

The Study of Psychological Transformation in the Double Hook under the Theory of Transitivity Analysis

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[Abstract] Literacy works play a tremendously important role in human life and it has been proven that transitivity analysis is very useful to the stylistic comments in literacy analysis. The characters' thoughts can be reflected through the changing transitivity processes. This paper adopts the transitivity system to analyze the psychological transformation of the protagonist and aims to demonstrate how the transitivity analysis reveals the subtle changes in the inner world of a character.

[Keywords] psychological transformation; the double hook; theme of community; transitivity process

Introduction

The Double Hook is a landmark of modernist literature in Canada. Since it first published in 1959, it has been the goal of critical research for more than half a century. The novel successfully demonstrates the spiritual, transitive and even emotional status of people in a small village in a remote mountainous region of Canada. A united group displayed in the novel, which is very important for Canada because Canada has always been a country composed of many different ethnic groups and Western invaders.

For years, many stylists analyze the novel, *The Double Hook*, from different perspectives. And this novel has been analyzed from the theory of transitivity system. Although the previous studies with theoretical foundations and research focuses vary a lot, most of them focus on the return of the protagonist from physical aspect. With the development of the storyline, the protagonist slowly returns to his real life. In contrast, the author of this article intends to reveal that the protagonist is not merely returning to the village where he grew up physically, but that after the journey, the protagonist has undergone a psychological transformation and has completely returned to his life mentally and spiritually.

In previous studies, scholars paid more attention to the influence of other people, but not the hero. Although they looked at the hero, they just focused on his mental aspect. Therefore, the hero himself and the mental changes are the core part of this paper. This article selects a part of the original novel *The Double Hook* to carry on the stylistic analysis by the means of the analysis of the transitivity process. From the analysis and contrast of the processes shouldered by the hero, people animals or lifeless objects, the author aims to demonstrate the changes of inner thought vividly. Due to the limited space, there is no research on how the hero redeem his responsibilities and guilt.

The Theory of Transitivity System

Halliday believes that in a particular cultural context, speakers face a range of language choices, and different choices extend different meanings. Therefore, people choose the appropriate

language to achieve a specific speech function according to their own communication purposes. He divides the functions of the language into three categories: conceptual function, interpersonal function, and textual function. Each function has its specific implementation. The realization of the conceptual function is through the transitivity system, reflecting the objective world and the inner world experience. The realization of the interpersonal function is through the modal system, reflecting the attitude, judgment, values, etc. In addition, the textual function is realized by the theme-rhyme structure, information structure and cohesion system, reflecting the logical relationship of the internal structure of the discourse. The transitivity system finally embodied in clauses, and there are different representations at the syntactic level, where the composition depends on the type of experience. The experience process itself, participants and environmental factors are indispensable.

Halliday refines the transitivity system into six major process types: material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, existential process, and behavioral process. The focus of the material process is what people do. The mental process focuses on the inner world of people, namely, perception, cognition, and emotional likes and dislikes. The process of relationship characterizes or identifies the connections between entities or between entities and concepts. The verbal process refers to what people say and to whom they say. The existential process represents what the objective world already exists or occurs and the behavioral process refers to the physiological action of the human being, which is the external manifestation caused by psychological changes. Therefore, the selection of process types, participants, and environmental components in the transitivity system can create special stylistic effects for the discourse (Halliday, 2000).

Transitivity System and *the Double Hook*

At the beginning of the novel, James killed his mother because he rebelled against his mother's autocracy. Kip was blinded which was caused by James, and Kip's supervision made him lose freedom. Later, James lashed out at Lenchen, who had their own children and his sister Greta for anger in his mind, and then his sister set fire to their house. Later in the city, James was cheated, penniless, and decided to return home and started a new life. At the same time, William was looking for him to go back. Others were helping Lenchen with premature delivery. With the efforts of everyone, the village that had been torn apart got together again. Regarding the reunion, the changes in James' mind that he has experienced have a major effect on it.

The current critical comment of the novel tends to focus on the influence of other people, such as Felix and William, and on the formation of spiritual communities in the village. Although the role James plays is also recognized, it rarely involves the spiritual aspect. James is considered to be indispensable to the success of the new order, and some criticisms also involve the return of James' spirit, but James' psychological changes on his way home has not been studied. The rebirth of the village is closely related to the changes in James' mind, not just his physical return. Compared with Felix who brought everyone together, James' spiritual return is even more important. So, it is worth studying James' psychological changes and these changes can be reflected through changes in the transitivity process.

Many stylists focused on the analysis of the character's mind with transitive properties, but the relationship between the physical process and the changes of the character's mind are not studied. This article is a study of how transitivity analysis indicates the subtle changes in a

character's mind. The eighth to thirteenth paragraphs in Chapter 8, and Chapters 13 and 18 from the novel are selected as the data, for these parts describe James' return process. And a detailed transitivity analysis process table to the article is also included.

Transitivity Processes Reflect James' Changes of Mind

By analyzing the transitivity process of selected parts, this article analyzes the hero's psychological changes in three steps. The first step is James' helplessness and dullness. The second part is James' changes of mind. The third part is James' communication with others. By analyzing the transitivity characteristics, James' psychological changes is proved. The different kinds of transitivity processes analyzed from the parts are in the following table.

Table 1

Transitivity Process in the Parts Cited in the Paper

<i>Process</i>	Material Process		Mental Process			Relational Process	Verbal Process	Existential Process	Total
	<i>Intransitive</i>	<i>Transitive</i>	<i>Sense</i>	<i>Reaction</i>	<i>Recognition</i>				
<i>Chapter 8</i>									
Human (James)	1	3	3	3					10/29%
Horse	6	11							17/50%
Lifeless objects	3	3							7/21%
Total	10	17	3	3					34/100%
<i>Chapter 13</i>									
Human (James)	4	10	7		15		2		38/58%
Human (other people)	1	2					11		5/8%
Horse	2	1							3/5%
Lifeless objects	10	7				1	1		19/29%
Total	17	20	7		15	2	4		65/100%
<i>Chapter 18</i>									
Human (James)	8	9	5	3	1	2	6		34/31%
Human (other people)	2	11	2		3	3	13	1	35/43%
Horse									0/0%
Lifeless objects	2	2				7		2	13/16%
Total	12	22	7	3	4	12	19	3	82/100%

Helplessness and Dullness

In the first half of Chapter 8, James' state is confused and dull. In the city, James is cheated and penniless, which prompted him to decide to go home. James was full of helplessness for his future. He does not know what his destiny was in the village where he killed his mother and hurt some people. With this in mind, James is perplexed and passively set foot on the journey.

According to Halliday's transitive terms, there were 34 transitivity processes in this section, including 27 material processes, 6 mental processes, and 1 relational process. Of the 34 processes, James only participated in 10 processes, which accounts for approximately 29%, while the process of horses as participants is 17 and takes up 50%, among which most of the processes were transitive. By contrast, the proportion of James as a participant is small. Obviously, the initiative and even its dominant position of the horse are highly valued. On the other hand, James' confusion and dullness are contrasted in this part. In James' four physical processes as participants, although three are transitive, the data still show that the horse is the real dominator. For example, in the sentence "James gave it its head," although the word "gave" is active, it means that James has completely given the initiative to the horse and lets the horse carry him in despite of the danger ahead. The fact that personal security is entrusted to unconscious animals illustrates how depressed and helpless James is for the future. The other two processes, "He shut his eyes and fastened his free hand in his horse's mane" illustrate James' indifference to the surrounding environment.

In total of 10 mental processes, James, as the sensor, takes up 6, accounting for 60%, which is twice as many as the transitivity processes. This point fully illustrates James' inability to do things. The large portion of mental processes also illustrate James' inaction. Mental processes are processes that express feelings, reactions and perceptions. In these three categories, James' mental process is limited to feelings and reactions. This shows that this is a psychological process with no vitality. Words in the cognition process, such as recognize, know, and other words, will explain the more dynamic and complex process of thinking, but these words do not appear in the novel. At this stage, James still has no ability to think about the information obtained from around.

Similarly, the analysis of mental process of James is also very important. In the selected passage, James can only feel the muscles of the horse and can hear the sound of horseshoe on the bridge. James only perceives the horse itself, and more precisely, the parts of the horse's body that James touches. Watson describes, "James could feel the pull of the horse's shoulders. He could feel the muscles contact and tighten as the horse began its descent on the other side." These expressions emphasize that James' mental activity only related to the environment at that time. Further, James' awareness of the broader natural environment revealed in an indirect way.

The participants, mountains, bridges, and fears, in the three sentences cited in this article are inanimate objects. The author uses inanimate objects to prove that James does not have the ability to perceive environmental changes in the distance. And James' inability and dullness to the surrounding environment are clearly indicated.

According to comparison of James' different experiences in different environments, the extreme passive character he shows on the way back is described incisively. What happens in this scenario is James fleeing from the town, but he has different performances. The first scene is that James' head is close to the horse's ear and the horse gallops. In the other is that he sees the mountains. Faced with the same scene, James' distinct performance highlights his grasp of destiny in future. There are 34 transitivity processes in this part, from which it concluded that James is not

sure of his fate at the beginning of the return journey and has no perception of the surrounding situation.

The Process of Psychological Change

According to the original narrative, the protagonist gradually gains the ability to think and judge in Chapter 13. The transitivity feature in the Chapter 13 reflects on the hero's psychological change, which contrasts with that in Chapter 8.

By analyzing the contents of Chapter 13, there are a total of 65 transitivity processes, 38 of which are played by James as an actor, which accounts for 58%. There are only three processes played by the horse as an actor, that is, only 5%. There are 34 transitive verbs in the 38 processes. James' specific behaviors and psychological activities are related to specific people and specific objects, such as the deer, the girl, etc. From this, we can conclude that James slowly walks out of the lonely dark world and tries to make himself more connected with the outside world. That is, James no longer isolates himself, but tries to connect with the society. The clear difference between Chapter 13 and Chapter 8 is that cognitive activities are added to mental processes and cognition accounts for 68% of the total 15 mental processes. This shows that James is thinking positively, perceiving and analyzing what happens around him and making his own judgment.

The phenomenon in the mental processes also illustrates other information, that is, James' vision has exceeded his environment. His range of perception is not limited to horses, which is described in Chapter 8, but extends to things in nature, objects in life, and abstract concepts. More importantly, James' cognitive psychology has included people who have relationships with his life, such as Felicia, Lilly, Kip, Greta, and so on. James is approaching people in the communities where he lives. James wants to get rid of loneliness and realizes that escaping is useless, and only his land where he is born and grown will show his value. It is worth mentioning that the psychological phenomenon also involves specific scenes in James' daily life, such as Felicia's empty bottles on the table.

The phrases in Chapter 13 appear to be fragmented and unconnected on the surface. In fact, these phrases reflect James' past life. In fact, these phrases are regular. The author describes them in the order of towns and villages. He first describes Felicia, Lilly, and Traff in the city and recalls the village's Kip, Greta, and Mother. This sequence is also the route that James returns to his hometown. This narrative sequence is in response to the psychological change, from James' abandonment of the township and recognition of belonging to the village.

As it goes with his self-examination, the psychological activities tend to be systematic. The changes in mental activity can be divided into three stages: self-exploration, self-renewal, and self-inquiry. In the first stage, James' initial short-sightedness and lack of insight turns into owning his own insight into things. For example, at first, James can only see what his eyes see, and then he can see the deer's belly from his mind. In the second stage, James decides to take responsibility for the girl. In the third stage, James puts forward two questioning sentences, which shows that James' mental activities have changed. James believes that the pain and darkness experienced in life are not essential and can be avoided. These two questioning sentences indicate that James' life began to change from pain to happiness, from darkness to light, and from death to rebirth.

The preceding discussion shows that James' mental state has undergone an important transformation. James is no longer confused, bound, and alone.

Communication and Sharing

There were a total of 82 transitivity processes in Chapter 18. Unlike Chapter 13, the types of procedures in this chapter have increased a lot. Apart from transitivity processes and mental processes, there are also a large number of relational and verbal processes. These show that James' activities and exchanges with others have increased. For example, James tries to implement specific actions on specific things, which is a transitivity process; he judges what he has done before, which is a mental process; it is a relational process to clarify the relationship between potential things; it is the existential process to make clear his self-position in the society; and it is the verbal process to express one's own opinion through communication. Through these, we can conclude that the types of processes in this chapter are various.

It can be seen that many of the sentences in this chapter contain more than one process. For example, verbal processes often involve transitivity processes or mental processes. This shows that James' speech points to the dynamic things and shifty thought, but no longer exquisite things and fixed images. And from this, we can see that James has turned into a proactive image; he can fully and systematically analyze what happens. In the Chapters 8 and 13, sentences in which participants with no life occupy the majority, while in Chapter 18, James actively acts as a participant, and the horse becomes the goal. The shift of the horse from the actor to the goal is a demonstration of James' changes from confusion to initiative in his mind.

The proportion of human beings as participants in this chapter accounts for a large part of the 82 processes, among which humans act as participants in 69 processes, of which James accounts for 49% and the rest are 51%. There are only 4 verbal processes in Chapter 13, among which James is a speaker in 2 processes, but this is not a really verbal act, because the speaker and listener are the same person – himself. However, in Chapter 18, new conversation subjects – William and the boy – were introduced, and a real conversation is carried on. The conversation between them establishes a relationship between them, which is based on love and concern.

Transitivity Analysis and Sense of Belonging

The transitivity characteristics in the preceding paragraphs are summarized as follows:

1. The proportion of James' participation in the transitivity process, mental process and verbal process is on the rise, which is 29%, 58% and 41% respectively. This shows that James' mental activity has become more and more active. It is worth mentioning that the slight decrease in the proportion of James' participation in the third section is mainly due to the reason that other people participate in the conversation and it does not mean that James' initiative has declined.
2. The transitivity process of James as an actor in Chapter 13 has increased from chapter 8, from 4 to 14, and transitive verbs have increased from 3 to 10. This shows that the protagonist's behavior changes from passivity to activity.
3. The changes in mental process from lifeless perception at the beginning to active and high-level cognition later shows that the mental activity of James is increasing in both positive and complex levels. The overall phenomenon of the psychological process has also undergone significant changes, becoming broad, continuous and logical.

4. Compared with Chapters 8 and 13, the types of processes in Chapter 18 are more diversified. There are multiple transitivity processes in a sentence, which shows that the response to the surrounding environment is more comprehensive and systematic.

From the perspective of social history, these transitive characteristics show James' inner world. In the second phase of James' journey, he tries to make clear all the people related to him so that he can position himself. These mental processes tell us that James will not be attracted by the town, and the small village is the only place belonging to James, where he can find his own position. It is universal that James refuses to be alone and refuses to flee from his community. The problems that Watson explores are by no means limited to the small villages in the novel. As Morris says, individuals are always attracted to the whole. From the perspective of James' psychological transition, the novel has an important significance, that is, contains the "personal center" theory. The return of James from a remote town to a small village symbolizes Canada's reluctance to accept long-term colonial rule, heralding the Canadian people's awakening and the building of a united and independent country. This is the reason why *The Double Hook* has always been considered as the literary work that marks the end of the colonial rule. Further, the work marks the beginning of the post-colonial rule period.

Conclusion

Through the analysis of transitivity process in Watson's *The Double Hook*, it is concluded that James' return road is full of changes, from passivity to activity, from confusion to liberation, from loneliness to integration with everyone. The role this series of changes play in the ultimate integration of spiritual homes is not mentioned in previous literary comment. But changes of mind are rarely involved before. The transitivity analysis of this study effectively demonstrates the changes of the hero's mind and provides us with a new literary research perspective. The author hopes that this paper will help the analysis of psychological transformation of the heroes in the literacy work under the aid of the transitivity process.

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