



Representation of Racial Disparity in Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*

Agnes Indriani Sari¹, Muhammad Hafiz Kurniawan^{2*}

¹Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Jl. Ringroad Selatan, Bantul, Yogyakarta, 55191, Indonesia

²Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Jl. Ringroad Selatan, Bantul, Yogyakarta, 55191, Indonesia

¹agnesindrns@gmail.com

²muhammad.kurniawan@enlitera.uad.ac.id

*corresponding author

History

Received

2 April 2022

Revised

1 May 2024

Accepted

20 May 2024

Published

29 May, 2024

Abstract

Racism has become the biggest social issue in the world because of its constant unjust treatment that affects people from minority races, ethnicities, and religions. Related to this issue, *The Hate U Give* conveys the social condition where racial disparity towards black people is profoundly represented in the narrative. This study focuses on identifying the ideational metafunction elements, including transitivity and ergativity patterns found in the narrative. It reveals how the racial disparity is performed by the use of the meta function. Mixed method research was employed to collect and analyze the data to yield more insightful information that complements both methodologies' findings. The theory of Systemic Functional Grammar was used to identify and classify the ideational metafunction elements from the collected narrative, and the Discourse Analysis approach was applied as a theoretical approach to support the observation. The result concluded that in the analysis of transitivity patterns, material and relational processes dominate the narrative by approximately 25% to 33% of the entire collected narrative. The findings show that racial disparity in analyzing black people that was performed by law enforcement in the collected narrative is manifested in three forms: police brutality, racial profiling, and sentencing policy.

Keywords: *Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Grammar, Ideational Metafunction, Racial Disparity.*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31002/metathesis.v8i1.100>



INTRODUCTION

Racism has been a perpetual social issue that has been rooted in US society for many generations. This continuity has concerned many scholars due to its increasing rate of unfair treatment towards minority races, including black people, in terms of the Criminal Justice System. Hochschild and Weaver did a study to confirm that black offenders with darker skin received longer sentences than the ones with lighter dark skin, and these light-skinned black people received longer sentences than white offenders (Hochschild and Weaver 2007).

In terms of police brutality based on racial stereotypes, Eberhardt and her other three colleagues did research regarding the issue and found that police officers are more likely to rate people with Afrocentric facial features as criminal (Eberhardt et al. 2004). Another study done by Blair also found that college undergraduate students are more presumably judge individuals with a distinctly African American feature to have more aggressive behavior and tend to share similar stereotypical traits with black people (Blair & Mitchell, 2008). These scholars confirm the hypothesis about people's mental impression of racial stereotypes towards people with dark skin and how their subconscious associates crime and danger with black people (Tonry, 2010).

These phenomena can be assumed as the effect of the media, which plays a massive role in society to conceptualize the image of black people in the frame of a criminal case. A research result showed that African-Americans are often portrayed as characters with negative personalities, criminal or unemployed individuals. Therefore, television viewers involved in the research assumed that the roles assigned to black people were their actual representation in real life (Punyanunt-Carter, 2008). Regarding this, the study will confirm how African-Americans are portrayed in media by investigating the media discourse.

Discourse is used as a basis to form and reflect social context and social practices through language. It also produces a description or reference to a place, object, event, or state of affairs in the world that is invariably selected from a range of possible words and phrases (Wooffitt, 2006). To investigate the discourse, the researchers examined the narrative collected from the novel, which focused on the racial disparity issue, using Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as a theoretical framework. SFG itself was invented by M.A.K Halliday. The theory is used to study a language in a clause centered on its function as a representation, exchange, and message—the clause form and how it creates a meaning that correlates with its social context (Halliday, 2004).

This systemic theory will focus on language as a whole, involving other supporting aspects to improve a better understanding of interpreting the language (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The supporting aspects, however, include the language structure or lexicogrammar, the relationship between the participant and circumstances, and the cohesion created to portray the motives of the utterance and the social construct involved in the exchange. These elements will later be identified as metafunctions, which are used to discover the function of language in context and the purpose of the language used and also to show that functionality is inherent in language; the entire structure of language is organized based on functional principles (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Metafunctions themselves are distinguished into three generalized meanings, namely ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction, and textual metafunction. Each metafunction is used based on which clause function the researchers aim to analyze. The researchers apply ideational metafunction to examine the literary text. This framework will be used to explore the experiential meanings found in the narrative, in conjunction with its sequence related by time, place, and manner, which will transform the words into meaning (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). SFG is chosen as the theoretical framework because of its relevance to this study and its theory is considered a practical framework to identify the representation between language used and social context. This framework is also chosen because the researchers aim to reveal how the author of *The Hate U Give* attempts to create a factual representation of black people that the media has been unsuccessful in presenting.



The researchers focused on using transitivity and ergativity analysis in ideational metafunction as a framework to analyze *The Hate U Give*. The ideational metafunction itself has functioned as a representation of a clause that construes a significant relationship between clause, experience, and how they form a meaning. This metafunction has three elements involved in constructing a clause, in which Process represents the action that is realized by a verbal group; Agency represents the participant involved in the clause, which is signaled by a nominal group; and circumstances represents the situational state the utterance occurred which marked by adverbial or prepositional groups (Halliday, 2014).

Halliday's theory of metafunction can be applied to analyze a literary text. Dwijatmoko wrote a paper that aimed to reveal the meaning or ideology that is conveyed beneath Andersen's "Grandmother" using SFG as the approach in which the findings would later be classified in each metafunction (Dwijatmoko, 2019).

Another related study that correlates to this discussion was done by Leonard A. Koussouhon, which aimed to redefine African women's representation through his analysis of Helon Habila's *Oil on Water*, which resulted in the ideology adapted in the literary work centered towards women empowerment amidst the environment that over-glorifying males and prohibits them to do other things but women's "duties" (Koussouhon, 2015).

The next paper was written by Mahya Alaei, which explains how the author's ideology is reflected in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* through an analysis of SFG using lexico-grammatical strategies. This paper analyzes the transitivity system in ideational metafunction to find the representation of racism and imperialism ideology that opposes the character in the novella.

For the studies mentioned above, the researchers conclude that SFG can be applied as a theoretical framework to analyze literary texts. However, this study applied the theory of discourse that specifically focused on genre staging to unfold the phases of the story and Systemic Functional Grammar, considering that its metafunctions principle already implied a method to analyze the relationship between language and context.

METHOD

In this part, the researchers use a framework of mixed method research as described in (Creswell & Creswell, 2018), which explains that this approach is a combined methodology of qualitative and quantitative methods, where qualitative methodology is used to explore the meaning of individuals or groups that attribute to a certain social issue and quantitative methodology is used to complement the findings that are discovered through qualitative method by presenting descriptive statistics so it yields more insightful information.

The data collection procedure proceeded as follows: the researchers chose the social issue that emerged from the novel and then picked out two major characters that were constantly involved in the issue. Thirdly, the researchers highlighted the narrative that related to the mentioned issue. Lastly, the researchers compiled the data using Martin's narrative mode genre staging structure to unfold the phases of the story.

In conducting the data analysis, the researchers skimmed the collected narrative to ensure the compiled data was relevant to this study. Then, the researchers inserted the data that were identified by the forms of verbs. Thirdly, the researchers examined the data based on their categorization in transitivity and ergative systems, which are agency, process-types, and circumstance. Next, the researchers assembled each process-type one by one based on the most used process-type and agency in the narrative. After categorizing the data into each section mentioned above, the researchers calculated the frequency of the process-type and agency in the narrative.

In interpreting the data, the researchers elaborated the result of the analysis and statistics calculation by explaining them respectively, starting with expounding the use of participants, processes, and circumstances from the findings and associating the transitivity patterns with the



social context related to the issue, which is about racial disparity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings that are found by the researchers will be discussed alongside the problem formulations that are attached to them. The analysis is divided into two parts: the first one is the ideational metafunction applications found in the narrative; the second part is the discussion of the representation of Starr and Khalil from the implementation of ideational metafunction found in the narrative.

The Elements of Ideational Metafunction Found in the Starr and Khalil's Narratives in *The Hate U Give*

The transitivity and ergativity patterns found in the narrative involve the contribution of Agency, Process, and Circumstances. The explanation of the findings is described thoroughly as follows:

Transitivity System

In accordance with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) theory of the transitivity system, it explains that six types of processes are involved in a clause. Material process, which shows the flow of events indicated by verbal groups that require energy. In other words, this process construes figures of 'doing-&-happening' and how some entity 'does' something which may change other entity. Meanwhile, the mental process concerns the participant's experience in their consciousness. In a mental process clause, two distinct participants are involved. The participant who emotionally feels, thinks, wants, or perceives something is always a human or human-like creature that is treated as a conscious being. The relational process is the process of "being & having." This process has two distinct modes of being: attributive relational clauses and identifying relational clauses. The verbal process shows the process of "saying." This process is shown by verbal groups that indicate the act of "saying," which is further differentiated by targeting and talking, quoting, indicating, and imperating: the behavioral process shows the process of human or human-like creature physiological and psychological behavior. This process stands between material and mental processes since it characterizes the outer response of inner working and then brings them out through physical action. The existential process shows the process of "existing" or "happening" and only has one participant called Existent, which stands as a subject without experiential meaning. However, the use of each process in the data is categorized, summarized, and shown as follows:

Table 1. The frequency and percentage of processes found in the data

No.	Types of Process	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Material	138	33.6
2.	Relational	106	25.8
3.	Verbal	72	17.5
4.	Mental	61	14.8
5.	Behavioral	34	8.3
TOTAL		411	100

As mentioned in the table above, it is seen that the narrative has 411 clauses in total. The statistics show that material process dominates the clause for about 33.6% with 138 clauses found in the narrative. Following the material process, the relational process was placed second as the most used process in the clause, with 25.8%. Third place is achieved by the verbal process with 17.5% and owns 72 of 411 clauses in the narrative. The fourth is the mental process, with 61 clauses for around 14.8%. Lastly, two of the least used processes are consecutively owned by behavioral processes for 8.3%.



Types of Process in the Starr and Khalil's Narratives

Material Process

Material clauses are found to be the most apparent process in the narrative. It is because the story was built up through the processes of doing, typically physical action. It expresses the actualization of a participant who has done a material process that affects another entity.

66.	<u>One-Fifteen</u>	<u>yanks him</u>	by his arm
67.		<u>and pins him</u>	against the back door
Code	Agency: Effective	Transformative: Elaborating	Circumstances: Manner & Location

The example above shows One-Fifteen as an Agent who gets affected by his (Khalil) actions. Hence, this clause is identified as an Effective clause. One-Fifteen's actions have elaborated as he goes manhandling him because, in this certain part, One-Fifteen feels apprehensive about something that Khalil may have done to him. Thus, he locks Khalil in place. The circumstances attached here also identify how the action has escalated in the clause.

Relational Process

The relational process is the transitivity of "being, having, and being at" and is performed to characterize and identify the clause (Matthiessen et al., 2010).

109.	<u>"Was</u>	<u>he</u>	<u>a threat or something?</u>
Code	Process: Identifying & Intensive	Agency: Middle, Range	Range/Identifier

From the sample above, it is shown that he (Khalil) is a Medium because he is not "being" for an external cause, and there is no other entity that is affected by his "being" as a threat or something. Therefore, the Range/identifier is also found as another entity/participant. This clause is categorized as Identifying & Intensive because Khalil was identified as a threat, and the intensive element provides the additional quality of "being" into the clause.

Verbal Process

The verbal process is placed as the third most apparent clause in the narrative. This is because the story is told from Starr's perspective from a first-person point of view. She retells the occurrence by herself, which indicates the application of symbolic and physical activities of "saying." Verbal process clauses also contribute significantly to discourses as they "set up dialogic passages." (Halliday, 2014)

237.	<u>"He</u>	<u>never told me</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Non-Range	Process: Verbal, Indicating

The example above shows he (Khalil) as a Medium does the act of "saying" that is realized by never being told, which the process stands as Indicating type since it also shows the affirmation that Starr truthfully has never been told anything by Khalil.

Mental Process

This process deals with the participant's consciousness and their act of "sensing" (Matthiessen et al., 2010). This process has four general types of sensing: perceptive, which involves processes such as seeing, hearing, smelling, etc.; cognitive, which involves the process of thinking, deciding, understanding, etc.; desiderative, which involves the process of wanting, yearning for, etc.; lastly,



emotive which involves the process of 'feelings.' (Thompson, 2013)

157.	<u>I</u>	<u>assumed</u>	<u>the same thing myself."</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Range	Process: Cognitive & Idea	Range/Projection

The example above shows I, as a Medium, expresses an act of "thinking" assumed, which also may be considered an idea clause because there is no evident form of action to assume about. The range attached to this clause also stands as the projection of the mentioned mental clause.

Behavioral Process

The behavioral process involves 'behavior' as the main participant in the clause. This process proceeds with physiological beings that possess the participant responses through psychological behavior.

92.	<u>He</u>	<u>doesn't even look</u>	<u>at me.</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Non-Range	Process: Behavior	Circumstance: Location

The example above addresses he (Khalil) as a medium who does the act of "behaving," which is realized by the verbal group and doesn't even look at me placed as an additional detail that refers to circumstance of extent. The analysis of process and circumstances shows the injustice experienced by the story's main character.

Types of Circumstances in the Starr and Khalil's Narratives

As previously mentioned above, circumstances are signaled by adverbial groups or prepositional phrases. It may reflect the background function in the clause and correspond to intuitions such as time, location, and manner. There are nine main types of circumstances, but there are only seven kinds that are found in the narrative, briefly explained as: Extent indicates distance and is realized by a 'measured' nominal group; Location is identified by unfolding of the process in space and time; Cause represents the motive behind the actualization of the process; Contingency construes the element where the actualization subjected to; Manner specifies the style of how the process is performed; Matter focuses on unfolding the topic of saying and thinking; Angle represents the information that is given from an entity's perspective (Thompson, 2013).

Table 2. The frequency and percentage of Circumstances found in data

Types of Circumstances		Realization in the Data	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Extent	for, with, later	3	5.5
	Location	at, into, there, in, toward, of, against, from, to, on, during, out, behind	27	50
Enhancing	Manner	like, with, by, to, through, in, quietly, with, from, about,	14	26
	Cause	for, because	2	3.7
	Contingency	in	2	3.7



Projection	Matter	about	5	9.3
	Angle	from	1	1.8
TOTAL			54	100

From the collected data above, it is apparent that only seven of nine types of circumstances are found. Based on the calculated narrative, location appears in 27 clauses, which takes up half of the circumstances clause found in the narrative. Following location, manner is mentioned for 26% of the circumstance clauses that are found and appear in 14 clauses. Furthermore, matter and extent have 5 and 3 clauses found. Lastly, the three least used circumstances occurred consecutively in cause, contingency, and angle for 2, 2, and 1 clauses.

Location

Location construes the flow of events, including where they take place and when they occur. The location has two subtypes alongside their general interrogative forms: Place, which not only includes the stagnant location in place but also the source of path and destination of movement, marked by where?; and Time, which, like with Place, also shows ‘the temporal analogs’, indicated by when? (Halliday, 2014)

89.	<u>He</u>	falls	<u>to the ground.</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Range	Process: Transformative, Enhancing	Circumstance: Location, Place

The example above shows the application of circumstances of place where he (Khalil) as a medium does the process falls, which is done by himself and not affecting another participant. Thus, it counts as a range clause. The process, however, indicated the use of enhancement in transformative outcomes as falls signal a “motion.” The circumstance clause that applied in this clause is Location, which centered on the identification of place and is marked by the preposition to.

Manner

This circumstantial element construes the revelation of how the process is actualized and signaled by the interrogative term *How?*

160 & 161	<u>“Khalil</u>	<u>wasn’t speeding or driving</u>	<u>recklessly.</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Range	Process: Transformative, Enhancing	Circumstance: Manner: Quality

From the example above, it is evident that Khalil, as a Medium, does the action of “doing” wasn’t speeding or driving, which is indicated as a material clause that has an outcome in enhancement type. The adverbial group used in the clause identified as circumstances element manner, which underlines quality, considering it augmented the way Khalil was driving.

Ergativity System

The ergativity system deals with categorizing a participant who controls or initiates a process that may or may not affect some other participant. Ergativity is also argued to be a more ‘grammaticalized’ tool for identifying the difference between processes represented as externally caused or initiated by one’s self (Thompson, 2013, p. 142).

The ergativity system has two substantial participants function: Agent which performed when



there is an external cause that occurred in the clause (Matthiessen et al., 2010, p. 49); on the other hand, the Medium can operate without an actualization of the process (p. 137). Agent combined with external cause will turn the clause into an effective clause (p. 85); meanwhile Medium with only process attached to the clause will turn it into a middle clause. Furthermore, the middle clause has one component called Range which corresponds with transitivity values: Scope, Phenomenon, Verbiage, Attribute, and Value.

Table 3. The frequency and percentage of agency found in data.

No.	Agency	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Middle Range	172	41.8
2.	Effective	120	29.2
3.	Middle Non-Range	119	29
	TOTAL	411	100

As mentioned previously in the Data Analysis section, the researchers found 411 clauses from the collected narrative which corresponds with the issue that the researchers wants to emerge in this study. From the table above, it is apparent that the Middle Range clause dominates the found data in the narrative. It owns 172 clauses for about 41.8%. Following the Middle Range agent, the Effective agent appeared in 120 clauses for 29.2% and the least position held by the Middle Non-Range agent for owning the rest of 119 clauses.

334.	<u>One-Fifteen</u>	<u>pointed</u>	<u>his gun at me.</u>
Code	Agency: Middle, Range	Process: Transformative, Enhancing	Range/Scope

The example above shows that One-Fifteen as a Medium, does the process by himself without affecting another entity. Furthermore, his gun at me stands as a Range or Scope in the material clause, thus the clause is identified as a Middle Range clause.

Racial Disparity in US's Criminal Justice System Revealed in The Hate U Give by the Analysis of Ideational Metafunction

The representations of the racial disparity that are interpreted from the use of ideational metafunction found in Starr and Khalil's narratives in *The Hate U Give* are found. The most apparent actualization of the racial disparity that was found in the study is the injustice towards black people regarding its Criminal Justice System, including police brutality, racial profiling, and sentencing policy.

Racial disparity is when the proportion of a racial/ethnic group under the control of the system is greater than their proportion in the general population. (Schrantz & McElroy, 2008).

The first type of process that supports the representation of racial injustice in the United States towards black people is the material process. Thwaite (1983) stated that the domain of "doing" is more influential than the other "process." It is easier to use physical force to influence people than to convince someone to do something through their conscious state. Accordingly, it is important to determine the actor to whom the material process is used. In this novel, the force of action that was done is most used by the oppressor or One-Fifteen. One-Fifteen had performed a physical force on Khalil; below is how the process is realized:



65.	Khalil	gets out	with his hands up.
Code	Agency: Middle, Non-range	Transformative: Enhancing	Circumstances: Manner
66.	One-Fifteen	yanks	him by his arm
67.		and pins	him against the back door.
Code	Agency: Effective	Transformative: Elaborating	Circumstances: Manner, Location

The example above shows the action performed by One-Fifteen to Khalil. Based on the type of Agency that is used in this clause also reveals that One-Fifteen does a material process that affects Khalil; thus, the clause becomes effective.

The extended example of the excessive force below proves the act of process that was performed by police officers. The table and explanation will be delivered as follows:

Table 4. The representation of excessive forces by police officers to Khalil in clauses and its process

Code.	Clauses	Agency	Process Types.					Circ
			mat.	bhv.	ment.	verb.	relat.	
43.	A shot rings out.	mid: non-ra	transf: elab					
45.	A second shot.	eff	transf: elab					
60.	Get out the car, smart guy.”	mid: ra	transf: enh					loc.
62.	“Get out the car!	mid: ra	transf: enh					loc.
63.	Hands up,	mid: non-ra	transf: enh					
64.	where I can see them.	mid: ra			perc & phen			
66.	One-Fifteen yanks him by his arm	eff	transf: elab					manner
67.	and pins him against the back door.	eff	transf: elab					loc.
96.	Officer One-Fifteen yells at me,	eff		v				
97.	pointing the same gun	mid: ra					attr & circ	
98.	he killed my friend with.	eff	transf: elab					
99.	The cops rummage through Khalil’s car.	mid: ra	transf: enh					manner

The material process that is conducted in this scene exhibits the process of “doing” that is



realized as the execution involves energy. The agency that is used in the table above is also dominated by an effective clause, which signals that the Agent affects the other entity to whom they performed the action. In this excerpt, One-Fifteen impacts Khalil as another entity and leaves him damaged, which is realized by the use of an elaborative process.

This excerpt from the narrative also corresponds with the situational context that black people have been facing on a daily basis. Recalling the similar circumstances as quoted from *The Guardian*, Oscar Grant, an unarmed 22-year-old man, had received physical force from a police officer, Anthony Pirone. Despite Grant obeying Pirone's command, he got struck and kneed in the head by Pirone. Pirone was also thrown racial slurs while arguing with Grant, then followed the firing incident where Grant was shot in the back by another officer, who was also there at the time, Johannes Mehserle. Pirone, who performed physical force on Grant, was not criminally charged, but prosecutors charged Mehserle with a minimum of two years in prison (Levin, 2019).

The situation in the news above is typically similar to the incident that Khalil experienced. In the novel, even though Khalil had complied with One-Fifteen command, he still ended up brutally shooting Khalil in the back when he moved to his car door. Then, it is later revealed that One-Fifteen felt threatened because he assumed Khalil was a drug dealer, and that Khalil's move to his car door was to reach the gun that he stored inside his car. The weapon that One-Fifteen presumed was a gun, turned out to be a hairbrush.

This act of law enforcement that was enacted by a police officer identifies the situation as a form of police brutality. Emesowum (2016) defined police brutality as a civil rights violation as the law enforcement officers practice undue force against an individual, which might include beatings, verbal harassment, property damage, and death.

Other misconduct violation that is done by a detective in this story also leads to another racial injustice that is received by black people. The excerpt below shows the accusation that is pointed to Khalil, and the representation of the process that is used also corresponds with the narrative, which is described as follows:

Table 5. The representation of misconduct violation by a detective to Khalil in clauses and its process

Code.	Clauses	Agency	Process Types						Circ.
			mat.	bhv.	ment.	verb.	relat.	exist.	
118.	"I heard	mid: non-ra			perc & idea				
119.	he was a drug dealer,"	eff					ident & intens		
120.	says Uncle Carlos.	mid: non-ra				quot.			
121.	"And that makes it okay?"	mid: non-ra					attr & intens		
122.	Daddy asks.	mid: non-ra				indc.			
123.	"I didn't say	mid: ra				indc.			
124.	it did,	eff					attr & intens		



125.	but it could explain Brian's decision	mid: non-ra			indc.
126.	if he felt threatened."	mid: non-ra			emo & idea
211.	"Now, do you know	mid: ra			cog & idea
212.	if Khalil sold narcotics?"	eff	transf:		
ext					
231.	"I never saw	mid: ra			perc & phen
232.	him sell drugs	eff	transf:		
ext					
233.	or do drugs."	eff	transf:		
elab					
234.	"But do you know	mid: ra			cog & idea
235.	if he sold them?"	eff	transf:		
ext					
236.	she asks.	mid: non-ra			indc.
242.	"Do you have knowledge	mid: non-ra			attr & intens
243.	of him selling them?"	eff	transf:		
ext					
244.	"I heard things." Also true.	mid: ra			perc & phen
247.	Do you know	mid: non-ra			cog & idea
248.	if he was involved with the King Lords?"	eff	transf:		
ext					ext.
249.	"Did you consume any alcohol at the party?"	eff	v		loc.

The table above shows the scene where Khalil gets accused of selling drugs, which is realized by the relational process, the act of "being." The clause is classified as identifying and intensive, showing the additional identity attached to the entity.



Following the accusation, the situation that required Starr to give statements as the only witness in the accident shows the use of mental clauses. These collected clauses show an implication as if it is reasonable to stop and shoot Khalil because he is accused of selling drugs. As shown in the table above, the interrogative questions that are used to unfold the sequence of the incident also are not pointed to the firing incident that was done by One-Fifteen. Instead, the detective keeps asking irrelevant questions that do not have any correlation to the shootings, which is about the knowledge that Starr perceives about Khalil.

This particular selected narrative also corresponds with real-time situations of traffic stops and sudden arrests that are practiced by police officers. Earlier studies that were done by Americans showed that police officers tend to arrest people from minority races for minor crimes (including drug use, minor assault, etc.) compared to white people. The research that was done by Harris (2003) also shows that black males are 5.2 times more likely to be involved in traffic stops that were initiated by police officers despite violating any driving protocol (including driving without a license and speeding). This significant gap of measurement later concludes as evidence of the practice of racial profiling.

As cited by the American Civil Liberties Union, racial profiling itself refers to the practice that is done by law enforcement where the officials of these members of the government target and accuse individuals or communities based on their race, ethnicity, or religion. In addition to that, criminal profiling is typically a similar injustice treatment that is practiced by police officers because of their false assumption which believes that a certain individual or community from a particular race, ethnicity, or religion shares traits or is associated with crime (American Civil Liberties Union, 2020).

The last racial disparity act performed in this story is sentencing policy. The proof that is excerpted from the narrative regarding this injustice treatment will be explained as follows:

Table 6. The representation of injustice treatment in clauses and its process

Code.	Clauses	Agency	Process Types						Circ.
			mat.	bhv.	ment.	verb.	relat.	exist.	
371.	“If you’re just tuning in,	mid: ra	transf: enh						
372.	the grand jury has decided	mid: ra			des & phen				
373.	not to indict Officer Brian Cruise Jr. in the death of Khalil Harris.	eff					ident & circ		cont.
392.	“I wanna do something,”	mid: ra	transf: elab						
393.	I say.	mid: ra				indc.			
394.	“Protest, riot, I don’t care—”	eff					attr & intens		
399.	“Starr, think about this,”	mid: ra			cog & phen				



400.	Chris says.	mid: non-ra			indc.
401.	“That won’t solve anything.”	mid: ra			des & idea
402.	“And neither did talking!”	eff			ver- biage
403.	I snap.	mid: ra		v	
404.	“I did everything right,	eff	transf: elab		
405.	and it didn’t make a fucking difference.	mid: ra			ident & intens
406.	I’ve gotten death threats,	eff			target
407.	cops harassed my family,	mid: non-ra			attr & intens
408.	somebody shot into my house, all kinds of shit.	eff	transf: elab		
409.	And for what? Justice Khalil won’t get?	eff	transf: ext		
410.	They don’t give a fuck about us, so fine.	eff			attr & intens
411.	I no longer give a fuck.”	mid: ra			attr & intens

Briefly perceived, the table above shows the revelation using a relational process, followed by the use of the material process to visualize the harassment from police officers that Starr has received. The relational clauses that are used identify the act of stating a fact, and material clauses signal the act of “doing” what other entities have done. The agency that is involved in this selected narrative is also dominated by the middle range and effective clauses. These results show that the Agent does their process because they get affected by other entities’ actions, and the medium acts in their beings or, in other words, they stand as actors in the material process.

The story is disclosed with One-Fifteen, who is not indicted for the misconduct violation he had performed. This result of the grand jury lights up the fury of black people, especially Starr, who has devoted herself to the case so One-Fifteen will get a fair punishment for his wrongdoings.

This situation is practically familiar with the numerous protests that have been happening following the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. These cases are two of many police violation acts that have occurred in the United States for relentless years. Breonna Taylor’s murderer



has not been charged despite the pleading that her family has been stating for several months. Ms. Taylor was shot in her home after a police officer broke into her house at midnight for a mere baseless accusation that her ex-boyfriend, who was presumably a drug dealer, was hidden in her estate. Ms. Taylor then died without receiving any medical attention, and her case is still being processed, yet it does not signal that the investigation is near the end. Meanwhile, the case of George Floyd is the realization of police brutality that happens on the street in the daylight. Floyd was kned on the neck for nine minutes, and this possible strangulation had led him to his death. Despite Floyd cooperating while the police officers arrested him, the officers stilled their motion and intentionally shrugged off his Floyd plea even though he had already told them that he could not breathe.

The resolution that is served in this story does not give the character justice, nor does it give closure to the issue. This devastating end saddeningly corresponds with the current situation that has been happening. Black people, who have been receiving countless injustices from law enforcement, are nearly impossible to be treated as an equal community in the United States. Thus, they conduct protests, which can lead to riots because the US law has never been fair to them.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of Starr and Khalil's narratives in *The Hate U Give* above is done by discussing SFG's ideational metafunctions. The discussion is divided into two sections: classifying the ideational metafunction found in the narrative and revealing the representation of the racial disparity towards black people in the narrative as seen through its analysis of the ideational metafunction.

The transitivity patterns in the narrative are identified in the first section of the study. The result shows that the use of material process dominates the collected narrative for about 30% then, followed by relational clause, verbal clause, mental clause, behavioral clause, and existential clause. In addition, the circumstances element also gets to be analyzed, and it is found that there are seven of nine circumstances that appear in the collected narrative, such as location, manner, matter, extent, contingency, cause, and angle. Lastly, the ergativity system is also examined, which results in the middle range clause appearing most in the narrative, followed by effective and middle non-range clauses.

In the second section of the study, the representations of the racial disparity towards black people in the narrative are discussed. The first representation of racial disparity faced by black people in the narrative found that black people tend to receive unfair treatment by law enforcement regarding police brutality, racial profiling, and sentencing policy. This representation of racism is shown through the use of material processes to state.

REFERENCES

- Alaei, M., & Ahangari, S. (2016). A Study of Ideational Metafunction in Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness": A Critical Discourse Analysis. *English Language Teaching*, 9(4), 203-213. DOI: 10.5539/elt.v9n4p203
- American Civil Liberties Union. (2005, November 23). Racial Profiling: Definition. American Civil Liberties Union. <https://www.aclu.org/documents/racial-profiling-definition?redirect=racial-profiling-definition>
- Blair, R., & Mitchell, D. (2008). Psychopathy, attention and emotion. *Psychological Medicine*, 39(4), 543-555. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0033291708003991>
- Creswell, J., & Creswell, J. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Dwijatmoko, B. B. (2019). Life and Death in Andersen's "Grandmother": A Systemic Functional Grammar Analysis. *Jurnal KATA*, 3(1), 144-154. DOI: 10.22216/kata.v3i1.4148
- Eberhardt, J. L., Goff, P. A., Purdie, V. J., & Davies, P. G. (2004). Seeing Black: Race, Crime, and Visual Processing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 87(6), 876-893. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.87.6.876>



- Halliday, M., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *Halliday's introduction to functional grammar*. Oxfordshire, England: Routledge.
- Hochschild, J., & Weaver, V. (2007). The Skin Color Paradox and the American Racial Order. *Social Forces*, 86(2), 643-670. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/86.2.643>
- Koussouhon, L. A. (2015). Exploring Ideational Metafunction in Helon Habila's *Oil on Water*: A re-evaluation and redefinition of African Women's Personality and Identity through Literature. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 4(5), 129-136. DOI: 10.7575/aiac.ijalel.v.4n.5p.129
- Levin, S. (2019, May 2). Officer Punched Oscar Grant and Lied About Facts in 2009 Killing, Records Show. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/may/02/officer-punched-oscar-grant-and-lied-about-facts-in-2009-killing-records-show>
- Matthiessen, C., Teruya, K., & Lam, M. (2010). Key Terms in Systemic Functional Linguistics. *Continuum*.
- Punyanunt-Carter, N. (2008). The Perceived Realism of African American Portrayals on Television. *Howard Journal Of Communications*, 19(3), 241-257. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10646170802218263>
- Schranz, D., & McElroy, J. (2008). *Reducing Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: A Manual for Practitioners and Policymakers*. The Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/reducing-racial-disparity-in-the-criminal-justice-system-a-manual-for-practitioners-and-policymakers/>
- Thomas, A. (2017). *The Hate U Give* (1st ed.). Walker Books.
- Thompson, G. (2013). *Introducing Functional Grammar* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Tonry, M. (2010). The Social, Psychological, and Political Causes of Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System. *Crime And Justice*, 39(1), 273-312. DOI: 10.1086/653045
- Woolffitt, R. (2006). *Conversation analysis and discourse analysis*. SAGE Publications.



This page is left blank