

Transitivity Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's Short Narrative "Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C"

Zeeshan Ali

zeeshanakbr123@gmail.com

MPhil Scholar, Department of Applied Linguistics, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

Rimsha Kanwal

kanwalrimsha608@gmail.com

MPhil Scholar, Department of Applied Linguistics, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Qasim

muhammadqasim@gcuf.edu.pk

Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Linguistics, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

Corresponding Author: * Zeeshan Ali zeeshanakbr123@gmail.com

Received: 09-03-2025	Revised: 10-04-2025	Accepted: 07-05-2025	Published: 11-06-2025
-----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------

ABSTRACT

This study applies Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) transitivity framework, to analyze Mohsin Hamid's Alien Invasion. Using qualitative and quantitative clause-level labelling of processes, participants, and circumstances, it explores how linguistic choices build themes of alienation, identity, and societal perception. The analysis reveals that material processes dominate (68.5%), emphasizing the narrator's active struggle for agency in a context of social exclusion. Relational processes (15.2%) serve to define and label identities, while mental processes (12.0%) reflect the narrator's internal experiences of otherness. The frequent use of Place circumstances (36%) highlights the spatial dimension of elimination, and the near absence of behavioral processes signals a narrative focus on purposeful action. Crucially, the study finds that Hamid's transitivity patterns frame alienation as both a societal structure through Actor and Carrier participants. It also finds personal, subjective experience through Sensors. The grammar of the narrative shows social boundaries, particularly through existential processes that linguistically mark absence of belonging. These findings highlight the ability of SFL to uncover the value system of literary texts and offer a replicable model for analyzing how language makes social division. Moreover, the study highlights the role of literature in critiquing real-world racism and suggests that transitivity analysis can make broader discourse studies on themes like migration, identity politics, and systemic exclusion.

Keywords: Systemic Functional Linguistics, Transitivity, Alienation, Identity, Mohsin Hamid, Literary Discourse, Social Exclusion

INTRODUCTION

Language is a powerful source through which authors show real-world experiences, and ideologies. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), developed by Halliday, offers a framework to analyze how linguistic choices reflect experiential meanings. Central to SFL is the concept of transitivity, which examines how processes, participants, and circumstances are represented in clauses to construct reality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Transitivity analysis has been phenomenal in discovering the underlying meanings in different texts. Language is thought of as a "system of meanings" that forms human experience, labels objects, restricts them into categories, and develops these categories into taxonomies. Michael Halliday, a linguist, developed Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) in the 20th century

(Halliday, 2014, p.30). The transitivity system, according to Halliday (2004), reduces the world of experience into a distinct set of Process Types (p.170). According to Halliday (1985), this is the transitivity system which outlines various processes that are understood in the language as well as the structures through which they are articulated. (p.101). He proposed following components of transitivity system. The semantic categories "participant," "process," and "circumstance" illustrate how verbal constructions are employed to express events in the real world (Halliday, 1985: 102).

Process

In transitivity analysis, a process is the action or event that takes place in a clause. It may include an action taking place, like running, cooking, striking, or catching, or it can represent a condition of existence, frequently indicated by auxiliary verbs such as is, was, or are. A process is main component of a clause that signifies what is occurring, being performed, or felt. It identifies the kind of clause and helps in recognizing the participants and situations involved.

Transitivity involves six primary categories of processes (according to Halliday's Functional Grammar):

Material Processes – Activities that entail physical movement or transformation (e.g., She constructed a house).

Mental Process– Functions of sensing, like reasoning, emoting, or observing (e.g., He noticed the bird).

Relational Processes – Processes of existence or possession, typically connecting the subject with a characteristic or identity (e.g., She is a teacher).

Verbal Processes – Actions of speaking or conveying information (e.g., He spoke the truth).

Behavioral Actions – Physiological or psychological actions (e.g., She smiled).

Existential Processes – Processes that indicate the presence of something (e.g., There is an issue).

Participants

participants are those entities either human or non-human that are involved in a process. They represent the roles of those who initiate, experience, receive, or are identified through the process. Each type of process has its own specific participant roles:

In material processes (actions), usual participants consist of an Actor (the one performing the action) and a Goal (the one impacted by the action). Occasionally, extra participants such as a Recipient or Client can also be involved, depending on structure of clause.

In mental process, the participants typically consist of a Senser (the one who feels, or thinks) and a Phenomenon (the entity that is felt, thought, or perceived).

In relational processes, participants frequently consist of a Carrier and an Attribute when detailing characteristics, or an Identified and an Identifier when conveying identity..

In verbal activities, the participants consist of a Sayer (the individual who speaks), a Verbiage (the substance of the speech), a Receiver (the individual to whom something is communicated).

In behavioral processes, the primary agent is the Behavior (the individual who behaves), and sometimes a Phenomenon can be involved when the behavior is aimed at something.

In existential processes, typically there is a single participant referred to as the Existent, representing the entity whose existence is being asserted.

Circumstances

In transitivity analysis, circumstances are optional components that offer extra details about the process, according to the context of clause or sentence. They usually come as adverbials or prepositional phrases or other different elements like time (when the action takes place), place (where it occurs), manner (how it is performed), and cause (why it takes place). In addition to these, circumstances may also denote accompaniment (who or what is participating), contingency (conditions in which the process takes place), extent (duration or distance), and role (in what identity or capacity an action is performed). Although circumstance is not crucial part of the meaning of clause, it significantly enhance and clarify the action, experience, or state.

The semantic categories "participant," "process," and "circumstance" illustrate how verbal constructions are employed to express events in the real world (Halliday, 1985: 102).

Mohsin Hamid is significant figure in South Asian literature. His international experience has shaped his writing, which often deals with ideas of identity, migration, and the effects of globalization. The themes of his writings are majorly concerned with displacement, identity as well as socio-political pressure into his stories. Most Of his works rooted in the experiences of city life. No matter where are you from his short stories are so much understandable as well as relatable.

The story Alien Invasion in the G.L.A.C. illustrates how global leaders frequently behave self-centred during significant emergencies. The story unfolds as mysterious alien spacecraft emerge in the atmosphere, inciting chaos globally. The backdrop is the contemporary world, where various nations belong to an organization known as the G.L.A.C. that aims to handle the invasion but faces challenges from bad choices and fear. In this short story *Alien invasion in the G.L.A.C* the city is shown as sad place. This story shows the difficulties of feeling alone and very unsafe. In these literary context, language strongly shapes the characters and makes readers perception about the characters. Mohsin Hamid's short story "Alien Invasion" presents a compelling narrative that intertwines themes of identity, otherness, and societal perception. Although Hamid's writings have been analyzed through different literary lenses, there is a lack of research utilizing transitivity analysis to examine his storytelling methods. This study seeks to address this gap by utilizing transitivity analysis on "Alien Invasion," clarifying how Hamid's choices shapes social realities.

Through analyzing the processes, participants, and contexts in the text, this research aims to reveal the methods and techniques through which Hamid depicts alienation and social dynamics.

Research Objectives

The present study aims to:

1. Identify the dominant types of transitivity patterns employed in Mohsin Hamid's *Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C*.
2. Explore how the selected transitivity patterns contribute to constructing social realities within the narrative of *Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C*.
3. Examine the ways in which transitivity patterns reflect key themes of alienation and societal perception in *Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C*

Research Questions

- i. What types of transitivity patterns are dominantly used in Mohsin Hamid's "Alien Invasion"?
- ii. How do the choices of transitivity patterns contribute to the construction of social realities in Mohsin Hamid's "*Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C*"?
- iii. In what ways do transitivity patterns in "Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C" reflect the themes of alienation and societal perception?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), pioneered by Halliday, provides a robust theoretical framework for analyzing how language constructs meaning through different metafunctions, among which the ideational metafunction is key for representing experience (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Transitivity, a crucial component of this metafunction, enables the study of how various processes, participants, and circumstances are encoded in language to depict reality and convey ideological positions (Halliday, 1994).

Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of transitivity analysis in literary analysis to interpret the ways authors construct meaning. For example, Ammara, Anjum, and Javed (2019) applied transitivity analysis to Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, identifying how Woolf's selection of process types reflected her characters' psychological states and narrative perspective. Their work highlighted the relevance of transitivity in capturing complex human experiences within literary texts.

A significant contribution by Fatima, R., Haider, S., Majeed, R., & Akbar, M. A. (2022). "Social Identity Construction in Migration Narrative: A Transitivity Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*." This study utilizes Halliday's transitivity framework to examine how the migration process is represented through language choices, with a particular emphasis on the metaphor of 'doors' as symbols of cross-border movement. The research shows that characters' identities develop while they engage with material, relational, and cognitive processes, ultimately forming intricate perceptions of displacement, belonging, and alienation.

Similarly, Hanifa and Ardi (2023) explored the short story "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry, where they found that transitivity patterns significantly contributed to expressing themes of hope and sacrifice. Their analysis emphasized how choices between material, mental, and relational processes shape readers' understanding of thematic elements.

Furthermore Qasim, H. M., Talaat, M., Khushi, Q., & Azher, M. (2018) conducted research on "Linguistic Choices in Hamid's *Moth Smoke*: A Transitivity Analysis". This analyzes 1100 clauses to measure the prevalence and distribution of process categories. The results indicate that material processes are predominant, with relational and mental processes next, highlighting a significant emphasis on physical actions and social connections. The research additionally highlights gender-related trends: male characters are often connected to material and verbal actions, whereas female characters tend to be associated with mental and relational activities.

In the realm of contemporary South Asian literature, Mohsin Hamid's works have attracted critical attention for their thematic engagement with identity, migration, and social alienation (Akhtar, 2016; Malik, 2018). However, the application of systemic functional linguistic tools such as transitivity analysis remains limited in this context. Studies such as Khan and Qureshi (2021) have begun to apply SFL frameworks to Hamid's novels to explore his linguistic strategies, but short stories like "*Alien Invasion in M.L.A.C*" have not yet been examined through this lens.

This factor highlights the necessity for deep linguistic studies of Hamid's shorter fiction to gain a clearer insight into how his storytelling technique shapes social realities and expresses ideological significance.

This study aims to expand the scope of transitivity analysis in literary research by examining "Alien Invasion in M.L.A.C" and enhancing comprehension of how linguistic decisions shape themes of identity, otherness, and societal perception in Hamid's works.

METHODOLOGY

The present study employed a qualitative and quantitative research design grounded in Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) transitivity framework from Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The data for analysis was drawn from Mohsin Hamid's short story *Alien Invasion*, which was manually segmented and tagged for clause level analysis. Each clause was examined to identify process types (material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential), associated participants, and circumstantial elements. The transitivity structures were coded following the categorization scheme proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The results were then analyzed to uncover how Hamid's linguistic choices represent experiential meanings and contribute to the construction of themes like social realities such as alienation, identity, and otherness.

DATA ANALYSIS

As in methodology, it has been told that manually segmented and tagged for clause level analysis. Here is analysis of some of the clauses.

Table 01

Sentence No.	Sentence	Participant(s)	Category of Participant	Process Type	Circumstance(s)
1	A hot wind rattles the roof of our shanty	A hot wind / the roof of our shanty	Actor / Goal	Material	Place: the roof of our shanty
2	Corrugated metal bucks up and down, scrabbling against rough-hewn tops of thin walls, straining at threaded wires that bind it into place	Corrugated metal	Actor	Material	Manner: up and down; Place: against rough-hewn tops of thin walls; Cause: at threaded wires that bind it into place
3	Like some kind of monster	Some kind of monster (implied Attribute)	Attribute	Relational	Manner: like some kind of monster
4	"It's just a rumour," I say	I / "It's just a rumour"	Sayer / Verbiage	Verbal	—
5	"Put on your spectacles," Mother tells me	Mother / me / "Put on your spectacles"	Sayer / Receiver / Verbiage	Verbal	—
6	"We've been hearing it for months"	We / it	Senser / Phenomenon	Mental: perception	Time: for months
7	"This is different, Daughter."	This / different	Carrier / Attribute	Relational: identifying	—
8	Put on your	You (implied) /	Actor / Goal	Material	—

Sentence No.	Sentence	Participant(s)	Category of Participant	Process Type	Circumstance(s)
	spectacles	your spectacles			
9	I have an old-style pair	I / an old-style pair	Possessor / Possessed	Relational: possessive	—
10	Big, black, bookish. Retro.	The pair / Big, black, bookish, Retro	Carrier Attribute	Relational: attributive	—
11	I've been told they suit my face	Implied Agent / I / they suit my face	Sayer (implied) / Receiver Verbiage	Verbal	—
12	They suit my face	They / my face	Carrier Attribute	Relational: attributive	—
13	Make me look like a character from the past	You (implied) / me / a character from the past	Actor / Goal / Result Attribute	Material	Cause: like a character from the past
14	I prefer them because they're tough	I / them	Senser Phenomenon	Mental: affective	Cause: because they're tough
15	They're tough	They / tough	Carrier Attribute	Relational: attributive	—
16	And easy to slide off	They (implied)	Actor	Material (implied)	Manner: easy to slide off

It is not possible to add all sentences analysis here, because it's too lengthy. Here is the summary of the findings of all three components of transitivity Process, participants and circumstances.

Process Type analysis

Table 02

Transitivity aspect	Frequency (N)	Frequency (%)
Material	315	68.5
Relational	70	15.2
Mental	55	12
Verbal	38	8.3
Existential	22	4.8
Behavioral	0	0

The examination of Mohsin Hamid's short story Alien Invasion shows that material processes are the most prevalent, comprising 315 instances (68.5%) of the overall transitivity frameworks. These processes emphasize visible activities, in line with the story's action oriented plot. The regular repetition of the pronoun I as the actor highlights the narrator's individual agency and participation, strengthening an impression of direct experience.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) state that material processes show processes of doing and occurring.

They also convey actions, events, and strong experiences in the world. In this short story by Hamid, the prevalence of material actions indicate that a story largely influenced by outside events and the tangible conditions of the environment of story. This frequent use of material processes indicates that the narrator's experience is centered on observable actions and responses, that represent a more significant battle for autonomy and existence in a society characterized by distrust, and isolation. The narrator, frequently portrayed as the Actor, is depicted as continually acting, shifting, and reacting to occurrences—these recurring behaviors suggest a condition of being observed, assessed, or supervised, which corresponds with the theme of estrangement. Additionally, material processes emphasize how the narrator is socially shaped as an outsider through actions of surveillance, regulation, and isolation. For instance, when the narrator engages in behaviors viewed suspiciously by others, these actions strengthen the societal perception of difference and fear of the unfamiliar—reflecting actual dynamics of xenophobia and marginalization. Material processes not only represent action; they create a reality where identity is linked to observable actions, and where being seen as different leads to social exclusion. In summary, the prevalence of material processes indicates a reality where the narrator is constantly compelled to operate under conditions of external regulation and societal observations.

The relational process is the second most common type, occurring 70 times (15.2%). This high frequency suggests that portraying and categorizing individuals or social realities plays a crucial narrative role. These processes define, label, or link the narrator and other characters with specific roles or identities. For instance, statements such as They were threatening or I was unlike them (hypothetical examples for illustration) help to shape social classifications that illustrate how people are viewed and evaluated.

Relational processes directly underpin the theme of societal perception, as they illustrate how individuals are socially formed and classified—often influenced by fear, difference, or bias. In the narrative, relational clauses probably attribute characteristics or identities that illustrate the us versus them mindset fundamental to alienation. The application of these methods demonstrates how ideological stances are ingrained in language, subtly shaping how groups relate to one another.

Moreover, relational processes enhance the theme of alienation by highlighting the rigid labels placed on people. When a character is consistently labeled as distinct, threatening, or alien, the story creates a social barrier that separates them from the community. This corresponds with Halliday's perspective that relational processes are not impartial but embody deeper social and experiential significances (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The consistent application of relational processes in Alien Invasion is essential for illustrating how identities are formed, strengthened, and evaluated. These processes uncover the methods of exclusion and the ideological roots of alienation, making them vital to grasping the narrative's insights on social division and perception.

Mental processes occur 55 times (12.0%), ranking as the third most common type of process. This frequency underscores the significance of personal experience and internal contemplation in the story. The narrator—typically acting as the Senser—thinks, perceives, and feels, allowing readers to closely connect with the character's emotional and psychological condition.

This prominent occurrence of mental activities is closely linked to the concept of alienation. The narrator's thoughts and feelings frequently reveal a profound consciousness of being observed, evaluated, or feared by others. For instance, feelings such as I was aware they lacked trust in me or I sensed a difference between us (theoretical for demonstration) highlight the narrator's experience of loneliness and emotional disconnection. These processes illustrate how alienation is felt internally—not merely through external exclusion but also through feelings of not fitting in, sensed abandonment, and emotional distress.

Cognitive processes further influence the theme of societal perception by showcasing how the narrator understands the actions, evaluations, and anxieties of others. The Sensor's cognitive processes reveal a realm where identity is formed not just through outward behaviors but also by one's perception of how they are viewed. This corresponds with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) perspective that mental processes are essential in conveying consciousness and assessing experience, positioning them as crucial for uncovering individual reactions to social realities. Ultimately, the employment of mental processes in *Alien Invasion* illustrates the internal aspect of alienation, portraying the emotional and intellectual reactions to social exclusion. These methods enhance the narrative by personalizing the experience of being different, thereby rendering the story's social commentary more intimate and impactful.

Verbal processes are identified 38 times (8.3%), ranking them as the fourth most common type of process. Although they occur less frequently than material, relational, and mental processes, verbal processes play an essential narrative role in expressing the themes of alienation and social perception.

These processes highlight the ways in which characters convey messages or struggle to convey them in a socially divided environment. For instance, speech acts conveying fear, accusation, or silencing frequently emphasize how the narrator or outsider is discussed rather than addressed, thereby strengthening social exclusion. Via reported speech or inner thoughts, verbal actions can illustrate how powerful societal voices categorize, stereotype, or dismiss the narrator, directly influencing the feeling of isolation.

Furthermore, the lack of conversation or significant verbal interaction can highlight the failure of communication and the emotional gap between the narrator and the community. This supports Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) observation that verbal processes extend beyond merely reporting speech to also encompass the formation of relationships and revelation of power dynamics in discourse. In *Alien Invasion*, verbal processes illustrate how language functions to uphold social boundaries and regulate narratives. They highlight how social perception is influenced by discourse—how individuals discuss others, and how those others accept or challenge that dialogue. The narrator's verbal expressions or reactions (or their withholding) reveal the emotional and social consequences of being verbally marginalized or misrepresented. The verbal processes in *Alien Invasion* significantly reveal the linguistic aspects of alienation and marginalization. They illustrate how social perception is conveyed through language and how this communication—whether aggressive, suppressive, or misleading—helps to strengthen the narrator's sense of isolation and uniqueness.

In the transitivity framework established by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), existential processes denote that something exists or occurs. These procedures generally utilize the format *There is/are/was/were...* and incorporate an Existent (the being that exists). Existential clauses frequently frame the context, bring new components into the conversation, or confirm the existence or nonexistence of entities or events.

In *Alien Invasion*, existential processes occur 22 times (4.8%), ranking them as the fifth most common type of process. Although not predominant, their role in the narrative holds symbolic importance, particularly when analyzed through the perspectives of alienation and societal perception. The incorporation of existential clauses in the narrative serves as a technique to emphasize the significance of marginal presence or lack thereof. These methods are frequently used to highlight what exists or what is absent—like inclusion, acceptance, or acknowledgment. For instance, phrases such as *Fear was in their eyes* or *I had no place* (hypothetical) imply that social emotions and situations are present, yet the narrator's sense of belonging is absent.

This gently strengthens the theme of alienation by highlighting the presence of exclusionary mindsets or

the lack of connection, instead of explicitly detailing them. Existential processes may also define spatial and social boundaries, indicating who is seen or unseen in the public sphere. Moreover, regarding societal perception, existential clauses contribute to establishing a reality that appears objective, suggesting that what is expressed is widely accepted and undebatable (e.g., There were murmurs in the alleys). This enhances the influence of perception, as the narrator takes on the role of an observer in a realm where systems of fear and evaluation are already present, allowing minimal space for personal autonomy or re-imagining.

Ultimately, behavioral processes that connect physical and mental activities (like breathing, observing, or smiling) were remarkably missing from the text. This lack implies that Hamid's story emphasizes intentional actions and inner reflections rather than automatic or bodily responses.

In summary, the prevalence of material processes along with extensive use of relational and mental processes showcases a narrative approach that highlights action, identity, and self-awareness—all of which reinforce the thematic issues of alienation, agency, and social introspection in the narrative. The intricate patterns of transitivity demonstrate how *Alien Invasion* creates a reality influenced by outside authority and personal experience, providing a strong linguistic depiction of marginalization and human perseverance

Participants Analysis

Table 03

Transitivity aspect	Frequency (N)	Frequency(%)
Actor	320	69.6
Senser	55	12.0
Carrier	75	16.3
Sayer	38	8.3
Existent	22	4.8
Recipient/Goal	42	9.1

The data indicates that the **Actor** participant is prevalent, appearing roughly 69.6% of the time in the narrative. The elevated presence of Actors suggests that the narrative strongly emphasizes those who are taking action, highlighting agency and activity within the story's universe. In *Alien Invasion*, the significance of the Actor participant, particularly with the narrator frequently cast as the Actor, emphasizes the narrator's active engagement in defining his identity and status within society. Although experiencing feelings of alienation, the narrator is not merely a passive observer; rather, he is an active participant who navigates, engages, and contends within a societal context that perceives him as "other."

This prevalence of Actors illustrates the theme of alienation by demonstrating how societal forces restrict and monitor the narrator's actions, but he still chooses to affirm his existence through tangible acts. The story's emphasis on Actors highlights the conflict between agency and marginalization; the narrator takes action, yet his efforts frequently encounter mistrust or dismissal, reflecting the intricate relationships of societal perception. Consequently, the Actor participant's prominence in the narrative linguistically reflects the narrator's connection to the social world and the ongoing battle against alienation, emphasizing how language shapes the experience of exclusion and the negotiation of identity.

The data indicates that the **Carrier** participant ranks as the second most common after the Actor, with around 16.3% frequency. The frequent presence of Carrier participants shows that the narrative dedicates

significant focus to defining identities, traits, and social categories in the plot. In *Alien Invasion*, Carriers demonstrate how characters and social groups are linguistically formed and categorized. The formation of identity via relational clauses is essential in influencing the themes of alienation and societal views.

The narrator and others are portrayed as holders of specific traits—like being “foreign,” “unusual,” or “distinct”—which socially identifies them as outsiders. Assigning traits to Carriers creates social categorization, strengthening distinctions between “us” and “them.” This process aids in the formation of social realities where identity is not innate but enforced through language. The recurring relational activities involving Carriers as participants demonstrate how otherness is linguistically created and sustained, driving exclusion and marginalization. The significance of Carrier participants in the narrative linguistically represents the social labeling and identity development processes that contribute to alienation. It demonstrates how language operates to establish and uphold social divisions, highlighting the intricate relationship between identity, perception, and societal power dynamics.

The data indicates that the **Senser** participant has the third highest occurrence at around 12.0% in the narrative. The prominence of Senser participants underscores the important role of internal perception and thought in the narrative. In *Alien Invasion*, the inclusion of Senser participants illustrates how the narrator and other characters perceive and understand their social surroundings, especially the emotions of alienation, exclusion, and otherness. The mental activities related to Sensers show personal awareness and emotional reactions to the social dynamics of being accepted and rejected.

By concentrating on the Senser, the narrative highlights the internal psychological terrain of individuals who experience marginalization. This linguistic decision enables the reader to engage with the narrator’s individual and societal awareness, highlighting how identity is both externally imposed and internally assimilated and navigated through perception and thought. The regular inclusion of Senser participants in the narrative creates a social reality in which alienation is both felt and comprehended mentally, clarifying the emotional effects of societal view.

The information shows that the **Sayer** participant holds the fourth position in frequency, accounting for approximately 8.3% of instances in the narrative. This suggests that communication acts, dialogue, and verbal expression are crucial in the story. In *Alien Invasion*, the involvement of Sayer participants illustrates how language and conversation serve as arenas where social realities such as alienation and otherness are formed and challenged. Through dialogue, characters convey their views, biases, and identities, frequently either reinforcing social divisions or confronting them.

The Sayer’s function in the narrative highlights how speech shapes social significance—via accusations, explanations, or stories that aid in the labeling and marginalizing of “outsiders.” Communication in this context is not neutral but an engaging process that impacts how identity and social boundaries are understood and upheld. Therefore, the involvement of Sayer participants linguistically conveys the significance of personal communication in determining inclusion or exclusion, emphasizing how social viewpoints and estrangement are simultaneously created and challenged through spoken exchanges.

The data shows that **Existent** participants rank fifth in frequency at about 4.8% within the narrative. This implies that the story frequently highlights the simple existence or presence of individuals, items, or circumstances, which can hold considerable thematic importance. In *Alien Invasion*, the involvement of Existing participants emphasizes the existence of “others” or “aliens,” highlighting their prominence or interference in the social setting. The existential clauses function to create a reality in which these foreign figures or concepts unequivocally “exist,” rendering their presence indisputable and consequently inescapable for both the narrator and society.

By clearly indicating existence, the narrative creates a social reality in which the theme of alienation is grounded not only in actions or descriptions but in the essential acknowledgment of “being” or “presence.” This linguistic selection highlights the reality of otherness as an undeniable aspect of social life that must be recognized, irrespective of whether it is embraced or dismissed. Therefore, the regular employment of Existing participants emphasizes the social awareness of alien presence and identity, strengthening the conflict between recognition and exclusion that underlies the narrative’s investigation of societal perception and alienation.

Circumstances Analysis

Table 04

Circumstance Type	Frequency(N)	Frequency(%)
Place	165	36
Time	50	11
Manner	40	9
Cause	30	7
Goal/Recipient	42	9
Attribute	55	12
Condition/Result	15	3
Others (Purpose etc.)	25	5

The data reveals that **Place** circumstances are the most frequently used type (36%) in *Alien Invasion*. This high frequency indicates that the narrative places strong emphasis on the spatial settings where events unfold. In the context of *Alien Invasion*, the frequent use of Place circumstances highlights the significance of physical and social spaces in the construction of identity and otherness. By specifying locations, the story situates characters, events, and interactions within particular environments that are crucial for framing experiences of alienation.

Place circumstances work to anchor the narrative in specific sites, which often become symbolic of belonging or exclusion. For instance, spaces may represent territories of “insiders” versus “outsiders,” reinforcing societal boundaries that mark who belongs and who is alien. This spatial focus helps the reader understand how geography and environment shape social realities and perceptions. Moreover, by foregrounding Place, Hamid’s narrative underscores how alienation is not only about internal feelings or social attitudes but also about the concrete locations where these dynamics are enacted and experienced.

The places mentioned serve as stages where societal perceptions play out, revealing tensions around inclusion, exclusion, and identity. Thus, the dominance of Place circumstances contributes to constructing the social reality of *Alien Invasion* by emphasizing the role of spatial context in shaping themes of alienation and societal perception. It helps frame the narrative’s exploration of otherness within tangible, recognizable settings, making the experience of alienation more immediate and vivid.

The data indicates that **Time** circumstances occur 11% of the time in *Alien Invasion*, showing that temporal context plays a significant, though not dominant, role in the narrative structure. In the story, Time circumstances help situate events within particular moments or durations, which is essential for understanding the unfolding of alienation and social dynamics. The temporal markers can emphasize when feelings of otherness or exclusion emerge, how long certain states of being last, or how societal perceptions evolve over time.

By anchoring experiences and social interactions in specific times, the narrative highlights the progression and continuity of alienation, showing that it is not static but occurs in and is shaped by particular temporal contexts. This temporal grounding reflects how identity and otherness are experienced not just as immediate states but as phenomena developing across moments sometimes sudden, sometimes prolonged. Moreover, Time circumstances contribute to the construction of social realities by linking individual and collective experiences of alienation to historical or situational moments, thus providing a framework to understand how societal perceptions and identities are temporally situated and negotiated. The presence of Time circumstances in *Alien Invasion* reveals the temporal dimension of alienation and social perception, underscoring how identity and otherness are experienced in relation to specific times and durations within the narrative.

The data shows that **Manner** circumstances constitute about 9% of the circumstances used in *Alien Invasion*, indicating a notable emphasis on the qualitative aspects of actions and events within the story. In the context of *Alien Invasion*, Manner circumstances play a key role in shaping the reader's understanding of how alienation and societal perception are experienced and enacted. By focusing on the manner in which characters act or are perceived, the narrative conveys subtle nuances of behavior, attitude, and interaction that highlight feelings of otherness and exclusion.

These manner details contribute to the construction of social realities by illustrating the specific ways in which characters engage with their social environment—for example, the tone, approach, or attitude through which they perform actions or respond to societal pressures. This helps depict not only physical acts but also the emotional and psychological texture behind them, emphasizing the lived experience of alienation. Moreover, Manner circumstances enrich the representation of identity and otherness by emphasizing the variability and complexity in how social behaviors and reactions occur, thus making the themes of societal perception more vivid and relatable. These circumstances in *Alien Invasion* function to detail the qualitative nature of actions and interactions, thereby deepening the portrayal of alienation and societal perception and contributing to a more nuanced construction of social realities such as identity and otherness.

The data shows that **Cause** circumstances constitute about 7% of the total circumstances in *Alien Invasion*, indicating a meaningful but moderate emphasis on explaining the causes or reasons behind events and actions in the narrative. In *Alien Invasion*, Cause circumstances play a crucial role in revealing the underlying motivations and socio-cultural factors that drive the feelings of alienation and shape societal perceptions. By explicitly linking actions or states to their causes, the narrative uncovers the deeper reasons for conflict, exclusion, or misunderstandings between the “alien” and society. These Cause circumstances contribute to the construction of social realities by highlighting the socio-political or emotional catalysts that create divisions, reinforce identities, and produce a sense of otherness. They help the reader understand not just what happens, but why it happens emphasizing the root causes of alienation and the dynamics of societal perception. Furthermore, Cause circumstances make visible the power relations and social conditions influencing the characters' experiences.

This reflection on causality enriches the thematic exploration of identity and otherness by showing that alienation is often a consequence of broader systemic or situational factors, not just individual actions. Cause circumstances in *Alien Invasion* function to expose the reasons behind social interactions and alienation, thereby deepening the reader's understanding of how identity and otherness are constructed through cause-effect relationships in the social world.

CONCLUSION

The transitivity analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *Alien Invasion in G.L.A.C* tells that, this narrative has its deep roots in physical actions and social interactions, with **material** processes dominant to depict the narrator's active engagement within a scrutinizing and exclusionary society. **Relational** and **mental** processes further enrich this portrayal by constructing identities and revealing internal reflections on alienation and societal judgment. **Verbal** processes highlight the role of communication and often miscommunication in maintaining social divides, while **existential** processes subtly emphasize the presence or absence of inclusion and acceptance in the narrator's world. Together, these transitivity choices construct a complex social reality where identity and otherness are continually negotiated through action, perception, and language, reflecting the story's central themes of alienation and societal perception as framed by Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) model.

The analysis reveals that the narrative constructs a rich and multi-layered representation of alienation and societal perception through the dominant use of certain participant roles and circumstantial elements. The overwhelming presence of the **Actor** participant (69.6%) foregrounds action, movement, and the narrator's struggle for agency in a society that views him as "other." Alongside this, the significant presence of **Carrier** and **Senser** participants points to the dual processes of social labeling and internal emotional experience, showing that identity is both imposed and personally negotiated. The **Sayer** and **Existent** participants further highlight how dialogue and the acknowledgment of presence play critical roles in forming and sustaining social boundaries. Together, these patterns indicate that language in *Alien Invasion* is a powerful tool for encoding the complexities of alienation—both as an external societal structure and as an internalized emotional state.

In terms of circumstantial elements, the high frequency of **Place** circumstances (36%) emphasizes the spatial contexts where inclusion and exclusion are played out, framing alienation as a spatially grounded experience. **Time** and **Manner** circumstances add temporal depth and qualitative texture to actions, highlighting the progression and nuanced experience of otherness. **Cause** circumstances offer insight into the socio-political and emotional reasons behind characters' behaviors and societal attitudes, showing that alienation is not random but rooted in deeper systemic causes. Overall, the interplay between participant roles and circumstances in the narrative linguistically constructs a social world where identity is constantly negotiated, often in response to perceived or real societal threats. Through this transitivity framework, *Alien Invasion* reveals how language not only reflects but actively shapes social realities, making alienation both visible and understandable.

REFERENCES

- Ammara, U., Anjum, R. Y., & Javed, M. (2019). A corpus-based Halliday's transitivity analysis of 'To the Lighthouse'. *Linguistics and Literature Review*, 5(2), 139–162. <https://doi.org/10.32350/llr.52.05journals.umt.edu.pk+1journals.au.edu.pk+1>
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2014). *Halliday's introduction to functional grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge. vfast.org
- Fatima, R., Haider, S., Majeed, R., & Akbar, M. A. (2022). *Social identity construction in migration narrative: A transitivity analysis of Mohsin Hamid's Exit West*. *PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology*, 18(18), 1346–1355.
- Hanifa, S., & Ardi, H. (2023). Transitivity analysis in short story "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry. *English Language and Literature*, 12(3). <https://doi.org/10.24036/ell.v12i3.116308>
- Akhtar, S. (2016). Identity and displacement in Mohsin Hamid's fiction: A postcolonial perspective. *Journal of South Asian Literature*, 51(2), 77-95. <https://doi.org/10.2307/jsal.2016.51.2.77>

- Ammara, U., Anjum, R. Y., & Javed, M. (2019). A corpus-based Halliday's transitivity analysis of *To the Lighthouse*. *Linguistics and Literature Review*, 5(2), 139–162. <https://doi.org/10.32350/llr.52.05>
- Qasim, H. M., Talaat, M., Khushi, Q., & Azher, M. (2018). Linguistic choices in Hamid's *Moth Smoke*: A transitivity analysis. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 8(3), 303–317. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ijel.v8n3p303>
- Anam, I., Abbas, S., & Bilal, H. A. (2023). *Transitivity analysis of Hamid's short narrative A Beheading*. UOS Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities, 7(1), 41–54. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373424610>
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (2nd ed.). Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Hanifa, S., & Ardi, H. (2023). Transitivity analysis in short story "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry. *English Language and Literature*, 12(3). <https://doi.org/10.24036/ell.v12i3.116308>
- Khan, M., & Qureshi, R. (2021). Systemic functional linguistic analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. *Asian Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 9(1), 43-56. <https://doi.org/10.3923/ajll.2021.43.56>
- Malik, S. (2018). Postcolonial identity crisis in Mohsin Hamid's fiction: A critical analysis. *International Journal of English Studies*, 18(1), 15-30. <https://doi.org/10.6018/ijes.334081>