

Research Article

Received: 22/08/2021; Accepted: 29/08/2021; Published: 12/11/2021

Characterization of Eleanor Oliphant in *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman: A Study of Transitivity using Corpus-Based Linguistics

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Abstract

The application of transitivity system in analyzing characterization, which is an important element in narrative discourse, is addressed in this study. The writer aims to analyze the lexicons that appear to be able to determine the characterization of the character through the Halliday's transitivity system theory. The data were taken from the novel "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. To obtain the data, the writer used the non-participant observation and documentation method. The data that were taken from narrator discourses and conversations based on Eleanor Oliphant as an active participant, were annotated manually and processed with the help of the corpus linguistics. The results show that there are six transitivity processes found, which are: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential processes and seventeen circumstances. Each process has lexicons that frequently occur, such as work, drink, read, think, thought, remembered, felt, decided, smiled, laugh, said, stood, and sit. The lexicons can show the characterization of the Eleanor representing her appearance, trait, behavior, identity, and psychology. This can be concluded that the transitivity system can be used to analyze the characterization of Eleanor, who is a hard worker and a drinker who has a trauma and clinical depression, but she tries to live a better life in the present.

Keywords: characterization; Eleanor Oliphant; transitivity system; corpus linguistics; lexicon

1. Background of the Study

Coyle, Garside, Kelsall, and Peck said that literature is a form of discourse which has a special and important relationship with the world [1]. In literature, discourse means speech or writing, usually longer than a sentence, which deals with a particular subject formally. Discourse has five main types: Compound Discourse, Expository Discourse,

Hortatory Discourse, Narrative Discourse, Procedural Discourse, Repartee Discourse. A type that relates to literature is narrative discourse because literature work has a narration in it. A narrative discourse is a narration that has a relationship between discourse and narrated events and actions [2]. According to Simpson, there are various stylistic elements which make up narrative discourse: textual medium, sociolinguistic code, characterization 1 (actions and events), characterization 2 (point of view), textual structure, and intertextuality [3].

This research will analyze characterization 1 including actions and events because it tells about how character development settles that can intersect with actions and events in a story. This can be attributed to both the character and the narrator because this type of characterization fits into certain types of semantic processes, particularly those of 'doing', 'thinking' and 'saying'. It relates to the Systemic Functional Grammar theory which focuses on the transitivity process.

The writer is interested in Eleanor Oliphant character in *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* novel. The writer is going to analysis the character by selecting lexicogrammar and transitivity process of the narration and dialogue. In this study, the writer wants to know what lexicons are used in describing the characters and how to show their characterization through transitivity processes.

The research problems of the study consist of:

- a. What transitivity processes are used to show Eleanor Oliphant's character?
- b. How are Eleanor Oliphant's character construed?

2. LITERARY REVIEW

2.1. Systemic Functional Linguistics

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), developed by M.A.K Halliday (1994), is a theory of language and discourse. SFL has been described as a functional-semantic approach to language that looks at how people use language in different contexts as well as how language is organized for use as a semiotic system [4]. In Systemic Functional Linguistics there is a principle term that emphasizes the interdependence of vocabulary (lexis) and syntax (grammar) called *lexicogrammar* or lexical grammar. The vocabulary and grammar are not distinct strata; they are the two poles of one continuum, which is appropriately called the lexicogrammar [5].

2.2 Transitivity System

Halliday (1994) explained that transitivity is one of the focuses of functional grammar systems that has semantic concepts in the analysis of representation of reality. Transitivity allows us to represent the same events and situations in different ways. Transitivity model can be used to employ the characterization [3]. Transitivity constructs character experience in term of configurations of processes, participants, and circumstances.

2.2.1 Material Process (Process of Doing)

Material processes are the process by which an entity 'does' something 'to' or 'about' another entity. The participant that results from the creative process is still referred to as Goal. They are not always concrete, physical events: they can be abstract actions and events. In *The mayor dissolved the community*, *dissolved* reflects an action that hit another entity. In the context of the sentence, what is hit is *the community* as a Goal. However, the difference between Actor and Goal can be even more difficult to determine. Concrete processes usually indicate which role is being played and which is playing.

2.2.2. Mental Process (Process of Sensing)

Mental processes are not kinds of doing, and cannot be proved by *do*. They are process of feeling, thinking, perceiving, and seeing. In mental process, there is one participant who is always human. This is because humans are endowed with awareness and intellect so that they have a mental. What is being 'sensed' is not always a thing but a fact. The term 'fact' is used here as a colloquial equivalent to the term metaphenomenon, rather than in its strict technical sense. A metaphenomenon is something that is created as a participant through indirect or reported discourse projection. Mental processes are represented in the language as two-way processes; *Lisa liked the painting* or *the painting pleased Lisa*. Both processes are of the same type and the semantic equivalent of 'pleased'.

2.2.3. Relational Process (Process of Being)

The process of becoming a being is called a relational process. It is not 'being' in the sense of existing, as the term 'relational' implies. The meaning of 'being' here is different from existing in the existential process clause, such as *there is a stone*. The relational process has two types namely; identification process (Token + Value) and attributive process (Carrier + Attribute).

2.2.4. Behavioural Process (Process of Psychological Behaviour)

Behavioural process is like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming, etc. This process can be called conscious being, psychological behaviour, or the process between the mental and material process. The participant who is behaving, dubbed behavior, is usually a conscious being, similar to senser, but the process is more grammatically similar to that of 'doing'. The behavioural process is usually in present tense, like the material (e.g. *you are breathing*), however we also find in sense (e.g. *why do you laugh?*).

2.2.5. Verbal Process (Process of Saying)

This process is a process of saying. However, the term "saying" must be interpreted broadly; it encompasses all types of saying, not just in terms of modes of expression (saying, asking, stating, arguing), but also semiotic processes involving showing and indicating. The sayer can be anything that puts out a signal, like *my watch*. _They accommodate three additional participant functions in addition to the sayer: receiver,

verbiage, and target, in addition to being able to project in the unique manner just described. Receiver is the one to whom the saying is directed.

2.2.6. Existential Process (Something Exist)

This process represents that something exists or happens. There is “be” in existensial process. For example: *that is your father on the line*. However, the other verbs that frequently appear are primarily distinct from either the attributive or the identifying verbs. One group consists of a small number of closely related verbs that mean "to exist" or "to occur": *exist, occur, happen, remain, arise, come about, take place*.

Beside of the processes, the components of transitivity system are participants and circumstances. Participants in the transitivity system are people who do, behave, sense, say, or exist. While the circumstantial is the location of an event in time or space, its manner, and its cause. According to Halliday, there are twenty two types of circumstances; distance, duration, frequency, place, time, means, quality, comparison, degree, reason, purpose, behalf, condition, default, concession, comitative, additive, guise, product, matter, source, and viewpoint [6].

2.3. Characterization

Characterization is the method of build or reveal the characters as practised by actors or writers. Simpson explained there is a type of characterization that focuses on actions and events [3]. It describes the ways in which narratives relate to certain types of semantic processes, particularly those of 'doing', 'thinking' and 'saying', and for the ways in which these processes are associated with the character and the narrator. This shows that characterization can be employed using a transitivity model that has those types of semantic processes.

In characterizing the characters in a story, there are two alternatives method; showing and telling [7]. In showing method, the author simply shows the characters talking and acting, and character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events, this method is called indirect way. In telling, the author uses authority to describe and often evaluate the characters' motivations and dispositional qualities. The direct description may come from a narrator, from another character, or through self-description by the character in question.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Type of Reseach

This study is categorized into quantitative-qualitative research, using sequential exploratory approach. The writer focused on the main female character, Eleanor Oliphant and outlined the lexicons used in the text to describe Eleanor’s character.

3.2. Data, Data Population, Sample, Thechnique Sampling

The data were narrator discourse and Eleanor Oliphant's dialogue which were taken from "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine" (2017) novel written by Gail Honeyman [8]. Data population is the lexicogrammar of the main character. Whereas the sample of this study is the clauses in which Eleanor is an active participant followed by all forms of verbs. The writer used a purposive sampling technique by annotating the selected clauses relating to pronoun *I* as Eleanor Oliphant. The writer did not analyze characterization that are construed by other characters.

3.3. Methods of Data Collection

There are four types of data collection methods; observations, interviews, documents and audio-visual material [9]. The method of non-participant observation and documentation were chosen by the writer to obtain the data for further analysis. The writer used corpus linguistics method to help collecting the large data of the novel.

The first step of collecting the data is the writer read the novel as a whole. Then, the author downloaded the novel file in PDF format. The text in the PDF file was copied and pasted into the Notepad ++. To make it easier for collecting the data, the writer broke up the text into chapter by chapter. The writer made a manual annotation to investigate the data by providing a specific code that has been made to mark each clause based on the transitivity process category. These codes were marked in the role of the pronoun *I* to show Eleanor Oliphant's character as an active participant in narration and dialogue. After the codes were provided, the annotated texts were collected into one in .txt file format.

3.4. Methods of Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the writer used AntConc 3.5.8 software by Laurence Anthony to help finding the lexicogrammars from selected clauses. By typing code in the query box and shifting the search term in regex (regular expression) mode, the writer was able to see the left and right context. To see the broader context, the writer clicked on the codes on the concordance view to see the text. The code that had been highlighted in black is the one that has been clicked in concordance. The annotated data were then grouped based on the type of process and the circumstance of transitivity. The data set were further analyzed to find out what lexicons were used by the narrator and the characters in the conversation that can showed the image of Eleanor Oliphant's character. The emerging lexicon is analyzed by the author by interpreting the data into a description that linked the lexicons with their implications for the characterization of Eleanor Oliphant.

4. FINDING

The findings taken from the narrator's clauses and dialogue show that there are six transitivity processes that refer to pronoun *I* which focuses on the characterization of the main character in the story. Main character, Eleanor Oliphant, became an actor, senser, carrier, token, behavior, sayer, and existent. She played many roles as an active participant with a total of 4,305 clauses. Quantitative data were collected with the help of a software,

namely Antconc 3.5.8 version. The material process is the dominant transitivity process which appears in 1,482 times (34.66%). The next process that frequently appears is mental process with the number of occurrences of 1,132 times (26.3%). Then they are followed by relational processes (644 times, 14.96%), behavioural process (341 times, 7.92%), verbal process (646 times, 15%), and the existential process (50 times, 1.16%).

In material process, there are four types of material process; material process itself (492), material process with the goal (851), material process with the scope (125), material process with recipient (14), and material process with client (10). It concludes that the dominant sentence pattern of material process is Actor + Material + Goal. There are several material process lexical verb of the main character as an active participant that appear throughout the story construing the character of Eleanor Oliphant, among them are *work, read, drink, do, arrived, tried, managed, went, kept, and wiped*. Apart from the lexicogrammar which appears frequently, there are two sentences which have a material process clause that recur over again. The sentences are *I cleared my throat* and *I shook my head*.

Mental process is the dominant process after material process in recognizing the characterization of Eleanor Oliphant. There are four types of mental process; perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, and emotive. The dominant pattern of the process is *Senser + Mental (Cognitive) + Phenomenon*. In this process, the lexicogrammars that appear are not as diverse as the material process, but they can appear repeatedly. The lexicons of sensing that often appears is, *feel, felt, (was) feeling, notice, think, thought, decided, like*.

In relational process, there are two forms, namely attributing and identifying. The attributing form is the dominant type of the relation process based on the character clauses. This form shows the main character can express feelings, statements, and even his identity, such as *afraid, anxious, clean, brave, fine, (not) sure, (not) consumer roriented, responsible, alone, lonely, and (have) clinical depression*. The second form of relational process is identifying. From this form, it can be seen explicitly the identity of Eleanor Oliphant. The clauses of this form that can identify Eleanor's characterization are *finance administration, finance clerk, difficult person, a right nutter, a selfcontained entity, a terrible actor, atheist, a thrity years old woman*.

Eleanor Oliphant is depicted in the processes that show habits based on full awareness, which are called behavioral processes. In general, she has habits like other people. However, the habits are shown in lexicogrammars; *look at (watch), nodded, breathed, took a breath, shrugged, smiled, and laughed*. The dominant form of the process is *Behaver + Behavioural*.

In the verbal process, Eleanor as an active participant plays a role in this. She often has dialogues with her opponent as Sayer. The most dominant lexicogrammar of this process is *said*. Apart from that, she also likes to explain to her opponents a matter through *tell, told, asked, whispered, and explained* process.

Existential processes show that an entity exists. This is also represented by Eleanor, who is an existing entity. The dominant process in showing Eleanor's existence are *stood up, standing, sit, and sat* followed by a description of the location.

In addition to the processes, the writer also found 17 out of 22 types of circumstances. The total number of circumstances that refer to the character of Eleanor Oliphant is 637 times. The most dominant type is place circumstance. Place is one of the elements that builds the setting in a story.

5. DISCUSSION

Based on the selected clauses, there are six transitivity processes in showing the characterization of the main character, Eleanor Oliphant. The six processes are material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process, and existential process. The data focused on pronoun *I* which showed that Eleanor Oliphant played an active role in the story, since this analysis did not analyze Eleanor Oliphant's characterizations that are construed by other characters.

Material process is the most dominant process in identifying Eleanor's characterization. This indicates that Eleanor tends to do concrete and tangible activities more often. The tangible activity means an activity where a character can give an effect on other entities. The essential definition of material process is that some entity does something or carries out some action, usually tangible action (Eggins, 2004: 215). The example of the tangible act of Eleanor is *work*. The clause *work* appeared in several times in story. This shows that Eleanor is a worker. She works to support herself who has long lost her family due to a house fire when she was a child. She struggled alone to survive by working for nine years in a company, this is shown by the narrative *For more than nine years, I had got up, gone to work, come home*. Judging from the routine, it can be interpreted that Eleanor prefers to use her time to work and be busy with herself. Her activities and busyness are depicted in the material process in *I go back to my desk and work till 5:30* and the relational process in *I have been so busy with work*. This can identify that Eleanor is a hard worker.

Because of Eleanor worked almost every day, the intensity of her movements was quite high. This is also shown in the lexicogrammar *arrived* and *went* which refer to the movement to and from work to go home. In addition to go work, the movement also goes to several places, one of which is a bar, this is shown in the place circumstances in the sentence *I went to the bar and bought myself a Magners and a vodka and cola*. Between her busy work schedule, Eleanor likes to read books or newspapers by herself. It can be identified from the lexicon *read* that appears frequently. From this activity, Eleanor may has broad and varied insights and perspectives from the books or newspapers she read. Reading activity can also be interpreted that Eleanor prefers to spend her spare time with herself. Besides reading, she also likes to play crosswords. This is shown in lexicon *do* which focuses on doing crosswords. She may also has a pretty good concentration with reading and doing crosswords.

To fill the weekend, Eleanor spends more time drinking alcohol. In western culture, drinking alcohol is quite normal, especially for adults. However, what Eleanor did was beyond the normal threshold. She is free to do whatever she wants because she only has

herself, no one else. In the narration and dialogue, lexicon drink and drunk appears quite often, accompanied by an explanation that what he drank was vodka and wine.

Eleanor experienced childhood trauma that continued into her adulthood. She thinks that her pain which could not heal will be released by drinking alcohol. She will also do it when she is feeling stressed or sad. This is evidenced in the relational process as follows:

I had had too much to drink because I had had too much pain

I simply had a bit too much vodka after a stressful evening,....

By drinking alcohol, she felt a little relieved. Eleanor also cleared the throat that is indicated by the clause *I cleared my throat*, which appears several times in the story. This behavior may reflect that Eleanor often experiences stress and anxiety in a condition, this may be related to psychological problems due to the trauma she suffered.

The feeling comes from the mental process that is experienced by Eleanor. In expressing her feelings, Eleanor has two sides related to the relational processes that arise in her, namely negativity and optimism. In general, this is common for most people. However, it might look different from Eleanor where she has a very heavy childhood trauma. The negative feelings are very natural for a person to feel, especially if she has past sadness that affects her until she is an adult. One proof of her negative feelings when she pours all her feelings into tears, this is described in process *wiped* and goal *tears in I wiped away my tears, went into the nearest pub and ordered a large vodka*.

However, behind these negative feelings, there is an optimism that is experienced by Eleanor. It is also evident from the figure of Eleanor now who is still struggling alone for about twenty years with a life that can be said to be quite stable. The optimism of her is shown in *I felt happy* when she gave someone a gift and *I am fine* in relational process. For her, life now is much better than the previous life which was full of psychological stress.

The other mental process that is quite dominant in Eleanor is the thought process (cognitive). Cognitive is a process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. Eleanor's thought process can be interpreted as a form of consideration of something before executing an action or thinking to bring up a personal assumption. What is clear, this process indicates that Eleanor was quite careful with what she faced and thought it well with full awareness. The carefulness is depicted in the sentence *I thought about this for a moment*.

The duration circumstance that completes the clause can indicate that Eleanor will think first before giving decisions to others or herself. Because her background is living alone, she is more likely to be an introverted person where that person will think more before doing something. The thought process can also lead to an assessment or assumption of oneself or others. This process can also be influenced by the experiences and results of individual observations of objects. This shows that Eleanor is a thinker.

The next mental process that builds Eleanor's character is *remember* and *remembered*. These indicate that she is able to bring what she has seen, known, or experienced in the past into her present mind and consciousness. In general, a person is able to remember objects, people, acts, or facts. But the phenomena that arise are related to objects or things, this is shown in *That voice; I remembered it from childhood, heard it still in my*

nightmares. Time circumstances *from childhood* serve to show that Eleanor's memory is sharp enough that she remembers some things from her childhood. This is supported by the trauma of her childhood so that everything that she experienced can be recorded well in her memory. Not only remembering activities that can present thoughts based on past experiences by someone, the lexicons *know* and *knew* can also mean that. These lexicons construe the character of Eleanor with several accompanying phenomena.

I knew from experience that life was never this straightforward

I know that you're a kind man who means well

The phenomenon in the first instance relates to Eleanor's past experiences which are still imprinted on her memory. Judging from the context of the clause, it supports that Eleanor's character easily remembers her bad past memory. Then in the second example, it is described that Eleanor has developed a relationship with someone then investigates how that person is, so that she obtains information from her observations that person is a good person. This may indicate that Eleanor is quite observant in judging something or someone. This can also be proven from the sentence *I knew that something about her was very, very wrong* and the statement that she said herself in her dialogue *I have always known, as long as I can remember*.

In the perceptive category of mental process, the lexicon that often appear are *feel*, *felt*, and *(was) feeling*. The lexicons that refer to what Eleanor Oliphant experiences in mental processes can indicate that she is quite sensitive to touch, sensation, and even feelings about her. Her sensitivity to touch is clearly explained by the phenomena in the sentences:

I felt a hand on my shoulder and jumped

I felt a quick tap on my shoulder and turned around

I felt sweat cling to the back of my neck

Eleanor also feels sensitive to the sensations felt by her body as in the *I felt a fluttering of concern in my stomach*. In addition, he also shows sensitivity to feelings explicitly in *I felt very calm*. Phenomena play a very important role in this type of mental process because they can describe what the Senser feels. The other lexicon from perceptive category is *noticed*. It appears several times in the story indicating that Eleanor paid enough attention to a thing or person for her to acquire a fact. This is supported by the phenomenon that appears together with the lexicon *notice*.

I noticed that he was wearing a duffle coat

I noticed that she had red geraniums in window boxes

I noticed that it smelled lemony

Phenomena that state a fact can be referred to as metaphenomenal. It is usually indicated by a sentence after the mental process lexicon, as in the three examples above. This process can support the previous analysis on the *know* and *knew* process that Eleanor has good in observing.

Based on the text, the majority of the desideration category does not have a phenomenon, one of the lexicon is *decided*. The *decided* process appears mostly followed by purpose circumstances (to + infinitive verb). The circumstance refers to the context of *decided* process.

In making a personal decision, a person tends to have a previous related problem so that he thinks of several alternative solutions and then decides on an option that is considered the best for her or him. In the text, Eleanor is told that she lived alone for many years which prompted her to be independent and not depend on other people for her life, including in making a choice. This is also supported by the relational process which clearly explains its character through narration, namely *a self-contained entity* in *I am a self-contained entity*.

In the relational process, characterization is depicted very explicitly. The writer can easily identify the character and her identity through this process. The dominant type of relational process is attributive, which can show feelings, statements, and even character identity. The lexicons that appears in this type are *afraid, anxious, alone, lonely*, and *(have) clinical depression*. It is very clear that Elenor has symptoms of psychological disorders that are triggered by her past trauma. Realizing that she had these symptoms, she went to a medical professional and was declared to have clinical depression. People who experience loneliness due to separation from family members and living alone can indeed trigger depression, especially Eleanor also feels anxiety.

Because she lives alone, Eleanor is required to take care of everything in her own house properly. She is a person who quite maintains her cleanliness, this is stated by lexicon *clean* in *I am always clean*. In addition, she also stated that she was a responsible person, this is evidenced in the sentence *I chose to put myself in a situation where I am responsible*.

The second type of relational process is identifying. In this process, Eleanor's identity is clearly explained, such as her occupation, beliefs, and age. This identification is proven by the text with the relational process below:

I am a finance administration assistant

My name is Miss Oliphant and I am the finance clerk

I am an atheist

I am nearly thirty years old now

In the behavioral process, the character's behavior is of particular concern to describe the characterizations. The lexicon that appears in this process is *smiled and laughed*. Despite the sadness that befell Eleanor's life, she still tries to be friendly to others by smiling at others.

In addition to behaving to others, smiling and laughing what she does can be a self-defense from her sadness. She tries to build positive things from within herself and entertain herself through simple things like smiling and laughing. When someone laughs, he or she is enjoying the entertaining situation that is happening at the time. This is also done by Eleanor in *I laughed and laughed until my chest hurt*.

Eleanor's character becomes central to the plot, so she is the main character who frequently converses with her opponents. This is shown by the frequent use of the lexicon *said* in the narrative. Being the main character definitely requires that the character exists in the story. This is shown in the clauses of existential processes containing lexicons of *stood up, standing, sit, and sat*. In this process, place circumstances play an important role

in explaining the existence of a character. This existence shows that the character exists. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

I sat at a table with ordinary wooden chairs and no soft furnishings.

I sit in the staff room...

I stood in line with my basket...

I was standing in a basement on a Tuesday night

6. CONCLUSION

Eleanor's characterization based on active participation was analyzed by the writer using a transitivity system. There are six transitivity processes contained in the novel that identify Eleanor characterization based on the pronoun *I* to refer to the character. The writer used corpus linguistics method which helps selecting and classifying clauses that were numerous based on their transitivity process. The most dominant process is material process which is 34.67%, then followed by mental process 26.8%, relational process 13.91%, behavioral process 8.24%, verbal process 15.14%, and existential process 1.24%.

Process material being the most dominant process shows that Eleanor often performs tangible activities that have impacts on other entities, especially the dominant type of process material, namely Material + Goal. The next dominant process is mental processes with the cognitive type. This indicates that Eleanor often uses her thoughts, experiences, and senses to gain a certain knowledge or understanding. This is evidenced by the lexicon *think, thought, remembered, know, knew* which often appears in the text. Apart from the transitivity process, characterization can be identified through the circumstances that appear in the clauses that refer to Eleanor Oliphant. There are seventeen circumstances that appear in the text, the dominant one is place circumstances. This shows that Eleanor exists because she is in several settings in the story. The number of occurrences of place circumstances can also indicate that Eleanor's movement is quite high.

Based on the analysis of the process and circumstantial transitivity, it can be concluded that Eleanor has a hard-working character and has broad insight, as well as good concentration power. However, this 30-year-old woman is a drinker who spends her weekends drinking vodka or wine at home or at a bar. She became free and uncontrollable because she lived alone and kept the bitter trauma of her childhood until she grew up. She felt that with alcohol, the pain would release. She was clinically depressed with anxiety in herself. Because the experience she went through was very painful and hitting, she had a good memory, especially childhood memories. In general, bad experiences are easier for a person to remember throughout her life. The years she lived alone made her become an independent and responsible person. She makes choices in her life alone, this is equipped by her character who is also a thinker. She needs some time to think when making decisions, besides that she is also good at observing her surroundings and people she knows.

The characterizations are well described in the transitivity system, where the author, in analyzing the characterization of Eleanor Oliphant, uses the showing and telling method.

The showing method is represented through the actions performed by Eleanor in several processes, especially the material process. While in the telling method, the text directly describes the characterization of Eleanor through a relational process.

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