

# THE ROLE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL ELEMENTS IN REPRESENTING PARTITION: A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF *TOBA TEK SINGH*

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examines how Khalid Hasan's English translation of Saadat Hasan Manto's beloved short story, Toba Tek Singh, uses the circumstantial elements of Time, Place, Manner, Cause, and Contingency to depict the trauma of the 1947 Indian Partition. To investigate how these grammatical features relate to the story's main themes of madness, identity crisis, and spatial displacement, the study employs a Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework and qualitatively analyzes the translated text at the clause level. The analysis shows a high frequency of temporal and spatial circumstances, which anchor the story in the fractured post- Partition landscape, using the UAM Corpus Tool for systematic annotation and categorization. Additionally, it is demonstrated that the conditions of Manner, Cause, and Contingency improve the representation of political absurdity and psychological trauma. Data analysis was done using the UAM Corpus Tool. To ascertain the function of circumstantial elements in the narrative representation of Partition, the results were qualitatively interpreted. According to the study's findings, the most common circumstantial element is spatial location (28.9%), which is followed by temporal location (23.6%), extent (distance, duration, and frequency combined at 30.2%), manner (9.2%), means (6.6%), cause (3.9%), contingency (2.6%), matter (2.6%), accompaniment (1.3%), and role (1.3%). By showing how language mediates historical trauma, this study advances both SFL and Partition studies.*

*This study emphasizes the crucial role of functional linguistic analysis in understanding how a translator's grammatical choices affect the reader's experience.*

**Keywords:** *Toba Tek Singh*, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Circumstantial Elements, Partition Literature, English Translation, Identity Construction

## 1. Introduction

One of the most powerful literary works about the 1947 Indian Partition is Saadat Hasan Manto's short story *Toba Tek Singh* (1955). The story, which was first written in Urdu, revolves around the ridiculous bureaucratic choice to trade mental asylum patients between the recently established countries of India and Pakistan. Manto skillfully conveys the confusing and harsh reality of Partition with this moving and unnerving idea. With his recurring refrain of "*Toba Tek Singh*," the main character Bishan Singh comes to represent the millions who lost their homes, identities, and sense of identity. His apparent insanity strikingly reflects the general insanity of the political events taking place all around him.

This study looks at how these themes of madness, displacement, and identity crisis are portrayed in Khalid Hasan's English translation of *Toba Tek Singh*. The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) model of grammar developed by M.A.K. Halliday serves as the theoretical foundation for this investigation. Since SFL describes how linguistic decisions produce meaning in context, it is especially well-suited for this analysis. Through three components—

processes (actions or states), participants (entities involved), and circumstantial elements (contextual details of time, place, manner, etc.)—the Transitivity system within SFL analyzes how clauses represent experience.

The "when," "where," "how," and "why" of an event are provided by circumstantial elements, which are the specific subject of this article. Acknowledged through expressions such as "in the asylum," "after the Partition," or "with great confusion," these components enhance the story by establishing it within a particular historical and emotional framework.

Few studies have used SFL to analyze the clause-level linguistic features of Manto's English translations, despite the fact that the work's thematic content has been thoroughly studied. Previous research frequently compares translations for cultural fidelity (Khan, 2014), examines stylistic choices without a systematic grammatical framework (Asaduddin, 2004), or concentrates on broad themes (Jalal, 2013). The linguistic analysis of its English translations still has a big hole in it. In particular, no research has methodically looked at how a translated text's use of illustrative elements helps to depict the Partition experience.

### Research Objectives

This study's main goal is to examine the kinds and occurrences of circumstantial elements in Khalid Hasan's English translation of *Toba Tek Singh*, including Time, Place, Manner, Cause, and Contingency. By using the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to identify these grammatical components, the study intends to investigate how they support the thematic construction of Partition, specifically in depicting trauma, displacement, and insanity. Another key objective is to explore how specific grammatical choices in translation shape the narrative's experiential meanings, especially in relation to post-Partition identity and spatial uncertainty. Furthermore, the study seeks to fill a significant gap in the existing body of Partition literature by offering a clause-level linguistic analysis, moving beyond traditional thematic or symbolic interpretations to provide a more detailed and systematic understanding of how meaning is constructed in literary texts.

### Research Questions

- 1: Which types of circumstantial elements are most prominent in Khalid Hasan's translation of *Toba Tek Singh* into English?
- 2: How do these circumstantial elements function to represent the historical and psychological realities of Partition?
- 3: How do these grammatical choices reinforce the story's central themes of madness, displacement, and identity crisis?

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Studies on *Toba Tek Singh*

*Toba Tek Singh* by Saadat Hasan Manto is a classic of Partition literature that has been thoroughly examined by historians and literary critics. According to Bhalla (1999), for example, the insane asylum serves as a potent metaphor for the disorderly condition of the subcontinent during Partition, signifying a dysfunctional political structure. According to Jalal (2013), the protagonist Bishan Singh's identity confusion represents the forced identity changes that millions of people go through. His incessant query, "Where is Toba Tek Singh?" perfectly captures the excruciating anguish of being cut off from one's native land.

Additionally, scholars such as Thoker (2017) and Jalil (2014) read the story as a postcolonial critique of arbitrary borders and nation-states, emphasizing the trauma that political elites inflict on common people. The story skillfully employs absurdity to critique a real-life tragedy, according to literary critics. However, these analyses rarely explore the precise linguistic mechanisms that generate these meanings, particularly in translation, instead concentrating mainly on thematic and symbolic interpretation.

### 2.2 Systemic Functional Linguistics in Literary Analysis

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), developed by M.A.K. Halliday, views language as a

means of constructing meaning. It is very useful for literary analysis because it provides tools to connect grammatical choices with emotional and ideological effects. SFL enables analysts to comprehend how writers create worlds, convey attitudes, and establish connections with readers, as explained by Eggins (2004).

The experiential meta-function, which examines how language depicts reality, is the main topic of this study. Every clause uses Processes, Participants, and Circumstances to construe an experience, claim Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The contextual background is provided by circumstances, even though processes and participants are crucial. Simpson (1993) shows that these grammatical decisions are not neutral; rather, they reveal underlying ideologies and shape points of view. SFL has been effectively used to demonstrate how grammar supports meaning in literary texts, advancing analysis beyond broad interpretation to specific textual support.

### 2.3 The Research Gap and Theoretical Framework

Despite the wealth of literature on Toba Tek Singh and the importance of SFL in literary studies, there is a clear research gap. An SFL framework has not been used to analyze the role of circumstantial elements in an English translation of this well-known story. While Asaduddin (2004) criticized Khalid Hasan's translation for "smoothing" the text for a Western audience, Khan (2014) and other translation studies have compared various English versions stylistically. To support their assertions, these studies do not, however, provide a systematic, clause-level linguistic analysis.

This study fills this gap by analyzing Khalid Hasan's translation using Halliday's framework of circumstantial elements. In terms of Time, Place, Manner, Cause, Contingency, and other elements, circumstances define the process's context (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). These factors are not incidental; rather, they are essential to the meaning of a story that is so intensely focused on place, historical timing, and the ridiculousness of how and why events transpire. According to the study's hypothesis, a detailed examination of these components will show how the English translation creates the trauma of Partition itself.

## 3. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative, clause-level textual analysis based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to examine how circumstantial elements in Khalid Hasan's translation of Toba Tek Singh represent Partition.

Circumstantial analysis is the methodological approach used in this study. Saadat Hassan Manto's translation of Toba Tek Singh provided the data for the study. Unicode text files were created from the data. A clause was designated as the unit of analysis by the criteria, and the methodology also involved breaking each sentence down into clauses and using circumstantial analysis to identify the various kinds of circumstances. This analysis included nine types and subtypes, including location, extent, manner, and angle, among others.

The UAM corpus tool was then updated to include these data. Types and subtypes of circumstances were accurately identified, coded, counted, and calculated using that scheme. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used because the software was supposed to collect the coding results as frequencies, but the results were interpreted qualitatively. The ideational meta-function of Systemic Functional Grammar served as the basis for the coding scheme used for the texts. The findings were then examined to determine how ideational meanings of language use and the portrayal of the story's theme relate to the role of circumstantial elements in text representation.

### 3.1 Research Design

The research design is a qualitative textual analysis focusing on the clause as the primary unit of meaning. Following the SFL transitivity framework, the analysis identifies and interprets circumstantial elements related to Time, Place, Manner, Cause, and Contingency. This design is interpretative, aiming to describe how specific linguistic choices construct the story's

thematic concerns rather than to test a pre-defined hypothesis.

### 3.2 Corpus Description

The English translation of Toba Tek Singh by Khalid Hasan, which was included in the collection *Bitter Fruit: The Very Best of Saadat Hasan Manto* (2013), serves as the corpus for this analysis. This translation was chosen as a representative text for examining how Manto's work is presented to an English-speaking audience because it is widely available and well-regarded for its literary merits. The entire short story was used to ensure a comprehensive analysis.

### 3.3 Analytical Tool

The UAM Corpus Tool, a software platform designed for linguistic annotation, was used to facilitate the analysis. A custom annotation scheme based on Halliday's categories of circumstantial elements was developed. The tool aided in systematically tagging each clause, counting frequencies, and organizing the data, ensuring a rigorous and consistent coding process. Manual annotation was prioritized to capture nuanced, context-dependent meanings that automated tools might miss.

### 3.4 Data Analysis Procedure

The analysis followed a four-step procedure:

1. **Clause Segmentation:** The entire translated text was segmented into individual clauses, creating discrete units for analysis.
2. **Annotation:** Each clause was examined for circumstantial elements. Using the SFL-based scheme in the UAM Corpus Tool, phrases were tagged as Time (e.g., "*a couple of years after the partition*"), Place (e.g., "*in Pakistani asylums*"), Manner (e.g., "*after deep reflection*"), Cause (e.g., "*since almost the entire population...had already migrated*"), or Contingency (e.g., "*If they were in India...*").
3. **Quantification and Categorization:** The annotated instances were quantified to determine the frequency of each circumstantial type. This quantitative data provided an overview of which contextual elements are most prominent in the narrative.
4. **Thematic Interpretation:** Finally, the patterns identified were interpreted in relation to the story's key themes. The distribution and function of each circumstantial type were analyzed to understand how they contribute to the representation of madness, displacement, and identity crisis.

### Data Collection

The story's text is taken from Khalid Hasan's (2013) English translation of *Bitter Fruit*. Every example clause is taken from the translation of Manto's *Toba Tek Singh* by Khalid Hasan. The following steps are part of the data collection process. They are transformed into notepad files after being copied. Each file was manually corrected by eliminating the symbols produced by the data conversion software after it had been converted into Notepad files. The UAM software was updated to include these files. The text was coded and the frequencies and percentages of features were computed using the UAM corpus tool. For the software, a sophisticated scheme is used. Software is used to manually code data in order to make the coding process more methodical and structured.

At the level of clause and clause complexity, circumstantial evidence was coded, examined, and interpreted. The UAM corpus tool's statistics option provided the statistical results, which were gathered as frequencies and percentages. The Ant-Conc Corpus tool was then used to cross-verify the frequencies of coded features in order to guarantee accuracy and dependability. The location, cause, matter, means, contingency, accompaniment, condition, and points of view conveyed through the use of circumstantial elements in the story's progression were the main topics of the qualitative interpretation of the quantitative results. Patterns and their influence on the presentation theme were taken into consideration when

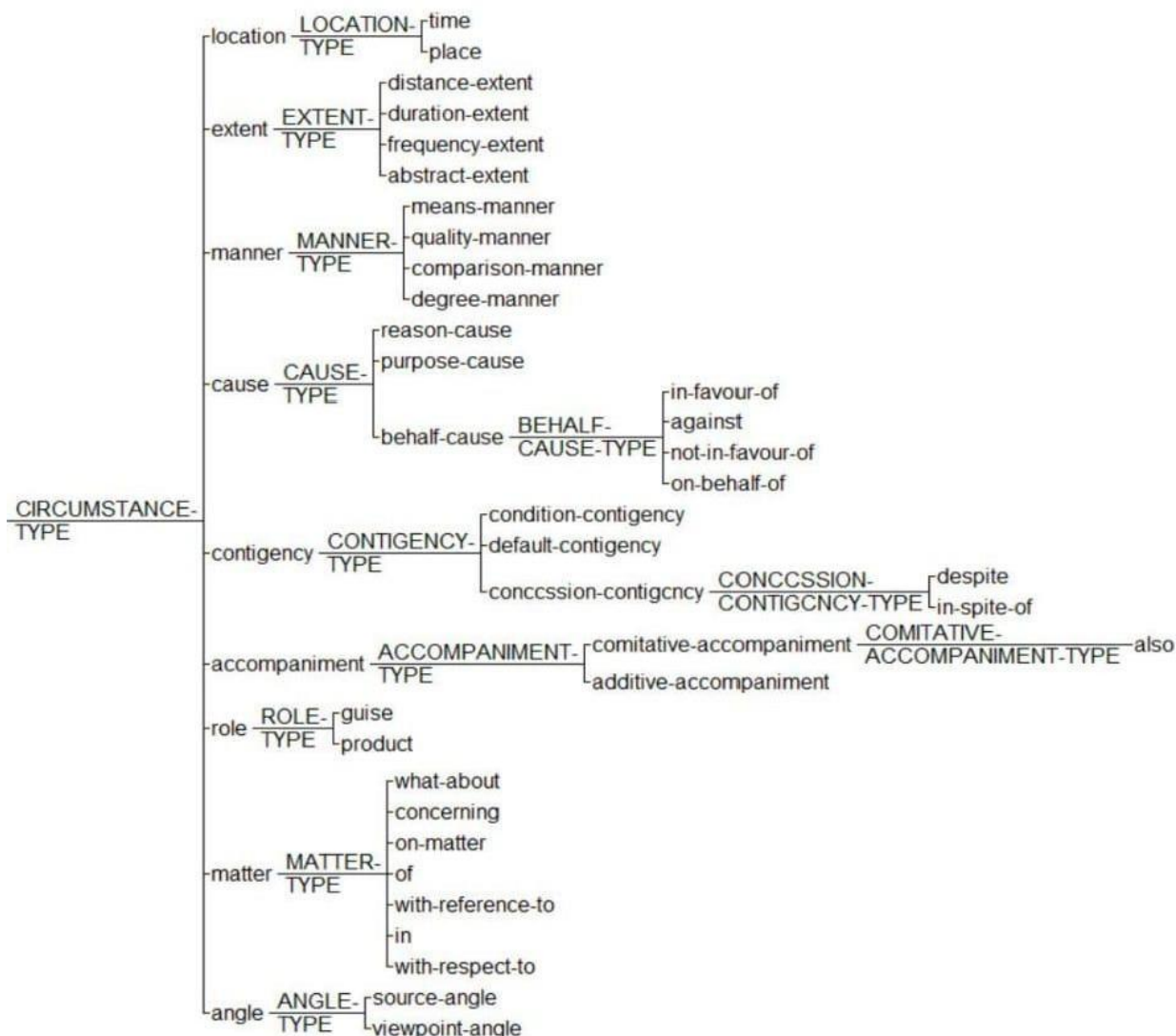


interpreting the categorized features.

#### 4. Findings and Analysis

According to an analysis of Khalid Hasan's translation, the story's thematic landscape is largely constructed through circumstantial elements. The frequency and purpose of these components clearly highlight the psychological and spatiotemporal aspects of Partition. The following metrics were used to analyze the corpus:

**Annotation scheme:**



**Interpreting the outcomes by Types of Circumstances Location Spatial Location**  
**Spatial Location**

**Table 1. Frequencies of Spatial Location Circumstances**

Sr. No	Prepositio n	Frequenc y
1	In	23

2	At	7
3	From	10
4	Into	3
5	To	12

### Interpretation:

Toba Tek Singh by Saadat Hasan Manto heavily relies on spatial circumstantial elements to establish the scene and offer sociopolitical context. For instance, the word "in" is commonly used to anchor events and characters within organizations or locations, as in "in India" or "in the asylum." This places the story in geographically and politically defined areas. In "from Amritsar" or "from Lahore," the use of "from" frequently draws attention to the displacement and historical movement, particularly during the Partition. These decisions highlight the characters' ephemeral and precarious identities. Similar to forced movements, the frequent use of "to" highlights forced geographic decisions made on mentally ill prisoners (e.g., "to Pakistan").

### Temporal Location

**Table 2. Frequencies of Temporal Location Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Preposition	Frequency
1	On	4
2	In	7
3	During	3
4	Before	2

### Interpretation:

Temporal circumstantial elements are essential to Toba Tek Singh's mapping of the Partition's emotional and historical timeline. Events are frequently placed within historical contexts by using the word "in"—for example, "in 1947" or "in the days following Partition." This makes the background against which the characters' mental states develop more prominent. "On" frequently designates particular political action points, like "on the day of exchange" or "on the list," which serves to ground the story in administrative and bureaucratic rulings. This demonstrates how the asylum inmates' lives are both governed and constrained by time. The word "during" emphasizes a continuity of the characters' suffering by directly linking it to the violence and chaos of Partition (for example, "during the riots").

### Extent

The Extent category, broken into its subtypes—Distance, Duration, and Frequency.

### Distance

**Table 3. Frequencies of Distance Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Terms	Frequency
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1	Near	3
2	Far	2
3	Across	1
4	Away	1
5	Along	1

### Interpretation:

The spatial divisions originating from the socio-political split of Partition are evoked by the circumstantial aspects of distance in Toba Tek Singh. The word "near" frequently refers to closeness between individuals or locations that the new border has cut off, evoking strong feelings of displacement and longing. "Far" emphasizes the characters' emotional and physical estrangement from their homeland, implying that Bishan Singh and the other characters are separated from their roots both physically and spiritually. "Across" and "away," which typically refer to the border or places that are out of one's grasp, indicate movement between divided territories. The word "along," which is used sparingly but symbolically, alludes to the actual borders that were once established between once-unified communities. For prisoners who are unable to understand such fabricated distances, these components frame the geographical absurdity of Partition.

### Duration

**Table 4. Frequencies of Duration Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phras e	Frequenc y
1	For years	2
2	Since	2
3	Still	3
4	Until	1
5	Durin g	3

### Interpretation:

Duration contributes to the lived temporality of trauma and waiting in Toba Tek Singh. The phrase "for years" refers to the prisoners' extended confinement; many of them had been imprisoned for a long time prior to the Partition. This highlights their temporal suspension. To emphasize the continuity of suffering, the word "since" is used to indicate how long the political and mental unrest has persisted (for example, "since Partition"). "Still" emphasizes the characters' eternal limbo by implying persistence, especially of confusion and unresolved

identities. "Until" denotes the end of the waiting period, frequently for decisions that are mandated from above (such as the formal transfer order). The frequent use of "during" connects the political and personal chronotopes by placing individual mental breakdowns within the larger chaos of Partition.

### Frequency

**Table 5. Frequencies of Frequency Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Term	Frequency
1	Never	2
2	Often	1
3	Always	2
4	Rarely	1

### Interpretation:

Toba Tek Singh's circumstantial elements of frequency serve to emphasize the distinction between habitual and disrupted realities. For instance, "never" denotes the complete rejection of previous normalcy—"he had never stopped speaking nonsense"—highlighting a persistent insanity in contrast to a chaotic environment. Bishan Singh's refusal to lie down or his muttering of "Toba Tek Singh" are examples of how "always" and "often" highlight repetition in behavior or circumstances, highlighting both his resistance and the recurrent nature of his trauma. "Rarely" is used to describe behaviors that were changed by the Partition (e.g., "He rarely spoke to anyone now"), illustrating how routine is broken by political trauma.

### Manner

The **Manner** category, subdivided into **Means**, **Quality**, and **Comparison**, following the same structure and interpretation method.

### Means

**Table 6. Frequencies of Means Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	By train	3
2	By order	2
3	By force	1

### Interpretation:

The tools of authority and displacement are the main focus of Toba Tek Singh's means circumstantial elements. "By train" appears frequently as a significant motif, signifying both the mechanization of mass human displacement and forced migration. It connects to the historical imagery of the frequently packed, disorderly, and hazardous refugee trains during Partition. "By order" is a reflection of the bureaucratic detachment of state actors who deprive people of agency by controlling their lives through remote decisions. From the perspective of the asylum residents, this top-down order is shown to be illogical. The phrase "by force" is less common but has significant emotional resonance because it emphasizes coercion and helplessness, as in the case of moving mentally ill patients across recently drawn



borders. **Quality**

**Table 7. Frequencies of Quality Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Term	Frequency
1	Madly	2
2	Confusedly	2
3	Silently	1
4	Loudly	1

**Interpretation:**

Particularly among asylum inmates, quality circumstantial elements reflect mental states and emotional expression. The terms "madly" and "confusedly" are used to describe behaviors, words, and responses that convey the confused subjectivity of those ensnared in unfathomable historical trauma, frequently in reference to Bishan Singh. While "loudly" is employed when characters attempt to assert their identity or thwart displacement (e.g., Bishan Singh yelling his nonsense phrases), "silently" refers to the stillness or shock in moments of emotional numbness or surrender. These characteristics show how Partition manifests itself not only in geography or ideology but also in the body and behavior—emotions permeate people's actions and reactions in ludicrous, frequently surreal situations.

**Comparison**

**Table 8. Frequencies of Comparison Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	Like a madman	2
2	As if asleep	1
3	As though dead	1

**Interpretation:**

Toba Tek Singh's comparison circumstantial elements show how the characters' experiences are viewed through metaphorical prisms, frequently obfuscating the distinctions between life and death and sanity. Not only is "like a madman" a literal description, but it also ironically captures how the truly irrational behavior occurs in the divided world outside the asylum. The political situation's logic is subtly criticized by this comparison. The phrases "as though dead" and "as if asleep" convey the prisoners' psychological paralysis and emotional disengagement. In the face of enormous, unfathomable change, the inmates' passivity and confusion are made even more ridiculous by these comparisons.

**Cause**

the **Cause** category, which includes the circumstantial subtypes **Reason**, **Purpose**, and **Behalf** in *Toba Tek Singh*. As before, each subtype is presented with a frequency table and an interpretative paragraph.

**Reason**

**Table 9. Frequencies of Reason Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	Because of Partition	4
2	Due to the exchange	2
3	Because he was Sikh	1

**Interpretation:**

Circumstantial elements of the Reason clearly connect events and actions to political and historical causes. The phrase "because of Partition" is used a lot and is crucial because it points to the Partition as the primary reason for the characters' uprooting and suffering. It presents the story as a direct result of political choices. "Due to the exchange" alludes particularly to the swapping of asylum seekers between India and Pakistan, demonstrating how geopolitical reasoning even applied to those with mental illnesses. By implying that religious affiliation became a basis for deciding one's national belonging and physical movement, even among those unable to comprehend such divisions, "Because he was Sikh" links personal identity to logic. These arguments highlight the ridiculous justification that the government imposes on vulnerable groups, highlighting the irony.

**Purpose**

**Table 10. Frequencies of Purpose Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	To send them across the border	3
2	To complete the exchange	2
3	To clear the asylum	1

**Interpretation:**

The Purpose elements show what the actions taken during Partition were supposed to achieve. "To send them across the border" emphasizes the inmate exchange's logistical goal. It illustrates how authorities viewed people as interchangeable parts that should be moved in accordance with new borders. "To complete the exchange" emphasizes even more how transactional this movement was—it was about achieving a bureaucratic goal rather than providing care or meeting human needs. The phrase "to clear the asylum" adds a somber undertone of institutional reasoning: the asylum, which housed the most vulnerable members of society, was being cleaned up for the new system. These purpose statements illustrate the mechanical brutality of Partition logistics, in which individuals were relocated for political expediency rather than their own well-being.

**Behalf**

**Table 11. Frequencies of Behalf Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
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1	For India	2
2	For Pakistan	2
3	For the government	1

### Interpretation:

Who benefits (or is said to benefit) from the decisions or events is indicated by circumstantial elements. Official explanations for relocation include the phrases "for India" and "for Pakistan," which emphasize the good of the nation while downplaying the suffering of the individual. "For the government" suggests that choices were made with institutional interests in mind, further separating action from empathy or concern. These statements demonstrate how institutional and ideological interests trumped human considerations, demonstrating that even absurd policies were implemented on behalf of people, frequently with disastrous results.

### Accompaniment

The Accompaniment category in *Toba Tek Singh*. This includes circumstances that answer "Who/what with?" or "Who/what without?" These elements help us understand how entities are represented as acting together or alone, often highlighting themes of solidarity, isolation, or displacement.

### Accompaniment

**Table 12. Frequencies of Accompaniment Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	With other inmates	3
2	Without his daughter	2
3	With the guards	1
4	With no one	1

### Interpretation:

Whether characters are left in social or emotional isolation or are accompanied by others, Toba Tek Singh's accompaniment circumstantial elements highlight relational dynamics. The phrase "with other inmates" conveys a sense of shared experience among the asylum's mentally ill residents, many of whom share a tragic solidarity as they endure the trauma of Partition. On the other hand, "without his daughter" depicts familial disintegration and emotional deprivation. It portrays the human cost of displacement, particularly for Bishan Singh, whose tragic and intense longing for his family—and daughter in particular—is evident. While "with no one" glaringly depicts the loneliness and desertion of people who can't understand why they've been abandoned, "with the guards" denotes supervision, highlighting power dynamics and control. Accompaniment elements add emotional texture to the narrative, showing how shared madness contrasts with personal loneliness, and how solidarity among the helpless emerges in the absence of rational care from the authorities.

### Role

The Role category of circumstantial elements in *Toba Tek Singh*. This type answers the

question: “As what?” or “In what capacity?” It helps us understand how participants are positioned or portrayed in relation to a social or symbolic function within the context of the clause.

**Table 13. Frequencies of Role Circumstances**

Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
1	As madmen	4
2	As a Sikh	2
Sr. No.	Phrase	Frequency
3	As patients	2
4	As a prisoner	1
5	As a political decision	1

#### **Interpretation:**

Toba Tek Singh's role circumstances show how people were classified during the Partition based on their social, medical, political, or ideological characteristics. The phrase "as madmen" appears often and is essential to the irony of the story: despite being called insane, the characters' bewilderment, resistance, or silence frequently expresses more emotional truth and reason than the politicians and bureaucrats in charge of Partition. The identity "as a Sikh," especially in the case of Bishan Singh, who is constantly inquiring as to whether Toba Tek Singh is in India or Pakistan, emphasizes both religious identity and territorial belonging. His struggle goes beyond geography to include identity formation under forced national division. Similarly, the use of "as patients" frames the characters as recipients of institutional care (or neglect), reinforcing their passive role in a violent historical process. It's interesting to note that the abstract situation "as a political decision" perfectly captures the way that people's lives are reduced to administrative statistics. It demonstrates how Partition is implemented as an administrative restructuring devoid of empathy or personal understanding rather than as a humanitarian process. Therefore, the tragic absurdity of Partition is highlighted by the role circumstances: identity becomes something assigned rather than lived, and labels take the place of human complexity.

#### **Frequency of Circumstantial Types**

The analysis identified a clear hierarchy in the use of circumstantial elements. Place and Time circumstances were the most frequent, followed by Manner, with Cause and Contingency being less common but thematically crucial.

#### **Summary of Circumstantial Types and Their Thematic Functions**

Circumstantial Type	Frequency	Thematic Function
<b>Spatial Location</b>	22	Marks physical and symbolic borders, prison, displacement
<b>Temporal Location</b>	18	Frames historical context and psychological trauma timeline

<b>Extent - Distance</b>	10	Shows proximity and separation between characters and places
<b>Extent - Duration</b>	9	Highlights duration of mental and physical stagnation
<b>Manner</b>	7	Illustrates madness, confusion, and absurdity of Partition
<b>Means</b>	5	Depicts method of decisions, government actions
<b>Extent - Frequency</b>	4	Shows repetition of displacement and helpless routines
<b>Cause</b>	3	Reflects political and bureaucratic justifications for suffering
<b>Contingency</b>	2	Demonstrates unpredictability, dependency on political conditions
<b>Matter</b>	2	Signals focus or subject of concern (e.g., about homeland)
<b>Accompaniment</b>	1	Indicates shared conditions or exclusions (e.g., with other inmates)
<b>Role</b>	1	Constructs identity in relation to roles (e.g., lunatic, refugee)

## 5. Discussion

The findings demonstrate that circumstantial elements in Khalid Hasan's translation are not mere background details but are instrumental in weaving the thematic fabric of *Toba Tek Singh*. This section discusses the implications of these findings by connecting them to the story's major themes and existing literature.

### 5.1 The Primacy of Place and Time in Constructing Dislocation

The high frequency of Place and Time circumstances confirms that the narrative is fundamentally concerned with spatio-temporal dislocation. The constant references to borders, asylums, and the "no-man's-land" anchor the psychological trauma of displacement in physical spaces. This aligns with Bhalla's (1999) reading of the asylum as a metaphor for the subcontinent but extends it by showing *how* language continuously reinforces this metaphor at the clause level. The temporal markers, such as "a couple of years after," frame Partition not as a singular event but as a lingering condition, a finding that supports historical accounts of its protracted impact.

### 5.2 Manner and Cause as Reflections of Political Absurdity

The use of Manner and Cause circumstances effectively translates Manto's satirical critique of nationalism and bureaucracy. The ironic descriptions of inmates acting "with deep reflection" or "with such enthusiasm" blur the line between sanity and madness, suggesting the political world is the true asylum. This supports Jalal's (2013) argument that Manto uses madness to critique political folly. The causal clauses, which expose the bureaucratic reasoning behind the exchange, reveal the structural violence at the heart of the story, showing that the characters' suffering is a direct result of state-level decisions.

### 5.3 The Role of the Translator: Preserving Thematic Weight

This analysis suggests that Khalid Hasan's translation successfully preserves the thematic weight of the original Urdu text by retaining these crucial circumstantial elements. While Asaduddin (2004) argued that Hasan's translations sometimes "smoothen" the text, our analysis indicates that the core linguistic structures responsible for conveying trauma and absurdity remain intact. This speaks to the concept of "domestication" in translation theory (Venuti, 1995), where a translator might adapt syntax for readability but can still strive



to preserve the source text's functional and thematic core. In this case, the experiential meanings construed by circumstances are effectively carried over into English.

## 6. Conclusion

This study has shown how Khalid Hasan's English translation of Toba Tek Singh uses the circumstantial elements of Time, Place, Manner, Cause, and Contingency to effectively convey the trauma of Partition. Through a Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis, we have shown that these grammatical features are not peripheral but are central to constructing the story's themes of displacement, madness, and identity crisis. The prevalence of Place and Time circumstances grounds the narrative in a fractured spatio-temporal reality, while Manner, Cause, and Contingency elements expose the absurdity and irrationality of the political events. A thorough examination of Toba Tek Singh's circumstantial elements demonstrates how Manto deftly employs language to capture the nuanced sociopolitical realities of the Partition era. The narrative is situated within particular geographical and symbolic spaces by spatial circumstances like "in the village," "at the station," and "from Lahore," emphasizing the physical and intangible boundaries that define identity and belonging. Temporal phrases like "since the morning," "until night," and "after the announcement" successfully frame the events that are taking place, highlighting the protracted uncertainty and anxiety that displaced people have to deal with. The severity and recurrence of trauma are highlighted by the extent-related circumstantial elements, such as degree and frequency. Words like "many times," "several hours," and "large crowd" convey the extent of the upheaval and the recurrent character of the suffering that occurred during the partition. Cause circumstances like "because of the exchange" and "due to government orders" highlight the systemic forces and underlying motivations that support the forced migration while also highlighting the existential and emotional costs borne by people who oppose these imposed realities, like Bishan Singh. In general, the circumstantial elements serve as potent linguistic tools that mirror the larger themes of displacement, identity crisis, and the ridiculousness of partition in addition to enhancing the textual and contextual understanding of Toba Tek Singh. This analysis shows that Manto's story goes beyond a simple retelling of events by using these incidental details to provide a meaningful commentary on human suffering in the midst of political unrest.

### Contribution to Knowledge

This research makes several contributions. For literary studies on Partition, it offers a new, linguistically-grounded method for analyzing how historical trauma is textually constructed. For translation studies, it highlights how a translator's clause-level choices can preserve or alter the thematic and emotional core of a source text. For SFL, it provides another case study of its applicability to translated literature, showing how the experiential meta-function can illuminate the representation of complex historical events.

### Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research

This study has its limitations. Firstly, it focuses on a single translation. A comparative analysis of multiple English translations of *Toba Tek Singh* could reveal how different translators handle these circumstantial elements, potentially leading to different interpretations. Secondly, this study did not conduct a direct comparative analysis with the original Urdu text. Such a study would provide deeper insights into the specific shifts that occur during the translation process.

Future research could apply this framework to other Partition narratives or to other works by Manto to explore how linguistic choices represent trauma across different texts. Furthermore, extending this analysis to include other aspects of the SFL model, such as the interpersonal metafunction (examining mood and modality), could offer an even more comprehensive understanding of how Manto's work functions in translation.

Ultimately, this study reaffirms that in literature, meaning is intricately woven into the fabric

of language. In *Toba Tek Singh*, the chaos, irony, and tragedy of Partition are not just in the plot but are embedded in the very grammar that describes when, where, how, and why the events unfold. By paying attention to these details, we gain a richer appreciation for Manto's genius and the complex art of literary translation.

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