

HOW THE PARTICIPANTS IN MENTAL PROCESSES INVOLVING THE VERBS “MAKE,” “TAKE,” AND “HAVE” REPRESENT THE MEANING OF CLAUSES: GRAMMATICAL METAPHORS IN A FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR STUDY

Dede Ismail¹, Anum Dahlia²

^{1,2}Institut Digital Ekonomi LPKIA, Bandung, Indonesia

ismailando@yahoo.com, anumdahlia77@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: Dede Ismail, Institut Digital Ekonomi LPKIA

Email: ismailando@yahoo.com

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Abstract:

The transitivity system, in functional grammar, introduces seven processes. One of them is “Mental Process” that consists of three types: (1) affective, which represents feeling, liking, loving, and fearing, (2) cognitive, which represents the process of thinking, knowing, and understanding, and (3) perceptive, which involves the process of perceiving through the five senses such as seeing, and hearing. Participants engaged in the mental processes are Senser, someone who can sense, and Phenomenon, something that can be sensed. However, there is another participant, namely Range, when the mental process involves a grammatical metaphor. Grammatical metaphors occur in nominal groups that are paired with verbs that have no lexical meaning or are semantically empty, in this case, the verbs “make,” “take,” and “have.” This research aims to analyse how the participants in the mental processes represent the meaning of the clauses when they are categorized as grammatical metaphors. The data source is the Corpus of Contemporary American English (2012-2017). This research shows that (1) the participants in the mental processes represent the meaning of clauses because they are categorized as grammatical metaphors, (2) because of grammatical metaphors, the participants in the mental process are the ranges, and (3) when the clauses do not involve the grammatical metaphors, the participants in the mental processes are the phenomenon, as commonly structured in the mental processes.



Keywords: Mental process, grammatical metaphor, congruent form, non-congruent form

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INTRODUCTION

A functional grammar focuses on three metafunctions, and one of them is a transitivity system. In the transitivity system, the entities analyzed are termed as “processes,” which are realized by verbs. It can be emphasized that verbs play a considerable role in constructing the meaning of clauses. However, it is widely accepted that nominal groups may represent a variety of expressions rather than verbs such as “made a contact,” “had a dream,” and “took a seat.” Each meaning of these three expressions is centered on nominal groups “a contact,” “a dream,” and “a seat,” which means that the verbs “made,” “had,” and “took” have no lexical meaning. Bloor and Bloor (2004) argued that nominal groups representing the meaning of the expressions can be categorized as “grammatical metaphors” (p. 126-127). Jespersen (1965), as cited in Amberber et al. (2010), refers to these expressions as “light verbs”. Bloor & Bloor stated that “a grammatical metaphor occurs when a nominalization is coupled with a semantically empty verb.” The nominalized form is labeled as “non-congruent”, while the non-nominalized form is called “congruent.”

Gerot and Wignell (1995, p. 54) stated that “transitivity is centered around process realized by verbs, which are divided into seven types: Material Processes, Behavioral Processes, Mental Processes, Verbal Processes, Relational Processes, Existential Processes, and Meteorological Processes.” Two other components that are completing the processes in transitivity are “Participants” and “Circumstance.” Participants are realized by nominal groups, and Circumstances are realized by adverbial groups and prepositional phrases (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 222). This research merely discusses mental processes because the roles of verbs (verbs “make,” “take,” and “have”), in constructing the meaning of clauses, are uniquely represented by the nominal groups when they are categorized as grammatical metaphors. The participants in mental processes are “senser” and typically “phenomenon;” however, the phenomenon can be changed into another participant called “range” if categorized as a grammatical metaphor.

This research is related to a previous article by Ismail (2020) that focused on how the participants in *material processes* construct the meaning of clauses. Material processes are realized by verbs that represent the process of doing (bodily, physically, and materially). In contrast, this current research focuses on how the participants in *mental processes* represent the meaning of clauses. Mental processes involve the process of sensing (emotionally, intellectually, and sensorily). These two research studies provide a new perspective on the participants involved in material and mental processes. Typically, the participants of material processes are “actor” and “goal.” However, grammatical metaphors allow them to be “actor” and “range.” In mental processes, the incumbent participants are “senser” and “phenomenon;” however, grammatical metaphors introduce new entities in mental processes called “senser” and “range.” Another related study related to this article is “Implicit Participants in Mental Processes: A Functional Grammar Analysis,” by Rahmasari and Nurhayati (2019). They focused on ordinary mental verbs and their phenomena that were implicit, while the verbs remained the mental processes. Additionally, regarding the discussions of congruent and non-congruent, a study titled “The Sequence of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor Wording Technique in Historical Text” was conducted by Jaelani (2014), which may be related to this current article. The research aims to support Halliday and Matthiessen's (2004) theory on parsing the change of metaphorical forms into congruent forms and applying the transitivity system in the reconstructed results.

This research aims to analyze how the participants in mental processes represent the meaning of clauses when they are categorized as grammatical metaphors. The verbs involved in this research are the verbs “make,” “take,” and “have.” This research merely analyzes nine data points extracted from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (2012-2017).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Mental Processes

Gerrot and Wignell (1995, p. 58) stated that “mental processes involve *sensing, feeling, thinking, and perceiving*. These processes can be categorized into three types: affective, cognitive, and perceptive. Affective involves the process of *feeling, liking, loving, and fearing*. Cognitive involves the process of *thinking, knowing, and understanding*. The last type is perceptive which involves the process of perceiving through the five senses such as *seeing and hearing*. **Senser** and **Phenomenon** are the participants in mental processes.” Mental processes involve two participants: the **senser** and the **phenomenon**. The **senser** refers to someone who can “feel,” “think” and “see,” while the **phenomenon** refers to something that can be “felt,” “thought” and “seen”. The following example may illustrate the differences among affective, cognitive, and perceptive.

Affective	Mark Senser	likes Mental: Affective	new clothes Phenomenon
Cognitive	I Senser	don’t understand Mental: Cognitive	this stuff Phenomenon
Perceptive	I Senser	didn’t hear Mental: Perceptive	The song Phenomenon

In addition to phenomenon, there is another participant that may be involved in the mental processes: the “range.” It can be argued that the range is the participant of mental processes since, in fact, it is derived from nominalization which is categorized as a non-congruent one. Not only does it occur to the mental processes, but it also occurs in *material processes* as stated by Gerot & Wignell (1995, p. 57): Sujatna (2013, p.37) supports this classification of “range” as a participant in material processes. This participant is unique because it is derived from the nominalization of the verb in the material process. However, Sujatna termed it as “scope.” She claimed that the phrases “took a bath” and “made a leap” can be changed to “she bathed” and “she leapt” respectively. The noun phrases “a bath” and “a leap” are nominalizations of the verb. Additionally, the range can be applied to verbal processes (Halliday 2004: 193). He exemplified the range in verbal process as in “he made a defiant speech.” The nominal group “a defiant speech” is regarded as a range because it represents the meaning of the verbal process. Normally, the participants in verbal processes are “sayers” and “targets” as in “Keating slurred Howard” (Gerrot & Wignell, 1995, p. 63). “Keating” is the sayer, “slurred” is the verbal process, and “Howard” is the target. Meanwhile, “He made a defiant speech” can be parsed into [sayer-verbal process-range].

Grammatical Metaphors

Grammatical metaphors occur when a noun or a nominal group dominates the meaning of processes. According to Thompson (2014, p. 238-243), the main feature of grammatical metaphor is nominalization, which involves using a nominal form to express a process meaning. Nominalizations are typically formed by creating a noun from a verb. Bloor and Bloor (2004), as previously mentioned, argued that “the

nominalizations can be found in a number of phrases such as “take a bath,” “have a look,” and so on, which are categorized as a grammatical metaphor. It can be argued that nominalization enables a process, realized as a verb, to be realized as a noun and therefore to become a participant in a further process such as *suggest-suggestion*, *describe-description*, *compare-comparison*, and *apply-application*” (p. 2014-127).

Congruent and Non-Congruent

As mentioned in the introduction, the terms “Congruent” and “Non-Congruent” refer to the participants in the mental process, which are typically the senser and the phenomenon. The common structure of this process, represented as the *senser-mental process-phenomenon*, is regarded as the congruent form. On the other hand, the non-congruent form involves the senser and the range. This unique structure *senser-mental process-range* occurs because the non-congruent form has something to do with nominalization. The nominalization enables the range to represent the meaning of the clauses, rather than the verb as it commonly occurs in the mental process. Bloor and Bloor (2004:127) labeled “the driver took a look at Whisper” or “the driver had a look at Whisper” as the non-congruent form. We may write the congruent form “the driver looked at Whisper” instead. These forms, the congruent and non-congruent, have no difference in meaning.

RESEARCH METHOD

The most likely method to be applied in this research is descriptive-qualitative. This method involves collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and describing data (William, 2008) as cited in Hardani et al. (2020, p. 15-20). The data is originally sourced from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (2012-2017). The research is conducted in four steps: (1) selecting some clauses that contain grammatical metaphors, which involve the verbs “make,” “take,” and “have,” (2) sorting the three verbs “make,” “take,” and “have,” that are categorized into mental process in transitivity system, (3) analyzing the three verbs “make,” “take,” and “have” together with their participants in the mental processes by synchronizing the four supporting theories written by Wignel and Gerot (1995), Bloor and Bloor (2004), Halliday and Matthiesen (2014), Sujatna (2013), and (4) the hypotheses are eventually concluded.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section describes how the participants in mental processes involving the verbs “make,” “take,” and “have” represent the meaning of the clauses and illustrates different participants between non-congruent and congruent forms.

DATA 1: Verb Make

“She'd made a fool of herself two months ago, writing that note to him, giving herself a reputation she didn't really need, on top of being a Waverley” (FIC New York, 2015).

“She 'd made a fool of herself two months ago.”			
Senser	Mental	Range	Circumstance

The data above indicates that the verb “made” is categorized as a grammatical metaphor because the nominal group “a fool of herself” represents the process of sensing rather than a thing. The verb “made” is a mental process since “fool”, as the head of the nominal group, is basically a nominalization of the verb “fooled” which represents the mental process of an *affective type*. Therefore, the nominal group “a fool of herself” is categorized as range. The participants in the mental process are the senser and phenomenon. The senser is the individual who performs the mental action, while phenomenon refers to something that can be *felt*, *thought*, and *seen*. In the

grammatical metaphor, the incumbent participants are the sensor and the range regarding the nominalization.

Because “fool” is a nominalized form of the verb, “She'd made a fool of herself two months ago” can be alternatively replaced with “She'd fooled herself two months ago.” This construction demonstrates that another participant replaces the range in the congruent form.

Non-congruent:

“She	'd made	a fool of herself	two months ago.”
Sensor	Mental	Range	Circumstance

Congruent:

“She	'd fooled	herself	two months ago.”
Sensor	Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance

The pronoun “herself” represents the phenomenon in the congruent form, where the sensor and the phenomenon are common participants in mental processes; however, if the clause involves the non-congruent form, the participants are the sensor and range. Obviously, the range experiences change from the range “a fool of herself” into the phenomenon “herself.”

DATA 2: Verb Make

"I have to make an estimate of where I am today," he says, "because I won't know until a month from now" (MAG-Science, 2014).

“I	have to make	an estimate of where I am today.”
Sensor	Mental	Range

The verb “make” is considered as a grammatical metaphor because the nominal group “an estimate of where I am today” represents the process of sensing rather than a thing. The verb “make” represents the mental process because “estimate”, as the head of the nominal group, is the nominalization of the verb “estimate” that represents the mental process of *cognitive type*. Thus, the nominal group “an estimate of where I am today” is categorized as the range. The participants in the mental process are the sensor and phenomenon. Sensor is someone who performs the mental action, or those who can feel, think, and see. The phenomenon refers to something that can be *felt*, *thought*, and *seen*. However, in the grammatical metaphor, the obligatory participants are the sensor and range regarding nominalization.

Since the noun “estimate” is the nominalization of the verb in the mental process, “I have to make an estimate of where I am today” can be changed into “I have to estimate where I am today.” In this case, the congruent form enables the range to be another participant.

Non-congruent:

“I	have to make	an estimate of where I am today.”
Sensor	Mental	Range

Congruent:

“I	have to estimate	where I am today.”
Sensor	Mental	Phenomenon

In the congruent form, the phenomenon is realized by the clause “where I am today” since the clause is treated as if it is almost a ‘thing.’ This construction commonly occurs in a number of mental processes which may involve two incumbent participants, the sensor and phenomenon. However, the non-congruent form enables the mental process to have two participants: the sensor and the range. Thus, it can be

argued that the range “an estimate of where I am today” can be changed into the phenomenon “where I am today” in the congruent form.

DATA 3: Verb Make

“Your eye surgeon should be able to make an assessment of the cause of the tearing and recommend, or refer you for, the necessary care” (MAG-Saturday Evening, 2012)

“Your eye surgeon should be able to make an assessment of the cause of the tearing.”

Senser	Mental	Range
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The data shows that the verb “make”, as the head of the verbal group, is involved in the grammatical metaphor since the nominal group “an assessment of the cause of the tearing” represents the process of sensing. The verb “make” is the mental process since “assessment” is basically a nominalized form of the verb “assess” which realizes the mental process of “cognitive type” that involves the process of thinking. Thus, the nominal group “an assessment of the cause of the tearing” is categorized as the range. Commonly, the participants in the mental processes are the senser and phenomenon; however, in the grammatical metaphor, the required participants are the senser and range due to the nominalization.

Because of the nominalization, the clause “Your eye surgeon should be able to make an assessment of the cause of the tearing” can be replaced with “Your eye surgeon should be able to assess the cause of the tearing.” In this case, the congruent form enables the range to be another participant.

Non-congruent:

“Your eye surgeon should be able to make an assessment of the cause of the tearing.”

Senser	Mental	Range
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Congruent:

“Your eye surgeon should be able to assess the cause of the tearing.”

Senser	Mental	Phenomenon
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In the congruent form, the nominal group “the cause of the tearing” represents the phenomenon. This construction commonly occurs to a number of mental processes that may involve two incumbent participants: the senser and phenomenon. However, in the non-congruent form, the mental process involves two participants: the senser and range.

DATA 4: Verb Make

“If people make an objective evaluation of a candidate's work,” she said, “they have nothing to fear” (NEWS-USA Today, 2012).

“people make an objective evaluation of a candidate's work.”

Senser	Mental	Range
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The verb “make” is categorized as a grammatical metaphor because the nominal group “an objective evaluation of a candidate's work” represents the process of sensing. The verb make is the mental process because “evaluation,” as the head of the nominal group, is basically the nominalized form of the verb “evaluate” which represents the mental process of “cognitive type,” involving the process of thinking. Therefore, the nominal group “an objective evaluation of a candidate's work” is considered as range. The participants in the mental process are commonly the senser, those who perform the mental action, and the phenomenon, those who can feel, think, and see. The

phenomenon refers to something that can be felt, thought and seen. However, in the grammatical metaphor, the participants engaged are the senser and the range regarding nominalization. In addition, this type of nominalization can be commonly found when they are paired with verbs which have no lexical meaning.

Because of the nominalization, “people make an objective evaluation of a candidate's work product” can be alternatively replaced with “people evaluate a candidate's work objectively,” which means that the congruent form enables the range to be another participant?

Non-congruent:		
“People make an objective evaluation of a candidate's work.”		
Senser	Mental	Range

Congruent:		
“People evaluate a candidate's work objectively.”		
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

In the congruent form, the nominal group “a candidate's work objectively” represents the phenomenon as it normally occurs to a number of mental processes which may involve two incumbent participants: the senser and phenomenon. However, in the non-congruent form, the mental process involves two participants: the senser and range.

DATA 5: Verb Take

“We need to stop the occupation. Netanyahu doesn't take heed of our rights” (SPOK-CBS, 2014).

“Netanyahu doesn't take heed of our rights.”		
Senser	Mental	Range

The data shows that the verb “take,” is categorized as the grammatical metaphor because the nominal group “heed of our rights represents the process of sensing.” The verb “take” is the mental process since “heed,” as the head of the nominal group, is basically a nominalization of the verb “heed” which is categorized as a mental process of “cognitive type,” involving the process of thinking. Thus, the nominal group “heed of our rights” is categorized as the range. As previously described, the senser and the phenomenon are the participants in the mental process. However, in the grammatical metaphor, the participants engaged are the senser and range due to the nominalization.

Because the noun “heed” is a nominalization of the verb in the mental process, “Netanyahu doesn't take heed of our rights” can be alternatively replaced with “Netanyahu doesn't heed our rights.” The range is replaced with another participant in the congruent form.

Non-congruent: “Netanyahu doesn't take heed of our rights.”		
Senser	Mental	Range

<i>Congruent</i> Netanyahu doesn't heed our rights.”		
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

The congruent form enables the nominal group “our rights” to be the phenomenon as it normally occurs to the mental processes that may involve two participants: the senser and the phenomenon. However, in the non-congruent form, the mental process involves two participants: the senser and range. It can be concluded that the range “heed of our rights” is changed into the phenomenon “our rights” in the congruent form.

DATA 6: Verb Take

“A drop behind each ear, and men take a notice of what they otherwise overlook” (Some Dark God_Wakes, 2017).

“men take a notice of what they otherwise overlook”		
Senser	Mental	Range

The phrase “take a notice” in “men take a notice of what they otherwise overlook” is considered as a grammatical metaphor which represents a mental process of sensing. The verb “take” realizes mental process because “heed,” as the head of the nominal group, is basically the nominalization of the verb “notice” which represents the mental process of sensing (perceptive type). Thus, the nominal group “a notice of what they otherwise overlook” is considered as the range. As previously described, the participants in the mental process are the senser and phenomenon. However, in the grammatical metaphor, the participants engaged are the senser and range due to the nominalization.

Since the noun “notice” is a nominalized form of the verb in the mental process, “men take a notice of what they otherwise overlook” can be alternatively replaced with “men noticed what they otherwise overlook”. The range in the non-congruent form is replaced with the phenomenon in the congruent form.

Non-congruent: “men take a notice of what they otherwise overlook.”		
Senser	Mental	Range

<i>Congruent:</i> “men noticed what they otherwise overlook”		
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

The congruent form enables the clause “what they otherwise overlook” to be the phenomenon as it normally occurs in mental processes that may involve two obligatory participants: the senser and phenomenon. However, in the non-congruent form, the mental process involves two participants: the senser and range. Thus, it can be concluded that the range “a notice of what they otherwise overlook” is changed into the phenomenon “what they otherwise overlook” in the congruent form.

DATA 7: Verb Have

“The data demonstrate that communication plays a role in the relaying of information so that board members have a complete understanding of the issues, ensuring that board members are actively engaged in the process, and have an appreciation of the expectations of others so that they are prepared to collaborate in the performance of their duties” (ACAD-Community College Review, 2012).

“have an appreciation of the expectations of others.”	
Mental	Range

The above data demonstrates that the verb “have” is the grammatical metaphor because the nominal group “an appreciation of the expectations of others” realizes the

process of sensing. The verb “have” realizes the mental process since “appreciation,” as the head of the nominal group, is basically a nominalized form of the verb “appreciate” that represents the mental process of “affective type”, involving the sense of feeling. Thus, the nominal group “an appreciation of the expectations of others” is the range. Commonly, the participants engaged in the mental process are the senser and phenomenon; however, it does not happen to the verb coupled with a nominal group which is categorized as a unit of grammatical metaphor. The participants will be the senser and range. Additionally, the nominalizations can be found when coupled with verbs that have no lexical meaning.

Since “appreciation” is the nominalization of the verb “appreciate” in the mental process, “have an appreciation of the expectations of others” can be replaced with “appreciate the expectations of others.” The replacement enables the range to be replaced with another participant in the congruent form.

Non-congruent:	“have an appreciation of the expectations of others.”	
	Mental	Range

Congruent:	“appreciate the expectations of others.”	
	Mental	Phenomenon

The congruent form enables the nominal group “the expectations of others” to be the phenomenon as it commonly occurs to a number of the mental processes which may involve the phenomenon as their participants. However, when the clause is written in the non-congruent form, the participant is the range “an appreciation of the expectations of others.”

DATA 8: Verb Have

“The kids were rapt as my wife and I tried to translate, but sinking together into that earth, I had a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here” (NEWS-New York Times, 2023).

“I had a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here.”

Senser	Mental	Range
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The phrase “had a feeling” in “I had a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here” is categorized as a grammatical metaphor which represents a mental process of sensing. The verb “had” realizes mental process because “feeling” is basically the nominalization of the verb “feel” which involves the process of perceiving through the five senses. Thus, “a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here” is considered as the range. As previously described, the senser and the phenomenon are the participants in the mental process; however, in the grammatical metaphor, the participants engaged are the senser and range due to the nominalization.

Since the noun “feeling” is a nominalized form of the verb in the mental process, “I had a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here” can be alternatively replaced with “I felt I'd had at least a hundred times here”. The congruent form enables the phenomenon to be the participants in the mental process regarding the grammatical metaphor.

Non-congruent:

“I had a feeling I'd had at least a hundred times here.”		
Senser	Mental	Range

Congruent

felt I'd had at least a hundred times here.”		
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

The congruent form enables the clause “I’d had at least a hundred times here” to be the phenomenon as it normally occurs to mental processes that may involve two participants, the senser and phenomenon. In contrast, in the non-congruent form, the mental process involves two participants: the senser and range. It can be argued that the range “a feeling I’d had at least a hundred times here” is changed into the phenomenon “what they otherwise overlook” in the congruent form.

DATA 9: Verb Have

“And now, as our congressional panel takes their seats, we’ll have a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen” (SPOK-ABC, 2012).

‘I’ll have a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen”

Senser	Mental	Range
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The phrase “have a listen” in “we’ll have a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen” is categorized as a grammatical metaphor which represents a mental process of sensing. The verb “have” realizes mental process because “listen” is basically the nominalization of the verb “listen” which involves the process of perceiving through the five senses. Thus, “a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen” is considered as the range.

Since the noun “listen” is the nominalization of the verb in the mental process, “doesn’t have a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen” can be replaced with “we’ll listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen” respectively. In the non-congruent form, regarding the grammatical metaphor, the range is realized by a nominal group “a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen,” and in the congruent form the phenomenon is realized by a prepositional phrase “to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen.” This construction may contradict the traditional grammar stating that the verb “listen” is an intransitive verb which requires no object. The verb “listen” must be followed by the preposition “to” to describe the thing to be heard. Most phenomena, if compared to traditional grammar, are “objects” or exist in transitive verbs. However, based on Halliday’s perspective, the main consideration in transitivity is not whether a verb requires an object or not since transitivity mainly focuses on how the meaning is represented in the clause.

Non-congruent:		
‘I’ll have a listen to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen”		
Senser	Mental	Range

Congruent:		
to what the President had to say about stepping up pressure on al Qaeda in Yemen”		
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

CONCLUSION

In functional grammar, grammatical metaphors commonly occur in the nominalization, where the nominal groups are derived from the verbs. In the mental processes, the participants consisting of nominal groups represent the meaning of clauses because of the nominalization. This type of grammatical metaphor, as analyzed in this research, occurs to the nominal groups that are coupled with the verbs, in this case, the verbs “make”, “take,” and “have,” which are lexically meaningless. The nominalizations in grammatical metaphors enable the writer to discover and describe the difference between the non-congruent and congruent forms. The congruent forms show that the participants in the mental processes are sensors-phenomenons, while the non-congruent forms are sensors-ranges. This research is expected to continue its studies that analyze other processes in a system of transitivity. Verbal and Behavioral are unique processes that can be applied in the upcoming research studies.

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