

**SOCIAL ACTOR REPRESENTATION OF VICTIMHOOD:  
TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF CASSIE VENTURA CASE IN  
CNN INTERVIEW**

**THESIS**

By:

**Laura Vrisila**

NIM 210302110090



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

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CNN INTERVIEW  
THESIS**

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By:

**Laura Vrisila**

NIM 210302110090

Advisor:

**Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum**

NIP 199008122019032018



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG  
2026**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled **“Social Actor Representation of Victimhood: Transitivity Analysis of Cassie Ventura case in CNN Interview”** is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.



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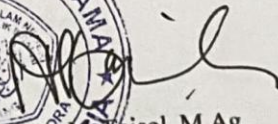
Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum  
NIP 199008122019032018

Malang, 16 Mei 2026  
Head of Department of English  
Literature,



Dr. Agwin Degaf, M.A.  
NIP 198805232015031004

Acknowledged by Dean,



Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.  
NIP 19411012003121003



## LEGITIMATION SHEET

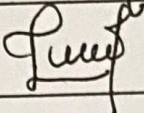
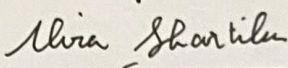
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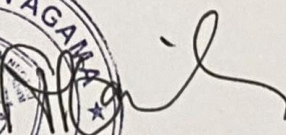
### Board of Examiners

1. Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum  
NIP 199008122019032018
2. Dr. Lina Hanifiyah, S.S., M.Pd.  
NIP 198108112014112002
3. Mira Shartika, M.A.  
NIP 197903082023212008

Signatures

Acknowledged by Dean,

  
  
Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.  
NIP 197411012003121003

## **MOTTO**

*"And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."*

— Paulo Coelho

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my parents, Warsi and Sumarlan, who have given me so much love and always prayed for the best for me.

I also dedicate this thesis to  
My relatives, friends, and everyone who has accompanied me on  
this journey.

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## ABSTRACT

Laura Vrisila. (2026). *Social Actor Representation of Victimhood: Transitivity Analysis of Cassie Ventura case in CNN Interview*. Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.

*Keywords: Transitivity Analysis, Social Actor Representation, Gender-Based Violence, Sexual abuse, Media Discourse*

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This study aims to analyze how the representation of social actors in the gender-based violence (GBV) case involving Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs is constructed in a CNN interview through the Transitivity Analysis approach. This case attracts global attention because it relates deeply to issues of gender-based violence, power relations, and the role of the media in shaping public perception of victims and perpetrators. In this context, the statement of Cassie Ventura's lawyer in the interview not only conveys legal facts but also builds a critical narrative about victimhood and accountability that influences public understanding. To conduct this investigation, a qualitative method was employed. The primary data sources were obtained in the form of interview transcripts from the CNN YouTube channel. The collected data were then analyzed with reference to the ideational metafunction in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), specifically through the transitivity system to identify the types of processes, participants, and circumstances that dominated in representing the two actors. The results showed that material processes dominated the entire data, which emphasized concrete actions, physical events, and legal steps in building the case narrative. Through this analysis, Cassie Ventura was represented as an actor who was active in taking legal actions, such as filing lawsuits and rejecting financial settlements, as well as a victim targeted by acts of violence. Meanwhile, Sean Combs was represented as an actor who previously held dominance in power.

## ABSTRAK

Laura Vrisila. (2026). *Representasi Aktor Sosial sebagai Korban: Analisis Transitivitas Kasus Cassie Ventura dalam Wawancara CNN*. Skripsi. urusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Habiba Al Umami, M.Hum.

*Kata kunci: ransitivity Analysis, Social Actor Representation, Gender-Based Violence, Sexual abuse, Media Discourse*

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Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana representasi aktor sosial dalam kasus kekerasan berbasis gender (GBV) yang melibatkan Cassie Ventura dan Sean Combs dibangun dalam wawancara CNN melalui pendekatan Analisis Transitivitas. Kasus ini telah menarik perhatian global karena berkaitan dengan isu-isu kekerasan berbasis gender, relasi kekuasaan, dan peran media dalam membentuk persepsi publik terhadap korban dan pelaku. Dalam konteks ini, pernyataan pengacara Cassie Ventura dalam wawancara tersebut tidak hanya menyampaikan fakta hukum tetapi juga membangun narasi tentang korban dan akuntabilitas yang memengaruhi pemahaman publik. Studi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan sumber data berupa transkrip wawancara dari saluran YouTube CNN. Data dianalisis dengan mengacu pada metafungsi ideasional dalam SFL, khususnya melalui sistem transitivitas untuk mengidentifikasi jenis proses, partisipan, dan keadaan yang mendominasi dalam merepresentasikan kedua aktor tersebut. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa proses material mendominasi seluruh data, menekankan tindakan konkret, peristiwa fisik, dan langkah-langkah hukum dalam membangun narasi kasus. Cassie Ventura digambarkan sebagai seorang aktor yang aktif mengambil tindakan hukum seperti mengajukan gugatan dan menolak penyelesaian finansial, serta sebagai korban yang menjadi sasaran tindakan kekerasan. Sementara itu, Sean Combs digambarkan sebagai seorang aktor yang sebelumnya memiliki dominasi kekuasaan.

## الملخص

لورا فريسيلا). 2026. (تمثيل الفاعل الاجتماعي للضحية: تحليل التعددية في قضية كاسي فينتورا في مقابلة. رسالة ماجستير. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة الإسلام الحكومية مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المشرفة: حبيبة الأمامي، ماجستير في العلوم الإنسانية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل التعددية، تمثيل الفاعل الاجتماعي، العنف القائم على النوع الاجتماعي، الاعتداء الجنسي، الخطاب الإعلامي

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هدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل كيفية بناء تمثيل الفاعلين الاجتماعيين في قضية العنف القائم على النوع الاجتماعي من خلال منهج اللغويات الوظيفية CNN التي تشمل كاسي فينتورا وشون كومبس في مقابلة على قناة (GBV) النظامية. لقد جذبت هذه القضية اهتماماً عالمياً لأنها تتعلق بقضايا العنف القائم على النوع الاجتماعي، وعلاقات القوة، ودور الإعلام في تشكيل تصورات الجمهور حول الضحايا والجناة. في هذا السياق، فإن تصريح محامي كاسي فينتورا في المقابلة لا ينقل الحقائق القانونية فقط، بل يبني أيضاً سردية حول الضحية والمساءلة تؤثر على فهم على CNN الجمهور. تستخدم هذه الدراسة منهجاً نوعياً مع مصادر بيانات على شكل نصوص المقابلة من قناة وتحديداً من خلال نظام التعددية لتحديد، SFL يوتيوب. يتم تحليل البيانات بالإشارة إلى الوظيفة الأيديولوجية في أنواع العمليات، والمشاركين، والظروف التي تهيمن على تمثيل الفاعلين الاثنين. تظهر النتائج أن العمليات المادية تهيمن على جميع البيانات، مما يبرز الأفعال الملموسة، التي

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the background of the study will be covered together with the research problem, importance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and definition of important terms in the study.

#### **A. Background of The Study**

The phenomenon of gender-based violence (GBV) is a global issue that is often the focus of mass media coverage (Rathore & Noreen, 2025). In the context of high-profile legal cases, such as civil lawsuits and criminal testimonies involving celebrities, role of the media is crucial in shaping public opinion and constructing reality around the events that occur. The case between Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs (Diddy) is a prime example of where the legal realm intersects with pop culture and GBV issues. After years of silence, Cassie Ventura's courage to file a lawsuit and testify has sparked a wave of other lawsuits and federal investigations (El Fallaki, 2026). Media coverage, particularly exclusive interviews with lawyers, has become the main channel for conveying this narrative to a wider audience.

It is Cassie Ventura, who brought the lawsuit against Sean "P. Diddy" Combs involving the claims of rape, sexual exploitation, and physical assault when in a relationship together for almost 10 years. In her November 2023 lawsuit, Cassie accuses Sean "P. Diddy" Combs of assaulting her physically with punches and kicks, as well as sexually abusing and raping her. Such a legal action results from the personal and business relationship that lasted for more than ten years between

singer and actress Cassie Ventura, or Cassandra Ventura Fine, and music producer and businessman Sean "Diddy" Combs. The case involves Cassie Ventura, the former recording artist of Sean "Diddy" Combs' music label, Bad Boy Records, who was in the relationship with him from approximately 2007 to 2018. Such a relationship, being very successful and glamorous in appearance, entailed abuse, violent attacks, and manipulation on the background.

The end of these revelations happen at November 2023, when Cassie Ventura filed a civil lawsuit in federal court in New York. The lawsuit shockingly detailed allegations of sexual assault, rape, coercion, and other violations, including a 2016 incident of physical violence at hotel that was later supported by viral CCTV footage (Zakizadeh, 2024). Although the civil lawsuit was settled out of court within 24 hours of being filed, the impact of Cassie Ventura's disclosure was enormous. Cassie Ventura's bold actions, particularly her decision to reject a settlement that would have bound him to a non-disclosure agreement at the outset, were considered the main catalyst (Montiel-McCann, 2023).

The publication of the lawsuit's details is make at least 70 reports, complaints, and other civil lawsuits against Sean Diddy Combas from various individuals, accusing Combs of engaging in similar behavior for decades. Most significantly, Cassie Ventura's lawsuit triggered a massive federal criminal investigation into Sean Diddy Combs led by the Southern District of New York (SDNY), which finally in a raid of Sean Diddy Combs property and ultimately a jury conviction on two serious federal charges. This case has become an important case study on the power of victim agency in the media and law, as well as how

mediated legal discourse shapes narratives about justice and the accountability of public figures (Shi & Gu, 2022). However, the representation of this case in the media is never neutral. Reporting is often influenced by the rhetorical strategies of the parties involved (lawyers, prosecutors, defenders) to create a certain image whether it be that of an empowered victim or an accountable perpetrator (Saputra et al., 2022).

This study would examine the process of representing Cassie Ventura as a victim of violence by Sean Diddy Combs through a transitivity analysis, which include calculating and interpreting the distribution of processes and the roles of participants that place her as the aggrieved party (Goal or Affected), while also linguistically proving the media narrative in confirming her status as a victim in this case (Brookes & Chałupnik, 2023). To understand how this narrative is constructed, linguistic analysis tools are needed that can dissect the lexical grammatical choices in the text. Transitivity analysis from Systemic Functional Linguistics by M.A.K. Halliday, is an ideal framework.

By analyzing the interview transcript using Systemic Functional Linguistics, we can identify the rhetorical intentions behind the lawyer's statements. Focusing on the Ideational Metafunction, we specifically employ Transitivity Analysis to examine the processes and participant roles reflected in the narrative about the abuse and the lawsuit (Brookes & Chałupnik, 2023). Transitivity Analysis focuses on the types of processes (what happens, is done, or is felt), the participants (who are involved), and the circumstances (when, where, and how). The choice of

process type and the assignment of participant roles directly shape how the violent events and the pursuit of justice are represented.

In the course of research, different previous studies were found to consider Ideational Metafunction by means of Transitivity Analysis for revealing the way reality is presented and constructed via language (Liani et al., 2021). There is a vast number of discourse researches performed under this approach. For example, Yin & Yan (2024) studied speeches about the South China Sea controversy to analyze the way national entities were depicted and how geopolitical events were constructed through language use. Similarly, Widodo (2023) studied news articles related to the issue of corruption and found out the distribution of Process Types and Participant Roles in order to expose media bias in blaming certain people. Also, Saragih and Afriana (2022) used Transitivity to study legal discourse and focused on court decisions in order to see how ideological positions regarding gender-based violence cases could be revealed in linguistic choices made in legal discourse. Recently, there have appeared more and more studies which used transitivity analysis in sexual abuse and gender-based violence discourse. For example, Oktira et al. (2025) analyzed the discursive construction of child molestation in online news articles and showed how linguistically perpetrators of such acts were foregrounded as active agents while victims remained passive participants. Rathore et al. (2025) also studied gender-based violence in news articles and found out that material processes are used predominantly for describing acts of violence thus emphasizing the agency imbalance between perpetrators and victims. Zahara and Nurlela (2025) showed that online news about sexual violence linguistically

construct victims as vulnerable social actors using participant roles in transitivity structure. Also, Akinmusuyi (2023) analyzed gender-based violence headlines in terms of ideological framing through process selection in transitivity patterns. One more relevant study performed by Anake et al. (2025) analyzed the mental health and violence discourse on social media to find out how experiential meanings create representations of victims on digital platforms. Thus, all these studies demonstrate how wide Transitivity Analysis within Ideational Metafunction is applied to disclose ideological meaning, distribution of agency and representation patterns in sexual abuse and gender-based violence discourse (El Fallaki, 2022).

Furthermore, a number of studies which focus on the discussion of sexual violence employ Transitivity Analysis in determining the ways how perpetrators and victims are linguistically constructed in the discourse of media news. Suebklin and Vungthong (2022), for example, revealed that the frequent usage of material processes tends to position perpetrators as active agents, whereas victims become passive participants, hence reinforcing power imbalance in the discourse of rape news. Zahara and Nurlala (2025) found out that news articles on sexual violence on online media tend to focus on acts of aggression and at the same time construct victims as vulnerable social actors using their participants' role in transitivity structures.

On the other hand, studies on social actor representation reveal that linguistic choices serve as means to construct ideological positioning of discourse. Van Leeuwen's Social Actor Network Framework has become popular in analyzing the inclusion of the individuals involved in sensitive matters such as sexual

violence. Thus, this approach serves in shaping people's understanding of the issues related to the matters of power and responsibility (Van Leeuwen, 2008).

Finally, Ideational Metafunction studies of Systemic Functional Linguistics also show the significance of Ideational Metafunction in constructing social reality with the help of experiential meaning. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) explain how transitivity analysis serves as an instrument for examining processes, participants, and circumstances in discourse and helps to disclose the ideologies in it. More studies reveal the tendency of patriarchal ideology in the discussion of gender-based violence in media. Amaliana et al. (2025) discovered that gender-based violence in reporting often constructs women as vulnerable victims, whereas men are portrayed as powerful agents. Hence, it contributes to perpetuation of gender inequality in media representation.

Overall, all the studies reveal the importance of Transitivity Analysis in Ideational Metafunction not just as the tool of classification of clauses, but as an instrument of revealing ideology, power relations and social representation of discourse. There have been a number of studies employing the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Previous studies were done using the same core theory and methods. In order to fill this gap and widen the scope of research of SFL, especially concerning mediated legal discourse and gender-based violence, this study aims to analyze another object: CNN interview with Cassie Ventura's lawyer regarding Diddy case.

This interview is significant as it provides a platform where victim's agency and legal reality of the case are fiercely debated and framed for the public. Therefore, this research is conducted to see the rhetorical and ideological intent behind the lawyer's public statements through an in-depth analysis of the Ideational Metafunction, specifically Transitivity Analysis. This approach would certainly offer a distinct perspective from previous research by focusing on how linguistic choices are utilized to construct the narrative of victim empowerment and perpetrator accountability in a high-profile legal settlement case.

## **B. Problem of Study**

The problems that would be discussed in this study are formulated through these research questions:

1. What types of process represent Cassie's social role?
2. What types of processes represent Sean Combs (Diddy)'s social role?
3. How is the process of social actor representation GBV in Cassie-P. Diddy sexual abuse cases?

## **C. Significances of the Study**

This research is important because it explores how language and statement are organised into a text within the discourse of law and media to represent the victims and perpetrators. focusing on the statements of Cassie Ventura's lawyer in the CNN Exclusive video "Cassie Ventura's lawyer reacts to 'Diddy' verdict." By applying Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory the research highlights how language constructs (Alessa & Al-Harby, 2023) images of Cassie as a victim and

Sean “Diddy” Combs as a perpetrator, showing how legal voices shape public understanding of crime and justice.

This study contributes to discourse analysis by applying SFL especially a Transitivity Analysis in a legal-media context. It demonstrates how the strategic selection of Process Types and Participant Roles is used to frame actors, thus broadening the use of Transitivity Analysis beyond traditional political or news reports into mediated legal discourse (Tate et al., 2024). Directly connects with Systemic Functional Linguistics is showing how linguistic choices in Transitivity Analysis and the allocation of agency for help build meaning. Construct the reality of victimhood and reveal underlying ideological stances regarding accountability and gender-based violence (Hoa, 2021).

Practically, the study is give benefits to linguistics students and the researcher by providing a clear example of theory applied to real media texts. For journalists it emphasizes the ethical responsibility of framing victims and perpetrators fairly. For legal practitioners it shows how language is a tool of advocacy. as lawyers statements can validate victims experiences and influence public opinion in sensitive cases like abuse or gendered violence (Rathore & Noreen, 2025) .

Therefore, this study is important because they have three levels: it enriches linguistic theory, provides practical for academic and professional fields, and supports broader social struggles for justice and gender equality. Analysing how Cassie Ventura and Sean Diddy Combs are represented through the lawyer

perspective, this research show that language is not neutral but a powerful tool in shaping identity, power, and justice.

#### **D. Scope and Limitatons**

This research falls within the scope of Discourse Analysis because it aims to analyze the meaning, structure, and implications of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) (Kellogg et al., 2023) contained in lawyer Cassie Ventura's statements as recorded on CNN's YouTube channel. Discourse Analysis is a method used to deconstruct language, speech, conversation, and writing in order to reveal how meaning and power are constructed through text. This study would specifically apply transitivity analysis ideational metafunction to examine how the linguistic elements in these statements represent issue of GBV in the context of law and media.

The analysis revolves around cases where Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs are identified as victims or perpetrators of gender violence as per the given statements. One of the major constraints of this study is that no interviews from the legal team representing Sean Combs are found. The sources used for this study are from the legal team of Cassie Ventura and CNN only. This constraint exists due to the lack of any direct public statements from both Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs. The study does not consider any opinion of any lawyer or psychologist specializing in gender violence cases.

## **E. Definition of Key Terms**

The significant terms related to this research study will be discussed in the following section:

1. Transitivity Analysis: part of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory developed by Halliday, focus on how language represents a experience through clauses (Rathore & Noreen, 2025).
2. Social Actor Representation: the way individuals, groups, or institutions are portrayed, named, categorized, or presented in a text or discourse (both oral and written) (Hoa, 2021).
3. Cassie Ventura: an American singer and actress.
4. Sean P Diddy Combs: (also known as Puff Daddy) is an American rapper, music producer and businessman.
5. Cassie Ventura's Lawyer: Douglas Wigdor is Cassie Ventura's lawyer acted as her spokesperson or representative in the public sphere.
6. CNN: Cable News Network (CNN) is an American television news channel founded in 1980 by Ted Turner.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter would explain more relevant literature review and use theory that supports this research. The theory used in the research is Transitivity analysis of ideational metafunction.

#### **A. Transitivity Analysis**

Transitivity Analysis is a component of the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which is proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). In the domain of ideational metafunction, the transitivity system emphasizes how linguistic elements express human experience and reality about the world in terms of grammatical forms. It provides insights into how writers and speakers express actions, events, thoughts, emotions, relations, and states of being in a clause.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) point out that clauses are analyzed in terms of three basic categories: process, participants, and circumstances. Process refers to an action, event, state, or experience expressed in the clause; participants refer to entities involved in the process; and circumstances provide extra information about time, place, manner, reason or any other contextual information related to the process. An analysis of these categories helps transitivity analysis identify how language users create meanings and represent social realities (Rahnavardi et al., 2022).

Moreover, transitivity analysis is commonly used for identifying how language choices reflect particular views, beliefs, and representation of social actors

in communication. By identifying process types, participants, and circumstances associated with each process type, the researcher can discover deep meanings embedded in a text.

As indicated by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), the transitivity system contains six process types, including material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. Each process type involves a unique construal of human experience and has distinctive participants. Process types classification is provided in (Table 2.1)

**Table 2.1** Types of Processes in the Transitivity System and Their Examples

| Process type | Example                                                                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Material     | Cassie <b>prompted</b> this investigation by the Southern District            |
| Behavioural  | People are <b>laughing</b>                                                    |
| Mental       | would have liked to have seen                                                 |
| Verbal       | <b>Can</b> you <b>tell</b> us about Cassie and Pdiddy case?                   |
| Relational   | Sean Combs stands before the court as a convicted felon of two federal crimes |
| Existential  | So today there's Christianity in the south                                    |

Table 2.1 presents the kinds of Transitivity Processes within Systemic Functional Linguistics. The next part is an elaboration on each kind of process for a better understanding.

### 1. Material Process

Material process of doing is explained as processes of doing and happening in the physical world (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). They consist of actions or events carried out by an Actor and having the potential effect on a Goal. For example, in the clause, "Cassie sparked this investigation into Southern District,"

the Actor is Cassie, the Material Process is sparked, and the Goal is this investigation.

## 2. Behavioral Process

The behavioral process includes physiological and psychological behaviors located between material and mental processes (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). For example, in the clause, "People are laughing," the Behaver is People while the Behavioral Process is are laughing.

## 3. Mental Process

The process of sensing refers to processes that involve sensing such as perception, cognition, and emotion (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). For example, in the clause, "She would have liked to have seen the outcome," the Senser is She, the Mental Process is would have liked to have seen, and the Phenomenon is the outcome.

## 4. Verbal Process

The verbal process entails processes of saying or conveying information (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). An instance of a verbal process would be the clause "Can you tell us about the Cassie and P. Diddy case?" Here, you is the Sayer; tell is the Verbal Process; us is the Receiver; and about the Cassie and P. Diddy case is the Verbiage.

## 5. Relational Process

The relational process entails processes of being, having, or identifying (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). An example of a relational process would be the clause "Sean Combs appears in court as a convicted felon of two federal crimes." Here, Sean Combs is the Carrier; appears is the Relational Process; and as a convicted felon of two federal crimes is the Attribute.

## 6. Existential Process

Existential process involves processes showing the existence of something, which are typically realized through the "there is/are" construction (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). An example of an existential process is the clause, "So today there's Christianity in the South." In this clause, *Christianity* is the Existent.

### **B. Social Actor Representation**

Social Actor Representation is a key concept in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), particularly as developed by Theo van Leeuwen, which refers specifically to the way individuals, groups, or institutions involved in an event are portrayed, named, classified, or excluded in a text or discourse (Mourad, 2024). This representation involves a series of linguistic choices made intentionally or unintentionally by the writer or speaker, which aim to shape the roles, identities, and images of these actors in the eyes of the reader or listener. These choices determine the social status of the actors (whether they are given their full names, only functional titles, or even omitted altogether), their agency (whether they are portrayed as active, responsible actors or as passive recipients of an action), and

their level of aggregation (whether they are portrayed as specific individuals or as generalized groups) (Fernandes et al., 2024). Through its choices of representation, discourse effectively reflects, maintains, or challenges the power structures and ideologies that prevail in society, making the Representation of Social Actors a crucial tool for revealing who is considered important, who is blamed, and who is ignored in public narratives.

### **C. Gender Based Violence**

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is any kind of harm inflicted on an individual due to their gender identity. It stems from power imbalances and social expectations that perpetuate the superiority of one group over another. In legal and social contexts, GBV encompasses a wide spectrum of violence from physical and sexual violence to psychological manipulation and economic exploitation that often positions victims as passive figures in the narrative of violence (Kerr, 2022). However, as demonstrated in the analysis of the Cassie Ventura case, the recognition of GBV in public and legal spaces allows for a transformation of identity for survivors, where they shift from the position of victim to active agents capable of demanding accountability from perpetrators with significant influence. Thus, addressing GBV is not only about imposing legal consequences on perpetrators but also about validating survivors' experiences and dismantling unjust power structures to achieve gender equality and better protection of human rights (Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse et al., 2021).

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this chapter, researcher presents the methods of this research. Those are research design, data source, data collection, data triangulation and data analysis.

#### **A. Research Design**

This study used qualitative research because it sought to identify the perpetrators and victims in the Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs (Diddy) case use the definition and meaning. Qualitative research is a method of this study that uses the meaning, definition and description of an object to be studied, qualitative research is also an approach to understand the meaning. Qualitative research is a method that can be used to understanding meaning, and explaining in detail the object to be studied according to Creswell (2014). The researcher chose to use qualitative research because they wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the definition and meaning of Cassie's statement in her CNN interview in order to identify who the perpetrator and who the victim was. The researcher chose to use social actor representation theory to study this. Transitivity analysis was also used to help analyze this research.

#### **B. Data Source**

Data used for this research consists of words, phrases, and sentences from an interview conducted between the interviewer and lawyer of Cassie Ventura in a video format. Data was obtained from an interview aired at CNN official YouTube channel on July 3, 2025. This is the link for data used as objects:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wWwor2pJWo>. However, the investigator did not analyze the entire interview. The data was collected using purposive sampling; it means that only certain statements which are relevant to the research topic were considered (Creswell, 2014). The investigator paid attention to certain statements made by the interviewer and lawyer of Cassie Ventura. The data was chosen because such statements contained transitivity processes which are important in understanding how language can encode experiences and meaning in a discourse. The data was selected with consideration to its importance to the goals of the research, especially regarding material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes as suggested by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004).

### **C. Data Collection**

In the data collection process, the researcher carried out several systematic steps. First, the researcher searched for interview videos on CNN's official YouTube channel that were relevant to the topic of the study. After reviewing several available videos, the researcher selected an interview published on July 3, 2025, featuring a conversation between the interviewer and Cassie Ventura's lawyer as the source of the data.

Second, the researcher carefully watched and listened to the selected interview several times in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the conversation and ensure the accuracy of the data. Subsequently, the spoken utterances in the interview were transcribed into written form to facilitate further analysis.

Third, the researcher identified and selected utterances relevant to the focus of the study. The data selection was based on purposive sampling, meaning that only utterances containing transitivity elements were included in the analysis (Creswell, 2014). The selected data consisted of utterances produced by both the interviewer and Cassie Ventura's lawyer. Finally, the researcher analyzed the selected utterances by classifying them into transitivity process types to examine how social actors are represented in the discourse. The analysis was conducted based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2004) transitivity framework.

#### **D. Data Triangulation**

In this study, triangulation was used as an approach to improve the reliability of the findings. Given the inability to get confirmation of the data obtained from the interviews, the researcher used supervisor validation as a method that complements triangulation. After gathering the data, transcribing it, and analyzing it using the transitivity approach by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), the findings were discussed with the research supervisor. The supervisor evaluated whether the transitivity process classification was consistent with the research objectives and theoretical framework. The findings were modified where necessary, thus ensuring objectivity in analysis.

#### **E. Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the researcher focused on sentences from the transcript of Cassie Ventura's video interview, relying on the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). SFL consists of three metafunctions,

namely Ideational Metafunction, Interpersonal Metafunction, and Textual Metafunction. This study focused on Transitivity Analysis as part of the Ideational Metafunction, which explains how language represents human experience and the external world through processes, participants, and circumstances.

The data analysis was conducted through several steps. First, the researcher carefully read and re-read the transcript of Cassie Ventura's video interview. Second, the researcher identified and selected utterances relevant to the research focus. Third, the selected data were classified based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2004) Transitivity framework, including process types, participants, and circumstances. The identification was carried out by analyzing the main verbs as processes, subjects and objects as participants, and contextual information such as time, place, and manner as circumstances.

After the classification process, the researcher interpreted the data based on Transitivity Analysis to explain how language constructs meaning in the discourse. The analysis aimed to reveal how social actors, particularly Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs, were represented in the text, as well as how issues of gender-based violence (GBV) were constructed within the legal discourse.

Transitivity is at the heart of SFL's Ideational Metafunction, which serves to map how language constructs our experience of the world through six main types of processes, each with its own participants and states. Material processes focus on actions involving physical change or doing something (e.g., catching, building), with the main participants being the Actor (performer) and, if applicable, the Target

(the recipient of the action). Mental Processes involve cognition, feeling, or perception (e.g., knowing, feeling, seeing), whose main participants are the Feeler (Senser) and the Phenomenon (that which is felt or thought). Relational Processes are used to define, identify, or attribute qualities (e.g., is, has, becomes), whose main participants are divided into the Carrier and the Attribute (the quality), or the Identified and the Identifier. The Verbal Process relates to saying or communicating something (e.g., stating, saying, promising), with the main participants being the Sayer and the Target or Verbiage. Behavioral processes bridge the mental and material, referring to physiological or psychological behavior (e.g., breathing, smiling, crying), whose main participants are called Behavers. Finally, the Existential Process serves to state that something exists (e.g., exists, happens), with its sole participant called the Existent. All of these processes, together with various Circumstances that provide contextual information (time, place, manner), form a system that reveals how reality and social agency are represented in a discourse.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, researcher would present research findings and discussion. In findings, the researcher used Transitivity Analysis from ideational metafunction and Social Actor Representation to analyze data, which would be explained in more detail in discussion below.

#### A. Findings

The researcher analyze findings using Transitivity Analysis theories. In this study, these theories were applied to the data to identify the researcher' objectives, as the data consisted of complete utterances, allowing for a comprehensive analysis grounded in the research questions. The detailed distribution of these findings is presented in Table 4.1

**Table 4.1** Analysis of Social Actor Representation Through Transitivity Process Types

| No | Actor             | Process  | Frequency |
|----|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. | Cassie Ventura    | Material | 11        |
|    |                   | Verbal   | 1         |
| 2. | Sean Combs Pdiddy | Material | 7         |
| 3. | The world/society | Material | 1         |

From Table 4.1, it can be observed that material process is the dominant process type utilized in portraying the social actors in the sexual abuse case of Cassie Ventura-P. Diddy. In this regard, there are eleven occurrences of material process and one instance of verbal process used to represent Cassie Ventura, while there are seven instances of material process used to represent Sean Combs (P. Diddy). At the same time, there is one instance of material process used to represent

the world/society actor. Hence, this analysis indicates that social actors are mostly described using the actions and incidents taking place in the discourse.

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), material processes pertain to actions or events involving doing or happening. The dominance of material process in the current discourse implies that the actions and experiences associated with the case gain prominence in this discourse. Therefore, the two social actors, Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs, are portrayed more through the reported incidents than through their mental states, emotions, or personal attributes.

These findings show the role played by transitivity in portraying the social actors in GBV discourse. The dominance of material processes emphasizes the reported incidents in the discourse, thus putting these actions and events at the center of portrayal of the social actors. Consequently, the social roles of the social actors in the discourse are created through what they do, what happens to them, and how they engage in the reported incidents.

Details of the table would be more explained in excerpt below:

**Table 4.2** Excerpt 1: Cassie prompted this investigation.

|            |        |          |                     |
|------------|--------|----------|---------------------|
| Excerpt 1  | Cassie | Prompted | This investigations |
| Ideational | Actor  | Material | Goal                |

The data above describes concrete actions that utilize the material process of the ideational metafunction. Specifically, Cassie acts as the active agent who takes concrete action. “Prompted” represents the material process, and “this investigation” represents the goal. This sentence illustrates Cassie’s concrete

actions as the active agent the primary figure who prompted legal authorities to launch an investigation into Sean Diddy Combs.

The article related to the sentence above is titled “Sean Diddy Combs Sentenced to 50 Months in Prison in Prostitution Case.” The article explains that Sean Diddy Combs was sentenced to 50 months in prison and ordered to pay a fine of \$500,000. The sentence was handed down after Sean Diddy Combs portrayed the women as victims, one of whom was Cassie Ventura.

**Table 4.3** Excerpt 2: She could file a civil lawsuit

|            |       |            |                 |
|------------|-------|------------|-----------------|
| Excerpt 2  | She   | Could file | A civil lawsuit |
| Ideational | Actor | Material   | Goal            |

The data above describes the anticipated concrete actions involving the material process of the ideational metafunction. She, as the actor Cassie Ventura holds power within the legal system. She can then initiate the material process, which involves physical actions. The civil lawsuit serves as the goal in this process. This sentence illustrates Cassie Ventura’s power within the legal system, which has a direct impact on Sean Diddy Combs.

The article related to the above statement appears in a New York Times report (2023). It details the legal action taken by Cassie Ventura against Sean Diddy Combs. The report explains Cassie Ventura’s role as the primary plaintiff who took concrete action by filing a lawsuit under the Adult Victims Act, thereby turning the civil lawsuit into a legal reality.

**Table 4.4** Excerpt 3: She could accept an eight-figure settlement offer

|            |       |              |                               |
|------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Excerpt 3  | She   | Could accept | Eight-figure settlement offer |
| Ideational | Actor | Material     | Goal                          |

The data above indicates the use of substantive law because it involves concrete actions. She acts as the party with full authority over her own legal control. This substantive law is illustrated in the phrase “can accept,” which signifies the existence of physical and legal actions of a transactional nature. And the settlement offer worth tens of millions of dollars as a resolution to the issue serves as its object because Cassie Ventura rejected that offer.

The article relate to the data above is a news report validates Cassie’s position as an Actor possessing extraordinary agency; she not only had capacity to accept the financial assets but actively choose to reject them for pursuit of truth. This demonstrates that the Goal in the sentence namely, “an eight-figure settlement offer” was utilized by the opposing party as a material instrument to maintain power and silence the victim’s voice.

**Table 4.5** Excerpt 4: She turned away the money at first

|           |       |             |           |              |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Excerpt 4 | She   | Turned away | The money | At first     |
|           | Actor | Material    | Goal      | Circumstance |

The data above show a real act of physical and principled refusal through the Material Process structure. She show the position of the Actor, possessing the agency or moral authority to take control of a complex financial situation. The use of the verb phrase “turned away” as a material process indicates a real action to reject or refuse the proposed settlement in order to uphold her legal integrity. The object “the money” functions as the Goal.

The article that related to the data above is providing a great context for Cassie act of rejection. Within the framework of transitivity this report demonstrates Cassie status as an Actor of high integrity her act of “turning away” is not a figure of speech. Is a strategic decision to undermine Sean Combs financial dominance. Money serves as the Goal in this sentence is positioned by this article as an instrument of “silencing” that failed to fulfill its function due to the moral agency of the subject.

**Table 4.6** Excerpt 5: She went through a year-long process of preparing for this trial

|           |       |              |                                                 |
|-----------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Excerpt 5 | She   | Went through | a year-long process of preparing for this trial |
|           | Actor | Material     | Scope/goal                                      |

The data above indicate concrete action because Cassie Ventura have witness. She acts as the Actor who actively under and is directly involved in every stage of the complex legal preparation. Use of the phrasal verb “went through” as a material process emphasize the subject physical and mental resilience in navigating a long and challenging phase in the objective world. Then, the phrase “a year-long process of preparing for this trial” functions as the goal defining the one-year timeframe as well as goal of the intensive activities undertaken by the subject.

The article that related to the data above is a news report underscores Cassie role as a Actor she was actively engaged in the Scope of the work which included gathering evidence and mental preparation over the course of a full year. This examine that the success of the legal process was the result of planned and systematic material actions carried out by Cassie in the objective world, which enabled her to transform from a survivor into a highly prepared plaintiff in the courtroom.

**Table 4.7** Excerpt 6: She shined a light on this

|           |       |          |                 |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| Excerpt 6 | She   | Shined   | A light on this |
|           | Actor | Material | Goal            |

The data above illustrates revelation the person acted by her serves as the Actor, who is endowed with agency to proactively resolve the problem. In particular, the verb “shined” used as a material process demonstrates the real effect produced by transparency because of the subject's boldness. At that, the word “a light” works as the Goal, which refers to the truth and legal evidences shown.

The article that related to data above is news that report Cassie's actions influence public disclosure. In her account, Cassie clearly states, “After years in silence and darkness, I am finally ready to tell my story.” This statement supports the role of Cassie as an Actor who intentionally ended a period of darkness through bringing a goal, “light” (truth and evidence), to the public domain. Other media sources indicate that her bravery in “shedding light” on the issue caused a cascade of legal actions and investigations.

**Table 4.8** Excerpt 7: She came forward

|           |       |          |         |
|-----------|-------|----------|---------|
| Excerpt 7 | She   | Came     | Forward |
|           | Actor | Material | Goal    |

The data above is exemplifies a notable physical and social action. She who performs the role of an Actor as someone who has enough power to come out of the closet and make her voice heard. The material process of coming forward makes clear the subject’s move towards public action with a desire for justice. Came show that concrete action by Cassie.

The article related to the information above explains that Cassie Ventura used the pseudonym Jane Doe. She then publicly admitted that she had filed a report against Sean “Diddy” Combs. This was a bold and decisive act in defense of her rights. As a result, her actions were so powerful and impactful that they transformed her situation from being a victim to becoming someone who fighting for her human rights.

**Table 4.9** Excerpt 8: She filed that civil suit in November 2023

|           |       |          |                 |                  |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Excerpt 8 | She   | Filed    | That civil suit | In November 2023 |
|           | Actor | Material | Goal            | Circumstances    |

The data above provides an example of a genuine legal action. She serving as the Actor performing legal actions by exercising her legal rights so that changes could be brought about in the situation. The utilization of the verb “filed” as a material process shows that this particular action is a proper legal act, one that carries implications in the real world. The clause “that civil suit” refers to the Goal.

The article that related to data above is a civil lawsuit brought by Cassie to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The legal papers contain charges of violations of human trafficking laws for sexual purposes and physical assault inflicted on her by Sean Combs during several years. This piece of news offers a strong support to the analysis of Material Process of the word “filed,” proving that it represents an official administration act that really happened.

**Table 4.10** Excerpt 9: She had to engage in days-long sexual acts

|           |       |                  |                       |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Excerpt 9 | She   | Had to engage in | days-long sexual acts |
|           | Actor | Material         | Goal/scope            |

The data above indicates trauma reality that She or Cassie Ventura have been identified as the Actor in the process of undergoing this chain of acts, however, her agency is restricted by use of the “had to” modal element, suggesting forcefulness involved. The material process verb “engage in” refers to the physical actions carried out in the real world and not out of the actor’s free would.

The article that related to data above is a news which disturbing information about forced sexual sessions that Sean Combs calls “Freak Offs”. Based on the lawsuit, Cassie states that she had been forced to have sex with male prostitutes while being observed by Combs and watched him perform obscene acts on himself. It should be mentioned that, according to the article, those sessions used to last several days during which illegal drugs were injected into Cassie’s body in order to keep her alert and awake, thus making her require IV fluids afterwards because of exhaustion and dehydration. This article gives rather good factual evidence for Material Process analysis of the clause to data above.

**Table 4.11** Excerpt 10: She testified when she was eight months pregnant

|            |       |           |                                    |
|------------|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Excerpt 10 | She   | Testified | When she was eight months pregnant |
|            | Sayer | Verbal    | Circumstances time                 |

The data above is regarded as a formal act of communication. She can be treated as a Sayer who delivers her own conception of the truth. By using such an expression as “testify,” we may assume that the act under consideration is not just the act of verbal process but a formally performed one with the aim to hold somebody accountable for something. Then, the whole subordinate clause “when she was eight months pregnant” serves as a Circumstance of Time which plays a vital role in constructing since it points out how courageous the Speaker really is.

The article that related to data above is the report, whose title is “Cassie’s Journey to Justice: Difficulties Facing High Profile Testimony”, states that when one of the major stages of the investigation process was taking place, Cassie Ventura was in her eight month of pregnancy. It is argued that while she was biologically very vulnerable, Cassie constantly presented sworn testimony in order to hold those responsible for the violence she experienced accountable.

**Table 4.12** Excerpt 11: She rejected an eight-figure settlement

|            |       |          |                            |
|------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| Excerpt 11 | She   | Rejected | an eight-figure settlement |
|            | Actor | Material | Goal                       |

The data above demonstrates how a real action can be represented. She becomes an Actor that physically executes an action in order to reject or refuse material offer. It should be pointed out that the usage of phrasal verb “turned down” becomes important for describing the action through Material Process structure since it becomes evident that it is not just an idea inside somebody’s mind but rather an action executed within the legal bargaining that stops the progress of financial process.

The article that related to the data above is a news that described as an eight-figure number, or tens of millions of dollars, in order to make the case go away. According to this news story, Cassie has flatly turned down the offer. Refusing to accept the proposed deal and choosing to sue the man openly can be perceived as a demonstration of her would to fight against all kinds of manipulations instead of getting rich fast. this news article serves as a material foundation for the usage of the Material Process structure involving the phrase "turned down".

**Table 4.13** Excerpt 12: She was thanking the prosecutors

|            |       |              |                 |
|------------|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| Excerpt 12 | She   | Was thanking | The prosecutors |
|            | Actor | Material     | Goal            |

The data above shown a real action of Cassie Ventura. She is considered as an Actor in that she acts towards the legal team expressing gratitude for their efforts. Through the use of the Material Process on the phrase “was thanking”, it shows how the idea is not simply an inner feeling but how Cassie uses an action to create relationships while acknowledging the support of the legal system.

The article that related to data above is a current news item serves as proof for the usage of the Material Process structure on the “was thanking” verb form in that the action carried out is indeed a concrete action done formally to the public domain. Under transitivity analysis, the role of Cassie in the current media report serves as proof for the fact that she is considered to be an Actor in performing the following concrete action of appreciation.

**Table 4.14** Excerpt 13: Sean Combs stands before the court

|            |            |          |                  |
|------------|------------|----------|------------------|
| Excerpt 13 | Sean combs | Stands   | Before the court |
|            | Actor      | Material | Circumstances    |

The data above demonstrates physical reality in terms, “Sean Combs” is seen as an Actor who physically positions himself within the framework of the law. “stands,” emphasis is placed on the passive but still powerful physical act of being involved in the official proceedings of a trial. Then, “before the court” is a Circumstance of Location, which provides a powerful tone to the sentence by the Actor takes place under the jurisdiction of the judicial institution.

The article that related to the data above is the point where the music mogul was supposed to appear physically in the Manhattan’s Federal Court. It is stated that Combs appeared before the judge during the reading of the indictment of serious charges against him, like conspiracy to commit extortion and sex trafficking. In this report, we can see the sharp difference between his position of authority and his position at that point in time, when he was forced to obey the rules set by the U.S. judiciary and all actions and presence in court were carefully observed.

**Table 4.15** Excerpt 14: He told her what had to be done

|            |       |          |      |                     |
|------------|-------|----------|------|---------------------|
| Excerpt 14 | He    | Told     | Her  | What had to be done |
|            | Actor | Material | Goal | Circumstances       |

The data above is shown physical control achieved by way of instructions. “He” is the Actor who has full power and freedom in making decisions in real life. In understanding the verb as the physical process, we now look at the manner in which such instructions force “her,” who becomes the Goal here, to act out certain prearranged physical acts. “What had to be done” is a limiting element of the scope.

The article that relate to data above is news report, it can be seen that Combs issued very detailed instructions that included everything starting from the physical positioning up to the time that an activity should take place to Cassie Ventura and others working under him. analysis was correct since his words acted as physical orders that had to be followed regardless. According to the article, telling was a material act in such an environment whereby one has to tell for the scenario that he wants to come to pass by force if need be.

**Table 4.16** Excerpt 15: The world has seen her being horrifically beaten on camera

|            |           |          |      |                                     |
|------------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Excerpt 15 | The world | Has seen | Her  | Being horrifically beaten on camera |
|            | Actor     | Material | Goal | Circumstances                       |

The data above is constitutes a form of violence. “being horrifically beaten” serves as a Material Process depicting the shocking physical action being endured by “her” as the Goal/target of the violence. The passive construction is used to highlight the powerless state of the victim within the aggressive act.

The article that relate to data above report reveals the development of a CCTV footage released in 2016 revealing that Sean Combs physically attacked Cassie Ventura on the hotel corridor. The video captures Combs chasing, pushing, kicking, and dragging Ventura; this is precisely confirmed by the material process assessment of the woman being subjected to “horrific beating.”

**Table 4.17** Excerpt 16: He faces significant incarceration

|            |       |          |                           |
|------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| Excerpt 16 | He    | Faces    | Significant incarceration |
|            | Actor | Material | Goal                      |

The data above indicates occur in practice through the concept. “He” refers to the Actor who is literally compelled by the flow of the Criminal Justice process to be part of the process. “fcaes” implies the confrontation between the Actor and those state powers capable of limiting his movement. “Significant incarceration”. It is therefore obvious that the entire structure illustrates loss of free would by the Actor.

The article that relate to data above highlight the seriousness of the charges levelled against Sean Combs. The report notes that due to the federal charges levelled against him for conspiracy to commit extortion, sex trafficking, and

transportation with intent to engage in prostitution, Sean Combs is facing a mandatory 15 years in prison up to life imprisonment.

**Table 4.18** Excerpt 17: He is now a two-time convicted felon

|            |       |                   |                 |
|------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Excerpt 17 | He    | Is now a two time | Convicted felon |
|            | Actor | Material          | Goal            |

The data above is extensive chain of procedural steps take and. "He" is the Actor whose past actions have led to an actual and concrete result according to law. The employment of such procedure, deemed material, makes clear that this is not just a name, but something created by the real functioning of the legal institution from investigation to detention until finally the presentation of evidence in court.

The article that relate to data above includes how having such a status impacts on the individual's physical ability, for example, not being able to own any firearm, no international traveling and very strict control from the parole officers. With reference to the fact that the subject is convicted felon with two felony convictions (that is, the subject is a two-time convicted felon), the article notes that the subject now belongs to a class that qualifies for more severe punishments (mandatory minimums).

**Table 4.19** Excerpt 18: He told her for ten years

|            |       |          |      |               |
|------------|-------|----------|------|---------------|
| Excerpt 18 | He    | Told     | Her  | For ten years |
|            | Actor | Material | Goal | Circumstances |

The data above pattern of control that is systemic and enduring. "He" plays the role of the Actor who dictates reality, while his actions as the Goal are those of "her." Then, the verb "told" has been understood as being a material act rather than one of mere speaking, as in commanding her into a particular situation. The

Circumstance of Extent, “for ten years,” indicates that this act has been a part of an established system in which he has made her subordinate.

The article that relate to data above states that throughout this period, Sean Diddy Combs was controlling almost everything in the life of Cassie Ventura, from her activities on a daily basis, to what to wear and even whom to interact with. In addition, these sources are enough to prove that the use of “for ten years” in your analysis was correct because it is evident that the instructions were not just mere suggestions, but a means of controlling the survivor for a long time and in the real world.

**Table 4.20** Excerpt 19: Sean Combs would have denied that there was any physical incident

|            |            |                   |                                      |
|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Excerpt 19 | Sean combs | Would have denied | That there was any physical incident |
|            | Actor      | Material          | Goal                                 |

The data above is clearly about defend strategies. "Sean Combs" works here as the actor, exercising his communicative authority to negate reality. Then, the essence of the negation involves the subordinate clause based on the Existential Process, when the main idea of this strategy is the negation of the Existent "any physical incident

The article that relate to data above report Sean Diddy Combs denied the allegations stating that his side believed the accusations to be part of an extortion racket. According to Combs, no such event had taken place as alleged. This article supports analysis provided above, and shows how official denials can be used legally to discredit survivors.

**Table 4.21** Excerpt 20: Sean Combs would not have even been in a courtroom if not for her

|            |            |                                         |                |
|------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Excerpt 20 | Sean combs | Would not have even been in a courtroom | If not for her |
|            | Actor      | Material                                | Goal           |

The data above is clear cause and effect pattern. "Sean Combs" has been established as actor whose appearance in the "courtroom" is totally contingent on the actions of another. By using the conditional pattern here, it has been highlighted that the courtroom is not a location where the subject can enter of his own accord; he enters because of some situation created by her (Cassie Ventura).

The article that relate to data above reports the issue was that before filing his case, complaints against Sean Diddy Combs rarely took a legal turn. Clear that after the lawsuit filed by Cassie Ventura, many women came out to file cases and federal prosecutors were compelled to conduct a rigorous investigation that led to the trial of Sean Combs.

## B. Discussions

The researcher identified two actors Sean Diddy Combs and Cassie Ventura. The following table shows the number of social participants.

**Table 4.22** Representation of Social Actors Based on Transitivity Process Types and Frequency

| No | Social Participant             | Process  | Frequency |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. | Cassie Ventura as Actor        | Material | 11        |
|    | Cassie Ventura as Sayer        | Verbal   | 1         |
| 2. | Cassie Ventura as Goal         | Material | 4         |
| 3. | Sean Combs (P. Diddy) as Actor | Material | 7         |
| 4. | Sean Combs (P. Diddy) as Goal  | Material | 5         |

The first social participant is Cassie, who serves as the subject. Two processes were used: Verbal and Material. However, the Material process was

dominant. Cassie's role was dominant because she acted as the actor in the Material process. Linguistically, she possessed tangible actions and held more power than the actor, Sean Diddy Combs. As the actor, Cassie Ventura served as the primary reason behind Sean Diddy Combs' conviction. Furthermore, the report filed by Cassie Ventura as the victim of violence as the actor determined the final outcome.

The second social participant is Cassie Ventura as the object. Only one instance was identified in which Cassie Ventura served as the object. Cassie became the object in a traumatic incident she experienced while she was still in a relationship with Sean Diddy Combs. This is evidenced by the statement "...horribly beaten in front of the camera," in which Cassie Ventura was the object. This is a fact supported by evidence that has been widely circulated on social media in the form of a 2016 CCTV recording from a hotel where Sean Diddy Combs committed acts of violence against Cassie Ventura.

The phrase "he told her for ten years" indicates that Cassie Ventura suffered throughout her relationship with Sean Combs (Diddy). The ten years Cassie Ventura spent in that relationship portray her as an object. Therefore, it can be concluded that the way Cassie Ventura was treated which reduced her to an object is clear evidence that one day Sean Diddy Combs would be above the law, but Cassie Ventura, as the victim, would not remain silent.

The third social participant is Sean Diddy Combs as the subject. Sean Diddy Combs, as the subject, was also found to use only one process: material. Sean Diddy Combs became the dominant indicator of control over Cassie Ventura. That is, as

the oppressive actor, as demonstrated in the sentence “He told her what to do.” In the investigative report, based on data collected from interviews between Cassie’s attorney and the interviewer. Sean Diddy Combs is considered an actor who held control over Cassie Ventura while they were still in a relationship. Numerous media sources have served as witnesses, demonstrating concrete acts of violence committed by Sean Diddy Combs against Cassie Ventura.

The fourth and final social participant is Sean Diddy Combs as the object. According to the data collected, Sean Diddy Combs, as the object also primarily employs material processes. All the collected statements describe the transition of power from a position of dominance to that of an individual who has lost his power before the law. Based on legal documents and media reports, Sean Diddy Combs’s role is that of an object. A sign that Sean Diddy Combs has become an object is that he now holds the new status of a prisoner and is compelled to attend court hearings.

The primary focus of this study is to use material analysis to identify and analyze which party holds more power and which holds less. Specifically, the study examines who is the dominant figure between Cassie Ventura and Sean Diddy Combs. Therefore, the researcher collected data related to Cassie Ventura and Sean Diddy Combs to determine the social actor representation of both individuals. The material process is primarily used because it identifies concrete, physical actions. It is also useful for identifying shifts in which party holds power.

The findings of this study show that material processes are the most frequently used transitivity process in the data, followed by verbal and relational

processes. This indicates that the discourse is mainly constructed through actions and events involving social actors. The dominance of material processes suggests that the text emphasizes concrete actions and real-world events related to the representation of Cassie Ventura and Sean Combs. In contrast, verbal processes appear less frequently, indicating that speech-related activities are not the main focus of the discourse. This pattern shows that the representation in the data is more action-oriented rather than communicative or cognitive.

The results from this study have some similarities and differences from other studies in the past. For example, Brookes and Chałupnik (2023) showed that mental processes dominated newspaper headlines, but in this study, material processes dominated the discourse of interviews. This could be explained by the type of data used since interviews contain more concrete actions. In addition, El Fallaki (2026) and Hoa (2021) found that material processes also dominated in news discourse on civic engagement, consistent with this study's findings.

Additionally, Mourad (2023) and Munandar & Akmal (2023) also indicated that material processes commonly occurred in media discourse, especially for cases that contained social issues and representation. From the comparisons above, it can be seen that even though transitivity structures may differ based on discourse types, material processes dominated texts that involved actions and events.

On the other hand, the current study is different from several earlier ones because of the greater occurrence of material processes and thus a focus on more action-related content. It can be assumed that the cause for this is the character of

the analyzed data. For example, while certain earlier studies looked into political speeches, literary texts, or news pieces that mainly used relational, verbal, or mental processes to state opinions, evaluations, or interpersonal meaning, the current study analyzes an interview concerning accusations of abuse and a court case. It is only natural that in such a situation the lawyer will have to provide descriptions of concrete actions and events, which makes material processes prevail. Hence, the current findings add an original perspective to the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics.

Results of this study not only corroborate but also resonate with the theoretical perspective chosen for the study, which is the ideational metafunction within the Systemic Functional Linguistics. Such resonance proves the relevance and validity of this theory in understanding how social acts and events can be represented using transitivity. Even though the current study makes use of just one aspect of the Systemic Functional Linguistic theory proposed by Halliday – the ideational metafunction – it still offers a systematic way to understand how representations of abuse, legal action, and justice are created.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

This chapter would discuss the conclusions drawn from the findings and results of the above research, and would also provide suggestion for future the researcher.

#### **A. Conclusion**

From the analysis findings, it is possible to come up with several conclusions as follows:

1. The social role of Cassie Ventura is largely constituted through material processes that highlight her involvement in actions and events in the discourse. In addition, there is a minor involvement of the verbal process since her representation focuses more on actions than on mental states and personality characteristics.
2. The social role of Sean Combs (P. Diddy) is largely influenced by material processes that show his involvement in actions and events in connection with the case. This implies that his representation in the discourse focuses more on actions than feelings and descriptions.
3. On the whole, the representation of the social actors in the Cassie Ventura–P. Diddy sexual abuse case is largely dominated by material processes. This is because the discourse tends to favor actions, incidents, and events.

## **B. Suggestion**

A limitation of this study is that it relied on only a single data source. Consequently, the data collected is limited. therefore, future research could utilize two to three videos as data sources. This study used an interview with attorney Cassie Ventura as a representative of Cassie Ventura. Future research could seek out videos involving similar cases to serve as additional data sources. This study also focuses on a single theory, namely transitivity analysis, because the researcher wanted to deepen the study to achieve its objectives. However, for future research, it is recommended to use all the theories presented in MK Halliday's work, as well as additional theories such as CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) and many other theory that can use in this case.

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Laura Vrisila** was born in Malang, January 25th, 2004. She graduated from SMA Raudlatul Ulum 2. Then started her education at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang majoring in English Literature in 2021. During college, she attends organization and other campus activities.

## APPENDIX

### Appendix 1. Interview Evidence from YouTube Video



- Video Title: *CNN Exclusive: Cassie Ventura's Lawyer Reacts to 'Diddy' Verdict*
- Channel/Owner: CNN
- Upload Date: 3 July 2025
- Access Date: 5 May 2025, 6:05 p.m.
- Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wWwor2pJWo>
- Interview Transcript (Key Issues) : The video consists of an interview of Douglas Wigdor who represents Cassie Ventura in her case, discussing the trial outcome for Sean "Diddy" Combs and explaining the involvement of Cassie in the federal case against him.
- Key Issues :
  1. The lawyer of Cassie shared mixed feelings about the verdict in Sean Combs' case. Despite the acquittal of Mr. Combs on charges of RICO and sex trafficking, the jury found him guilty on two felony charges, which is a major result in the case.
  2. Cassie herself rejected an eight figure settlement with a non-disclosure agreement before filing her civil suit in November 2023, and her actions were the reason for starting the federal case.
  3. It was noted that Cassie showed great strength of character by talking about her story despite the trauma and public pressure, which resulted in many other women coming forward with similar allegations against the defendant.

4. Mr. Wigdor dismissed the suggestion that Cassie is the winner due to receiving monetary compensation. He stressed that nothing can replace the abuse and suffering she went through for years.
5. Cassie gave her testimony while she was eight months pregnant and then decided to focus on her family once her testimony was completed. The attorney revealed that she wanted to continue moving forward with her life instead of dwelling on the case.
6. Her lawyer revealed that Cassie's case inspired many more civil suits against Sean Combs and encouraged survivors of the abuse to come forth with their stories.
7. Cassie had not previously seen the hotel security video footage until it was aired by CNN. According to her attorney, this video footage supported very well the allegations made in the civil suit she filed.
8. Even though the case brought some charges against him and he was not found guilty in all the charges, the lawyer highlighted that it is because the burden of proof in the criminal court is far greater than in the civil court.
9. Her husband, Alex Fine, and her family members offered great emotional support during the whole process. Therapy and rehabilitation have allowed Cassie to start recovering from years of abuse, according to her lawyer.
10. In summary, the lawyer remarked that Cassie is proud of her choice to speak out about her situation. He thinks history will remember her bravery since it not only helped convict Sean Combs but also inspired others to do the same.