

Clause Complex Analysis in CNN and Reuters News Reports: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective

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Abstract

Within Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), clause complex relations play an important role in organizing information and constructing meaning in discourse. While previous studies have primarily focused on identifying and classifying clause complex patterns, limited attention has been given to how such grammatical choices reflect communicative purposes in news reporting. Therefore, this study investigates the clause complex structures employed in CNN and Reuters news reports concerning the trade agreement between Indonesia and the United States. Specifically, the study aims to identify interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations, compare the clause complex patterns used by both news organizations, and explain how these patterns reflect different journalistic communication strategies. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, the study analyzed two online news reports through Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) clause complex framework. The findings revealed that hypotaxis was the dominant interdependency relation, occurring 34 times in CNN and 10 times in Reuters, while enhancement and projection: locution were the most frequent logical-semantic relations, each occurring 19 times. The results suggest that both news organizations employed clause complex structures to contextualize events and support source attribution. However, CNN utilized more hypotactic constructions and contextual explanations, indicating a tendency toward explanatory reporting, whereas Reuters emphasized concise reporting through direct presentation of facts and official statements. These findings demonstrate that clause complex relations function not only as grammatical resources but also as strategic communicative tools through which journalists organize information and shape audience interpretation. The study contributes to clause complex research by extending the analysis from structural description to the examination of communicative functions in international news discourse. This study contributes to media discourse studies by demonstrating that clause complex relations function not only as grammatical resources but also as strategic communicative tools that shape audience interpretation in economic news reporting.

Keywords: clause complex, systemic functional linguistics, news discourse, CNN, Reuters

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in constructing meaning and facilitating communication within social contexts. From the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), language is viewed as a social semiotic system that enables individuals to represent experiences, establish interpersonal relationships, and organize messages effectively (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Similarly, Pasaribu et al. (2020) argue that linguistic structures function as meaning-making resources that allow language users to communicate ideas across various discourse contexts. Consequently, the study of grammatical structures is essential for understanding how meaning is organized and conveyed in different types of texts.

One discourse genre that heavily relies on grammatical organization is news discourse. News texts are designed not only to report events but also to explain, interpret, and contextualize information for readers. In contemporary journalism, journalists frequently employ complex

grammatical constructions to compress large amounts of information into concise and coherent reports (Nurjamin et al., 2023). Moreover, linguistic choices influence how readers interpret events, evaluate information, and understand social realities represented in news discourse (Aisaro & Suhardi, 2023). Therefore, examining grammatical patterns in news texts can provide valuable insights into how media organizations construct meaning and present information.

Within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, one important aspect of grammatical organization is the clause complex. A clause complex consists of two or more clauses linked through interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). According to Brata (2012), clause complexes enable language users to represent complex experiences and establish logical connections between ideas. Through clause complex structures, writers can elaborate information, extend meanings, provide circumstantial explanations, and project statements or thoughts. As a result, clause complexes play an important role in organizing information and constructing coherent discourse.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) classify interdependency relations into parataxis and hypotaxis. Parataxis refers to relationships between clauses of equal status, while hypotaxis involves relationships between dependent and independent clauses. These grammatical choices are not merely structural variations but serve different communicative purposes. Hypotactic constructions are often used to provide explanations, causes, conditions, and background information, whereas paratactic constructions are commonly employed to present information in a more direct and coordinated manner (Brata, 2012). Consequently, analyzing the distribution of parataxis and hypotaxis may reveal how writers organize information and achieve particular communicative goals.

In addition to interdependency relations, clause complexes involve logical-semantic relations, including expansion and projection (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Expansion consists of elaboration, extension, and enhancement, while projection includes locution and idea. These relations allow writers to clarify information, add new meanings, establish causal and temporal connections, and report speech or thought. According to Salam et al. (2018) and Kailani (2017), logical-semantic relations contribute significantly to the complexity and informativeness of a text. Therefore, investigating these relations can help explain how grammatical structures support meaning construction in discourse.

Previous studies have demonstrated the usefulness of Systemic Functional Linguistics in analyzing various discourse genres. Salam et al. (2018) found that complex grammatical structures contribute to the scientific characteristics of academic texts. Jupply and Widyastuti (2021) reported that linguistic resources play an important role in organizing meaning within research article abstracts. Similarly, Salaras et al. (2025) revealed that grammatical patterns provide insights into students' writing development. These studies indicate that clause-level

analysis is valuable for understanding meaning construction across different forms of discourse.

Systemic Functional Linguistics has also been applied to other discourse contexts. Yuliawan and Shomary (2024) analyzed exposition texts and demonstrated that SFL effectively reveals textual organization and meaning construction. Harahap et al. (2024) examined narrative discourse through SFL and found that grammatical patterns contribute to the development of narrative meanings. Furthermore, Lubis and Cahya (2025) investigated headline construction on social media and reported that linguistic choices are closely related to communicative purposes. Ulfiana, Sunra, and Fauzan (2025) also demonstrated that integrating grammar and writing instruction through SFL improves students' cohesion and coherence in EFL writing. These studies collectively suggest that grammatical structures function as strategic resources for achieving particular discourse objectives.

In the field of media discourse, several researchers have employed Systemic Functional Linguistics to investigate news texts. Aisaro and Suhardi (2023) analyzed transitivity and context of situation in news discourse, while Nurjain et al. (2023) examined socio-cognitive elements in online news using a multimodal perspective. However, these studies primarily focused on transitivity, multimodality, and discourse representation rather than clause complex structures. More importantly, previous studies generally concentrated on identifying grammatical patterns without extensively explaining how specific clause complex choices contribute to the communicative purposes of news organizations.

Although clause complex analysis has been conducted in various discourse contexts, including academic texts, research article abstracts, exposition texts, narrative discourse, and media-related texts, most previous studies have primarily focused on identifying and classifying grammatical patterns rather than explaining the communicative motivations underlying those patterns (Salam et al., 2018; Juppy & Widyastuti, 2021; Yuliawan & Shomary, 2024; Harahap et al., 2024). Existing studies have successfully demonstrated the occurrence of interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations in different genres; however, they generally emphasize structural descriptions and frequency distributions of clause complexes (Salaras et al., 2025; Darong & Regus, 2024). As a result, the functional reasons why certain clause complex relations are preferred in particular discourse contexts remain insufficiently explored.

This limitation is also evident in studies of media discourse. Previous research has examined news texts through transitivity analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, and socio-cognitive approaches to reveal how meanings are represented in news reporting (Aisaro & Suhardi, 2023; Nurjain et al., 2023). Nevertheless, limited attention has been given to the relationship between clause complex patterns and journalistic communication strategies. In particular, little research has investigated how different news organizations employ clause complex structures to organize information, construct context, and guide readers' interpretations when reporting the same event. Consequently, there remains a need for research that moves beyond the

identification of grammatical patterns to explain how clause complex choices function as strategic linguistic resources in news discourse (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Brata, 2012). To address this gap, the present study investigates clause complex structures in CNN and Reuters news reports concerning the trade agreement between Indonesia and the United States. Specifically, the study examines interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations as realized in both news reports and explores the communicative motivations underlying their use. By comparing two international news organizations reporting the same event, this study seeks to explain how grammatical choices contribute to different ways of organizing information and constructing news discourse.

Therefore, this study aims to (1) identify the interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations employed in CNN and Reuters news reports, (2) compare the clause complex patterns used by both news organizations, and (3) explain how those grammatical patterns reflect different journalistic communication strategies in reporting the same economic event.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory developed by Halliday that views language as a social semiotic resource for meaning-making rather than merely a system of grammatical rules (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Within this framework, language functions to represent experiences, establish social relationships, and organize messages into coherent discourse. Therefore, linguistic choices are understood as functional resources that speakers and writers employ to achieve specific communicative purposes (Pasaribu et al., 2020).

Because SFL emphasizes the relationship between language and meaning, it has been widely applied in discourse analysis. Through this perspective, grammatical structures are not interpreted solely as formal patterns but as strategic resources that shape how information is organized and understood in different contexts (Darong & Regus, 2024).

A clause complex refers to a sequence of two or more clauses that are logically connected within a single grammatical unit (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). According to Brata (2012), clause complexes enable language users to represent complex experiences and establish logical relationships among ideas, events, and circumstances. Through clause complexes, writers can elaborate information, add new meanings, explain causes and consequences, and report speech or thought.

In news discourse, clause complexes play a particularly important role because journalists must communicate large amounts of information while maintaining coherence and clarity. Consequently, the selection of clause complex patterns may reflect not only grammatical preferences but also broader communicative objectives.

Interdependency relations describe the degree of dependency between clauses within a clause complex. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) classify interdependency relations into parataxis and hypotaxis. Parataxis refers to a relationship between clauses of equal status in which each clause can function independently. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), paratactic

relations are commonly used to present information sequentially, coordinate multiple events, or add information without creating hierarchical relationships between clauses.

From a communicative perspective, parataxis often contributes to concise and direct information delivery because each clause receives relatively equal prominence (Brata, 2012). In news discourse, paratactic constructions may be used when journalists seek to present several facts efficiently and allow readers to process information quickly. Therefore, the use of parataxis may indicate a preference for straightforward and information-centered reporting.

Hypotaxis refers to a relationship between a dominant clause and a dependent clause. Unlike parataxis, hypotactic constructions establish hierarchical relationships that enable writers to explain causal, temporal, conditional, and circumstantial connections among events (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

According to Brata (2012), hypotaxis allows writers to provide contextual information and elaborate relationships between ideas. In journalistic discourse, hypotactic constructions can help reporters explain causes, consequences, motivations, and background information related to an event. Therefore, a high frequency of hypotaxis may indicate a tendency toward explanatory reporting in which readers are guided to understand not only what happened but also why and how it happened.

Logical-semantic relations describe the semantic relationships established between clauses within a clause complex. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) classify these relations into expansion and projection. Expansion occurs when one clause expands the meaning of another clause. Expansion consists of elaboration, extension, and enhancement.

Elaboration occurs when one clause restates, clarifies, specifies, or comments on information presented in another clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Through elaboration, writers provide additional explanations that assist readers in understanding information more clearly. In news discourse, elaboration may be employed when journalists provide further details about events, participants, or situations. Consequently, the use of elaboration can indicate an effort to improve clarity and comprehension.

Extension occurs when one clause adds new information to another clause through addition, variation, contrast, or alternative relationships (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This relation enables writers to broaden the scope of information while maintaining coherence among ideas. In journalistic writing, extension may function to introduce additional facts, contrasting perspectives, or related developments surrounding an event. Therefore, extension contributes to the comprehensiveness of news reporting.

Enhancement occurs when one clause provides circumstantial information concerning time, place, cause, condition, purpose, or manner (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This relation is particularly important because it establishes logical connections among events.

According to Salam et al. (2018), enhancement contributes significantly to textual informativeness by explaining how events are related. In news discourse, enhancement may

indicate a journalistic effort to contextualize events and help readers understand the circumstances surrounding a reported issue.

Projection occurs when one clause projects another clause as speech or thought (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Projection consists of locution and idea.

Locution refers to the projection of speech through reporting verbs such as said, stated, announced, and explained. In news discourse, locution is particularly important because journalists frequently rely on quotations and reported speech to support credibility and objectivity.

Consequently, a high occurrence of locution may indicate that a news report places strong emphasis on source attribution and evidential support.

Idea refers to the projection of thoughts, beliefs, expectations, assumptions, or opinions (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Unlike locution, idea focuses on mental processes rather than spoken statements.

Because hard news reporting generally prioritizes factual statements and official sources, idea relations tend to occur less frequently. Nevertheless, they remain important for representing expectations, interpretations, and viewpoints regarding particular events.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Qualitative research was selected because the study aimed not only to identify clause complex patterns but also to interpret their communicative functions in news discourse. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research enables researchers to explore and interpret meanings embedded in textual data. Through this approach, the present study analyzed how interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations were utilized in news reports and how these grammatical choices potentially reflected different journalistic communication strategies.

The data of this study consisted of two international online news articles reporting the same economic event, namely the trade agreement between Indonesia and the United States. The first article was published by CNN under the title “Striking trade deal with US was an ‘extraordinary struggle,’ Indonesia says.” The second article was published by Reuters and reported the same event from a different journalistic perspective.

The two articles were selected purposively because they discussed the same topic while representing different international news organizations. This selection enabled a comparative analysis of how clause complex structures were employed to organize information and construct news discourse within the same reporting context.

The data were collected through documentation techniques. The researcher first obtained the news articles from the official websites of CNN and Reuters. Subsequently, the articles were carefully read several times to gain a comprehensive understanding of their content.

The data collection process involved four stages:

1. Reading the news articles thoroughly.
2. Identifying all clause complexes appearing in the texts.
3. Segmenting the clause complexes into individual clauses.
4. Classifying the clause complexes according to interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) framework.

The identified clause complexes were then organized into analytical tables to facilitate classification and comparison.

The data were analyzed using the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), which consists of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing.

Data Condensation

At this stage, the researcher selected and categorized clause complexes found in the news articles. Each clause complex was identified and classified according to the types of interdependency relations (parataxis and hypotaxis) and logical-semantic relations (elaboration, extension, enhancement, locution, and idea).

Data Display

After classification, the data were presented in tables showing the frequency and distribution of clause complex relations in both CNN and Reuters news reports. Representative examples were also provided to illustrate the occurrence of each category.

Conclusion Drawing and Interpretation

The final stage involved interpreting the findings based on Systemic Functional Linguistics theory. The researcher examined not only the frequency of clause complex patterns but also their potential communicative functions in news discourse. Particular attention was given to

how different clause complex relations contributed to information organization, contextualization, explanation, and source attribution. Through this interpretation, the study sought to explain how grammatical choices may reflect different journalistic communication strategies employed by CNN and Reuters when reporting the same event.

To enhance analytical reliability, the classification of clause complexes was conducted using the theoretical framework proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). Each identified clause complex was analyzed systematically according to established categories of interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations. Furthermore, the classification results were reviewed repeatedly to ensure consistency and accuracy throughout the analysis process.

RESULTS

The analysis identified two interdependency relations in the CNN and Reuters news reports, namely parataxis and hypotaxis. Their distribution is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of Interdependency Relations

Type	CNN	Reuters
Parataxis	18	5
Hypotaxis	34	10
Total	52	15

The findings indicate that hypotaxis was the dominant interdependency relation in both news reports. CNN contained 34 hypotactic relations and 18 paratactic relations, whereas Reuters contained 10 hypotactic relations and 5 paratactic relations.

Example of Hypotaxis in CNN:

“After first announcing the agreement on Truth Social, Trump told reporters that Indonesia would not charge any tariffs on American exports.”

Clause	Relation
Trump told reporters	Dominant
After first announcing the agreement on Truth Social	Dependent

The dependent clause provides temporal circumstances for the dominant clause and is therefore classified as hypotaxis.

Example of Hypotaxis in Reuters:

“Nasbi said Prabowo had also negotiated directly with Trump over the phone, without giving further details.”

Clause	Relation
Nasbi said Prabowo had also negotiated directly with Trump over the phone	Dominant
without giving further details	Dependent

The second clause depends on the first clause and provides additional circumstantial information, indicating a hypotactic relationship.

Example of Parataxis in CNN:

“Trump’s volatile trade policy has paralyzed many businesses. Some fear that new orders they place for products manufactured overseas could be tarified at dramatically higher rates.”

The two clauses present related information with equal status and can stand independently. Therefore, the relation is classified as parataxis.

The analysis identified five logical-semantic relations, namely elaboration, extension, enhancement, projection: locution, and projection: idea. Their distribution is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of Logical-Semantic Relations

Relation	Total
Elaboration	15
Extension	11
Enhancement	19
Projection: Locution	19
Projection: Idea	3

Enhancement and projection: locution were the most dominant categories, each occurring 19 times.

Example of Enhancement:

“The agreement calls for the US imposing a 19% tariff on Indonesia’s exports, a reduction from the 32% Trump briefly imposed on the country in April.”

The second clause provides circumstantial information that explains and contextualizes the first clause. Therefore, it is classified as enhancement.

Example of Projection: Locution:

Hasan Nasbi told Reuters, “This is an extraordinary struggle by our negotiating team led by the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs.”

Example of Projection: Idea:

“Some fear that new orders they place for products manufactured overseas could be tarified at dramatically higher rates.”

The projected clause represents a mental process of fearing and is therefore classified as projection: idea.

DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that hypotaxis was the dominant interdependency relation in both CNN and Reuters news reports. CNN contained 34 hypotactic relations and 18 paratactic relations, whereas Reuters contained 10 hypotactic relations and 5 paratactic relations. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), hypotaxis establishes a dependency relationship between clauses, allowing writers to provide explanations, background information, temporal sequences, conditions, and causal relationships. Similarly, Brata (2012) argues that hypotactic constructions enable writers to elaborate events and connect ideas in a more detailed and meaningful manner.

The dominance of hypotaxis in the present study indicates that both news organizations attempted to contextualize the trade agreement rather than merely report isolated facts. This can be observed in CNN's clause complex, "After first announcing the agreement on Truth Social, Trump told reporters that Indonesia would not charge any tariffs on American exports." The dependent clause provides temporal information that helps readers understand the sequence of events surrounding the announcement. Such a finding supports Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) argument that hypotaxis functions as a linguistic resource for organizing complex information and establishing logical relationships among events.

However, a notable difference can be observed in the frequency of hypotaxis between CNN and Reuters. CNN employed more than three times as many hypotactic relations as Reuters. This finding suggests that CNN relied more heavily on explanatory and contextualized reporting. Throughout the article, CNN frequently incorporated background information regarding previous tariff policies, trade negotiations, business implications, and future economic consequences. For example, CNN not only reported the agreement itself but also explained Trump's previous tariff decisions, the impact of trade policies on businesses, and potential consequences for American consumers. Such findings indicate that hypotactic constructions were employed to create a broader contextual framework for readers. This observation extends Brata's (2012) explanation of hypotaxis by demonstrating its role in constructing explanatory journalism within international economic news discourse.

In contrast, Reuters employed substantially fewer hypotactic relations and focused primarily on reporting official statements and negotiation outcomes. Most of the Reuters article consisted

of direct information concerning the agreement, statements from government representatives, and the immediate results of the negotiations. Therefore, Reuters appeared to prioritize concise and information-centered reporting. This finding suggests that clause complex patterns may reflect different journalistic communication strategies despite reporting the same event. While CNN tended to guide readers through extensive contextualization, Reuters appeared to emphasize efficient delivery of factual information.

The findings also revealed the occurrence of parataxis in both news reports, although less frequently than hypotaxis. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) explain that parataxis involves relationships between clauses of equal status in which each clause can function independently. According to Brata (2012), paratactic constructions are commonly used to present information directly and efficiently without establishing hierarchical relationships among clauses.

An example can be observed in CNN's statement, "Trump's volatile trade policy has paralyzed many businesses. Some fear that new orders they place for products manufactured overseas could be tariffed at dramatically higher rates." Both clauses can stand independently while contributing related information about the consequences of trade policy. The use of parataxis in this context allows information to be presented in a straightforward manner, enabling readers to process separate facts quickly. Consequently, parataxis appears to support the efficient presentation of information within news discourse.

Regarding logical-semantic relations, enhancement and projection: locution emerged as the most dominant categories, each occurring 19 times. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), enhancement establishes circumstantial relationships involving cause, time, condition, purpose, or consequence. Meanwhile, projection: locution functions to represent reported speech through verbal processes. The prominence of these categories reflects the communicative demands of news discourse, which requires both contextual explanation and source attribution.

The dominance of enhancement indicates that journalists frequently attempted to explain relationships among events rather than simply present isolated facts. This can be observed in the example, "The agreement calls for the US imposing a 19% tariff on Indonesia's exports, a reduction from the 32% Trump briefly imposed on the country in April." The second clause provides contextual information that allows readers to understand the significance of the new tariff rate by relating it to previous policy conditions. According to Salam et al. (2018),

enhancement contributes significantly to textual informativeness because it clarifies how events, actions, and circumstances are logically connected. Therefore, the high frequency of enhancement suggests that both news organizations sought to provide readers with a deeper understanding of the trade agreement and its broader implications.

Projection: locution was equally dominant throughout the data. This finding is unsurprising because news reporting heavily relies on quotations and reported statements to establish credibility and objectivity. An example can be observed in the statement, “This is an extraordinary struggle by our negotiating team led by the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs.” Here, the projected clause represents Hasan Nasbi’s statement and serves as evidence supporting the reported information. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) explain that locution enables writers to attribute information to specific sources, thereby enhancing textual credibility. Consequently, the high occurrence of projection: locution reflects the journalistic practice of relying on authoritative voices and official sources to support news reports.

In contrast, projection: idea appeared only three times. One example is the clause, “Some fear that new orders they place for products manufactured overseas could be tariffed at dramatically higher rates.” Unlike locution, idea projections represent thoughts, beliefs, expectations, or perceptions rather than spoken statements (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The relatively low frequency of idea relations may be explained by the nature of hard news reporting, which prioritizes factual statements and verifiable information over subjective interpretations. This finding is consistent with Darong and Regus (2024), who argue that factual discourse generally relies more heavily on verbal projections than mental projections.

The findings of this study both support and extend previous research. Earlier studies have identified clause complex patterns in academic writing, exposition texts, narrative discourse, and educational contexts (Salam et al., 2018; Jupply & Widyastuti, 2021; Yuliawan & Shomary, 2024; Harahap et al., 2024). However, most of those studies primarily focused on the identification and classification of grammatical structures. The present study extends previous findings by demonstrating that clause complex patterns may also function as indicators of journalistic communication strategies. The comparison between CNN and Reuters suggests that grammatical choices are not merely structural features but also communicative

resources through which news organizations organize information, construct context, and guide audience interpretation.

Overall, the findings indicate that clause complex relations serve both grammatical and communicative functions in news discourse. CNN tended to employ clause complex structures to provide extensive contextualization and explanatory information, whereas Reuters utilized clause complexes more selectively to prioritize concise reporting and efficient information delivery. Consequently, the study demonstrates that clause complex choices may reflect broader journalistic strategies in representing and communicating economic events.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the use of clause complex structures in CNN and Reuters news reports concerning the trade agreement between Indonesia and the United States within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics. The analysis focused on two major dimensions of clause complex relations, namely interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations, in order to identify grammatical patterns and examine their communicative functions in news discourse. The findings revealed that hypotaxis was the dominant interdependency relation in both news reports, with CNN containing 34 hypotactic relations and Reuters containing 10. In addition, enhancement and projection: locution emerged as the most frequently occurring logical-semantic relations, each appearing 19 times. These findings indicate that both news organizations relied heavily on clause complex structures to establish logical connections among events, provide contextual information, and attribute information to authoritative sources.

The comparison between CNN and Reuters further demonstrated notable differences in the use of clause complex patterns. CNN employed a considerably higher number of hypotactic relations and contextual explanations, suggesting a tendency toward explanatory journalism that provides readers with broader background information, causes, consequences, and contextual details surrounding the reported event. In contrast, Reuters utilized fewer clause complex relations and focused more directly on official statements and negotiation outcomes, reflecting a more concise and information-centered reporting style.

The study also demonstrates that clause complex relations serve functions beyond grammatical organization. The dominance of hypotaxis and enhancement indicates the importance of contextualization in economic news reporting, while the frequent use of projection: locution highlights the role of source attribution in maintaining journalistic credibility and objectivity. Therefore, clause complex choices can be understood not only as linguistic structures but also as communicative resources through which journalists organize information, construct meaning, and guide readers' interpretation of events.

Furthermore, this study extends previous clause complex research that primarily focused on identifying and classifying grammatical structures. By examining the relationship between clause complex patterns and journalistic communication strategies, the study provides additional insights into how grammatical choices contribute to the construction of news discourse. Consequently, the findings contribute to a broader understanding of the functional role of language in contemporary media communication and demonstrate the relevance of Systemic Functional Linguistics for investigating journalistic practices.

This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, the analysis was limited to two news reports published by CNN and Reuters concerning a single economic event, namely the trade agreement between Indonesia and the United States. Although the selected texts provided valuable insights into clause complex patterns in international news discourse, the findings may not fully represent the broader linguistic practices employed by these news organizations across different topics and reporting contexts.

Second, the study focused exclusively on clause complex analysis, particularly interdependency relations and logical-semantic relations within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Other linguistic resources that may contribute to the construction of journalistic discourse, such as transitivity, appraisal, thematic structure, and multimodal elements, were beyond the scope of the present research.

Third, the interpretation of journalistic communication strategies was derived from textual evidence contained in the news reports. The study did not involve interviews with journalists, editors, or media practitioners. Therefore, the explanations regarding communicative motivations should be understood as discourse-based interpretations rather than direct representations of editorial intentions.

Despite these limitations, the study provides meaningful insights into how clause complex relations function as grammatical and communicative resources in contemporary news discourse. Future studies are encouraged to examine clause complex patterns using a larger corpus consisting of news reports from multiple media organizations, countries, and news topics. Such investigations may provide a broader understanding of how grammatical choices vary across different journalistic contexts and reporting traditions.

Future researchers may also compare clause complex structures across various news genres, such as political, economic, environmental, technological, and social news, in order to explore whether communicative purposes influence the selection of particular grammatical patterns. In addition, further studies could integrate clause complex analysis with other Systemic Functional Linguistics frameworks, including transitivity, appraisal, thematic structure, and multimodal discourse analysis. Combining multiple analytical perspectives may generate a more comprehensive understanding of how language constructs meanings, represents events, and influences audience interpretation in media discourse.

Finally, future research may investigate the relationship between grammatical choices and journalistic communication strategies through interviews, surveys, or other qualitative methods involving journalists and editors. Such approaches may help validate and enrich the interpretations proposed in the present study regarding the communicative functions of clause complex structures in news reporting.

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