of time *"since August 1998"*. The reporter deliberately compares the *21stSeptember 2013* attack to the August 1998 attack where the US embassy in Nairobi was bombed. Kenya as country had been experiencing the Al-Shabaab attacks but the 2013 one was the worst since it lasted for four days.

H.8 is another headline from the *Daily nation* of 22 September 2013 with the passive voice. "Mall massacre" was headline on the front-page headline Sunday Nation, which devotes over one third of the edition - 15 pages - to the attack. The front page features a close-up of a woman lying on the ground, her hair matted and her face bloodied.

H.8: Mall Massacre

Mall	Massacre
Goal	Process

The goal in H.8*"Mall"* shows emphasis on the goal and is followed by the process *"massacre"*. The headline is short but it carries a lot of meaning. The process carries a strong meaning associated with killing. In fact, the field of "Killing Human Beings" in English includes such lexemes as 'kill, murder, assassinate, massacre, slaughter, butcher, and execute' which differ from one another in respect of many components of meaning. Thus, this headline is short enough to summarize the details of the story. Reah (1998) says that a reader can skim the headlines and have an outline of the news of the day and some idea of its relative impact and importance.H.8 coincides with H.9 from the *Standard* Newspaper of22 September 2013.

H.9: Brazen attack

Brazen	Attack
Goal	Process

H.9 summarizes the strong emotions about the event. The goal is *"Brazen"* which shows that the attack was a bold move. This is in relation to the events that happened during the attack. The reporter uses two lexemes to summarize the events of the attack just like in H.8. Lexical words are more useful in headlines than grammatical words which may cause ambiguity in some cases. Headlines also have a visual function. H.8*"Mall Massacre"* and 9*"Brazen attack"* used lexemes that carry "particularly strong connotations that carry an emotional loading beyond their literal meaning (cf. Reah, 1998). H.8 and 9 lack the actors. In newspapers, the actor may be deleted because "the paper is able to imply illegal conduct without actually making an accusation that could leave them vulnerable to legal action" (Reah, 1988:88). Another reason for deleting the actor "may be due to the fact that the actor actually is unknown or can be known from the context (Nordlund, 2003:100).

H.10 had the same construction of H.8 and H.9 but with a relational process. *"Day of Terror"* read a front-page headline in *Sunday Standard* of 22 September 2013, which features large pictures of civilians running away from the shopping centre, including one of a gun-wielding plain-clothed police officer carrying a small child, and a woman walking.

H: 10 Day *of Terror*

Day	Of Terror
Goal	Circumstance

The relational process is shown by the circumstance of manner *"of terror"*. The circumstance is an attributive clause that gives more information about the goal *"day"*. The reporter summarizes the events of the day using an attributive clause *"of terror"* to condense the tormenting events of the 21st September 2014.

H.11 from the *Daily Nation* of 22nd September also shows a relational clause in form of a circumstance that gives more information about the day that the Mall was attacked.

H.11: Heroes *of Nairobi Westgate attack*

Heroes	of Nairobi Westgate attack
Actor	**Circumstance**

In H.11 the circumstance is *"of Nairobi Westgate attack"* which is an attributive clause that describes all those people who saved lives during the heinous attack. The *"heroes"* who are the actors of H.11 risked their lives to save the victims of the attack. A number of armed private citizens and security company personnel played a significant role in the early stages of the attack. Reportedly these personnel formed "ad hoc" tactical teams with plainclothes police personnel and assisted in evacuating people and attempting to engage the terrorists early on during the attack (New York Police Department, 2013).The actor can be omitted from clauses with a material process.

H.12 below from the *Daily Nation of* 26 September 2013 portrays the Kenyan government negatively. It was a headline for the story that shows rivalry among security agencies and lack of clear command lines that badly affected the response to the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall.

H.12: Blame game *over Westgate attack*

Blame game	over Westgate attack
Goal	Circumstance

The goal in H.12 is *"Blame game"* that showed poor coordination between government officials. The relational process is the circumstance *"over Westgate attack"*. The circumstance tells the reader that neither the government nor the security officers had knowledge about the attack. Jurisdictional differences appear to have extended to blame games among security agencies, as Kenya recovered from its worst terror attack since the 1998 bombing of the Embassy of the United States of America in Nairobi.

H.1 to 12 shows that the Al-Shaabab group belongs to the semantics field of violence as shown by processes such as *kill, massacre and attack* that they carried out (see H.1 to 3). The Headlines also show that the members of Al-Shaabab are associated with human destruction as in *H.2* as shown by the process *kill* and the relational process in *H.7* described *as worst terror attack since August1998.* The Alshabaab group was also associated with confrontation and provocation as shown by the same processes in *(H.8 Mall Massacre and 9: Brazen attack)*.

B Mental processes: processes of sensing

Mental processes refer to verbs indicating perception, cognition, affection, and desire (Halliday, 1994; Saragih, 2010:7). It enables language users to express opinion, thoughts and tastes that help to identify their definitions of reality. This process type tends to be realized through the use of verbs like think, know, feel, smell, hear, see, want, like, hate, please, repel, admire, enjoy, fear.

H.13 below from the *Daily Nation* of 22nd September 2013 illustrates the mental processes:

H.13: A victim *shrieks* in pain after Al-Shabaab attacked a city shopping centre

A victim	Shrieks	in pain	After	Al-Shabaab	Attacked	Acity shopping centre
Sensor	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance	Actor	Process	Circumstance

In H.13 the mental process is identified by *"Shrieks"* and "*A victim*" is the sensor. The mental process shows the pain of the attack that the victim was feeling. The second participant is *'Al-Shaabab'* who performs the process of material (doing). The mental process reflects or it is a symbol of the condition of the victims after the Al-Shabaab attack. The reporter seems to be appealing for pity from the readers of the newspaper and calls for action. H.14, on the contrary, from the *Standard*of 27th September 2013shows the people of Kenya as the victim of Al-Shabaab as shown below:

H.14: Kenya *vulnerable* to Al-Shabaab.

Kenya	Vulnerable	to Al-Shabaab
Sensor	Process	Phenomenon

The mental process is identified by the process *"vulnerable"* and *"Kenya"* as the sensor. The mental process *"vulnerable"* shows how Kenya as a country is not capable of handling the terrorism attack. The image created by this representation is that Kenya has become a soft target for the Al-Shabaab. Thus, Al-Shabaab in H.14 is represented negatively as actors of violence and destruction while Kenyans are represented positively, in this case, as victims of circumstances. The analysis of H.14 shows that Kenyans belong to the Semantic field of unity and peace but vulnerable to Al-Shabaab.

In H.15 from the *Standard* of 26th September 2013 calls on Kenyans to stand united in the face of the attack. The attribute in H.15*"spirit"* represents Kenyans as united people while the attackers are represented as destructors.

H.15: Attackers will never break Kenyan spirit"

Attackers	Will never break	Kenyan spirit
Sensor	Process	Phenomenon

In H.15 the sensor *"attackers"* want to divide Kenyans but that seem not to be happening. This headline leads a story where the Al-Shabaab group happened to have profiled Christians from Muslims. The reporter then represents Kenyans as united people in terms of religion.

It is important to stress the contribution of modality in H.15, which establishes the degree of authority of an utterance (cf. Kress & Hodge, 1979). The process in H.15*"will never break"* shows the reporters opinion about Kenyans as peaceful and united people. The use of modal auxiliary verb *will* together with the adverb *"never"* allows the newspaper reporter to present opinions and speculations that may be interpreted as actual facts by the readers.

The headline from the *Daily Nation* of 22 September 2013 from the also had mental process. *H.16 "39 killed, 150 others injured in day of terror of city Mall* provides eyewitness accounts, as well as photos of rescued victims running away from the shopping centre.

H.16: 39 killed, 150 others injured in day of terror of city Mall.

39	Killed	150 others	Injured	in day of terror	Of city Mall
Goal	Process	Sensor	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance

H.16 is a passive construction. The actor is Al-Shabaab though not explicit. However, the sensor has been presented as*"150 others"*. The reader can cognitively anchor the actor with the Al-Shabaab terror group. The focus in this sentence is on the sensor to show the high number of Kenyans that suffered the Westgate attack. The mental process is shown by the verbs *"injured"*. The mental processes represent Kenyans as the sensor of the phenomenon of the Al-Shabaab.

C. Verbal processes

Verbal processes involve a communication between a Sayer and an Addressee, where some message, the Verbiage, is communicated. Saragih (2010:8) states that verbal processes show activities related to information. Specifically, the process includes that of saying, commanding, asking, and offering.

H.17 below from the *Standard* of 22nd September 2013shows Al-Shabaab as the sayer.

H. 17: Al-Shabaab *claims* responsibility for deadly attack

Al-Shaabab	Claims	Responsibility	ForDeadlyAttack
Sayer	Process	Verbiage	Circumstance

"**Al-Shaabab"** in H.17above is represented as the sayer, while *'responsibility'* in H.17 is the verbiage. The verb *"claims"* suggests confrontation just like 'defend' and 'insist'. Hence, the reporter represents the Al-Shabaab as unremorseful about the attack since they take responsibility *"for the deadly attack"* blatantly. In fact, this headline was in-line with the Al-Shabaab's twitter handle where they claimed credit for conducting this attack. The excerpt below is taken from Al-Shabaab's Twitter handle, @HSM Press. This handle is based on the acronym for Al-Shabaab's Arabic name; Harakat Shabaab Mujahideen (HSM). "HSM has on numerous occasions warned the #Kenyan government that failure to remove its forces from Somalia would have severe consequences... The Kenyan government, however, turned a deaf ear to our repeated warnings and continued to massacre innocent Muslims in Somalia ... by Land, air and sea, #Kenyan forces invaded our Muslim country, killing hundreds of Muslims in the process and displacing thousands more... the attack at #Westgate Mall is just a very tiny fraction of what Muslims in Somalia experience at the hands of Kenyan invaders... The Mujahideen entered #Westgate Mall today at around noon and are still inside the mall..."

H.17 together with the twitter message above clearly shows that the Al-Shabaab group is out to revenge and they shall not relent soon. Al-Shabaab in a series of Twitter messages released on September 21, 2013, claimed credit for the Westgate attack stating the attacks were in response to the Kenyan government's actions in Somalia.

Verbal processes are also shown by asking. H.18 below from the *Standard* of 22nd September 2013 also indicates the verbal processes that expresses the aftermath of the Al-Shabaab attack.

H.18: Kenya Red Cross, hospitals appeal for blood donations

Kenya Red Cross	Hospitals	Appeal	for blood donations
Sayer	Sayer	Process	Verbiage

The verbal process has been represented by the sayer*"Kenya Red Cross"* and *"hospitals"* and the verb *"appeal"*. The sayers of **H.18,** further, express the intensity of human destruction as done by the Al-Shabaab. There were too many victims of the deadly attack hence the need for blood donations as shown by the process *"appeal".*

H.19 below from *Daily Nation* of 22nd September 2013 shows another verbal process that portrays the Kenyan government negatively, that is, ignorant. H.19 states "Deadly mall assault caught police off guard". H.19 quotes a top security officer saying the attack had caught them "by surprise".

H.19: Deadly mall assault caught police off guard

Deadly mall assault	Caught	Police	Off guard
	Process (verbal)	Receiver	Verbiage

H.19 has two attributes which shows the intense of the attack. Attribute is a relational process in Systemic Functional Theory (SFT). In SFT, Carrier is an entity being described, for instance, *"the Mall"* in H.19 above while attribute is the description of the entity, for instance, *"deadly and assault''*, describes the mall. The receiver of this headline is *"the police''* who are represented as the victims while 'off guard' is the circumstance. In this case, the police who are government officials have been represented as unprepared for the attack, that is, as the victims. *'Off-guard''* is the circumstance of manner that reflects that Kenyan policemen had no intelligence report for the attack. In fact, the typical Uniformed Kenyan Police Officer is not as well equipped as their western counterparts, typically only carrying a long gun, most commonly an AK-47 style rifle with a folding stock, loaded with a single 30 round magazine. They do not carry handguns, wear body armour, gun belts or have portable radios to communicate.

Verbal processes also include activities such as commanding. H.20 below from *the Daily Nation* of 23rdSeptember 2013 urged the government for a tough response about the Westgate attack.

H.20: *Bring* perpetrators of brazen attack to book

Bring	Perpetrators	Of brazen attack	to book
Process (verbal)	**Receiver**	**Circumstance**	**Circumstance**

The verbal process is identified by the verb *"bring''*. The clause is an imperative sentence showing how Kenyans wanted the attackers to be arrested. The sayer of the clause can be cognitively identified to be Kenyans. The last headline on Verbal processes below from the *Standard* of 22nd September 2013 clearly shows that the Al-Shabaab group is vindictive in nature and this war is not ending any time soon. The report mentions a taxi driver who survived the ordeal and says he heard the attackers say: "If you are a Muslim get out" and "those who identified themselves as Muslims were allowed to exit the mall".

H.21: We have come to [take] revenge

We	Have come to take	Revenge
Sayer	Process	Verbiage

In H.21 the sayer is *"we"* who were the gunmen who told the victims that they had come to take revenge before they opened fire. Al-Shabaab actions are meant to retaliate against Kenya.

D. Behavioral process

Behavioral Processes are processes of physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering (Gerot and Wignel, 1994:60). These processes are often a source of confusion, because they border on other processes: they are similar to material processes in that they can include physical manifestation (e.g., cough, dance); they usually include the physical manifestation of verbal processes (e.g., talk, yell); and the physical manifestation of mental processes (look, listen, worry, etc.) and mental states (cry, laugh, smile). The main participant is Behaver, but may sometimes involve Behavior.

H.22 below from the *Daily Nation* of 22nd September 2013newspaper shows an example of behavioral process. The editorial features the cartoon of a skull, above with the words: "Terrorism rears its ugly head again" are printed.

H.22: Terrorism *rears* its ugly head again

Terrorism	rears	It's	ugly head	again
Behaver	Process	Behavior	Attribute	Circumstance

The behavioral process is shown by the process **"rears"**. The verb **"rears"** shows that terrorism is a frequent challenge. Further, **H.22** has the circumstance *'again'* to express frequency of the attacks. In this case, Kenyans seem to be frustrated by the violent attacks of the Al-Shabaab. Moreover, **H.23** below from the *Standard* of 22nd September 2013 points out that the attack ironically coincided with World Peace Day on 21st of September 2013.

H.23 Terrorists *turn* day of peace into a day of pain

Terrorists	Turn	Day of peace	Into a day of pain
Participants (behaver)	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance

The assumption is that were it not for the Westgate attack Kenyans would join the rest of the world in the celebration of World Peace day. Kenyans, therefore, have been represented as peaceful people who are interrupted by the Al-Shabaab who are violent.

E. Existential process

Existential processes are processes of existence. These represent that something exists or happens. According to Hancock (2005:240), existential process is a clause that presents an entity as existing without predicating anything additional about it. It involves existential constructions which are introduced by an empty 'there' in subject position (this is sometimes called an expletive 'there'). The typical verb that is used is the "be" verb as shown by H.24.

H.24: Kenya cabinet *was* warned of Westgate

Kenya cabinet	**was** warned	of Westgate style attack'
Participant	Process	Circumstance

The process in H.24**"was warned"** shows that the Kenyan cabinet had a clue about the attack but did not take the necessary steps to avoid the Al-Shabaab attack. The report mentions that the National Intelligence Service is blamed for failing to detect the planned attack yet seven top officials were given an intelligence report in 2012 warning of an attack.

Conclusions

This paper has analyzed transitivity processes in newspaper headlines on terrorism attack in Kenya. The significance of this analysis is that it helped to locate the different types of processes that are associated with the terrorism attack in Kenya. The transitivity analysis highlights the negative image associated with the Al-Shabaab. In the headlines where the Al-Shabaab is the Actor, it has been found that Al-Shabaab is always the doer of violent and chaotic acts and causes insecurity and challenges to state authority (material processes). The analysis of transitivity patterns in the data of Westgate Mall attack in Kenya revealed the predominance of material processes as shown by 9 headlines out of 21that were collected. The material processes associated with the Al-Shabaab belong to the semantic field of violence and chaos: attack, shatters, kill, massacre, claim, break, turn, injure and rears. The analysis, thus, shows that all the material processes are related to violence, destruction, and damage. Kenyans have been represented as the victims of the Al-Shabaab. Thus, they were represented with mental processes such as; vulnerable, appeal, injured, and appeal. The data has shown predominance of the material process which signifies the negative representation of the terrorist and the positive representations of Kenyans as peaceful people. This paper concludes that those neutral and positive verbal subtypes were always associated with the Kenyans while the Al-Shabaab was always associated with the negative subtype.

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