

# **Analysis of Transitivity Processes in the Confessional Statements of Suspects in Selected Police Case Files in Taraba State, Nigeria**

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## ***Abstract***

This study analyses transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects in selected police case files in Taraba State, Nigeria. Previous studies on transitivity processes have explored transitivity system in 2018 State of the Union address by president Donald Trump; transitivity system in CNN Online News and transitivity system in Sri Mulyani speech; but not much scholarship have been done on transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects. This study examines transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects in selected police case files in Taraba State, Nigeria. The confessional statements of suspects extracted from the police case files in Divisional Police Headquarters Jalingo, Bali, Takum and Area Command Headquarters Jalingo, serve as primary data. The study adopted Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as its theoretical framework and employed qualitative descriptive and quantitative designs to analyse its data. The result of the analysis revealed that the suspects deployed transitivity processes, namely; material, mental relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes in their confessional statements. The dominant transitivity processes the suspects deployed in their confessional statements are material processes; they occurred with a frequency of 8 or 34.78%. The second dominant transitivity processes the suspects deployed in their confessional statements are relational and verbal processes; they occurred with a frequency of 4 or 17.39% each. The third predominant transitivity processes the suspects employed in their confessional statements are mental and behavioural processes; they transpired with a frequency of 3 or 13.04% each. The fourth predominant transitivity process the accused persons utilised in their confessional statements is existential process, it materialised with a frequency of 1 or 4.35%. The study impact positively on the readers generally as it provides a stable means of communication for both Police and Civilians.

**Keywords:** Confessional Statement, transitivity process, suspect, police case file, Taraba State, Nigeria.

## **Introduction**

Transitivity is the whole resource for constructing what is happening or going on within the clause (Bakouro, 2017). Transitivity accounts for everything that occurs within the clause. Thompson (1996, cited in Afiana, 2012) explains that transitivity refers to a system for describing the whole clause, rather than just the verb and its object. In Systemic Functional Grammar, transitivity describes what occurs within the entire clause, not just the verb and its objects. Su (2021) asserts that transitivity is part of ideational function of clause which divides what people see, hear and do in the real world into different processes and identifies participants and circumstantial elements involved in the processes. Transitivity treats what people view, perceive and perform in the physical world in different processes and identifies participants and circumstantial elements that are involved in the

processes.

Besides, Halliday and Mathiessen (2004) state that “transitivity is a system of the clause, affecting not only the verb serving as process, but also participants and circumstances” (P.181). Transitivity is a system of clause which is not only concerned with verb as a process but is also concerned with participants and circumstances which are involved in the process. The process is realised by a verb, the participant is realised by the nominal group while circumstance is realised by adverbial group or prepositional phrase (Harbi et al., 2019). There are six types of processes in the transitivity system. They are material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes.

Section 27(1) of Evidence Act (as cited in Akhihero, 2004, p.11) defines confession as “an admission made at any time by a person charged with a crime stating or suggesting the inference that he committed that crime.” This definition suggests that confession is an admission of a crime committed by a criminal suspect indicating that he or she committed the crime he or she is being accused of committing. Black's Law Dictionary (as cited in Agbi & Iroegbu, n.d) maintains that confessional statements of suspects are criminal suspects' oral or written acknowledgement of crime committed. Confessional statements of suspects are accused persons' written or oral admission of the crimes committed. Agbi and Iroegbu (n.d) further explain that the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong describes a confessional statement of suspect as a statement made by an accused person in the course of investigation into a criminal offence, to indicate that he or she is the offender. Confession could be judicial or extra-judicial. Confession is judicial if the accused person or suspect admits his or her guilt directly in the court of law (Agbi & Iroegbu, n.d). On the other hand, confession is extra-judicial if the accused person or suspect admits his or her guilt before any official outside the court of law.

Academics and researchers have carried out studies on transitivity system in CNN Online News; transitivity processes in students' descriptive texts and transitivity on poems in romanticism period. However, scholarly attention has not been given to transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects in selected police case files in Taraba State, Nigeria. Therefore, the current study examines transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects extracted from the police case files in Taraba State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. to identify and analyse transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects extracted from selected police case files in Taraba State;
- ii. to calculate the frequencies of occurrence and percentages of the processes and tabulate them.
- iii. to highlight the linguistic significance and social context of transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects.

### **Review of Related Literature**

Saputra et al. (2022) carried out transitivity analysis of Sri Mulyani's speech. The study aimed at classifying the transitivity processes identified in the speech. It adopted Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics as its theoretical framework and deployed qualitative descriptive design to analyse its data. Transcript of speech of Sri Mulyani serves as an essential data. The data was analysed and the result indicated that material process identified in the data constitutes 44.29% of the whole transitivity processed deployed by Sri Mulyani in his speech. Mental process constitutes 24.29% of the whole transitivity processes used in the speech. Relational process accounts for 25%

of the entire transitivity processes employed in the data. Verbal process accounts for 2.14% of the entire processes utilised in the speech. Behavioural process makes up 2.86% of the complete transitivity processes used by the speaker, while existential process constitutes 1.42% of the total transitivity processes deployed by the speaker in his speech. Based on the findings, the study concludes that Sri Mulyani deployed processes, namely, material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process and existential process in his speech. While the former focuses on the transitivity processes used in the speech of Sri Mulyani, the latter is concerned with transitivity process used in the confessional statements of suspects.

Apendi and Mulyani (2020) carried out analysis of transitivity processes of students' descriptive texts. The objectives of the study were to find out transitivity processes used in the students' descriptive texts; and identify the dominant process used. Sixty (60) sentences extracted from eight students' descriptive texts serve as data. The research employed descriptive quantitative design to analyse its data. The result of the analysis showed that six types of processes were deployed in the data. The processes deployed are material process, relational process, existential process, behavioural process, verbal process and mental process. Material process constitutes 41.6% of the whole transitivity processes used in the students' descriptive texts. Relational process constitutes 38.3% of the whole transitivity processes deployed in the data. Existential process makes up 5% of the entire transitivity processes employed in the texts. Each of the processes, namely, behavioural, verbal and mental processes, accounts for 1.7% of the entire transitivity processes used in the data. The dominant process used in the data was material process. Based on the findings, the study concludes that six processes, namely, material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes were deployed in the students' descriptive texts. The dominant process used in the data was material process. The former treated transitivity processes deployed in the students' descriptive texts while the current study analysed transitivity processes identified in the confessional statements of suspects.

Qomariah et al. (2021) explored transitivity system in Cable Network News (hence forth CNN) Online News. The study aims at investigating transitivity processes deployed in CNN Online News. Data for the study were clauses made up of transitivity system sourced from CNN Online News. The researchers deployed descriptive design and insights from Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) to analyse data for the study. The result of the analysis indicates that transitivity processes such as material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process and existential process were deployed in CNN Online News. The dominant transitivity process used in the CNN Online News was material process. The former deployed descriptive design in its analysis while the latter employed both descriptive and quantitative designs in analysing its data..

Wulansari and Waluyo (n.d) analysed transitivity system in the poems: "I Wonder Lonely as a Claud" by William Wordsworth, "The Battle of Blenheim" by Roberth Southey and "London" by William Blade. Descriptive qualitative design was used to analyse the poems. The result of analysis revealed that the Poem "I Wonder Lonely as a Claud" contains material, mental, behavioural and relational processes. Material process occurred with a frequency of 7; mental process occurred with a frequency of 2; behavioural process materialised with a frequency of 9, while relational process materialised with a frequency of 2. The poem "The Battle of Blenheim" encompasses relational process, behavioural process, mental process, material process, existential process and verbal process. Relational process occurred with a frequency of 9; behavioural process occurred with a frequency of

10; mental process transpired with a frequency of 4, material process transpired with a frequency of 24, existential process materialised with a frequency of 1, while verbal process materialised with a frequency of 9. The poem "London" embodies processes, namely, material and mental processes. Material process occurred with a frequency of 6 while mental process occurred with a frequency of 3. While the former deployed descriptive qualitative design in its analysis, the latter employed both qualitative descriptive and quantitative designs to analyse its data.

Nurwati (2022) carried out a transitivity analysis of descriptive writings of students of Department of English Education, Lakidende Unaaha University. The Objectives of the study were to find out transitivity processes used in the descriptive writings and points out the dominant process deployed in the writings. The study adopted Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as its theoretical framework and deployed qualitative descriptive method of data analyses to analyse its data. The students' descriptive writings serve as data. The data was analysed and the result showed that material and mental processes occurred with a frequency of 25 or 16.34% each. Relational process occurred with a frequency of 91 or 59.48%. Behavioural process materialised with a frequency of 8 or 5.22%. Verbal process materialised with a frequency of 1 or 0.65%, while existential process transpired with a frequency of 3 or 1.97%. Based on the findings, the study concludes that students of the Department of English Education, Lakindede, Unaaha University, deployed processes, namely, material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes in their descriptive writings. The dominant process they deployed was relational process. The former is different from the latter in the sense that, it treated transitivity processes in students' descriptive writings while the latter examines transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a theory of language developed by Halliday in the early 1960s. The theory views language as semiotic system, that is, a system of making meaning. According to Li (2019), Halliday drew insights from the works of American anthropologists, namely, Boas, Sapir and Whorf. His greatest inspiration, however, came from Firth, the man he owes the notion of language as a semiotic system. Chapelle (n.d) points out that Systemic Functional Grammar is a model that is centred on the notion of language function. He explains further that Systemic Functional Grammar places the function of language at the central (what language does and how it does it). The theory emphasis language function rather than any other use language can be put to. This is labelled metafunction.

### **Ideational Metafunction**

Butt et al. (2001, as cited in Romadhoni, 2014), explain that ideational metafunction is concerned with how language is used to express human experience. Thompson (1996, as cited in Marbun, n.d) asserts that ideational metafunction employs language to talk about the experience in the inner (mental) and external (physical world). Ideational metafunction deals with how language is used to express human experience.

### **Interpersonal Metafunction**

Interpersonal metafunction is concerned with how speakers use language to interact with others, establish and maintain relationships with them, influence their behaviour and express their opinions about the things in the world (Ye, 2010; Feng, 2013). Bank (2002) asserts that interpersonal metafunction is concerned with the relationship that exists between the speaker and his addressee(s)

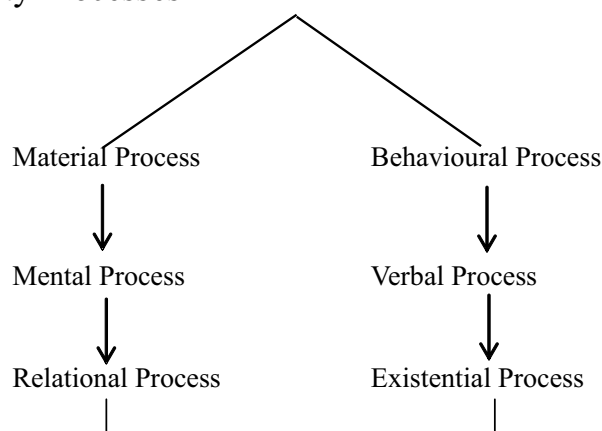
and between the speaker and his messages. Interpersonal relationship does not focus on the relationship between the speaker and his addressee(s) alone, but also deals with the relationship between the speaker and his message.

### Textual Metafunction

Textual metafunction deals with how language is used to organise text. Dorri (2020) explains that textual metafunction focuses on the use of language as an instrument of communication with which cohesive and coherent sequences are built up in a text. According to Sitanggag (2018), textual metafunction deals with the flow of information in a

text. Textual metafunction is concerned with how information flow in the text.

Figure 1: Transitivity Processes in Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG)  
Transitivity Processes



### Methodology

Data for the study were obtained from the police case files in the Divisional Police Headquarters Jalingo, Takum, Bali and Area Command Headquarters Jalingo. The data were closely and critically examined and appraised in the contexts the study to determine the significance based on the focus of the research. The research identified transitivity processes deployed in the confessional statements of the suspects extracted from the Police case files in the aforementioned Divisional Police Headquarters and an Area Command Headquarters, and analysed them qualitatively and quantitatively using insights from Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG).

### Data Analysis and Discussion

The data are characterised by transitivity processes, namely, material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes. They are analysed one after another as follows:

#### Material Processes

Material processes are processes that indicate that some entities do something to other entities. In the material processes performers of actions are labelled actors while receivers of actions are known as goals (Bustam, 2011, p.25). Examples of material processes are captured in Excerpts 1, and 2.

#### Excerpt 1

On October 20, 2018, at about 1230hrs, I was guarding my farm so as to stop thieves from stealing my yam. Someone entered the farm with a motorcycle and parked it under a tree. He



looked around, and he did not see me. He untied the bag, the hoe and the machete, which were tied to the carrier of his motorcycle and started to uproot some yam tubers. The man uprooted eight yam tubers, put them in a bag, and tied the bag to the carrier of the motorcycle. He was about to start the motorcycle and move, I shot him on the leg. He cried loudly and fell down. I ran to Police station and reported the matter to the police. The police conveyed me in their patrol van to the scene where I shot the man. They gave the man first aid and carried him to the hospital.

In Excerpt 1, the suspect deployed some material processes in his confessional statement. The material processes he deployed are: First, the man uprooted eight yam tubers; second, I shot him; third, the Police conveyed me; fourth, I shot the man.

#### Excerpt 2

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, at about 2030hrs, I went to the compound of NwunujiKefas and saw a Hyjul motorcycle parked on the veranda of a house. I pushed the motorcycle away and hid it in my house. On 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016, at about 1800hrs I sold the motorcycle to one Danladi Sunday of Tampa Village. On 20<sup>th</sup> June, at about 1400hrs, I saw Danladi Sunday and two members of the Vigilante group coming to my residence; I made an attempt to run away, the two members of Vigilante group threatened to shoot me if I run, I stopped. They arrested me and brought me to this Police station. Truly, I am the person who went to the compound of NwunujiKefas and stole his Hyjul motorcycle with registration number TK343477TA and sold it to Danladi Sunday, on June 13, 2016, at about 1800hrs. He bought the motorcycle without knowing that it was a stolen motorcycle.

In Excerpt 2, the suspect deployed four material processes in his confessional statements. The material processes he deployed include: I pushed the motorcycle; I sold the motorcycle, they arrested me, and he bought the motorcycle.

#### **Mental Processes**

Mental processes are processes of sensing. They have two participants, namely, senser which is a conscious beings that feels, thinks or sees and phenomenon, which is something that is felt, thought or seen (Bustam, 2011, p.26). Instances of mental processes are found in Excerpts 3 and 4 below:

#### Excerpt 3

On April 30, 2018, at about 1800hrs, I stole a bag of groundnut from the store of one Janya Auta "M" of Mile 6, Jalingo. When I was carrying the bag of groundnut to the place I would sell it, two members of the Vigilante group met me and ordered me to drop the bag of groundnut on the ground. I dropped it on the ground; they asked me to tell them where I got the bag of groundnut. I told them a lie that the bag of groundnut belong to me. The two members of the Vigilante group said they did not believe me. As we were talking, Janya Auta (the owner of the bag of groundnut) arrived at the scene and identified his bag of groundnut. He told the members of the Vigilante group the news of how the door of his store was broken and the bag of groundnut was stolen from it. The members of Vigilante group arrested me and took me to Area Command Headquarters, Jalingo. The police interrogated me, and I told them that I broke the door of JanyaAutas store and stole the bag of groundnut from it. People did not see me when I broke the door of the store and stole the bag of groundnut.

In Excerpt 3, the suspect employed some mental processes in his confessional statement. The

mental processes he employed are: They did not believe me and people did not see me.

#### Excerpt 4

On April 20, 2018, at about 1230hrs, I sold three bags of groundnut to someone who said his name was Rimamyang John “M” of Magami Quarters, Jalingo. He left the three bags of groundnut in my store and said he would come back and carry them after three days. After three days, I did not see him then I sold the three bags of groundnut to someone who said his name was Danladi Gimba. On April 25, 2018, at about 1130hrs, Rimamyang John returned and said he wanted to carry the three bags of groundnut he kept in my store. I told him that thieves broke the door of my store and stole the three bags of groundnut two days before he returned. Rimamyang John said he did not believe me. Therefore, he reported the matter to the Police.

In Excerpt 4, the suspect used a single mental process in his confessional statement. The mental process he used is: he did not believe me.

#### Relational Processes

Relational Processes are processes that are used to characterise or identify something. Those that are used to characterise something are called attributive processes, while those that are used to identify something are labelled identifying processes (Sembiring, 2020, p.27).

#### Excerpt 5

On July 1, 2019, at about 1030hrs, I and one Rimamsikwe Ali of No.1, Hospital road, Takum were going to farm, we met two Fulani men. One of them said his name was Ardo Abubakar, while the other one said Abu Aminu was his name. They said we should follow them to their house so as to carry a cow which fell into a hole and died. We followed them. We trekked for about 8 minutes into bush, Aminu brought out a locally made pistol and shouted at the top of his voice that we should bring out everything in our pockets; otherwise, he would kill us. We brought out our handsets and the little money we had from our pockets and gave them, and they left. On July 20, 2019, I and Rimamsikwe Ali were going to the farm; we saw Ardo Abubakar and Abu Aminu coming opposite the direction we were going. We ran into the bush and hid and they did not see us. When they came close to the place we were hiding, we came out of the bush and attacked them with matchetes. While we were attacking them, three members of vigilante group came to the scene and arrested me and Rimamsikwe Ali and brought us to this Police station. We took revenge on these Fulani men because they robbed us of our handsets and money on July 1, 2019. In Excerpt 5, the suspect deployed two relational processes in his confessional statement. The relational processes he deployed are: First, his name was Ardo Abubakar; second, Abu Aminu was his name.

#### Excerpt 6

On May 10, 2018, at about 1230hrs, I stole a goat belonging to James Garba and sold it to one who said his name was John Kafua at the rate of N15,000.00. Unfortunately, I did not know that there was James Garba's brother at the point where I sold the goat. The man identified his brother's goat and reported the matter to a member of the Vigilante group, who said Bami Markus was his name. The member of the Vigilante group arrested me and John Kafua and took us to Police station with the goat. James Garba's brother showed the Police the marks of identification James Garba made on the two ears of the goat. The Police asked me to tell them

where I got the goat; I did not respond. They threatened to molest me if I did not tell them where I got the goat. I told them the truth that I stole the goat from the compound of James Garba and sold it to John Kafua and he bought it without knowing that it was a stolen goat.

Excerpt 6, shows that the suspect used some relational processes in his confessional statement. The relational processes he deployed are: First, his name was John Kafua; second, Bami Markus was his name.

### **Behavioural Processes**

Behavioural processes are processes of behaving which are realised through activities such as breathing, dreaming, smiling, laughing, crying, coughing, etc. They have one participant, namely, a behavior (UK essays, 2015, para.11). Instances of behavioural processes are captured in Excerpt 7.

#### **Excerpt 7**

On November 20, 2018, about 1800hrs, I met my wife and a man who said his name was Abana Adamu “M” talking together. I went to the point where they were talking and asked Abana Adamu to tell me what they were talking about. He smiled and said he only exchanged greetings with her, he did not talk about anything with her. I warned him that he should not do anything that would land him in trouble because the woman he was talking with was my wife. Abana Adamu laughed and said he did not intend to do anything bad with my wife. On November 25, 2018, at about 1400hrs, I met my wife and Abana Adamu again talking together at a point in the old market square in Bali town. I went to the point where they were talking, and warned them that if I met them together again, I would deal ruthlessly with them. On November 30, 2018, at about 1800hrs, I met my wife and Abana Adamu sitting and drinking beer in Sauka Kahuta Hotel in Bali. I went to the point where they were sitting and drinking beer and asked them to tell me what had been going on between the two of them. None of them uttered a word. I beat Abana Adamu severely, and he cried loudly. When I was beating him, two Police officers came to the scene, arrested me and brought me to this Police station. I beat Abana Adamu because I suspected that he has been having a love affair with my wife.

Excerpt 7 indicates that the accused person deployed three behavioural processes in his confessional statement. The behavioural processes he deployed include: He smiled, Abana Adamu laughed and he cried loudly.

### **Verbal Processes**

Verbal processes are processes of saying. They have two participants, namely, the sayer (participant who speaks) and the receiver (the person whom the verbalisation is addressed). Verbage is the name for verbalisation itself (Bustam, 2011, p.28). Examples of verbal processes are captured in Excerpts 8 and 9 below:

#### **Excerpt 8**

On April 20, 2019, at about 1400hrs, I was going to the farm when I met one Fulani man who said his name was Bala Abu. He asked me many questions about his sister, whom he said was raped at the place I met him; I responded appropriately. He said he did not believe me. I said whether he believed me or not, I was not the person who raped his sister. He insulted me and I insulted him too. He slapped me and I hit him with a stick several times. He removed a knife to stab me, I grabbed it from him and stabbed him and blood started coming



out of his body. When we were fighting, one Benjamin Shingwa came to the scene and separated us. After a short while, two members of the Vigilante group came to the scene. They asked me three questions, and I answered them then they brought me to this Area Command Headquarters, Jalingo. I did not intend to stab Bala Abu, he made an attempt to stab me with a knife, I seized it from him and stabbed him in order to defend myself.

Excerpt 8 indicates that the suspect used some verbal processes in his confessional statement. The verbal processes he used include: He asked me many questions, and they asked me three questions.

#### Excerpt 9

On March 10, 2017, at about 1700hrs, I went to the pastor of Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria Tati-Takum, and lied to him that I had not eaten for two days because thieves broke into my house and stole my feeding money and beat me. The Pastor directed his wife to prepare food for me. After I had finished eating the food, he showed me a room to sleep in and said the Church would assist me with some money to feed myself the following day. At about 2000hrs I broke the tithe box of the Church and stole N50,000 from it and ran away when the Pastor and his wife were sleeping. On March 20, 2017, at about 1600hrs, I went to Mrs Janyo's restaurant to buy food, I saw two members of the vigilante group and the Pastor coming towards the restaurant. I made an attempt to run away, but the two members of the Vigilante group caught me. They asked me some questions, I answered them then they brought me to this Police station. The Police interrogated me, I told them the story of what transpired between me and the Pastor.

Excerpt 9 shows that the accused person deployed some verbal processes in his confessional statement. The verbal processes he deployed include: They asked me some questions and I told them the story.

**Existential Processes:** These are processes that indicate that something exists or happens. They have only one participant, namely, existence. They are realised with linking verbs and empty there as subject (Bloor & Bloor, 2004, p.125). Instances of existence processes are captured in Excerpts 10.

#### Excerpt 10

On March 18, 2019, at about 1600hrs, one Aisha Bala “F” of Water Board area Jalingo said one of my goats destroyed vegetables in her garden. I could not believe her because I did not know how she managed to know that one of my goats was the one that destroyed the vegetables in her garden. I asked her some questions to find out how she knew that one of my goats was the one that destroyed the vegetable in her garden. She said she knew the marks I made on my goats and she could easily identify them. Moreover, she said she caught the goat that destroyed the vegetable in her garden and took it to the Police station. I returned home and discovered that one of my goats was missing. I went to the Police station and saw the missing goat tied to a tree. There were some other goats tied to the tree also. I told one the Policemen that I came to lose my goat and go with it. Aisha Bala said I must pay for the vegetables my goat destroyed in her garden before I would lose the goat and go with it. I promise to pay Aisha money for the vegetables which my goat destroyed in her garden in two weeks' time because I do not have enough money to pay her now.

Excerpt 10 shows that the suspect used an existence process in her statement. The existence process she used is: There were some other goats.

## Findings

The study revealed that the suspects deployed six different types of transitivity processes in their confessional statements. The transitivity processes they deployed include: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes. The dominant transitivity processes the suspects deployed in their confessional statements are material processes; they occurred with a frequency of 8 or 34.78%. The second dominant transitivity processes the suspects employed in their confessional statements are relational and verbal processes; they occurred with a frequency of 4 or 17.39% each. The third predominant transitivity processes the suspects utilised in their confessional statements are mental and behavioural processes; they transpired with a frequency of 3 or 13.04% each. The fourth predominant transitivity process the accused persons deployed in their confessional statements is existential process; it occurred with a frequency of 1 or 4.35%.

Table 1: Transitivity Processes Summary across Confessional Statements

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Material Processes	8	34.78
Mental Processes	3	13.04
Relational Processes	4	17.39
Behavioural Processes	3	13.04
Verbal Processes	4	17.39
Existential Processes	1	4.35
Total	23	100

To find a frequency of a category, count how many times a specific category appears in the data. To find the percentage of the category, divide the number of occurrences of that category by the total number of occurrences of all the categories in the data, and then multiply the result by hundred.

## Conclusion

The study was focused to analyse the diverse trajectories and linguistic significance of transitivity processes in the confessional statements of suspects in selected police case files in Taraba State, Nigeria. The data examined in the study revealed that the suspects deployed six types of transitivity processes, namely, material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential processes in their confessional statements. The study concludes that closer attentions to confessional statements of the suspects made freely and voluntarily are authentic pieces of evidence that reduce weight on the judicial system and the police, especially in such a society as Nigeria where policing and maintenance of law and order are becoming more and more cumbersome.

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