Full paper

The Representations of Tun Dr Mahathir in Lat's Cartoons in Addressing Issues of International Affairs

Rohani Embong[a]*, Hanita Hassan[a]

[a]Language Academy, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: rowhahn@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper presents the study on the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir in Lat's editorial cartoons, with the focus on how Tun Dr Mahathir managed international affairs. The data for this study were two editorial cartoons by Lat, which included Tun Dr Mahathir as one of the characters and revolved around the issues of international affairs. The data were analysed from the visual and linguistic perspectives. The visual analysis of the data was conducted using Multimodality as a tool of analysis while the linguistic analysis adopted Systemic Functional Linguistics as a tool of analysis. The findings show that Lat portrays Tun Dr Mahathir as a confident, responsible and respectful leader. This is due to the fact that he was firm as a leader, never failed to update himself with national issues even when he was abroad and he could easily adapt himself with foreign cultures.

Keywords: Multimodality; systemic functional linguistics; Tun Dr Mahathir; Lat; international affairs

Abstrak

Kajian ini adalah berkenaan gambaran watak Tun Dr Mahathir dalam editorial kartun yang dilukis oleh Lat, dengan berfokus kepada kaedah Tun Mahathir mengurus hubungan antarabangsa. Data untuk kajian ini adalah dua editorial kartun yang dilukis oleh Lat yang mana Tun Dr Mahathir adalah salah seorang watak dalam kartun tersebut dan isu untuk data yang dipilih ialah mengenai hubungan antarabangsa. Data telah dianalisa daripada dua aspek, iaitu aspek visual dan aspek linguistik. Analisa visual telah dilakukan dengan menggunakan teori *Multimodality* manakala analisa linguistik menggunakan teori *Systemic Functional Linguistics*. Dapatan kajian mendapati, Tun Dr Mahathir digambarkan sebagai seorang pemimpin yang berkeyakinan, bertanggungjawab dan menghormati orang lain. Ini adalah kerana beliau seorang pemimpin yang tegas, tidak pernah gagal mengikuti perkembangan hal ehwal dalam negara walaupun beliau ke luar negara dan senang menyesuaikan diri dengan budaya asing.

Kata kunci: Multimodality; systemic functional linguistic; Tun Dr Mahathir; Lat; hubungan antarabangsa

■1.0 INTRODUCTION

Editorial cartoons are parts of the media that function to disseminate and interpret information, transmit values and provide entertainment (Straubhaar and La Rose, 2002). Interpreting information in this regard means correlating ideas and information together in order to understand the meaning of the information (Piyadasa, 2004), whereas transmitting values mean values are passed from generation to generation in order to maintain a society. Regarding this matter, studying any form of media would help individuals and communities to learn about values, histories and cultures better. This paper thus discusses the ways in which editorial cartoons are used to interpret information and transmit values.

The focus of this study is on the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir in addressing issues related to international affairs. The findings of this study would be beneficial to individuals as well as politicians because this study describes the values practised by Tun Dr Mahathir in matters related to international affairs from a cartoonist's perspectives.

Tun Dr Mahathir is the fourth Malaysian prime minister and he was the longest serving prime minister in Malaysia. During his governance, Malaysia experienced tremendous developments. Apart from this, Tun Dr Mahathir had also created and enhanced the country relationships with the Japanese, South Koreans, Australians and many others.

Data from this study were collected from Lat's cartoons. Lat or his real name, Mohammed Nor Khalid, is a famous Malaysian cartoonist (Mahamood, 2004). This is due to several reasons, for

example, i) he produces a variety of cartoons; ii) Lat's cartoons have been translated into different languages, for instance, German; iii) Lat was awarded with different awards, which include Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize, Petronas Journalism Awards (Special Jury Award), Honorary Doctorate in Anthropology and Sociology and so forth (Mahamood, 2004). Tun Dr Mahathir is Lat's "most famous and favourite subject" (Jasin, 2004). And the long career of Tun Dr Mahathir had given a lot of ideas and materials for Lat to produce cartoons for transmitting information and values to the public (Mahamood, 2003). This paper thus aims to discuss the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir's practices in managing international affairs in Lat's cartoons.

■2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

In analyzing the selected data, two theories were adopted. These theories also acted as the analytical tools for this study. The analytical tools are Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Halliday, 1985) and Multimodality (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996). SFL was used in analysing the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir from the linguistic aspect. Meanwhile, Multimodality was used in analysing the visual aspect of the data. These two analytical tools are discussed and described in turn.

Systemic Functional Linguistics is a system that aims to explain the process of meaning making and explain how people get meaning. There are three aspects proposed in SFL, which are ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction and textual metafunction (Halliday, 1985).

Ideational metafunction refers to how or ways that we make sense of the reality (Halliday and Webster, 2009). This metafunction reflects the social process in which the language is implicated (Halliday, 1985). The analysis from this type of metafunction includes the identification of the message and how it is delivered. In relation to this study, where one of its aims is to identify the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir through linguistic texts in the editorial cartoons produced by Lat, this type of metafunction would be one of its focus. The selection of this metafunction is to help determine the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir via the identification of participants, process types and circumstances. The analysis corresponds to the analysis of the transitivity.

This requires the text to be ranked into clauses, of which a clause is identified from the presence of at least a verb (Halliday, 1985). Next is the identification of process types, participants and circumstances. Using Halliday's framework, the process of a clause is identified from the verbal group of the clause, the types of participants from its nominal group and the types of circumstance from its adverbial or prepositional group.

The other metafunctions are interpersonal and textual. The interpersonal metafunction is closely related to the interactivity of a text (O'Halloran, 2006). The analysis of this type of metafunction includes the identification of the writer-reader relationship, social distance, and relative social status (Coffin, 2006). Meanwhile, the textual metafunction is linked to the mode of the text, of which includes the identification of the internal organisation and communicative nature of a text (O'Halloran, 2006). These two types of metafunctions are not directly connected to the objectives of this study because the focus of the study is on the message or meaning of Tun Dr Mahathir's representations, which can be obtained from the process types and participants. Therefore, the interpersonal and textual metafunctions were not employed in analysing the data of this study.

Another theory used in this study is Multimodality. This theory takes the notion of the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996). This theory is described as a method for social semiotic analysis of visual communication (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996). This theory helps in analyzing and identifying messages embedded in different modes, for instance, visual and sound, and how the messages are delivered. Parallel with SFL, this theory also consists of three components, which are compositional, interpersonal and representational. Compositional is linked to the textual metafunction, interpersonal component is parallel with the interpersonal metafunction and representational is parallel with the ideational metafunction.

Following this, representational analysis includes the identification of messages which lie in the visual media and how the messages are delivered through this media. This is done through the identification of represented participants and process. Participants can be in the form of people, places or things, while process, on the other hand, is categorized as conceptual or narrative. Following Halliday's (2004) process types, Conceptual is the process of being, whilst Narrative is the process of doing (Kress and Van Leeuwen 1996). Given the fact that the aim of this study was to determine the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir's international relation practices through visual mode in the editorial cartoons by Lat, the focus of the visual analysis was therefore on the representational component.

Compositional component resembles textual metafunction, which includes the study of the layout aspects of a text. Compositional is, in other words, the layout analysis (Hanita, 2012). The next component, which is interpersonal, caters the relationship between the visual, the creator of the visual elements and the receiver or the reader (Sanz and Guijarro, 2008). These two components were excluded in the analysis of this study, due to the fact that these components did not directly help in achieving the objectives of this study.

A similar study that investigated the representations of political figures presented via cartoons was conducted by Conners (2010). Conners (2010) examined the representations of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in political cartoon imagery during the 2008 presidential election, with specific attention toward portrayals of race and gender themes. For the data of the study, Conners (2010) had collected online political cartoons in which the images of the cartoons have connections to the US 2008 presidential elections and the cartoons were produced by 57 American cartoonists. From the analysis, Conners (2010) found that Hillary Clinton appeared more often in the political cartoons compared to Barack Obama. In addition, Conners (2010) reveals that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are portrayed competitive in the election. Besides, representations of Barack Obama are more related to race theme meanwhile representations of Hillary Clinton are revolved around gender theme. In this study, the representations of a selected political figure, who is Tun Dr Mahathir was also investigated. However, the theme revolved around addressing issues related to the international affairs.

Another study on cartoons of political figures was conducted by Mazid (2008). The corpus of the study consist of 16 cartoons where George W. Bush is the main signifier, 14 cartoons where the main signifier is Osama bin Laden and 6 cartoons, which combine the two figures. The aim of the study was to analyse the construction of the two political figures from the aspects of semio-linguistic and visual. Result of the analysis showed that both figures believed that they were "fighting a holy war, fulfilling a 'mission' and answering a 'call' in Bush's words and doing *jihad* in bin Laden's" (Mazid, 2008:451). Similarly, this study also analysed the representations of a political figure (Tun Dr Mahathir) on issues related to internal affairs in two aspects, which are from the visual and linguistic aspects.

By taking the studies conducted by Conners (2010) and Mazid (2008) as examples, the aim of this study was to investigate the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir in matters related to international affairs from a cartoonist's perspectives.

■3.0 METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were two editorial cartoons selected from a local newspapers, where theme was related to international affairs. Besides that, these cartoons were selected as they met a few criteria, which are; i) the presence of Tun Dr Mahathir; ii) drawn by Lat; iii) the cartoons have linguistics items (consist of at least a clause) and visual items.

In order to reveal the representations of Tun Dr Mahathir in the cartoons, the cartoons were analyzed from two aspects, namely, the visual and linguistic. The analytical tool to analyze the visual aspect of the cartoons was Multimodality (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996), whilst Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday, 1985) was adopted in analysing the linguistic aspect.

Using both theories, the different types of process, participants and circumstances found in the data were analysed. The processes were classified into different types accordingly, for example, material, mental or relational. A material process is a process of doing that connotes 'the notion that some entity does something… to some other entity' (Halliday 1994: 110). A mental process, on the other hand, is a process of sensing which includes feeling, thinking and perceiving, and finally relational process is a process of being which connotes 'something is said to be something else' (Halliday 1994: 119).

The participants analysed in the study were Tun Dr Mahathir, the Japanese Prime Minister, the Australian Prime Minister, and the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister at the time. Following Halliday, the roles of the participants in the cartoons were determined by means of the process types. The participants of a material process are actor and goal, the participants for mental process are senser and phenomenon, while the participants for the relational process type are carrier/attribute or token/value (Halliday 1994).

Types of circumstances which occur in the data were also identified. The circumstance element, which is realised by an adverbial group or prepositional phrase, is integrated into all types of process and its role is to expand the information by providing the details (Halliday, 2004). The circumstances found in the data were categorized into different types, for instance, extent, cause, location, matter, manner, role and accompaniment. Each type of circumstance element signifies the type of meaning that can be construed from the cartoons.

■4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section discusses the representations of Tun Mahathir's practices in managing international affairs. Figure 1, for example, illustrates the international affair event that took place when Tun Dr Mahathir met with the Japanese Prime Minister at the time, Mr Miyazaki Kiichi. The cartoons show two situations which are divided into two columns, in which the first column is the situation in Malaysia portraying the caricature of Tun Ghaffar Baba who was the Deputy Prime Minister then. The second column on the other hand, depicts the caricature of Tun Dr Mahathir alongside with Mr Miyazawa Kiichi, the former Japanese Prime Minister, and three other characters who are believed to be Japanese since they are singing a Japanese song.

Figure 1 Tun Dr Mahathir and Mr Miyazaki Kiichi (Khalid, 2004:132)

Most importantly, the use of two columns with bold frames suggests two separate events that are not connected to each other, by which the thickness of frames functions to differentiate between matters (Kress and Van Leeuwen, 1996). The first column shows a situation in Malaysia or more particularly in Subang and this can be construed from the word Subang. The figure indicates the telephone conversations that took place between the Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir, and his Deputy, Tun Ghaffar Baba. In Malaysia, it shows that the firemen are trying to put out a fire. The second column, on the other hand, shows a situation in Japan depictingTun Dr Mahathir and his counterpart are having a karaoke session.

It is interesting to see how Tun Dr Mahathir, who is known for his strong and hardworking personality, to be portrayed as having such activities like karaoke (Rajendran, 1993). In conjunction to this, his frowning facial expression and the linguistic cues '***You think I'm having a good time ah?***' obviously indicate that either he was not enjoying the karaoke session or he was not happy with what was happening in Malaysia. The action of Tun Dr Mahathir participating in the karaoke session, which is part of the Japanese culture, indicates that Tun Dr Mahathir is a respectful person and it is believed that his aim to be with others in the karaoke session was to enhance and maintain a good relationship with the country.

From the cartoons, it can be construed that the main reason for Tun Dr Mahathir's visit to Japan was to gain the Japanese's support for the East Asian Economic Consultative Group (EAEC) development. This can be seen clearly from the file next to Tun Mahathir entitled EAEC in the second column. EAEC was an economic plan proposed by Tun Dr Mahathir (Ali, 1999) and nevertheless, it is reported that, Mr Miyazawa Kiichi was reluctant to agree with the EAEC concept ("Miyazaki Urges Support", 1993).

The cartoon in the second column shows Tun Dr Mahathir was having a karaoke session with the Japanese Prime Minister. Karaoke, as mentioned previously, is acknowledged as one of the representations of Japanese culture (Kelly, 1998; Watanabe, 2005). In addition, karaoke to the Japanese is a medium of communication and "the willingness of an individual to perform in turn … is an indication of her or his dedication and commitment to the goals and aims…" (Watanabe, 2005). It is thus

obvious that besides being portrayed as polite and respectful, Tun Dr Mahathir is also represented as a leader who is dedicated and committed in achieving his goal at that time, which was to persuade Japan to join the EAEC. In other words, the findings of the visual analysis show that Tun Dr Mahathir is represented as a person who are willing to comply with others' culture as well as a dedicated and committed person.

For the linguistic analysis, seven clauses were identified in the cartoons. The clauses depict the conversation between Tun Ghaffar and Tun Dr Mahathir via telephone. The dissections of the clauses are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Dissections of the clauses

Clause	Dissection of the Clauses				
1	I	am		not superstitious	
	Participant : Carrier	Process: Relational		Participant: Attribute	
2	But how come	everytime	you	go	overseas
		Circumstances : Temporal	Participant: Actor	Process: Material	Participant: Goal
3	either	the whole nation	goes	blackout, oil slick or fire	
		Participant: Carrier	Process: relational	Participant: attribute	
4	You	should stay	home	more often	lah
		Participant: Actor	Process: Material	Participant: Goal	Circumstances: Temporal
5	Wait			lah	
	Process: Behavioural				
6	You			think	
	Participant: Senser			Process: Mental	
7	I	'm (am) having		a good time	ah
	Participant: Carrier	Process: Relational		Participant: Attribute	

From the linguistic analysis, it is shown that Tun Ghaffar Baba says more compared to Tun Dr Mahathir. Based on Table 1, Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 show the dialogues of Tun Ghaffar Baba. Clause 1 is '*I am not superstitious*'. The type of Process in this clause is Relational and it is shown using the word '*am*'. In this context, this type of Process is used to show attributes. The types of Participant present in the clause are Carrier and Attribute. Participant (Carrier) is shown using the word '*I*' and it is referred to Tun Ghaffar Baba. Participant (Attribute) is shown using the phrase '*not superstitious*' and this type of Participant functions to describe or give an attribute to the Carrier. Through this clause, Tun Ghaffar Baba is describing himself as a person who does not believe in superstitions.

In Clauses 2 and 3, Tun Ghaffar is shown reporting the incidents that happened in Malaysia while Tun Dr Mahathir was

away and at the same time Tun Ghaffar is shown asking why the incidents happened only when Tun Dr Mahathir was away. In Clause 2, the type of Process found is Material and it is construed from the word '*go*'. The use of this type of Process is to show physical actions in a real world (Halliday, 1985). Two types of Participant present in the clause are Actor and Goal. Actor is presented using the word '*you*' and it is referred to Tun Dr Mahathir. Another type of Participant is Goal and it is shown using the word '*overseas*'. The Goal indicates the place in which Tun Dr Mahathir went during the conversation. Clause 2 functions as a complement to Clause 3.

Interestingly for Clause 3, even though it has the same word '*goes*' as the process but the type of process determined was relational. This is to say that '*go*', which is the material process, is 'metaphorically' used as a relational process (Halliday, 1994). Two types of Participant employed in the clause are therefore Carrier and Attribute. Carrier is referring to '*the whole nation*', whilst the attribute is '*blackout, oil slick or fire*'. In this context, it is construed that '*the whole nation*' is affected with the incidents of '*blackout, oil slick or fire*'. The blackout refers to the electricity blackout incident that happened in September 1992 in Peninsular Malaysia (Malaysia JB Directory, 2012). While, the fire incidents refers to a number of fire incidents that happened in 1992. These include the fire incidents that happened at the; i) former Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), which was destroyed in the incident; ii) Subang Airport; and iii) Kuala Lumpur Old High Court building, in which rebuilding was required (Malaysia JB Directory, 2012). The action of Tun Ghaffar asking and reporting the incidents to Tun Dr Mahathir connotes that Tun Dr Mahathir was always a person to be referred to even when he was away. This can also be construed that Tun Dr Mahathir is represented as a responsible leader, who always has the nation matters at heart.

Clause 4 acts as a suggestion from Tun Ghaffar Baba, indicating that Tun Dr Mahathir was suggested to stay in Malaysia more often as a way to prevent the unwanted incidents (blackout, oil slick and fire). The type of Process used in the clause is Material and it is shown using the phrase '*should stay*'. The modal verb '*should*' connotes a recommended action or circumstance. The proceeding verb '*stay*' signifies that the recommended action is staying, or more specific to the context is staying in the country. Two types of Participant present in the clause are Actor and Goal. Actor is shown using the word '*You*' and this pronoun is referred to Tun Dr Mahathir. Goal is shown using the word '*home*' and it is referred to Malaysia, which is the hometown of Tun Dr Mahathir and Tun Ghaffar. Besides that, one type of Circumstance is also used in the clause, which is Temporal, and it is shown through the use of the phrase '*more often*'. This type of Circumstance adds new information to the suggestion of staying in Malaysia. The new information is the action (staying in Malaysia) should be done in a manner of more often. From the analysis of this clause, Tun Dr Mahathir is represented as a person, whom is relied and referred to by others in many situations.

Clauses 5, 6 and 7 indicate the replies by Tun Dr Mahathir in respond to Tun Ghaffar. In Clause 5, the type of Process involved is Behavioural and it is shown using the word '*wait*'. Behavioural process involves the transition of inner workings and outer workings (Halliday, 1985). In the dialogues, Tun Dr Mahathir is portrayed asking the Deputy Prime Minister at that time to wait for him until he returns from Japan. Besides that, the word '*Wait …*' connotes an imperative statement, which can be construed as an order or a command by Tun Dr Mahathir to his deputy. Tun Ghafar Baba, who was the former Deputy Prime Minister, was given the responsibility to manage the country during the absence of the Prime Minister. The use of imperative statement by Tun Dr Mahathir to Tun Ghaffar signifies that Tun Dr Mahathir is

represented as a leader with the authority or power, and who can give orders to others.

Furthermore, the reason for Tun Dr Mahathir to ask his deputy to wait was that he had to focus on his objective of visiting Japan, of which was to discuss EAEC with the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Miyazaki Kiichi and most importantly, to persuade the Japanese Prime Minister to join the association. Given the fact that Japan was the most developed nation in Asia (McCargo and Lee, 2010) and in 2011 it was the third largest national economy in the world (Inman, 2013), it was therefore very crucial to get the agreement from Japan regarding EAEC. This thus suggests that Lat portrays Tun Dr Mahathir as someone who has set the priority and is very persevering in achieving his plans.

For Clause 6, the type of process used is Mental. This is shown through the use of the word '*think*'. The type of Participant involved is Senser, which is represented using the word '*you*'. '*You*' in the clause refers to Tun Ghafar Baba. Clause 7 is embedded in Clause 6 and its function is to elaborate the action of '*think*' as mentioned by Tun Dr Mahathir to Tun Ghaffar. For Clause 7, the type of process that is involved is Relational. While the Relational process is shown through the use of the verb '*am having*'. The relational process in the dialogue is describing the situation in which Tun Dr Mahathir may or may not have, which is '*a good time*'. In this clause, two types of Participants are present, which are Carrier and Attribute. Carrier is shown using the word '*I*' and it is referred to Tun Dr Mahathir. Attribute is shown with the phrase '*a good time*'. This linguistic text '*you think I am having a good time*' is an extension to the visual element, by which the text informs the readers the real feeling that Tun Dr Mahathir was having, which was in contrast to the karaoke session, which was supposed to be fun. Due to the fact that Tun Dr Mahathir's feeling is additional information which cannot be construed from the visual alone, the relationship between the image and visual is therefore an extension (Kress and Van Leeuwen 1996; Hanita 2012). This thus connotes that Tun Dr Mahathir is a workaholic and that the karaoke session is not an activity that suits him.

The linguistic analysis done on the cartoons in Figure 1 shows that Tun Dr Mahathir is represented as a leader who has authority and he is always referred to when dealing with issues related to Malaysia. Besides, he is also portrayed as a leader who is hardworking and persevering in achieving his goals.

This analysis is consistent with the analysis conducted by Mazid (2008), in which both aspects (visual and linguistic) were analysed in determining the representations of a political figure. In Mazid's (2008) study, it is revealed that George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden are represented as leaders who are fighting a war. Whereas in the analysis of Figure 1, Tun Dr Mahathir is represented as a leader who is willing to comply with others' cultures and hardworking.

The next cartoon analysed depicts Tun Dr Mahathir's representations in dealing with the dispute that he had with the former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Paul Keating. Figure 2 shows the caricatures of Tun Dr Mahathir and Mr Paul Keating. Both of them are the significant participants since they are both foregrounded in the cartoon strips. It was found that a visual metaphor was used by the cartoonist, in which the two participants are depicted playing a game which resembles the popular game show, Wheel of Fortune. Metaphors are defined as "understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another" (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). In this instance the game was metaphorically used to signify the situation that both of them were in, that is, solving a dispute between them. This cartoon (Figure 2) refers to the incidents, in which Mr Paul Keating labeled Tun Dr Mahathir as a recalcitrant.

Figure 2 Tun Dr Mahathir and Paul Keating (Khalid, 2004:81)

As mentioned earlier, the cartoon in Figure 2 shows the caricatures of Tun Dr Mahathir and Paul Keating, who are playing a game show, which resembles Wheel of Fortune, in which the contestants need to guess the words or the phrase asked. The clue for the word that needs to be guessed by both prime ministers is R E _ _ _ C _ _ I _ _ I _ _ and another clue is written as '*Bringing back friendly relations…*'.

This cartoon reflects the situation that took place in December 1993. It was reported that the incident started when Mr Paul Keating called Tun Dr Mahathir as recalcitrant when Tun Dr Mahathir was reluctant to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) (Shenon, 1993). Recalcitrant was the word used to describe the attitude of a determinedly uncooperative person.

The incident had affected the relationship between the two political figures. Thus, it would be difficult to talk or comment on this issue as it involves the sensitivity of both parties. However Lat was able to portray the situation of the incident in a lighthearted manner via the editorial cartoon (Figure 2). This shows that editorial cartoon is a powerful tool to talk about political figures.

The cartoon portrays Tun Dr Mahathir and Mr Paul Keating are determined to win the game. This is construed from the; i) position of their hands, one is pointing at the game board and the other pressing the buzzer; ii) eyes focused only on the board; and iii) their lips show that they keep on guessing the answers. Nonetheless, Tun Dr Mahathir is portrayed as someone who has full confidence from his straight standing position, and in contrast Mr Paul Keating's standing position is quite shaky, which connotes lack of confidence and may give the indication that he was guilty for calling Tun Dr Mahathir with the word. Interestingly, one's standing position may show one's confidence level, and following this, it can be inferred that Tun Dr Mahathir is confident in winning the game.

Interestingly, it was reported that Tun Dr Mahathir had asked for a formal apology from Mr Paul Keating (Shenon, 1993). Besides, the report also mentioned that Tun Dr Mahathir had voiced out the intention to reduce diplomatic relations and trade links with Australia if he did not get any apology from Australia (Shenon, 1993). The standing positions thus connote both prime ministers' situation at that time, by which Tun Dr Mahathir is

represented as a confident leader with a straight standing position, whilst Mr Paul Keating with a shaky standing position.

The visual analysis done on the cartoon in Figure 2 clearly shows that Tun Mahathir is represented as a leader with a determination, who stands firm in what he believes in and full of confidence.

One of the clauses found in the cartoon in Figure 2 is '*When relations went sour because of the word 'recalcitrant'*. The clause was identified from the presence of a process, '*went*' (Halliday, 1985). The clause is written from a third-person perspective, in which the clause may act as a comment to the progress of the incident. The dissections of the clause are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Dissections of the clauses

Clause		Dissection of the Clauses			
1	When	relations	went	sour	because of the word 'recalcitrant'
		Participant: Senser	Process: Mental	Participant: Phenomenon	Circumstance: Reason

Merely looking at the verb 'w*ent*' (past tense of *go*), would propose that the process involved in this phrase is Material. However, we would like to suggest that the process represented by the verb '*went*' in this phrase is metaphorically used as a Mental Process. This is because the verb '*went*' in this phrase fits the definition of the process Mental better as compared to the definition of Material. This is due to the fact that Material process involves physical actions in the real world, while Mental process involves the inner experience of an emotion (Halliday, 1985). Similarly, since the Material process is metaphorically used as a Mental process type, therefore the participants of this clause were identified as Senser and Phenomenon (Hanita, 2012).

From the linguistic analysis, it is shown that there are two types of Participants (Senser and Phenomenon) and one type of Circumstance (Reason) used in the clause. Senser is represented through the use of the word 'r*elations'*. The word '*relations'* may refer to the political as well as the economical relationships between the two countries and the relationships between the two participants (Tun Dr Mahathir and Mr Paul Keating). It was reported that the trade between the countries before the year of the incident mounted to nearly USD 2 billion and if economical relationships between the countries were reduced, Australia was expected to suffer more seriously compared to Malaysia (Shenon, 1993). This may as well justify the shaky position of Paul Keating's caricature.

The word *sour* in the clause is the phenomenon, which refers to the state or the situation of the economical and political relationships between Australia and Malaysia. The incident had made Tun Dr Mahathir offended rather than embarrassed (Dobell, 2011). This is shown through Tun Dr Mahathir's intention of reducing the political and economical relationship with Australia. In relation to this, Tun Dr Mahathir in his book entitled 'A Doctor in the House' also comments that:

> ...when Keating called me recalcitrant I was not angry — he was just saying that I was refusing to fall in line with everybody else and that description generally applies quite well to me. I don't always do what others do. Most Malaysians like this side of me, as it has allowed our country to show that it is able and ready to stand up for itself. But people expected me to be offended by Keating's remark and they were insulted on my behalf. As I did not want to embarrass them, I played along. (Mohamad, 2011:697).

Interestingly, the linguistic text is found to complement the visual message, of which the linguistic text acts as an extension to the visual element. In other words, the function of the linguistic text is to provide context to the cartoon by adding additional information, therefore readers are able to grasp the message of the image (Kress and Van Leeuwen 1996; Hanita 2012). This is to say that without the clause at the bottom of the cartoon, '*When relations went sour because of the word 'recalcitrant',* it will be difficult for the readers to construe the image of the wheel of fortune game, which is metaphorically used to portray the tense situation between Tun Dr Mahathir and Mr Paul Keating.

■**5.0　CONCLUSIONS**

The findings of the analysis carried out on both cartoons, in Figures 1 and 2, show that Tun Dr Mahathir is constantly portrayed as a leader who is determined, responsible and full of confidence. Given the fact that his confidence level is high, Tun Dr Mahathir is therefore very persevering and stands firm in achieving his goals. As a leader of a country, his responsibilities to the well being of the country were not ignored even when he was abroad. This can be seen from the first cartoon, by which he was referred to when unwanted incidents took place at home, even he was out of the country attending an official matter. Most importantly, besides being dedicated and committed to his work, Tun Dr Mahathir is also represented as a respectful person.

References

Ali, G. N. M. 1999. December 1st. Dulu EAEG, EAEC, tetapi kini EAC. Kuala Lumpur: *Utusan Malaysia*.
Coffin, C. (ed.). 2006. *English Grammar in Context, Book 3: Getting Practical*. The Open University.
Collier, B. 2011, Sept, 23rd. Persecuted Cartoonists: Steady Hands and Brave Hearts. *Sampsonia Way*.
Dobell, G. 2011, October 21. Mahathir Agrees He was a 'Recalcitrant'. *The Interpreter*. Lowy Institute for International Policy.
Halliday, M. A. K. 1994. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. Second Edition. London: Edward Arnold.
Halliday, M. A. K. and Webster, J. J. 2009. *The Essential Halliday*. London and New York: Continuum.
Hanita Hassan. 2012. *Multimodal Communication of Corporate Website Design*. Skudai: UTM Press.
Inman, P. 11 February 2013. China Overtakes US in World Trade. *The Guardian*.
Jasin, A. K. 2004, Dec 21st. Lat comes Out with Tribute to 'Dr Who? *News Straits Times*. 14.
Kelly, B .1998. Echoes of Japanese Culture in the Performance of Karaoke. In: Martinez, D. (Ed). *The Worlds of Japanese Popular Culture: Gender, Shifting Boundaries and Global Cultures (Contemporary Japanese Society)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Khalid, M. N. 2004. *Dr who?!* Kuala Lumpur: Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd.
Kress, G. and Van Leeuwen, T. 1996. *Reading Images: The Grammar of Visual Design*. Second Edition. New York: Routledge.
Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. 1980. *Metaphors We Live By.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
Mahamood, M. Spring 2003. An Overview of Malaysian Contemporary Cartoons. *International Journal of Comic Art*. 5(1): 292–304.
Mahamood, M. 2004. Lat dalam Konteksnya. In Piyadasa, R and Mahamood, M. (eds). *Pameran Retrospektif Lat*. Kuala Lumpur: National Art Gallery
Mazid, B.-E. M. 2008. Cowboy and Misanthrope: A Critical (Discourse) Analysis of Bush and Bin Laden Cartoons. *Discourse & Communication*. 2(4): 433　457.
Malaysia JB Directory .2012. http://malaysia.jbdirectory.com/1992 , retrieved on 15 December 2012.
McCargo, D and Lee, H-S. 2010. Japan's Political Tsunami: What's Media got to do with It? *The International Journal of Press/Politics*.15: 236–245.

Miyazawa urges support U.S.-backed APEC, Rejecting Malaysian call for Asia bloc. 1993, Jan. 27. *International Trade Reporter*. 134.

Mohamad, M. 2011. *A Doctor in the House: The Memoirs of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad*. Petaling Jaya: MPH Group Publishing.

O'Halloran, K. A. (ed.). 2006. *English Grammar in Context, Book 2: Getting inside English*. The Open University.

Piyadasa, R. 2004. Lat, the Cartoonist – an Appreciation. In Piyadasa, R and Mahamood, M. (eds). *Pameran Retrospektif Lat*. Kuala Lumpur: National Art Gallery.

Rajendran, M. 1993. Mahathir Mohamad: Prime Minister of Malaysia. Petaling Jaya: IBS Buku SDN BHD.

Sanz, M.J.P. and Guijarro J.M. 2008. Compositional, Interpersonal and Representional Meanings in a Children's Narrative: A Multimodal Discourse Analysis. *Journal of Pragmatics*. 40(9): 1601–1619.

Shenon, P .1993 December 3rd. Malaysia Premier Demands Apology. New York: *The New York Times*

Straubhaar. J. and LaRose, R. 2002. *Media Now Communications Media in the Information Age*. Third Edition. Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Watanabe, H. 2005. Changing Adult Learning In Japan: The Shift From Traditional Singing to Karaoke. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*. 24(3): 257–267.