

**The Transitivity Construction of Women Identity**  
**---A Case of Study of Chinese White Paper *Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding***

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**Abstract**

*The change in women's status and rights has been rising concerns for a long time. The researches on the construction of female identity have also been carried out by many scholars and from various perspectives. At the important moment of the 70th birthday of new China in 2019, Chinese government released the white paper *Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding* which is a quite important document for presenting the development of women's cause in China. Based on transitivity in SFL proposed by Halliday, this study explores the construction of women image and identity in this national document. By adopting both qualitative and quantitative analyses, the study presents the distribution of participant roles and process types related to women and summarizes three female images: beneficiary of national attitudes and policies, contributor for the development of country and defender of their own rights.*

Key words: Women identity, Transitivity, National document

**1. Introduction**

China has attached great importance to women's development. Since the founding of new China, China has been committed to the liberation of women and the advancement of equality between men and women. At the important moment of the 70th birthday of new China, the State Council Information Office of People's Republic of China released the white paper *Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding* which comprehensively manifests brilliant achievements and excellent contributions Chinese females have made in these 70 years. The research on this document is of great importance in revealing Chinese government's recognition and attitude towards women's cause and development. However, few researches have been devoted to women images in this document. Therefore, this paper adopts transitivity system in SFL as its theoretical framework to explore the construction of female identity in the white paper.

**2. Relative studies on female identity construction**

The construction of female identity has been explored mainly from the following perspectives: research of female identity and research on the construction of female identity.

First, the research of female identity is always carried out from two sides: family identity and social identity. Family identity of woman is concerned with three images: mother, daughter and wife. Min Xianxi (2020) analyzed the female images in family dramas in the 21st century and pointed out that people are quite concerned about the independence and integrity of female characters, which reflects the continuous awakening and development of female consciousness. Besides, she also stated that in the new era, people are paying more attention to the growth and emotional expression of the female. The social identity of women is usually shaped as teachers, healthcare workers and writers etc. Women are trying to achieve the value of their lives by various professions in society. Chen Baoqi (2017) illustrated that in order to better strengthen female's professional competitiveness and social identity, we should carry out education about gender consciousness and respect women's fertility and their gender value.

Second, some researches focus on the construction of female identity, which generally concern the construction of female identity in social media and literary works. Xiao Wei (2021) pointed out that lives of women are constructed by society, history, policy and culture. In the patriarchal society, the idea that men are superior to women is solidified. Therefore, language, institution and cultural system formed are affected, which is not conducive to women's development and gender equality. Ding Xiaotong (2020) pointed out that most news reports related to women group have a negative tendency, and social images of woman group are always polarized and stereotyped. She also stated that news reports should focus on women themselves and publicize equal value and positive energy.

Besides, female identity has been studied in many literary works. Zhao Hui (2021) analyzed female images in the five award-winning works of the Tenth Mao Dun Literary Award and pointed out that female images constructed by male authors lack objective and plain cognitive perspective, and their works doesn't portray female identity from women's deep psychological desires. Besides, women lack self-consciousness in their works. Guo Bingru (2020) stated that female literature is quite important in Chinese modern literature. On the one hand, female literature can help enlighten women's consciousness and establish women's subjectivity. On the other hand, they have also made great contributions to China's contemporary cultural construction.

The previous literature illustrate that many scholars pay attention to female image and the construction of women identity in various perspectives. Besides, transitivity system as a theoretical framework can be adopted to analyze texts and gain the author's recognition and attitude towards something. Therefore, these works of literature prove the feasibility of this study. Although many researches adopt transitivity to analyze texts, few studies focus on the construction of female identity in national document. Thus, this leaves room for the study. This study employs the method of qualitative and quantitative analyses to explore the construction of female identity in *Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding* from the perspective of transitivity system in SFL.

### 3. Data and methodology

The study chooses *Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding* as the data to explore female identity construction.

UAM Corpus Tool is a vehicle which makes text annotation easy. In this study, it is adopted to label transitivity components and collect as well as show statistical data.

The study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze clauses and female identity constructed. Through quantitative method, the distribution of transitivity components can be demonstrated. Based on these quantitative results, we explore women images in China.

### 4. Theoretical framework

A clause simultaneously demonstrates three metafunctions: ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 168). Ideational function is mainly represented by the transitivity system of language. Wang (2016) thinks that a clause is regarded as a representation of experience and maintains content meaning from the perspective of experiential function. There are three components in transitivity structure, that is, process type, participant and circumstance. Transitivity structure has been first studied mainly by Halliday, Matthiessen, Martin et al. and Fawcett. Based on these studies, Chinese scholars also made their contributions to further review and improvement of transitivity system, such as Hu Zhuanglin, Huang Guowen, He Wei and so on. He et al. (2016) have constructed a more detailed transitivity framework which helps us analyze discourse. This study adopts transitivity framework introduced in *Functional Semantic Analysis of English* published by He Wei, Zhang Ruijie, Dan Xiaohong, Zhang Fan and Wei Rong in 2016 to analyze discourse features and explore female identities constructed in this white paper.

Transitivity system is represented as what exists and what happens inside and beyond us in the world. In this study, the author could gain the distribution of transitivity components through UAM Corpus Tool. Then, through the analysis of these data, women's identity and status can be indicated. The corresponding train of thought is as follows.

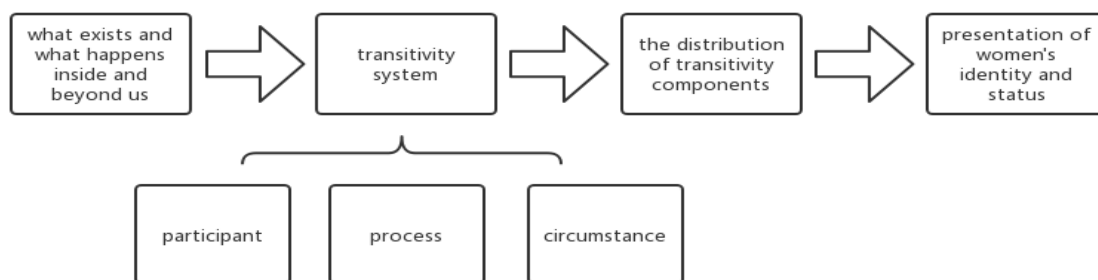


Figure 1 Theoretical framework of the current study

According to He et al. (2016), transitivity can be classified into seven kinds of process: action process, relational process, mental process, behavioral process, communicative process, existential process and meteorological process. The more detailed information is shown below.

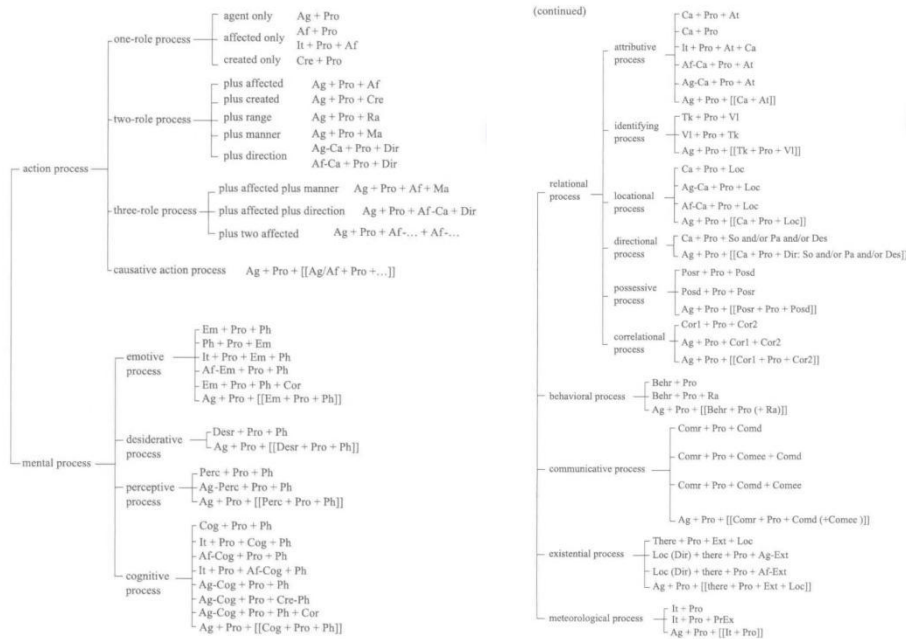


Figure 2 Analytic framework of the study

5. Results and discussion

5.1 The distribution of process types and participant roles

Process types and participant roles play important roles in the transitivity system. Since clause is the main concern in transitivity system, therefore, clauses which contain women components in the data are chosen, and process types as well as participant roles are manually tagged. The corresponding data are shown as follows.

Table 1 Global statistic of the distribution of process type and participant

Component Type	Number	Percentage
Process Type	378	35.86%
Participant	676	64.14%

As shown in Table 1, there are 378 process types accounting for 35.86% and 676 (64.14%) participants. More detailed data are shown below.

Table 2 The distribution of process type

Process Type	Number=378	Percentage
Action Process	238	62.96%
Relational Process	116	30.69%
Mental Process	14	3.70%
Communicative Process	5	1.32%
Existential Process	5	1.32%
Behavioral Process	0	0.00%
Meteorological Process	0	0.00%

Table 3 The distribution of participant role

Process Type	Participant	
	Number	Percentage
Action Process	432	63.91%
Relational Process	207	30.62%
Mental Process	23	3.40%
Communicative Process	9	1.33%
Existential Process	5	0.74%
Behavioral Process	0	0.00%
Meteorological Process	0	0.00%

Transitivity system focuses on process of clauses, and it is a bridge between semantic organization and experiential realization. The above two tables manifest the distribution of process types and participant roles. There are 378 linguistic processes according to the statistical data. The proportions of these processes are: action process accounts for 62.96%, relational process 30.69%, mental process 3.70%, existential process 1.32% and communicative process 1.32%. The feature of distribution of participants is basically the same as that of process types.

Through analyzing the distribution of process types, we can find that action process, relational process and mental process take up a larger proportion, and these three kinds of process are the main processes of transitivity system, which makes the white paper more powerful and persuasive in describing women's cause and their contributions. Besides, the application of these processes also indicates the importance of women and that China takes the development of women' cause seriously. In addition, communicative process and existential process account for a smaller proportion. However, this does not mean they are not important. They also serve as important processes in expressing the theme of the report. Next, the interpretation of process types and participant roles will be shown separately.

## 5.2 The realization of process types and participant roles

### 5.2.1 The realization of action process and participant

Action process (238, 62.96%) takes precedence over all other processes. Action process can be defined as a linguistic process that represents doing and happening, and they usually account for the largest proportion if speaker or writer wants to describe something to support his or her opinions. The use of the action process could make text objective. In this white paper, action processes mainly narrate efforts that Chinese government has made to protect women's rights, China's support for the development of woman's cause as well as contributions Chinese women have made to the development of country and society.

Table 4 The high-frequency verbs in action process

Action Process			
Process Verb	Number	Process Verb	Number
participate	18	benefit	6
protect	18	make	5
promote	15	establish	5
improve	13	safeguard	5
provide	9	lead	4
support	8	give	4
help	7	strengthen	4
receive	7		

As shown in Table 4, in action processes, high-frequency verbs include *protect*, *participate*, *promote*, *receive*, *provide*, *safeguard*, *support*, *improve*, *make*, *contribute* etc. The high-frequency Agent is represented by *women*, *China*, *girls*, *women's federations and measures*, *laws and regulations*. The verbs *participate*, *receive*, *make* and *contribute* usually collocate with the Agent *women*. All of the rest verbs tend to collocate with the Agent *China*. The high-frequency Affected is mainly realized by *women* and *women's rights*. Besides, The Created tends to be some organizations, services, systems and mechanisms serving for women. Since the Agent is usually represented by people or entities which perform the action, and the Affected and Created are the participants to which the action is extended, therefore, we can analyze that China and Chinese government actively support the development of women's cause and they take many measures such as establishing various systems and mechanisms to protect women and their rights. Women as Agent actively participate in various activities to make their contributions to the development of our nation and society.

The followings are some specific examples which can serve for the interpretation of the descriptions above. For example:

(1) *The protection of women's rights [Affected] is secured [action process] through scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, fair administration of justice and law-abiding public.*

(2) *A large number of women [Agent] are demonstrating [action process] excellent work performance [Created] in various sectors.*

Example (1) states that Chinese governments protect women's rights through some law policies. They do take some actions to safeguard women's rights. The use of the verb *secure* illustrates that Chinese governments firmly safeguard women's rights and interests. Example (2) shows that Chinese women also make their contributions to society. Not only are they supported by governments but also they are committed to contributing their own strengths for our country.

### 5.2.2 The realization of relational process and participant

Relational processes rank the second largest proportion in all processes. Therefore, they are also remarkable in the white paper. Relational processes can describe relationships. Halliday (1994/2000, p. 119) believed that this kind of relation is established between two separate parts. In this study, relational processes are classified into five subtypes. The number and percentage of different subtypes are demonstrated in Table 5.

Table 5 The distribution of different relational processes

Relational Process Type	Number=116	Percentage
Attributive Process	72	62.07%
Identifying Process	9	7.76%
Possessive Process	31	26.72%
Correlational Process	3	2.59%
Directional Process	0	0.00%
Locational Process	1	0.86%

According to the Table 5, attributive processes come up the most accounting for 62.07%. There are 31 possessive processes which account for 26.72%. Next are identifying processes (7.76%), correlational processes (2.59%) and locational process (0.86%). Attributive processes describe the quality and attribute of an entity or it can also represent that someone or something is a member of a class. In this document, the application of many attributive processes demonstrates the importance of women and women's development as well as improvement of the status of woman through specific figures. Possessive process also plays a remarkable role. Possessive processes represent that one entity belongs to another or someone maintains a kind of possessive relation towards something. These possessive processes show that women are enjoying more rights than before. There are less identifying processes demonstrating that the white paper does not aim at giving definition, interpreting evidence and establishing knowledge etc. Besides, a few correlational processes link women or women's development with something else.

In attributive processes, the Carrier is mostly realized by women or something else. In these clauses, women function as attribute to modify other components, such as women's federation, women's cause, the number of women, the development of the women etc. The Attribute is mainly represented by some adjectives, such as *indispensable*, *significant* and *prominent*, which demonstrates the significance of the progress of the women's causes. In addition, the Attribute can also be realized by specific figures, which shows the improvement of women life quality and that more and more women are manifesting their abilities in various sectors.

In possessive processes, women as Possessor mainly collocate with verbs like *share, have, enjoy*. This demonstrates that women gradually enjoy equal rights with men. They could share fruits of the development of our country. Besides, the possessive processes can also be realized by the verb *incorporate*. In these cases, China and Chinese government tend to be Possessor, which shows that Chinese governments place much emphasis on the development of women and give full consideration to women when they draw up plans and policies.

For example:

(3) *Women workers [Carrier], in various sectors, with a high sense of responsibility and historical mission, are playing [attributive process] an increasingly bigger role [Attribute] in promoting China's economic and social development.*

(4) *Since early years of New China, the state has drawn up and implemented laws to guarantee that women [Possessor] share [possessive process] equal rights [Possessed] with men to vote, to be elected, and to participate in the administration of state affairs.*

Example (3) states that women workers are of great importance for the development of country's economy and society. They play necessary roles in progress of China development. Women workers are active in all walks of life. Example (4) shows that women now share equal rights with men in the political field. This also demonstrates that Chinese governments pay close attention to the progress of women, and they provide legal opportunities for women to participate in various political activities.

### 5.2.3 The realization of mental process and participant

Mental processes account for 3.70% in the selected clauses. Mental processes are usually applied to express subjective opinions and attitudes. The percentage of different mental processes is shown in Table 6.

Table 6 The distribution of different mental processes

Mental Process Type	Number=14	Percentage
Emotive Process	2	14.29%
Desiderative Process	0	0.00%
Perceptive Process	1	7.14%
Cognitive Process	11	78.57%

According to Table 6, we can know that cognitive process has the largest proportion of all mental processes. Fawcett (2010, p. 89) states that cognitive clauses account for the largest proportion of mental processes. The statistic data are consistent with what Fawcett said. Cognitive clauses interpret mental abilities and processes which are related to knowledge such as memory, judgement, evaluation, attention, reasoning etc. In cognitive clauses, the Cognizant is mainly realized by China and Chinese governments such as CPC. The corresponding verbs can be shown by *highlight, value, attach importance to* etc. And the Phenomenon is represented by some noun phrases like *women's development, women's participation* etc. The selection of these words emphasizes that Chinese government takes the development of women seriously. They recognize the important roles women play for the development and progress of our country and society and keep the development of women's cause in the mind.

For example:

(5) *Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress, China [Cognizant] has highlighted [cognitive Process] women's participation in [Phenomenon] and benefits from poverty reduction and eradication.*

(6) *As the ruling party of China, the CPC [Cognizant] has highly valued [cognitive process] the training and selection of women cadre and the admission of women party members [Phenomenon].*

In Example (5), the cognitive verb is realized by the verb *highlight* and Cognizant is represented by *China*, which illustrates that China gives much attention on women's conditions. China's poverty reduction and eradication require women's participation and must benefit women. Example (6) implies that the CPC takes women's political participation seriously. They give women opportunities to take part in political selection. Example (5) and example (6) both demonstrate that China and Chinese governments put women in a very important position. They care for the development of women's cause and exert efforts to support them.

### 5.2.4 The realization of other processes and participants

There are five communicative clauses (1.32%) in the selected clauses. Communicative processes account for a small portion of our experiences of the world, however, they could help us human beings make meaning and exchange information through language.

In communicative clauses, women function as attribute to modify something else and they serve as Communicated. In these clauses, Communicator is always reports, laws and policies, etc, which means protection of women's rights has been written in laws and women's rights are legally secured.

For example:

(7) *The report of the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress [Communicator] emphasized [communicative progress] the coordination of the training and selection of women officials [Communicated], ethnic-minority officials and non-party officials.*

In this example, Communicator is a report and communicative verb is *emphasize*. The example shows that the government report has given expression to and emphasized selection of women officials, which indicates that women are protected by laws and regulations. Chinese governments secure their rights.

Five existential clauses (1.32%) are included in the chosen material. This kind of process help announce the existence of the situation and it is the first step for speaker to talk about in the following text (He et al. 2016). Existential clauses mentioned in this material are applied to introduce the number of women or women's institutions.

There is no behavioral process and meteorological processes, which corresponds to the feature of government documents.

### 5.3 The realization of circumstance

Circumstance also plays an important role in transitivity system. Halliday (1994) thinks that circumstance is an accompanying component of process and there are mainly nine types of circumstances which include extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, angle and matter. Besides, circumstance is limited by process type.

There are 107 circumstances in the selected clauses. According to our data analyses, cause circumstances, especially purpose circumstances which are mostly realized by preposition *for* take up the largest proportion. The abundance of cause circumstances demonstrates that China and Chinese governments aim at promoting the development of women's cause. They have the purpose and willingness to improve the status of women. Besides, extent circumstances which are realized by prepositions *between* and *among* also appear frequently. These extent circumstances point out the scope. The implementation of some policies and laws is for women only.

For example:

(8) *Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has attached more importance to gender quality in employment, offering better and more job opportunities for women [cause circumstance].*

(9) *Publicity of legal governance among women [extent circumstance] brings them more knowledge and services, naturally guiding them to learn, use and abide by laws.*

The circumstance in example (8) is represented by the preposition *for*. China pays a lot of attention to the employment condition of women. Chinese governments are willing to provide more and better jobs for women. In example (9), the extent circumstance is realized by the preposition *among*. The use of extent circumstance illustrates that publicity of legal governance will benefit women. Chinese women could protect their rights by laws. The circumstances in these two examples indicate that China cares for women in enjoying opportunities to work and learn more knowledge.

### 5.4 The transitivity construction of women identity

Transitivity system in SFL could indicate the discourse author's perception towards certain event. In this study, the clauses containing female are analyzed. By marking the transitivity components and gaining collection data with the assistance of UAM Corpus Tool, we analyze what female identities are constructed based on transitivity features. So, this section aims at exploring the construction of female identity. Through analysis, three images: beneficiary of national attitudes and policies, contributor for the development of country and society and defender of their own rights will be explained.

#### 5.4.1 Women identity as beneficiary of national attitudes and policies

Female image as beneficiary of national attitudes and policies can be realized by action process. According to Table 2, action processes come first in all processes. The high-frequency Affected includes woman, which usually collocates with verbs such as *receive*, *benefit*. The Affected usually means that something or somebody is affected. These collocations illustrate that women as Affected gain something from Chinese governments. They receive help from governments. Besides, China as Agent collocates with verbs such as *provide*, *promote* and *support* to exert influence on women. In these cases, women and their causes are supported and secured by our country. Chinese governments are proactive in helping promote the development of women. They are firmly on the side of women. Therefore, women are beneficiary of national attitudes and policies.

For example:

(10) *Since its inception, the Communist Party of China (CPC) [Agent] has been struggling [action process] for women's liberation and gender equality [Affected].*

(11) *Through cooperation with other departments, they [Agent] jointly promote [action process] the development of women's cause [Affected].*

(12) *China [Agent] has always guaranteed [action process] women's rights [Affected] by laws and legislations.*

These examples are action processes, and the Agent is realized by China and Chinese governments, which can show that women are protected by our governments. Chinese governments safeguard women's rights firmly by laws and promote the development of women's cause. The action verb "struggle" illustrates even though the path to promoting women's development is daunting, China still works firmly to do so. The use of verbs "promote and guarantee" indicates that Chinese governments are now taking active measures to support women's causes. China makes efforts to safeguard women's rights. Therefore, women are beneficiary of national attitudes and policies.

This kind of female image can also be realized by communicative process. Communicative process is a process of exchanging information through words and speech. Therefore, communicative clauses could express what the author is concerned about. There are five communicative processes among analyzed clauses. The Communicator in these clauses are laws, programs and national documents etc. The Communicated is something about women's rights. These communicative clauses illustrate that women's rights are taken into account and written in some documents. Safeguarding women's rights has been written in laws. Women are legally protected.

For example:

(13) *Since 2014, it has been clearly ruled that women's rights and interests in relation to land [Communicated] must be given expression [communicative process] to in the registration book and land right certificate [Communicator].*

(14) *Relevant laws and regulations [Communicator] concerning marriage and family relations emphasize [communicative process] the protection of women's rights [Communicated].*

These two are communicative processes and the Communicator is realized by documents such as registration book and laws, which demonstrates that women's land rights as well as marriage and family relations rights are secured by laws and relevant policies. These two different types of rights are specific, which illustrates that not only big rights, but also those detailed rights concerning women are valued.

Therefore, based on above analyses of action and communicative clauses, a conclusion can be made that women and their rights are protected by China and they are beneficiary of national attitudes and policies.

#### **5.4.2 Women identity as contributor for the development of country**

In addition to being beneficiary of national policies and attitudes, women are also presented as contributors for the development of country in the white paper. Female plays a necessary role in the development and progress of our country. Women exert great efforts and have made brilliant achievements and contributions. Action process represents the process of doing. Therefore, the choice of action verb could express what the Agent does toward the Affected. Female image as contributor for the development of country can be represented by some action clauses in the document. The high-frequency Agent in action clauses includes woman and woman's federations which usually collocate with verbs such as *participate* and *make* etc. These collocations could show that women and women's federations are actively exerting their strengths to build our nation. They participate in various activities and are committed to contributing their efforts for China's progress.

For example:

(15) *The ideas and suggestions [Created] they [Agent] offered [action process] have contributed greatly to the construction of the legal governance system in China.*

(16) *Women [Agent] have fully demonstrated [action process] their charms [Affected] and contribute [action process] their wisdom and strength [Affected] in foreign affairs.*

The Agent in these two examples is women and action process is realized by *offer*, *demonstrate* and *contribute*, which could illustrate that women have made their contributions to the development and progress of our country. Example (15) shows that females make their suggestions and thoughts in political area and express their ideas about the development of our nation. In example (16), we could know that not only do they make contributions to our domestic affairs, but also they are concerned about foreign affairs. The use of verbs illustrated here directly expresses women's willingness and determination in making efforts for the development and progress of our country. Thus, they are contributors of our country.



Besides, some relational clauses, especially attributive clauses can also serve for the construction of female identity as contributor of our country. Attributive processes describe the quality and feature of an entity or something or somebody is a member of a class. In the white paper, the Carrier is woman or women's federations. Therefore, the attributive clause could express feature or quality of women and women's federations. The Attribute could be realized by some adjectives such as *prominent*, *indispensable*. These collocations demonstrate that female plays a necessary role in the development of our country and society.

For example:

(17) *Women and women's organizations [Carrier] are playing [attributive process] an increasingly prominent role [Attribute] in the developing of legal governance.*

(18) *Women's role [Carrier] in economic and social development becoming [attributive process] increasingly prominent [Attribute].*

(19) *Women [Carrier] are [attributive process] indispensable builders of the country [Attribute].*

These three examples are relational attributive clauses which express that women make their contributions in legal governance, economic and social development. The Carrier in these clauses is women and their organizations. The Attribute in these clauses is realized by *prominent* and *indispensable*, which points out that women play their unique roles in various sectors. And they are quite necessary in building our country.

These action and relational clauses indicate that Chinese women are contributing much to the development and progress of nation. They are playing an necessary role in the progress and development of the country. Women hold up half the sky and are viewed as contributors for the development of the country.

#### 5.4.3 Women identity as defender of their own rights

The white paper also presents women as the defender for their own rights. Action processes help the construction of this kind of female identity. According to statistical data, women's federations appear many times in action clauses. Since the white paper has mentioned that these federations are set up by women and they have the purpose of seeking further liberation and development for women, therefore, it is also important to analyze them. Established by women, women's federations aim at developing women's causes and securing women's rights. Women fight for their own rights and status.

For example:

(20) *These organizations [Agent] carry out [action process] their political responsibilities and basis functions diligently, including promoting solidarity, implementing CPC policies, representing and maintaining of women's rights and realizing of gender equality and the comprehensive development of women [Affected].*

(21) *The women's federations [Agent] also adopt [action process] a comprehensive action plan [Affected] to assist impoverished women in starting businesses, developing skills, reducing health care costs and facilitating mutual aid.*

The Agent in these two examples is women's federations and action verbs are represented by *carry out* and *adopt*, which demonstrates that women establish organizations and federations so that they could better protect their rights and help other women in need. They implement political responsibilities and make detailed and various plans to assist other women. In fact, they are defenders for their own rights.

Relational process also plays an important role in the construction of female identity as defender of their own rights. Relational clauses account for a relatively high proportion in the white paper. They are of great importance in building female identities.

For example:

(22) *In the past five years, women's federations [Carrier] have been [attributive process] active [Attribute] in materialization, enactment and revision of relevant laws and policies including Anti-domestic Violence Law of the People's republic of China and measures in support of the Second child policy.*

This example expresses that women actively defend their own rights in living a normal family life. They are against domestic violence and dare to uphold their rights through laws. The Attribute is realized by *active* showing that women really want to secure themselves and they are making a determined effort to do things for themselves.

Women and women's federations aim at defending and protecting women against sufferings. They carry out specific measures and are concerned about protection of women's rights in various fields. Therefore, they are defenders of their own rights.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the analyses of women from the transitivity perspective, we get three major findings in this study.

Firstly, this study demonstrates the distribution of process types and participant roles. The analyses show that there are 378 processes involved in the corpus, among which action processes (62.96%) take up the vast majority. Relational processes (30.69%) account for the second largest proportion. Mental processes take up 3.70%, existential processes 1.32% and communicative processes 1.32%. There is no behavioral process and meteorological process. The large proportion of action processes demonstrates what China did for the development of women's cause and what women and women's federations did for our country and society. Many action clauses make the document more objective. Relational processes also play a quite remarkable role. These relational clauses express the improvement of women's status, higher participation of women in various sectors through specific figures and the importance of women towards political, economic and social development of our nation. The smaller proportion of mental process implies that China takes women's development seriously. Chinese governments are concerned about women's causes. The use of existential process mainly introduces the number of women or services and institutions that are related to women.

Second, in addition to process type and participant, circumstance also plays an important role in understanding this document. There are 107 circumstances. By the analysis of circumstance, the study concludes that Chinese governments support women's development and they are willing to help women advance their causes.

Third, female identities constructed can be illustrated by transitivity features. Our data presents three kinds of women images constructed. The female identity is built as beneficiary of national attitudes and policies, contributor for the development of country and society and defender of their own rights. Female as beneficiary of national attitudes and policies is mainly shaped by action processes and communicative processes. Contributor for the development of country and society is mostly built by action processes and relational attributive processes. Women as defenders of their own rights are also presented by action and relational processes. Through above analysis, action processes and relational processes which take up the vast proportion are very important in presenting female identities.

The study is of great importance theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, the research provides a new perspective for the construction of female identity in this document. The transitivity system is adopted as theoretical framework to analyze the construction of female identity. According to *Functional Semantic Analysis of English* published in 2016, English transitivity system includes seven processes and these processes and participants serve us for discourse analysis. Few scholars adopt transitivity system to analyze the construction of female identity in this white paper. Therefore, the study could introduce a relatively new perspective for research of female image.

In practice, the research could demonstrate female identities constructed in white paper for readers. Besides, the study could help readers better recognize brilliant achievements and efforts that Chinese women have made and China's support for women's cause. In addition, it can reveal women's status and conditions in recent years and promote the improvement of women's awareness.

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