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Who is the citizen in energy citizenship?

Uncovering democratic conceptions from the dominant energy citizenship discourse using Critical Discourse Analysis

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Uncovering democratic conceptions from the dominant energy citizenship discourse using Critical Discourse Analysis

by

Ted Geerte Corine Limbeek

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Student number: 4575997

Thesis committee: Chairperson : Dr. U. Pesch

         First supervisor : Dr. B.J. Pearce

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Executive summary

While citizen participation has been increasingly coined by both academics and policymakers in forging pathways towards an equitable and clean energy transition, conceptualisations of citizen participation in the energy transition fail to capture the breath of societal engagement necessary for a just and sustainable energy transition. The concept of energy citizenship predominantly perceives citizens as mere consumers, emphasising their role to predominantly consist of changing consumption habits and investment decisions relating to energy systems. This limited conception of energy citizenship raises concerns regarding injustices and asymmetries that exist in global energy systems today. The focus on citizens as consumers and their financial capacities leaves participation out of reach for large parts of society. On top of that, failing to represent the real diversity of citizen populations undermines the pursuit of democracy and equity within energy systems. Another concern is the focus on individual responsibility that shifts the narrative away from stakeholders holding significant power to decarbonise energy systems. These issues underscore the necessity to expand the current, asymmetrical conceptualisation of energy citizenship.

Recent research on energy citizenship proposes exploring the interconnections between democratic conceptions and the concept to transcend its current, definitional boundaries. Despite the acknowledged historical roots of citizenship constructions and democracy, contemporary conceptualisations of energy citizenship fall short in capturing the full spectrum of democratic assumptions that underlie its constructions. This research brings together theory on democracy and energy citizenship to explore the definition of energy citizenship beyond the current skew of citizens-as-consumers. It does so by unearthing what democratic conceptions are present in the current dominant energy citizenship discourse and, from there, explore the unobvious modes of citizenship that the concept passes by. Central to energy citizenship is the question "what kind of citizens are energy citizens invited to be?". This begs the question: "who is inviting citizens to be energy citizens?". This research, therefore, delves into how the European Union invites citizens to participate in energy transitions. In pursuit of this and bridging the knowledge gap in energy citizenship literature, this research answers the research question: *What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?*

The approach to unearth democratic conceptions from energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU is Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is a qualitative approach that is inclined to identify linguistic nuances that reflect underlying ideological stances in language in use. This methodology specialises in making underlying ideologies explicit in discourse and highlighting what is perceived to be intuitive, normal, and accepted as 'common sense'. Extracting such assumptions from dominant discourse and making them explicit provides the opportunity to transcend conceptual boundaries. This opens alternative solution spaces for energy governance that offer alternative expectations, redefine the responsibilities of individuals and presents new policy options. From Fairclough's framework for conducting CDA, transitivity analysis was used to unearth democratic conceptions from the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package published by the European Commission in 2019.

The findings of the transitivity analysis show that liberal and neoliberal conceptions were present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU. This was particularly derived from the agentic space of energy citizens being predominantly brought forwards through their financial means and consumer decisions. The frequent reference to citizens using 'consumer(s)' was also seen as an indicator of the presence of neoliberal conceptions. The discourse under analysis also showed that the relation between the EU and energy citizens is characterised by freedom and minimal public demands on individual lives. The presence of these democratic conceptions constrains the conceptual boundaries of energy citizenship. They bring forward what is perceived to be suitable and appropriate for the modes of citizen participation that constitute the concept. Therefore, these democratic conceptions define the starting point for transcending the established boundaries in energy citizenship. For the theoretical development of

the concept this research recommends employing alternative, normative democracy theory to understand different ideas on allocation of agency and responsibility to citizens in the energy transition. On top of that, this research recommends exploring the energy citizenship concept beyond the participatory dimension of citizenship. Especially since participation has an inherent exclusionary nature. Alternative citizenship perspectives such as psychological citizenship can introduce notions that reinforce self-efficacy of citizens and enable more citizens to resonate with the concept of energy citizenship.

From a policy perspective this research advises the EU to address energy citizenship beyond neoliberal conceptions of citizen participation. The agentic space that was identified by using transitivity analysis is narrow and excludes large segments of the population. Although the discourse under examination clearly stated the EU's desire to a more just and equitable energy transition, in concretising the actions and responsibilities on the account of the citizen, they fail to align their agentic space with these objectives. The EU is also advised to acknowledge the presence of neoliberal conceptions in their formulation of energy citizenship and assess future policy options from there. In forging more effective policy pathways the EU should consider new knowledge that is emerging around collectivism and communitarianism in advocating collective action in sustainability transitions.

Contents

1. Introduction

The European Commission has set the ambitious goal to achieve climate neutrality within the European Union by 2050 (European Commission, 2020b). To realise this, significant adjustments in climate change mitigation strategies and laws have been called for (European Commission, 2020a). At the core of this transformative journey is the European Green Deal (EGD), which seeks to establish a 'just, clean energy transition' to propel the EU towards a carbon-neutral economy by 2050 (Hesselman et al., 2017). A core commitment of the EGD is to offer support to those who are impacted most by climate change and ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

In the current global landscape, energy systems are undergoing substantial transformations, encompassing new infrastructures, energy resources, and stakeholder dynamics (Szulecki, 2018). As these changes unfold, citizens are increasingly expected to take a more active and influential role in shaping the trajectory of energy transitions (Campos & Marín-González, 2020). The increasing, central role of citizens in energy transitions is represented through many concepts, one of which is energy citizenship (Campos & Marín-González, 2020). The concept of energy citizenship has emerged as a lens through which to understand the roles citizens can play and are permitted to play in these transitions, reflecting on the evolving modes of public participation introduced in the energy domain.

While energy citizenship ideally brings forth novel perspectives, roles, and responsibilities for citizens in the energy transition (Pel et al., 2022), the last 25 years of research have yielded a limited set of roles that currently define the concept. The absence of a standardised definition has left the concept susceptible to ideological appropriation, resulting in a narrow interpretation of what modes of participation are deemed suitable in the context of the energy transition (Pel et al., 2022). This dynamic has constrained the range of capacities in which energy citizens are recognised and limited the scope of the agency that citizens have in energy transitions. The narrow range of roles attributed to citizens in the energy transition reinforces injustices and asymmetries that exist in global energy systems (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). Not fully encompassing the real diversity and dynamics present among citizen populations worldwide undermines the pursuit of democracy within energy systems (Pesch, 2019).

These challenges underscore the need to broaden the concept of energy citizenship and in order to achieve the EU's ambitious 32% renewable energy target for 2030, it is crucial for governments to address a more diverse range of pathways through which EU citizens can participate in the energy transition. Especially since the current definition of energy citizenship severely hampers the EU's commitment to a fair and just energy transition where 'no one is left behind'. Recognising both the conceptual gaps surrounding energy citizenship and the need for novel approaches to citizen participation in the energy transition (Hamann et al., 2023), this research aims to expand our understanding of the energy citizenship and the ideological bias that currently seems to influence the scope of the concept. By analysing the ideological appropriation of the concept, this research seeks to unearth the underlying norms and beliefs that shape citizen participation and, consequently, pave the way for 1) alternative theoretical conceptualisations of energy citizenship and 2) informed guidance for the EU on alternative pathways for citizen participation in the energy transition.

1.1.   Report outline

This thesis will start by delineating the problem statement and, subsequently, articulating the research objective and main research question in Chapter 2. Prior to setting out the research methodology and sub-questions formulated to address the main research question, Chapter 3 is dedicated to lay out this study's research philosophy. This philosophical foundation serves as a fundamental basis for the subsequent research inquiries and the methodology adopted in this research. While the introduction of the research methodology and the sub-questions appears unusually late in the report, it was a conscious decision to

establish the ontological standpoint of the research first. It explains to the reader why the methodology of the research was chosen and why it is instrumental for answering the research question. Using the rationale(s) from Chapter 3, Chapter 4 introduces the research methodology and outlines the sub-questions instrumental to answering the research question and outlining the rest of the report. Chapters 5 and 6 set out the theoretical context necessary for analysing the phenomena under examination. Subsequently, Chapters 7 and 8 will lay the groundwork for the execution of the analysis through data collection and the technical explanation of the methodology's application to the collected data. Chapter 9 will present the descriptive results of the analysis, which will be interpreted in Chapter 10. Why these two inquiries are separated in different chapters will become clear through the elucidation of the research methodology. Finally, Chapter 11 concludes by answering the main research question and reflecting on the scientific and social relevance of this research, while also reflecting on its limitations and addressing recommendations for future research on energy citizenship.

2. Problem statement and research objective

The concept of energy citizenship has been around for some time with its origin dating back to 2007 when Patrick Devine-Wright first introduced it. In his writing on the psychological aspects of evolution in sustainable energy technologies he introduced a variety of social representations of the public as, back then, embedded in UK energy policy and practice. Devine-Wright's initial exploration of the concept was prompted by the desire to offer a human experience-based perspective on the governance of evolving energy systems (Devine-Wright, 2007). At the time, the field of energy systems evolution was perceived to neglect the social aspects of energy system evolution and known for the lack of a single definition of the human experience in energy transitions (Devine-Wright, 2007). Essentially, he defined energy citizenship:

"in which the public is conceived as active rather than passive stakeholders in energy system evolution and where the potential for action is framed by notions of equitable rights and responsibilities across society for dealing with the consequences of energy consumption, notably climate change." (Devine-Wright, 2007a, p. 67).

Over the past 16 years, the concept has gained substantial attention from both academic circles and policymakers. In policy formulation, energy citizenship has been employed to define the roles that citizens can or should play in their interactions with energy systems (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). Different modes of citizen participation in the energy transition have been established by creating an institutional environment encouraging citizen involvement. In academia, energy citizenship serves as a conceptual tool for examining how individuals, as citizens, relate to the collectives they are part of and what their normative roles are in these collectives in the energy transition (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). On any level of analysis, energy citizenship, fundamentally, addresses the roles that citizens can or are ought to play in the energy transition, i.e. the modes of public participation that are deemed suitable for them in energy transitions (Pel et al., 2022a; Wahlund & Palm, 2022). But, despite its evolution and maturation over nearly two decades, the concept has gradually become narrowly defined and now encompasses only a limited set of roles for citizens to take on in energy transitions.

2.1. Bias in energy citizenship

The prevailing discourse surrounding energy citizenship has faced criticism for its bias toward a normative concept of 'good energy citizens.' Good energy citizens are the ones that 'play their part' by actively changing their lifestyles and consumption habits or those that engage in policy processes and decision-making (Lennon et al., 2020a; Wahlund & Palm, 2022). The dominant discourse assesses energy citizens predominantly based on their financial capacities and reduces them to consumers when participating in energy transitions. On top of that, recognition is granted only to those that alter their economic behaviours and purchasing decisions in alignment with the desired pathways for energy transitions (Dunphy et al., 2023a). Citizens are expected to actively participate in the energy transition and the means to participate are limited to financial and economic resources (Lennon et al., 2020). As such the boundaries between the private and public sphere are becoming more porous and this trend is often expressed in political ideas by policymakers and EU institutions (Pel et al., 2021).

This narrow conceptualisation has raised concerns about the exclusionary nature of the current scope of the concept (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). The sole focus on citizens-as-consumers and their financial capacities in participating inadvertently marginalises individuals with limited socioeconomic resources (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). This has left both citizens and consumers feeling disconnected and disempowered trying to participate in energy transitions (Lennon et al., 2019). On top of that, it reinforces existing injustices and asymmetries that are known to be present in global energy systems (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). It leads to unequal access to energy resources and creates disparities in the distribution of benefits and burdens within

the energy system (Sovacool & Dworkin, 2015). Should energy citizenship maintain its emphasis on economic forms of participation, individuals with limited economic means will, at most, possess quasi-status of energy citizenship in the future (Dunphy & Lennon, 2022a) Additionally, a neglect in expanding the scope of energy citizenship to be more representative of citizen populations not only hinders the advancement of democratic principles within energy systems (Pesch, 2019), it also amplifies the disparities that energy justice scholars are significantly worried about (McHarg, 2020).

Another critical concern stemming from the dominant discourse in energy citizenship is the disproportionate allocation of responsibilities to citizens in the energy transition (Lennon et al., 2019). The reinforcement of the market-driven paradigm of the energy system, where the state occupies a regulatory role largely removes any real agency from its citizens (Webb, 2012). This emphasis on citizen's responsibilities in decarbonising energy systems actively diverts attention away from stakeholders such as governments or large corporations that hold significant power in this process (Lennon et al., 2020; Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). It inadvertently places the burden of responsibility on citizens, excusing entities like governments and influential corporations from their share of accountability in decarbonising energy systems (Hamann et al., 2023; Maniates, 2001). Furthermore, expressions of energy citizenship that challenge the status quo or have the potential to drive transformative structural changes are often less supported than those aligning with the existing energy transition trajectories (Dunphy et al., 2023a; Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). Citizens are primarily valued to the extent to which they conform to and endorse the desired energy transition paths (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). These critiques of energy citizenship mirror criticisms of conventional environmental discourses that tend to promote individualisation, moralisation, and commodification (Jensen & Schnack, 2006). Issues of excessive responsibilisation, exclusion of certain population subsets, and power imbalances, are well-documented in numerous studies of participatory governance in sustainability transitions (Taylor Aiken, 2019).

The way in which energy citizenship currently reflects on both agency and responsibility of citizens in their roles in the energy transition is what prompted this research. Leading to both disempowerment of citizens and diverting the narrative away from large institutions that hold significant power to make structural change, the current allocation of agency and responsibilities proves to be unsatisfactory in mobilising citizens for action in energy transitions. These concerns and the existing inequalities known in energy transitions underscore the need to untangle the bias in the constructions of energy citizenship (Lennon et al., 2020). Additionally, the prevalent tendency to equate citizenship solely with consumerism necessitates an expansion of the concept beyond this limited scope. This expansion is justified, particularly considering that consumerism is just one facet of citizenship and does not encompass its full dimensions (Bellamy, 2008). The equation of citizens with consumers deprives the concept of its value and meaning as well from a definitional point of view.

2.2. Ideological appropriation of energy citizenship

One of the justifications for the inclination of energy citizenship toward a one-sided set of roles for citizens in energy transitions is the absence of a standardised definition of the concept (Pel et al., 2022). Scholars recognise the theoretical underdevelopment and the absence of an a priori definition of energy citizenship, making the concept susceptible to ideological appropriation and evolving along the lines of dominant ideological discourses from the past two decades (Lennon et al., 2020; Pel et al., 2022; Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). This has resulted in a narrow conception of energy citizenship, with the roles assigned to citizens in the energy transition argued to align with neoliberal discourses (Lennon et al., 2020; Wahlund & Palm, 2022), which is evident in various dimensions that constitute energy citizenship today. In general, energy citizenship brings forward a set of ideas about the roles of citizens in energy transitions that significantly permeates contemporary debates on public participation in decarbonising energy systems (Ringholm, 2022; Wahlund & Palm, 2022). Numerous conceptual aspects of energy citizenship indicate

that its current definition significantly relies on the neoliberal co-optation of the roles, responsibilities, and agency deemed suitable for citizens. However, a transformation towards more sustainable ways of life demands more than just the implementation of market instruments and efforts by individuals acting alone (Machin & Tan, 2022). Furthermore, broader concerns centre around questions of social justice and the capacity of neoliberal constructs to promote collective welfare, alongside how they amplify issues related to substantial private accumulations of wealth and power (Oberhelman, 2001). The neoliberal approach to energy citizenship in combination with the centralised regulatory role of the state removes real agency from its citizens in the context of the energy transition (Hamann et al., 2023).

2.2.1. Democratic conceptions and energy citizenship

The inferences on the presence of ideological narratives in the dominant energy citizenship discourse base themselves on the well-established relation between democratic conceptions and modes of citizen participation (Chilvers & Kearnes, 2020). Different normative models of democracy yield different expectations for citizen participation and the role of states in dealing with complex, societal issues (Biegelbauer & Hansen, 2011). This research adopts the premise that the roles that are prescribed to energy citizens in the dominant energy citizenship discourse are rooted in democratic conceptions that, unconsciously, bring forward preconstructions of citizenship and community involvement (Pel et al., 2022). As such it alludes to the Foucauldian idea that definitions of citizenship represent systems of knowledge that underlie these (Ong, 2006). In fact, democratic conceptions and their preconstructions of citizenship are known to shape the roles attributed to citizens in the energy domain (Lennon et al., 2020). However, there appears to be a notable lack of research on the interplay between democratic conceptions and the scope of energy citizenship to date. Considering this deficiency, recent contributions to the academic literature on energy citizenship propose that exploring the interdependencies between democratic conceptions and the definition of energy citizenship offers a distinct avenue of research to expand the concept beyond its current skew (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Furthermore, academics underscore that it is pertinent to acknowledge that the democratic theories employed in researching energy citizenship often hinge on presumptions concerning democratic values and rights (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023) while established (normative) conceptions underlying our formulation of public participation are rarely reflected on (Chilvers & Kearnes, 2020). Such conceptions are understood as long-lasting beliefs about what is good or desirable. This research addresses this gap. The research objective is to explore the dominant energy citizenship discourse beyond its current biased conceptualisation through the elucidation of the democratic conceptions that underlie this discourse and an understanding of how these conceptions shape the roles that currently constitute the concept.

2.2.2. Democratic conceptions, agency, and responsibilities

Aiming to understand what democratic conceptions shape the dominant modes of participation in energy citizenship, this research focuses specifically on the allocation of responsibilities and agency to energy citizens. This delineation offers a practical scope for approaching notions as broad as 'modes of participation' or 'citizen's roles' which constitute the dominant energy citizenship discourse. The literature widely recognises that any understanding of democratic conceptions is intrinsically linked to the conceptualisation of human agency and responsibilities (Imbroscio, 2017). Shifts in civic agency entail shifts in the meaning of democracy and vice versa (Boyte, 2005).

The focus on agency and responsibility is particularly relevant since their allocation to energy citizens pose significant obstacles to the necessary structural changes required for progress (Dunphy et al., 2023b). Concerns about equality of energy citizens' agency and empowerment are central to the idea of democratic energy systems (Szulecki, 2018). To transcend the current conception of energy citizenship, agency and responsibilities emerge as focal elements in defining the roles of citizens in the energy transition. Uncovering what democratic conceptions underlie the current distribution of agency and responsibilities to

energy citizens, thereby shaping the roles they can undertake in the energy transition, is crucial for fostering constructive reformulation of citizen's roles in energy transitions.

2.3. Who constructs the roles of energy citizens?

In seeking to redefine energy citizenship beyond the conventional roles prevalent in the dominant discourse, this study endeavours to identify the democratic conceptions that shape these role constructions. The question that is central to energy citizenship is, '*What kind of citizens are energy citizens invited to be?*' (Dunphy et al., 2023a). Consequently, an essential question emerges: *'Who is inviting citizens to be energy citizens?'*. This research specifically delves into how the European Union invites citizen to participate in energy transitions, taking the dominant energy citizenship discourse presented by the EU as the subject of examination for the presence of democratic conceptions. In contrast to prior literature, which primarily focused on self-examination within the energy citizenship discourse, this study breaks away from that trend and concentrates on how the EU delineates roles for citizen as a part of the dominant energy citizenship discourse. All in all, this led to the formulation of the main research question this research aims to answer:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

3. A critical approach to energy citizenship

Developing energy citizenship both conceptually and operationally and promoting the exploration of new phenomena and ways of thinking is a fundamental trajectory of this research. Rather than attempting to establish a finite definition of energy citizenship, the goal is to adopt a flexible and dynamic conception of citizenship that recognises it as a concept in flux that continuously adapts to contemporary struggles for recognition and salience (Dunphy et al., 2023; Isin, 2009). This research adopts energy citizenship to be a form of 'conceptual innovation' (Lidskog & Waterton, 2016). Conceptual innovations evolve and expand through their continuous empirical and theoretical challenges and contestations from their changing environments. Therefore, prior to the possibility of conceiving a new conceptual form, the contested nature of the concept must be established (Gallie, 1956). Only as such, and from there, can concepts be innovated. It is essential to perceive energy citizenship as a novel emerging form of governance that needs and will be changing based on the bias that is present in the current formulation of energy citizenship. Research that analyses citizenship without acknowledging its ongoing evolution, encompassing conflicts and changes over time across social, governmental, and theoretical domains, inadvertently compartmentalises and isolates the concept (Fairclough et al., 2006).

3.1. The critical project of reconceptualising public participation

The dynamic nature of the concept of energy citizenship reflects the broader standpoint that this research takes on the flexible nature of democratic systems and their institutions. While energy citizenship is a relatively new concept, making such a flexible interpretation more natural, democratic systems and institutions have a history spanning millennia, making this standpoint less apparent, albeit, therefore, even more important.

A prevalent misconception regarding the construction of democracy and its institutions, particularly in the context of public participation, is assuming that they are fixed. (Un)consciously making this assumption leads to scepticism regarding the role of democracy in contemporary environmental governance, a scepticism that has gained traction in academic circles. The change in use of natural resources and demanded societal changes gave rise to the perspective that democratic institutions are problematic in dealing with climate change and transition management (Szulecki & Kusznir, 2018). And since existing democratic and political institutions appear ill-equipped to address the complex challenges posed by climate change, democracy as a whole is argued to be inadequate to confront highly intricate ecological issues (Machin, 2023). However, arguing like so is based on the idea that democratic institutions are rigid and unchangeable (Chilvers & Kearnes, 2020).

What if, instead of rejecting political institutions when they seem incapable of addressing wicked problems, such 'failures' are considered as opportunities to reassess our past approaches that can be utilised for transformation aligned with our overarching goals (Eckersley, 2017)? The ecological transition can serve to deepen our democracy rather than as a cause for its rejection (Mouffe, 2020). Any effort to encapsulate democracy within a fixed set of institutions overlooks the dynamic and continuously reinvented nature of democracy (Machin, 2022). In fact, the gist of energy transformation is about moving away from a system that brough about the problems in the first place (Szulecki, 2018). This direction of change is a call for internal reform of liberal democracy (Hysing, 2013).

This notion of transforming governance approaches in response to evolving contexts and challenges counters the prevailing critique of democracy's role in contemporary environmental action. As Crick puts it: "*There are no final answers in the name of democracy. Lists, like definitions, settle nothing. There is only a continual process of compromise between different values and interests, politics itself*" (2002, p. 120). Understanding the democratic beliefs and norms that underpin our current conception of energy

citizenship forms an integral part of the constructively critical endeavour to reform participatory practices, institutions, and constitutional frameworks. This aligns to what Chilvers & Kearnes (2020) argue to be the critical project of reframing participation through shedding a light on the pre-existing and external democratic conceptions that underlie our understanding of forms of public participation.

3.2. Critical Theory as a source of transformation

A notion coming from what this research takes on to be the 'critical project' of reconceptualising participation is the term 'critical'. This section shortly elaborates what it means by adopting a critical perspective using Critical Theory and then proceeds to setting out the research approach of this research: Critical Discourse Analysis.

Critical Theory, as applied by critical theorists, distinguishes itself from traditional theories by having a distinct practical purpose. A critical theory is, essentially, one that aspires to emancipate human beings and serves as a liberating theory that addresses human needs and potential (Horkheimer, 1993). Here, 'critically' implies the aim to explain and transform social inquiries and has emerged in tandem with social movements that, over decades, have questioned power dynamics and inequalities in modern societies (Bohman et al., 2021). Critical ideas within this context identify what is flawed in social reality, pinpoint agents capable of change, and provide norms for the desired social transformation (Horkheimer, 1993).

The motivation for exploring the democratic conceptions underpinning energy citizenship lies in the acknowledgement of the implicit dominance of neoliberal ideology within the discourse on energy citizenship and how it constrains agency of citizens in the energy transition. Critical theory mandates that the primary task of critical social scientist is to make such implicit norms explicit, as this can serve as a source for transformation (Bohman et al., 2021). Critical perspectives on analysing the phenomenon of citizenship entail to the premise that to identify a form of citizenship as a particular kind of participatory procedure is, inherently, to have a pre-conceived interpretation of the concept (Fairclough et al., 2006). Such an uncritical adoption of one the many existing pre-constructions of citizenship is, apart from its negative consequences, deeply problematic in itself (Fairclough et al., 2006). Jürgen Habermas, a prominent critical theorist, employs his Critical Social Theory to critique neoliberalism, particularly its marketisation and financialisation of everyday life (Finlayson & Rees, 2023). He argues that *"the entire project of subjecting the lifeworld to the imperatives of the market must be subjected to scrutiny"* (2009, p. 186). The economic rationality that we see reflected in the dominant discourse of energy citizenship is critiqued by Habermas. Reducing individuals to the economic man is antidemocratic, represses them and creates material conditions to human freedom (Dryzek, 1990). Thus, adopting a critical perspective becomes imperative to scrutinise the existing ideological appropriation of energy citizenship, and subsequently, transcend it, paving the way for social change.

3.3.   Critical Discourse Analysis

Committing to establish a critical perspective on energy citizenship discourse almost naturally, and by definition, leads to the use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is a qualitative, exploratory approach and "*a type of discourse analysis research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in social and political contexts*" (van Dijk, 2015, p. 352). CDA aims to demonstrate what ideological presuppositions are concealed under the surface of language choices in text (Sriwimon & Zilli, 2017). Social analysts use CDA to examine language in use, which can be written texts or various forms or transcribed speeches. What sets CDA apart is its commitment to understanding the intricate social processes that language is entangled with

(Williams, 1977) and analysing the language within the contextual framework it belongs to. As such, CDA goes beyond just describing and explaining language in use by shedding light on how language influences the subjects and objects it addresses (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

Given its capacity to unearth the underlying assumptions within a text and the reinforcement of ideological frameworks as such (Carvalho et al., 2019), CDA is a suitable methodology and instrumental for the objective of this research. It allows for a comprehensive exploration of the democratic conceptions underlying energy citizenship discourse and it reveals how these restrict and shape the roles that citizens are permitted to play in energy transitions today. CDA is critical in the sense that it shows how language is involved in power processes of public participation and ideology and it points to possibilities for change (Fairclough et al., 2006).

3.3.1. Relational dialectical approach: discourse, ideology, and hegemony

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is not merely a tool for examining discourse; it is a theory on discourse itself (van Dijk, 2001). Its application is underpinned by an understanding of the connection between discourse, ideology, and power (Fairclough, 1995). Fairclough's essential point about discourse is that there is a dialectical relation between discourse and social structure (Fairclough, 2006). On the one hand, he argues, discourse is shaped and constrained by social structure. On the other hand, discourse is socially constitutive; it does not just represent social entities and relations, it constitutes them (Fairclough, 2006). Here he folds in Foucault's theory on the discursive formation of objects, subjects, and concepts. Foucault conceives discourse as an expression of power, constituting an intricate system of ideas and practices that shape truths about objects, subjects, and the social realities to which they pertain (Fairclough, 2006). As such, discourses produce and constrain subjects and social objects, such as citizens, which are contingent and co-constituted through discursive practices. These practices make some objects knowable and governable, while others are not (Leipold et al., 2019). Choosing CDA as a methodology, therefore, means adopting this relational dialectical approach to discourse and being explicit about what social problems it aims to address and critically assess (van Dijk, 1994).

In the realm of environmental governance, discourse influences how individuals and societies frame their responses to climate change issues, determining the range of policy options available (Litfin, 1995). Discourses of governance inevitably facilitate people with a range of resources out of which specific instances of citizenship emerge (Fairclough et al., 2006). On top of that, it is widely acknowledged that public participation is constituted and realised through discursive processes of various kinds (Franzosi et al., 2012). As such, it is expected that democratic conceptions that predetermine these modes of citizenship are very implicit and highly present within operationalisations of energy citizenship. It is crucial to recognise that language inherently shapes the way in which responsibilities are divided among actors in various contexts. Public deliberations and power asymmetries are inevitably influenced by ideological idioms (Machin, 2023). This is important, especially for energy citizenship since power dynamics are a critical determinant of the course taken in energy transitions (Bues & Gailing, 2016). Forms of public participation are always indicative of political cultures and socio-cultural resources (Dryzek & Tucker, 2008). As such, texts are significant moments in social structures and analysing discourse on a textual level displays information about social structures, processes, and relations (Montesano Montessori, 2023).

Dominant discourses are often perceived as intuitive, normal, and accepted as 'common sense,' with their underlying assumptions rarely questioned (Wodak, 2013). They are considered social conventions, taken as 'given,' and deemed 'unchanging' (Wodak & Meyer, 2001), thereby maintaining the status quo. This is what is referred to as the Gramscian concept of Hegemony where the dominant discourse seems 'natural', and its underlying assumptions are largely unchallenged (Entwistle, 1978). Ideology as a hegemony is a conception of the world that is implicitly manifested in the modes of individual and collective life (Fairclough, 2006). Meanings that are widely taken as given serve power best and shape what there is, what is possible, what is necessary and what will be the case (Fairclough, 2003). The task of the discourse analyst

is to uncover how language is employed, often in subtle ways, to reveal underlying discourses. By becoming more aware of how language is drawn on to construct discourses or various ways of looking at the world, we should be more resistant to attempts by writers of texts to manipulate us by suggesting to us what is 'common-sense' or 'accepted wisdom' (Baker, 2006). By critically assessing the discourse that brings forward the 'natural' roles of citizens in energy transitions, this research aims to critically scrutinise the dominant discourse of energy citizenship and its established boundaries and, from there, rethink individual and societal responsibilities, paving the way for alternative policy options (Feindt & Oels, 2005). This endeavour aligns seamlessly with the principle of conceptual flexibility introduced earlier. Its application implies that any, even a hegemonic, social phenomenon remains open to challenge and should not be accepted unquestioningly or viewed as a fixed construct (Wodak, 2013).

3.3.2. Constructive, critical discourse analysis

Analysing the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU and unveiling underlying democratic conceptions is not just a critical endeavour but also a constructive one. Pure critique is a force for change, but critique without presenting attainable alternatives falls short in its practical task (Dryzek, 1990). A critical approach applied to discourse aims to change the way language is used and, as such, our active construction of reality. It allows for reframing how citizens are addressed in a more constructive and feasible manner, offering a practical alternative to the present state of affairs (Dryzek, 1990).

The essential connection between ideology and modes of public participation underscores the significance of changing the discourse to effect change in participation. The discourse used in energy citizenship policy serves as a vehicle for constructive and practical change and must therefore not just be criticised but also transformed. This research is dedicated to discussing the results of the CDA in a constructive way and to reflect on how discourse can facilitate a shift in our current conception of energy citizenship and the way in which energy transitions are governed. Through this commitment this research actively refrains from assigning blame to or pointing a finger at the EU, whose language in use undergoes the analysis. It approaches the insights derived from the CDA to offer constructive implications for advancing citizen participation collaboratively between academics and public institutions. On top of that, providing policy implications aligns with the core task of being a CoSEM student, which is to define interventions suitable for specific goals and in socio-technological contexts.

3.4. CoSEM relevance

The Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) this research adopts diverges from the conventional research approaches undertaken in the Msc program Complex Systems, Engineering, and Management (CoSEM), to which this thesis project belongs. In fact, this study is the first instance (to my knowledge) within the TU Delft where CDA has been applied. The uniqueness of this research emphasises the need to explicitly bridge it with the established criteria for a master's thesis within CoSEM. Simultaneously, applying CDA is a deliberate choice that prompts reflection on these criteria and an elaboration on what it means to be a CoSEM student, as understood from my personal point of view.

Examining (and redefining) the role of citizens in energy transitions positions this research within a socio-technical context. The citizen's role is intricately connected to both the physical energy system and, drawing from democratic theory, other actors such as the state. State-led participation practices are inherently situated at the intersection of the public and private domain making this research address values from both areas. The goal of CoSEM thesis projects is to design solutions for complex contemporary socio-technical problems. This research does not necessarily design such an intervention. It focuses on the conceptions that underlie these socio-technical systems and how they influence our collective understanding of these systems

and how we build and design solutions in these contexts. Considering underlying beliefs and norms of socio-technical system design is not a novel concept for the CoSEM program; however, this research introduces a new way in which these conceptions are understood and, with that, assessed.

What sets this research apart is the application of the relational dialectical approach to discourse and how it impacts (social) reality. The contention here is that language acts as a semiotic artefact that is prevalent in the socio-technical systems that are central to the CoSEM program. They function as boundary objects, shaping actor networks of these socio-technical systems and the socio-technical contexts this master programme is centred around. Understanding who can or cannot be part of the actor network surrounding energy systems, how their roles are framed through discourse and discerning what assumptions underlie these manifestations is crucial for designing solutions that promote a just and inclusive energy transition. While this research does not design a tangible artefact that functions as an intervention in a socio-technical system, it does introduce a new perspective that considers the discursive nature of these systems and how language implicitly constrains the solution space of the designs made within the domain of Complex Systems, Engineering and Management. Further implications of applying this research approach in relation to the CoSEM study programme are elaborated in the final chapter of this report.

4. Research outline: methodology and sub-questions

A crucial component of the explanatory power of CDA is the formulation, description and explanation of theory and context that precedes the analysis of the language in use (van Dijk, 1994). The context of the language in use must be explicated to be able to correctly interpret the text (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997). In CDA, the context is not limited to temporal and spatial dimensions or the identity of the author or speaker; instead, it is an assembly of theories and contextual notions through which the text is interpreted and understood. The context needs to be set out to allow for the understanding of what is said and meant in the text under examination (van Dijk, 2001). As such, CDA understands the interconnection between theory and empirical data through the circular model of theoretical and methodological research procedures as presented in figure 1 (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 19).

Figure 1: Circular model of research procedures
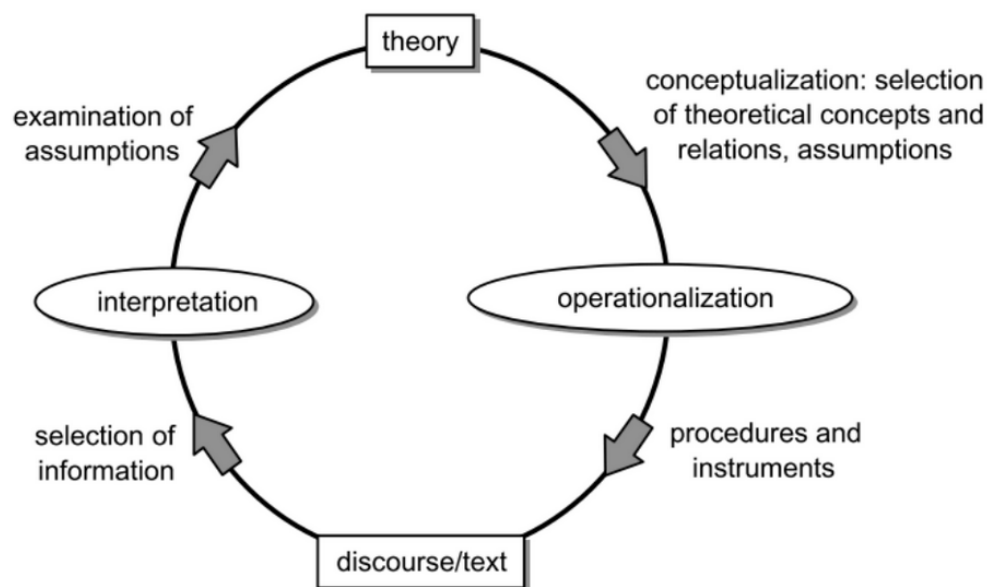
Note. From *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis* (p. 19), by R. Wodak, M. Meyer, SAGE Publications (https://methods.sagepub.com/book/methods-of-critical-discourse-analysis). Copyright 2001 by SAGE Publications.

For this research, applying CDA naturally leads to bringing together theory on democracy and energy citizenship before analysing the dominant discourse on energy citizenship. This strengthens the academic relevance of this research and underlines the suitability of this methodology since it brings together strands of literature that, as reported by Silvast & Valkenburg, till now have been left unrelated (2023).

4.1. Fairclough's methodological framework for CDA

In the realm of social research, methodologies serve as a bridge connecting theoretical constructs with empirical observations. The scientific legitimacy of a research hinges on the application of rigorous and comprehensible methods. A well-chosen method serves as the conduit, systematically guiding observations and validating their interpretation (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). Employing a methodological procedure ensures that research avoids inadvertent misdirection or, as Titscher et al. put it, "*guarantees the research a safe route back*" (2012, p. 15). However, CDA does not encompass a single, sophisticated methodological route. It is characterised by a diverse range of approaches that coalesce under overarching conceptual and theoretical frameworks due to their often-similar objectives and research inquiries (van Dijk, 1994). These approaches vary in both their theoretical underpinnings and empirical methodologies, each introducing distinct methods for operationalising their unique theoretical foundations. In their exhaustive study, Wodak & Meyer (2001) identified five prominent and well-established approaches, which were categorised and paraphrased in table 1.

Table 1: Prominent approaches CDA

Theorist	Constitutive elements
Jäger (1982)	Laclau's constructivism, repositioning Foucault's definition of discourse, analysis of dispositives
van Dijk (1994)	Socio-psychological side of CDA, triad between discourse, cognition and society, focus on social representations
Wodak (2000)	Discourse historical approach (DHA), social theory negligible, context is understood historically
Fairclough (1992)	Middle-range theory, focus on elements of dominance, difference and resistance, focus on semiosis
Scollon (1998)	Mediated discourse analysis (MDA), explicate link between social issues and everyday talk and writing

For this research, the approach formulated by Fairclough (1992) is applied. Fairclough's approach is suitable for this research due to his utilisation of the hegemonic model for understanding discourses. He views discourses as dynamic equilibria containing internally diverse elements, making the discourse boundaries consistently open to rearticulation when hegemonic struggle occurs (Fairclough, 2006). In doing so, his perspective aligns with the fundamental epistemological standpoint this research adopts concerning energy citizenship – one emphasising conceptual flexibility and continual redefinition of public participation to foster the progression of democratic systems.

With his framework Fairclough established a method that effectively bridges the relational gap between text at the micro level and its sociocultural context at the macro level. Aiming to analyse how the European Union invites citizens to participate in energy transitions this interface between context and text is particularly useful. To connect an analysis of text (micro level) to the macro level of its (sociocultural) context, Fairclough relies heavily on Halliday's theory of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). This theory, as extensively explicated later, is based on the idea that in any form of language in use a large number of grammatical choices are made that, in sum, contribute to the total meaning of the sociocultural context of the language under examination (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Opting for CDA and Fairclough's application to grammar within texts implies that this research extracts insights about intricate grammatical details to formulate conclusions on extensive sociocultural contexts. These two levels of analysis differ significantly in scale. The sociocultural context under examination encompasses expansive theories concerning democracy and citizenship, spanning vast historical and conceptual expanses. This research draws conclusions on this context based on grammatical nuances found within textual discourse on energy citizenship as presented by the EU. In doing so, this research adopts the robust groundwork laid out by Fairclough in the evolution of CDA, Foucault's underlying relational dialectical theory on discourse, and Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar's interpretation of grammar

within text. Across the coming chapters, the research navigates setting out the theoretical, social context of the discourse, analysing the discourse and drawing inferences on a text level, and interpreting these micro level findings using the broader context of the discourse under examination (figure 2). This oscillation between convergence and divergence makes the nature of the research inquiries delve deeply into specific aspects rather than broadly covering several, more generic dimensions. It says a lot about a little rather than a little about a lot which mirrors the explanatory power of executing CDA.

Figure 2: Oscillation between micro and macro level analysis
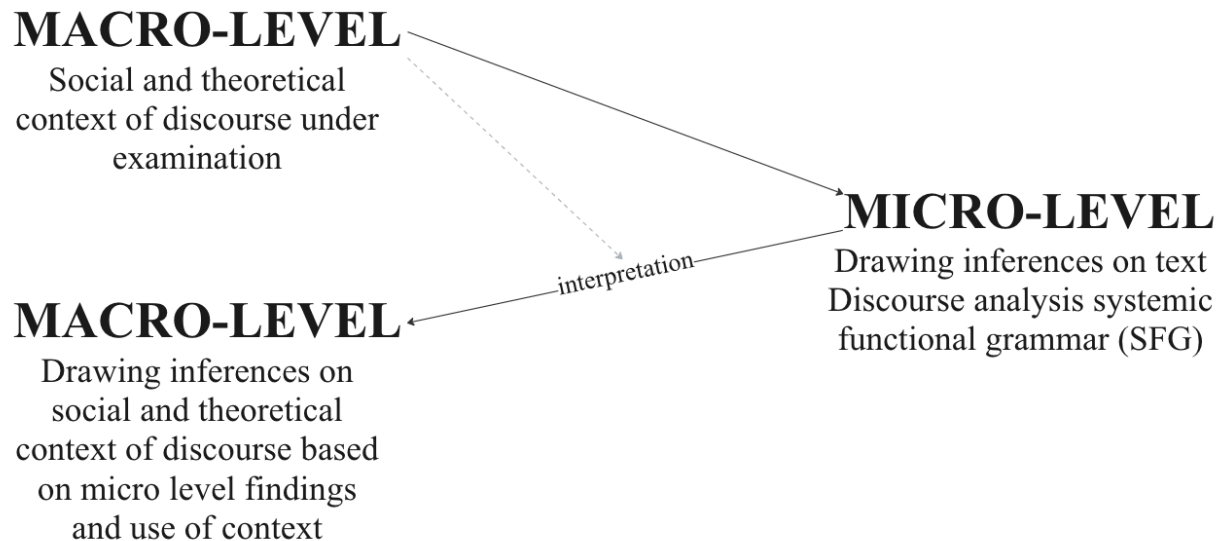
4.2. Research outline and sub-questions

The research approach and methodology lay the groundwork for the research outline, accompanied by three sub-questions. Fairclough's framework for CDA serves as the guide, leading to answer the main research question of this research:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

4.2.1. Setting out the theoretical, sociocultural context (SQ1)

The initial step involves contextualising the discourse under analysis within social and theoretical frameworks. By doing so this research brings together democratic theory and energy citizenship literature and situates the contemporary understanding of energy citizenship within broader democratic and citizenship theories. Setting out the context of the dominant energy citizenship discourse brings together two strands of literature that, until now, have been unrelated and provides for the necessary context for interpreting the results of the CDA. Instrumental to this is the first sub-question (SQ1) this research will answer:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward in literature till date, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

Subsequently, the research proceeds to prepare the CDA requiring the construction of a corpus of text and selecting suitable linguistic features for the analysis. These preparatory steps are based on three procedural steps Fairclough defined for executing CDA: 1) data collection, 2) analysis and 3) results.

4.2.2. Preparing the CDA: linguistic features (SQ2) and corpus construction (SQ3)

The first step of preparing the execution of the CDA involves the selection of linguistic feature(s) instrumental in drawing inferences on the subject under examination. The selection of these linguistic features is the linking element between the sociocultural context of the discourse and the text (representing the discourse) under examination. Fairclough's framework is applied to connect these two analytical dimensions and to provide the theoretical grounding for the selection of suitable linguistic features for examining the democratic conceptions underlying the dominant energy citizenship discourse. The selection of the linguistic features is done through answering the second sub-question (SQ2):

Based on Fairclough's framework for CDA, what linguistic feature is indicative of the allocation of agency and responsibilities allocated to citizens in energy transitions from text?

Since CDA concerns the analysis of text, it necessitates the construction of a 'corpus' composed of samples of text. The text samples in the corpus are the empirical data of the research and must, therefore, represent what this research aims to examine: the dominant discourse of energy citizenship as brought forward by the EU. The text samples must be carefully selected to be instrumental to the research objective and main research question. Answering the third sub-question (SQ3) of this research facilitates the construction of a corpus that is representative for the phenomenon under examination:

What corpus of text is representative of the dominant discourse in energy citizenship as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles (energy) citizens are allowed to play in energy transitions?

4.2.3. Executing the CDA and interpreting the results

Lastly, the research culminates in executing CDA and interpreting its findings. Applying the linguistic feature(s) (SQ2) for the examination of the constructed corpus (SQ3), and the interpretation of the results using the sociocultural context (SQ1), this research answers its main research question and, through that, achieves its overarching research objective.

The research steps, including the main research question and the related sub-questions, are presented within the theoretical and methodological research circular model depicted in figure 1 of Chapter 3. This circular model has been modified to structure the research flow diagram of this research and is presented in landscape format Appendix A for enhanced readability.

5. Exploring energy citizenship using democratic theory

Other than the concrete call from literature to bring together theory on democracy and energy citizenship and the prerequisite of CDA to set out the context of the discourse under analysis, there is another important rationale to contextualise energy citizenship from the perspective of democracy and citizenship theory. Literature on analysis of citizenship states that when choosing citizenship (or a form thereof) as the research object, part of the research should involve identifying and characterising the theoretical preconceptions whereby the concept has been given its functional meaning (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992; Fairclough et al., 2006). When texts are analysed that reflect functional meanings of (energy) citizenship, the research must first explore other academic fields that provide understanding of the dialectic between pre-constructions of citizenship and the performance of citizenship in everyday life (Fairclough et al., 2006). This is particularly relevant for any type of discourse analysis since it necessitates that the scientific object under examination integrates theories and methodologies that allow the researcher to put theories on discourse and power into the work of the analytical procedures that are applied (Montessori, 2019).

Hence, to critically assess the dominant discourse on energy citizenship and the inherent democratic conceptions, this research starts by setting out theoretical constructions of citizenship and its correlation with democratic conceptions. This is done through setting out the relation between citizenship and democracy (5.1) and the parallel exploration of energy citizenship in relation to energy democracy (5.2). This approach bridges two strands of literature that, until now, have been left unrelated and it puts energy citizenship into the broader framework of citizenship and democracy theory. Describing the multifaceted concept of citizenship and its underpinnings from democratic theory normally needs at least hundreds of pages to do justice to the vastness and depth of these concepts. Doing it in a single chapter necessitated some framework or guideline to follow. For this research the three dimensions that Bellamy identified that encapsulate the multifaceted nature of citizenship are used. The dimensions of citizenship he defined are (1) membership in a democratic political community, (2) collective rights associated with this membership, and (3) participation in political, economic, and social processes (Bayer et al., 2021; Bellamy, 2008). Describing each of these dimensions will provide, at least, a core understanding of what citizenship entails in all its depth and broadness and applying these dimensions, thereafter, to the concept of energy citizenship helps to make the analogy in a structured way to explore energy citizenship using democratic theory.

Besides giving a descriptive account of the dimensions of citizenship and applying these to energy citizenship, the theoretical part of this research is also dedicated to give a concise overview of classical normative democratic theories. The question of what is reasonable and desirable when defining citizenship in societal contexts is central to normative democratic theory and yields many different answers (Oberhelman, 2001). This normative step is necessary for the interpretation of the descriptive outcomes of the analysis. The relation between democratic conceptions and pre-constructions of citizenship needs to be made to identify the implicit presence of democratic conceptions in the dominant energy citizenship discourse, which only provides descriptive accounts of (energy) citizenship, and the roles prescribed to energy citizens. Therefore chapter 6 is dedicated to setting out how different democratic conceptions bring forward different constructions of (energy) citizenship, i.e. roles of energy citizens. As mentioned in section 2.2.2 this research focuses particularly on the allocation of responsibilities and agency to energy citizens in examining how democratic conceptions shape the roles of energy citizenship. Chapter 6 will, therefore, explicitly set out how different democratic conceptions bring forward constructions of citizenship through the agency and responsibility allocated to them (section 6.1) and then applies these insights to the dominant discourse on energy citizenship as brought forward in the literature till date (section 6.2). Figure 3 shows a visualisation of the outline of chapter 5 and 6, respectively giving a descriptive and normative explication of (energy) citizenship and its relation to (energy) democracy.

Figure 3: Visual representation of outline chapter 5 and 6

CHAPTER 5
DESCRIPTIVE

PART I	ANALOGY BELLAMY'S DIMENSIONS OF CITIZENSHIP	PART II
5.1. Citizenship and democracy		5.2. Energy citizenship and energy democracy
5.1.1. Citizenship as membership: the citizen and the state	I. MEMBERSHIP	5.2.1. Energy citizenship as membership: the energy citizen and the state
5.1.1.1. Rights as a precondition of citizenship	II. BASIC RIGHTS	5.2.2. Rights as a precondition (and process) of energy citizenship
5.1.2. Citizenship as public participation	III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	5.2.3. Energy citizenship as public participation

CHAPTER 6
NORMATIVE

PART I	applied to contemporary conceptualisations of energy citizenship from literature	PART II
6.1. Democratic conceptions and pre-constructions of citizenship		6.2. Democratic conceptions and energy citizenship
6.1.1. Citizenship as membership and rights: liberalism and republicanism		6.2.1. Energy citizenship, neoliberalism, and republicanism
6.1.2. Citizenship as participation: representation, participation and deliberation		6.2.2. Typology of energy citizenship
		6.3. Answering SQ1

These two chapters provide a contextualisation of the dominant energy citizenship discourse using citizenship and democracy theory and insights into how different (normative) democratic conceptions bring forward pre-constructions of (energy) citizenship. Together they build up towards answering the first sub-question of this research (section 6.3.).

5.1.   Citizenship and democracy

CITIZENSHIP: *"Status of being a member of a free city or jural society, (civitas) possessing all the rights and privileges which can be enjoyed by any person under its constitution and government, and subject to the corresponding duties."* (Black, 2011)

Although there are many different conceptions of citizenship, all affirm that what historically constitutes citizenship is the formal acknowledgement of membership of a political and legal entity accompanied by a range of associated rights and obligations (Bellamy, 2008). The initial understanding of citizenship traces back to classical times and finds its root in two overarching conceptions that emerged in ancient Greece and Imperial Rome that, respectively, later evolved into what are termed the 'liberal' and 'republican' accounts of citizenship (Bellamy, 2008).

Historically, the concept of citizenship finds its origins in the Latin word 'civitas*'*, meaning city, and took root during the overthrow of tyrannical dynasties in the classical Greek world, marking the transition from the 5th to the 4th century BC (Bellamy, 2008). These forms of protest were led by a large number of city-state inhabitants who began identifying themselves as citizens demanding rule ('kratia') of the people ('demos') which gave rise to the Greek word 'demokratia' that we know as democracy today (Crick, 2002). This gave rise to the Greek model of citizenship, largely influenced by the writings of Aristotle (Bellamy, 2008). Central to this model was the principle of citizen equality as makers of the law and their participatory role in democracies. Without active participation, a citizen would simply be subject to rule, rather than part of the ruling and being ruled in turn (Bellamy, 2008). Imperial Rome offered an important contrast to the Greek, liberal, view of citizenship. While initially being similar to the Greek idea of citizenship, Roman citizenship was characterised by its strong legal nature, emphasising the protection of private interests through the law, in stark contrast to the Aristotelian ideal, where citizenship hinged on active participation and the prioritisation of public interests over private concerns (Pocock, 1995; Bellamy, 2015). Over the years these two conceptions of citizenship underwent significant transformations in response to evolving social and political contexts (Bellamy, 2015). However, the foundational principles of citizenship set forth by the ancient Greeks and Romans continue to serve as fundamental reference points for contemporary interpretations of citizenship and their relations to democracy (Bellamy, 2008).

Citizenship is inextricable intertwined with democracy (Baron, 2015). Or as Linz & Stephan put it, "*without a state, there can be no citizenship; without citizenship, there can be no democracy*" (1996, p. 28). Throughout history, citizenship has always been intrinsically linked with political participation in some form of democratic politics (Bellamy, 2008). Democracies are fundamentally characterised by the allocation of power and the basic protections granted to citizens by the state (Bayer et al., 2021). The democratic ideal of equality is often defined in terms of the equal capacity of all members of the demos to exercise control over policy decisions through a particular set of activities (Dryzek, 2007). Since its emergence, the central activity of (democratic) citizenship has been the (electoral) task to vote. It is both a right and responsibility that has consistently played a pivotal role in shaping and sustaining democratic processes (Bellamy, 2008). The right to vote is what initially constituted democracies and, in a sense, democracies depend on their citizens fulfilling their electoral tasks to enable 'the rule by a few with the consent of the many' (Crick, 2002). Nowadays, in modern democracies, the concept of democracy reflects not only the Greek ideal of power of the people through voting and political participation but also the Roman notion of legally safeguarded individual rights (Crick, 2002). Protection of the basic rights of citizens, specifically their rights to fair and equal social and economic status and relationships, is one of the most important aspects of democracy in this age (O'Donnell, 2010). Different democratic perspectives and assumptions bring forward different conceptions of what these basic rights should be and what citizens are obligated to in return, i.e. different pre-constructions of citizenship (Dalton, 2008).

5.1.1.   Citizenship as membership: the citizen and the state

Aristotle laid the foundational idea for our understanding of citizenship, conceiving it as a fundamental social relationship with the scope of political belonging being confined to the city-state and its 'free men' (Bayer et al., 2021). Today, as articulated by Bellamy, citizenship assumes the form of a unique social relationship, one that binds an individual to a state or society (Bellamy, 2008). This relationship presents the legal bond granting citizens with complete and official membership within that state (Shaw, 2020). This 'membership' lies at the heart of citizenship, and it formally acknowledges an individual as constituent of a sovereign state (Steinmetz, 2021). Consequently, individuals hold their citizenship status in accordance with the laws and international agreements upheld by democratic states (Bellamy, 2008). Not only does this legal connection grant them the status of being a citizen it also forms an individual's nationality (Bellamy, 2008; van Waas & Jaghai, 2018). This is both necessary and unavoidable since it is impossible not to live in a state (Bellamy, 2008).

5.1.2.   Rights as a precondition of citizenship

While the substance of citizenship has evolved over time, it fundamentally delineates the relation between the state and the individuals in the language of constitutional rights (Brodie, 2004). Citizenship laws provide the parameters for acquiring and losing citizenship status within the framework of constitutional norms (Shaw, 2020). Traditionally the obligations associated with citizenship status are about civil obedience of the law (Oberhelman, 2001). Citizens must obey a set of laws to ensure justice and democratic equality and in return their rights are protected (Crick, 2002). This, minimalist, constitutional concept of citizenship is often referred to as citizenship's 'Westphalian core', signifying the legal anchor that sustains the sovereignty of states through the rule of law and the protection of citizens' rights (Farr, 2005; Galligan & Versteeg, 2013). Consequently, 'legal' citizenship is always tuned to the specific national circumstances, and the concept's boundaries and limits can only be understood in the context of the institutional structure of its constitution (Shaw, 2020). In essence, the practical political landscape underscores the idea that citizenship is always 'tailored'—shaped according to the requirements of a given political system and adapting to changing needs (Llanque, 2010). However, given that all citizens maintain the same legal connection with the state and enjoy equivalent basic protection rights, every citizen within the same polity is inherently meant to be 'equal' by that definition (van Waas & Jaghai, 2018).

Rights in contemporary legal citizenship can be traced back to the incorporation of rights provisions within two revolutionary constitutions, the US and France, and the emergence of global human rights following World War II, encompassing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) (Shaw, 2020). Institutionally, the global human rights regime exerts substantial influence over the rights sphere within national institutions and is a recognised approach to uphold the moral vision for safeguarding democratic ideals (O'Neill, 2005). Consequently, despite the 'tailored' approach on a national level, a uniform set of citizenship rights can be recognised in democratic constitutions worldwide. This encompasses the freedom to depart from and return to one's country (territorial rights), diplomatic protection, and constraints on extradition (protection rights) (Shaw, 2020) . Furthermore, it includes the right to vote, run for election, and hold public office (democratic rights), along with rights involving a stake in the collective resources of the nation (social and economic rights) (Shaw, 2020). In addition to these, other constitutional rights, such as the rights to bodily integrity, civil liberties, and due process, are afforded to 'everyone' residing within the jurisdiction of the constitution, which is the state (Bellamy, 2008; Shaw, 2020). The definition of rights is not merely about acknowledging rights themselves, but rather about considering the reasons for the entitlement to these rights. Rights are derived from the values that the political community deems crucial for individuals to lead a 'good' life. Consequently, citizenship status is frequently linked to the 'right to have rights', illustrating how access to the numerous rights fundamentally hinges on one's membership in a political community (Bellamy, 2008). Yet, it is widely questioned whether, in practice, every citizen within the same political entity enjoys the

full array of rights associated with their citizenship status, and whether the legal bond of citizenship is equally safeguarded for every citizen (van Waas & Jaghai, 2018). It's important to note that although human rights have been a prevailing idea in our era, their continued status is not automatically secured, even in democratic states (O'Neill, 2005).

5.1.3. Citizenship as public participation

Beyond the legal definitions and bundle of rights associated with citizenship there exists an intrinsic dimension that transcends these formal aspects (Shaw, 2020). States do not just rely on institutional regulations of citizenship; they also depend on the civic practices of individuals, encompassing their capacity to cooperate, deliberate and participate (Kymlicka & Norman, 2000). Rather than solely examining who is subject to a state's constitution, some argue that the true essence of a state's 'demos' lies in determining who is allowed to participate (Oberhelman, 2001).

Marshall's articulation of citizenship which emphasises participation in the community, marked a shift from a narrowly political definition of citizenship centred on the individual's connection with the state to a broader interpretation of citizenship (Steenbergen, 1994). This new perspective placed a stronger emphasis on participation and the roles that citizens play in societies. Making the status of citizenship not only encompass a set of inherent rights and obligations but also the capacity to actively engage in political and socio-economic life of a democratic polity (Bellamy, 2008). It underlines the position that without public involvement, democracy lacks both legitimacy and its guiding force (Dalton, 2008), making participation an integral element of citizenship that is *"at the heart of democratic theory"* (Verba & Nie, 1972, p. 3).

This shift towards public participation signifies a perspective that views democracy as a way of life rather than merely a political system (Steenbergen, 1994). It raised fundamental questions about the roles of citizens in communities beyond the conventional function of voters that has been prevalent since its emergence (Escobar, 2017). Contrary to the legal obligations that citizens must adhere to, public participation encompasses a shared set of expectations regarding citizen's roles in different contexts, pondering what is reasonable to expect from citizens when (voluntarily) taking on these roles (Dalton, 2008). When discussing citizenship as public participation, the focus shifts from receiving rights and protection to the responsibilities, duties and agency that come with being a citizen in society (Wittmayer et al., 2017).

In essence, all democratic theories are built upon assumptions concerning the capacities and inclinations of individuals in public participation (Dryzek & Berejikian, 1993). Public participation arrangements define what is expected from citizens and how they are expected to fulfil these roles. This dimension of public participation in citizenship encompasses a set of virtues that citizens are expected to embody, delineating the expected behaviour of a 'good citizen' (Machin & Tan, 2022). These virtues represent a range of values and moral standards that underlie the practices, responsibilities and duties that define what it means to be a virtuous citizen (Machin & Tan, 2022). Public participation arrangements are, essentially, strategies for translating a state's democratic norms, beliefs and values into practice and mitigating deficits in desired democratic behaviour (Fischer, 2011; Lepori, 2019). Such strategies dictate mandatory activities for citizens (duties) and activities that are of a more voluntary nature (responsibilities).

Duties are the things that citizens are obliged to do (Oberhelman, 2001). Duties are often used interchangeably with obligations of citizenship, alluding to actions citizens *must* undertake to avoid legal repercussions as dictated by law (Crick, 2002). Responsibilities, on the other hand, are actions that citizens *should* undertake, particularly in terms of participation, but they are not obligated to. However, responsibilities sometimes imply a moral obligation for citizens to perform them, which can make responsibilities feel like (moral) duties. These are the responsibilities that citizens are assigned (by the state) and for which they are morally accountable (Talbert, 2023). They are the things that citizens are expected to do to qualify as a good citizen. Often, responsibilities in democratic states encompass activities that

contribute to the effective functioning of the community or state and uphold values such as solidarity and equality (Crick, 2002). For instance, every citizen is legally obligated to pay taxes, while activities like voting or serving on a jury are considered responsibilities that make an individual a 'good' citizen (Crick, 2002).

In democratic theory, another element central to the definition of citizens' roles in society is agency (Coole, 2022). The participatory position of a citizen in society is defined through responsibilities and activities that citizens are expected to care about and act upon. In their turn, the formulation of public participation arrangements defines the extent to which citizens can act and wield influence. Agency represents what citizens are free to do and achieve in pursuit of whatever goals or values they deem important (Sen, 1985). Political activities are carried out by citizens, whose agency inheres in their power to produce effects (Coole, 2022). Note that asking what virtues, responsibilities, duties, and agency are deemed fair and reasonable for citizens knows many different answers and different configurations of these attributes are present in normative democratic theory (Oberhelman, 2001). This will be set out in chapter 6.

The introduction of citizenship and democracy theory in this section provided a descriptive overview of what elements are constitutive of citizenship from the conventional, theoretical domain. The next applies the same dimensions from Bellamy's framework to the concept of energy citizenship, shifting the focus from citizenship on a society-wide level towards citizenship in the context of energy transitions. It sets out how citizenship dimensions of membership, rights and participation have been substantialised for energy citizenship. Before proceeding it is essential to stress that this study does not aim to fit energy citizenship into the framework of traditional citizenship, nor does it suggest that energy citizen should conform to the dimensions established by Bellamy. Rather, it employs these dimensions primarily to provide a contextual backdrop for understanding the concept of energy citizenship through, and connecting it to, citizenship and democracy theory. Any designated discrepancies between energy citizenship and these dimensions in the following sections do not inherently demand an alteration of the concept to fit into this established framework.

5.2.   Energy citizenship and energy democracy

The emergence of distinct citizenship approaches in various contexts is driven by the broader trend of considering citizenship as a policy option in addressing the multiple crises of contemporary life. As Bellamy (2008) aptly states, *"Whatever the problem may be. The revitalisation of citizenship is canvassed as part of the solution."* (p. 28). For the decarbonisation of energy systems this is also the case.

ENERGY CITIZENSHIP: *"A diversity of expressions of people's engagement with energy and the energy system. These different expressions undoubtedly speak to different levels of socio-economic privilege and to different life experience."* (ENCLUDE, 2023)

The evolving landscape of energy systems, with shifts in infrastructure, energy resources and stakeholder dynamics towards more sustainable practices, transformed the roles of individuals interacting with energy systems (Campos & Marín-González, 2020). Previously confined to passive energy consumption under centralised supply, consumers transitioned to a more proactive role engaging in energy production and were increasingly expected to modify their energy consumption patterns and lifestyles and engage in policy making (Machin & Tan, 2022). To encapsulate these diverse roles of citizens in their interaction with energy systems, the term 'energy citizenship' was introduced. Essentially, energy citizenship encompasses the entire spectrum of roles that citizens are empowered to within energy transitions (Wahlund & Palm, 2022). It represents a prominent approach to address the issue of climate change, where citizens are positioned as part of the solution.

Citizen participation is generally perceived as an instrument to widen democracy (Ringholm, 2022). As such, energy citizenship is often associated with instances of energy democracy (Wahlund & Palm, 2022). With the rise of citizens as prosumers and part of energy cooperatives the concept of 'energy democracy' emerged (Szulecki, 2018). While energy citizenship and energy democracy share a focus on public participation in energy transitions, energy democracy does so by extending its scope beyond individual's roles and responsibilities as a key aspect for energy transitions (Szulecki, 2018). Energy democracy advocates public participation with a focus on the collective good, is dedicated to ensuring more equitable outcomes and adopts a consensual approach to shaping energy citizenship (Cumbers et al., 2013). The use of the term democracy in the context of energy systems illustrates the instrumental role of processes and mechanisms in implementing broader justice-related demands in energy transitions (Dowding et al., 2004). It can be seen as a component integral to the overarching concept of energy justice (Szulecki & Overland, 2020), focusing, besides environmental sustainability, on the redistributive aspects of energy production and consumption and bringing in notions of fairness and legitimacy in energy transitions (Szulecki, 2018). A significant portion of research on energy democracy seeks to trace the extent to which democratic principles are integrated into energy system transformations and how these discourses may enhance how we shape public participation within democratic systems (Szulecki & Overland, 2020).

The concepts are reconcilable in the sense that they both address the challenges of democracy in the context of energy (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). However, energy democracy reflects the main critiques present on the dominant discourse of energy citizenship related to exclusion, disempowerment, and inequality of citizens. The dominant energy citizenship discourse excludes substantial segments of the population, failing to lead to more democratic energy systems and the promotion of energy justice (Campos & Marín-González, 2020). Energy democracy delves deeper into these issues, attempting to identify projects that align with democratic principles and discern why certain projects fall short in this regard (Wahlund & Palm, 2022). While energy citizenship concentrates on individuals' responsibility and the citizen's path towards becoming more engaged, assuming this automatically leads to more democratic energy systems, energy democracy acknowledges the undemocratic nature of the existing energy regime and asks what modes of participation are a proper response to this challenge (Wahlund & Palm, 2022).

In conventional democracy and citizenship theories, democratic states rely on citizen participation in the sense that their participation safeguards its democratic values (Crick, 2002). This principle equally applies to energy democracy which defines public participation, as embodied by energy citizenship, to be the primary means to achieve its normative goals and implications of a just energy transition. However, energy citizenship manifests in various forms, some subside under energy democracy, while others do not (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Finding out what democratic conceptions bring forward the current conceptualisations of energy citizenship is what can ultimately provide more insight into why these two perspectives do not seem to align and bridge the gap between them.

5.2.1. Energy citizenship as membership: the energy citizen and the state

The traditional understanding of citizenship lies in the membership status of individuals within a city-state, characterised by specific rights and obligations that bind the citizen and the state together (Heywood, 1994). Energy citizenship deviates from this conventional understanding of membership in a political constituency (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Rather it is often used metaphorically to refer to a broader sense of political identity and subjectivity (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Energy citizenship, unlike conventional citizenship, does not come in a comprehensible, written form that delineates what is means to acquire the status of being an energy citizen. Conventional citizenship is more explicit, allowing individuals to refer to their country's constitution to find the rights, relations and rules their membership comes with. The definition of conventional citizenship arose from the need to protect and liberate citizens vis-à-vis the state and to articulate and regulate this, reflecting the struggle against state dominance (Bellamy, 2008).

The term energy citizenship was coined to define the diverse roles citizens play in the energy transitions (Wahlund & Palm, 2022). These roles are not defined by their connection to a larger group or supranational entity but by their interaction with energy systems. Consequently, daily practices of using, producing and consuming energy are what constitute the roles of energy citizens. This 'relation' between energy systems and individuals is not accurately described as membership. The essence of this relation is defined by a set of actions individuals undertake rather than reciprocal obligations between the two entities at hand. Being an energy citizen, or not is, therefore, based on whether you perform these actions, or not.

An important element of the constitutional membership that conventional citizenship entails, is that it is a status that individuals can both acquire and lose (Galligan & Versteeg, 2013). Citizenship laws provide the conditions under which individuals can acquire, but also lose the citizenship status (Shaw, 2020). Contrary, energy citizenship is not a status that is granted through a legal framework and, therefore, cannot be formally revoked by another entity. The prerequisites for conventional citizenship are deeply rooted in a rich history of philosophical contemplation and international declarations on human rights which raises pertinent questions on the status of energy citizenship. What criteria determine when an individual is considered an energy citizen, and conversely, when are they not? What forms the basis for the criteria that determine the recognition of someone as an energy citizen? And, since this is not a formal title, who is to decide who is an energy citizen on who is not?

Energy citizenship encompasses a variety of expressions of people's engagement with energy and energy systems (Dunphy et al., 2023a). Logically, a person 'acquires' the status of energy citizen by adopting at least one of these expressions. In the current dominant discourse on energy citizenship, these expressions mainly reflect how citizens should interact with energy systems for example (and predominantly) through adapting their lifestyle habits and making better consumer choices (Lennon et al., 2020). Governments play a primary role in formulating what behaviours can and should be expressions of energy citizenship. Being an energy citizen became inextricably intertwined with being a 'good citizen', representing a set of political virtues that is translated into different expressions of energy citizenship (Machin & Tan, 2022). To acquire the status of energy citizen citizens, therefore, must adopt a set of desirable responsibilities and virtues set out by governments.

Considering this, virtues in energy citizenship bear resemblance to obligations or duties in conventional citizenship. Whereas conventional citizenship theory posits a set of obligations that citizens must adhere to, lest they risk losing their citizenship status, in energy citizenship, these conditions are delineated through specific responsibilities and virtues that citizens are expected to embody to be recognised as energy citizens. Despite both virtues and duties being subject to ideological interpretation, obtaining a status based on the adoption of a set of top-down desired virtues carries a more subjective undertone than acquiring it through compliance with historically and universally accepted duties. In contrast to the organic emergence of virtues of equality and liberty in conventional citizenship, subsequently formalised as rights and duties, energy citizenship is characterised by a system of bureaucratised virtues—essentially, prescribed behaviours. Such prescribed behaviours always bear ideological perspectives from the institutions that define them (Machin & Tan, 2022). The primary predicament lies in the fact that adopting these virtues is not merely a matter of voluntary choice but rather financial feasibility. The desired behaviours, derived from the bureaucratisation of virtues defining a good (i.e. energy) citizen, are intricately linked to one's financial capacity. This means that for a substantial portion of populations, fulfilling the criteria to be deemed a good citizen in the context of the energy transition, i.e. an energy citizen, persistently remains out of reach.

5.2.2. Rights as a precondition (and process) of energy citizenship

Where conventional citizenship is associated with a set of conditions for acquiring the status of a citizen it also brings forward a set of rights that citizens are entitled to. These collective rights, identified by Bellamy as the second dimension of citizenship, generally stem from values considered essential by the state for their citizens to lead a 'good life' (Bellamy, 2008). However, alternative forms of citizenship introduced as

solutions for climate change challenges, such as environmental or green citizenship articulate citizenship distinct from a safeguarded status with a package of protected rights (Machin, 2015). Energy citizenship is neither a formal or legal status and, consequently, does not formulate a set of protected rights akin to those held by formal citizens of democratic states. The dominant discourse on energy citizenship emphasises responsibilities but mentions very little, if nothing, about the rights accorded to them (Dunphy & Lennon, 2022). The only recognised rights in the context of energy citizenship are statutory consumer rights tied to their roles as energy consumer or producer (Mullally et al., 2018).

Interestingly, contemporary applications of citizenship highlight that rights are not merely pre-political entitlements but are also a product of citizenly activity and struggle (Dunphy et al., 2023b). Civil advocacy of rights is what Bellamy refers to as 'the right to have rights' or the 'process of rights' in placing in citizens' own hands the ability to decide which rights should be allocated to them (Bellamy, 2008). Each phase in the development of basic rights stems from a group securing concessions from those in power, aiming for equitable treatment and respect, making all rights a product of citizenly activity (Bellamy, 2008). The idea of rights as a process recognises rights through the contestation of the status quo and groups advocating recognition of rights that have not yet been established (Bellamy, 2008).

This idea is reflected in the emergence of arguments for the establishment of energy rights in energy justice discussions (Szulecki, 2018). These arguments start from the reconsideration of energy systems, portraying them not as technological grids but rather as human systems where energy is an integral part of the way people live their lives (Dunphy & Lennon, 2022). The current relation between humans and energy is one characterised by complete dependency (Ambrose, 2020), making energy a necessity rather than a commodity (Lennon et al., 2020). Conceptualising energy as such gravitates the concept towards the sphere of human rights and highlights responsibilities of public bodies in safeguarding energy access for all (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Implementing (basic) energy rights mainly encompasses three crucial elements of energy justice: ensuring universal access to energy, promoting sustainability in energy systems, and rectifying inequalities (Wewerinke-Singh, 2022). Accomplishing these three elements through implementation of energy rights would safeguard fundamental human rights including substantive equality, prohibition of discrimination, and human dignity (Wewerinke-Singh, 2022). With that, the implementation of energy rights would serve to progressively align citizens interactions with energy systems with universally accepted principles for good livelihood and promotes equitable access among all individuals. Approaching energy as an inherent part of all citizen's lives, not that just of energy citizens, energy rights become an integral part of citizenship constitutions rather than a feature of energy citizenship. Either all citizens are energy citizens, or the allocation of energy rights does not fall exclusively within the domain of energy citizenship but is an integral component of legal citizenship structures.

5.2.3. Energy citizenship as public participation

Whereas the dimensions of membership and basic rights did not strongly resonate in the contemporary understanding of energy citizenship, the opposite is true for the public participation dimension of Bellamy's framework. Much of the work that has been done to define energy citizenship heavily emphasises public participation (Dunphy et al., 2023b). Some argue that the vision of an engaged, active citizen is so strong that referring to energy citizenship as being participating is almost redundant (Dunphy et al., 2023b). In their study, Mullaly, Dunphy and O'Connor (2018) labelled six dominant narratives in the energy citizenship discourse, all of which centred around modes of participation as the core elements of energy citizenship. The participative modes in these narratives focused on behaviour change, responsibility for active consumerism, pro-active roles of citizens and prosumerism (Mullally et al., 2018). Official narratives and policy cycles frequently stress individual behaviour change, advocating for citizen involvement in energy efficiency measures at both household and collective levels like activist groups or local energy communities (Lennon et al., 2020; Ryghaug et al., 2018).

In conventional democracy and citizenship theory, democratic states rely on citizen participation in the sense that their participation safeguards its democratic values (Crick, 2002). This principle equally applies to energy democracy which defines public participation, as embodied by energy citizenship, to be the primary means to achieve its normative goals and implications of a just energy transition (Szulecki, 2018). However, energy citizenship manifests in various forms of participation, some subside under energy democracy, while others do not (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Meaning it is not a given that more citizen participation in the energy transition inherently leads to more democratic energy systems, especially in its current operationalisations (Campos & Marín-González, 2020). On one hand, participation can enhance democracy, yet on the other hand, it risks shifting governmental responsibilities onto individuals (Wahlund & Palm, 2022).

The contemporary definitions of energy citizenship significantly focus on citizen participation in energy transitions building upon assumptions concerning citizen's capacities and willingness to engage. Energy citizenship conceptualisations highlight the responsibilities held by energy citizens, particularly in terms of their consumer behaviour (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022). Even in its initial characterisation, energy citizenship was coined as focusing on enhancing citizen's social and environmental responsibility regarding their energy usage (Devine-Wright, 2007). This notion of responsibility allocation, termed as the 'privatisation of responsibility,' shifts the burden from government entities to non-governmental parties and citizens collectively (Dunphy & Lennon, 2020). In essence, this transfer implies that citizens need to embrace civic responsibility within the sphere of energy transitions (Lennon et al., 2020). Scholars argue that this emphasis on responsibilities within the framework of energy citizenship potentially diminishes citizens' agency and leads to a sense of disempowerment among energy citizens (Lennon et al., 2019). Such inclinations towards emphasising responsibilities in public participation, and the disempowerment of citizens through that, align with observed trends in studies focused (more broadly) on participatory governance and sustainability transitions (Pel et al., 2022).

Fundamentally, participation frameworks delineate citizens expected and desired behaviour, stemming from a collection of virtues that are to be internalised, shaping the idea of the virtuous and ideal citizen (Machin & Tan, 2022). The almost exclusive emphasis on responsibilities of energy citizens in their participation in the energy transition underscores the prevalent normative aspect characterising the dominant discourse on energy citizenship. Framing energy citizenship merely through citizens' responsibilities implies that the identification of energy citizens is contingent upon citizen's alignment with the prescribed trajectories and virtues outlined for the energy transition (Pel et al., 2021; Dunphy et al., 2023a). This transforms virtues, initially self-evident values, into institutionalised best practices that energy citizens must conform to in order to be acknowledged as such (Jacob & Riles, 2007).

Worth mentioning here about public participation in environmental decision-making in the European is that it is a legal right that is mandated to citizens (European Environment Agency, 2023). Enacted in 2006, one of the components of the Aarhus Convention instigated by the EU is the regulation governing *"Environmental information – public participation and access to justice"* (Regulation 1367/2006). While these rights are not exclusively designated to energy citizens, it is interesting to highlight that even within the initiation of these legal 'rights' concerning public participation, the role of the EU is to "*offer early and effective opportunities for the public to engage in decisions regarding environmental plans or programs,"* particularly during the preparatory phase (Regulation 1367/2006). Essentially this means that the state is mandated to establish the right conditions for public participation, again placing (energy) citizens in the forefront, necessitating their responsibility for engaging in the process. Additionally, the regulation explicitly outlines the obligations of EU institutions toward citizens by ensuring access to environmental information. The regulation specifies that environmental information should be accessible, regularly updated, available to the public, and that requests for this information should be responded to within 15 working days (Regulation 1367/2006). It will be elaborated in section 6.2.1. how providing information to implicitly established 'uninformed' citizens is also a means of shifting responsibility onto individuals and pertains strongly to ideological appropriation of public participation modes.

Prior to delving into the normative evaluation of democratic theory and its relation to pre-constructions of (energy) citizenship, this chapter will briefly explore two alternative theories and apply them to energy citizenship. Firstly, it will explicate the psychological concept of global citizenship, examining the role of identity within the realm of energy citizenship. Subsequently, the discussion will shift to the concept of imagined publics, a concept familiar within Energy Social Science (ESS) which provides alternative insights into constructions of identity, capabilities, and responsibilities of specific groups within the context of energy transitions (Rodhouse et al., 2021).

5.3. Energy citizenship as identity and belonging: a psychological dimension

Significant importance lies in defining the responsibilities of citizenship and exploring whether membership entails citizens not only fulfilling their obligations but also establishing a sense of belonging that transcends mere duty (Crick, 2002). Traditional, statist approaches to citizenship focus on the rights and obligations that come with membership within a state-based framework (Linklater, 2007), associating citizenship fundamentally with individual's relation to the sovereign, territorial state (Leydet, 2023). The absence of a relation between the citizen and the state would, according to these perspective, diminish the fundamental significance and value associated with the term citizenship. However, over the past three decades, these conventional notions of citizenship have been re-evaluated under the influence of globalisation trends which led to the emergence of global citizenship (Brodie, 2004).

Global citizenship, following a social identity perspective, is characterised by its psychological nature (Reysen & Katzarska-Miller, 2013). It encompasses individual's subjective sense of belonging to a broader global community, thereby influencing the strength of collective identity within political communities (Leydet, 2023). This psychological dimension emphasises individuals' perception of being global citizens, rooted in an awareness of their inherent interconnectedness with others, a sense of belonging to the larger global community and the virtues associated with that (Reysen & Katzarska-Miller, 2013). The notion of identity and belonging is pivotal within this psychological dimension of citizenship and is also reflected in the concept of European citizenship. While the EU has legal institutions to protect the rights of EU citizens, it cannot grant citizenship like the formal state-citizen relation (Tan, 2021). There is an important emotional dimension to the emanation of citizenship on the European scale. Without a sense of shared identity European citizenship would *"not really be citizenship at all"* (Shore, 2004, p. 36).

These transnational perspectives on citizenship challenge what is known as citizenship's 'Westphalian core' (Shore, 2004). Scholars argue that civil rights cannot be separated from identity, asserting that citizenship without emotional belonging is not feasible nor desirable (Bauböck, 2019). Contrary to traditional approaches that mark citizens' membership to a state as an important source for identity, these perspectives prioritise the psychological need for identity and belonging to a larger community as a precondition for defining citizenship and membership as a dimension thereof (Gee et al., 2016). In their article, Hamann et al. (2023) denote that an important dimension of the psychological perspective on energy citizenship is related to people's beliefs about their rights. Beyond the formal grant of rights, believing one is entitled to specific rights or one's belief they as individuals or collectives can act to achieve certain aims (self-efficacy) emerge as key predictors of political behaviour and collective action (Hamann et al., 2023). Based on this they defined a sub type of energy citizenship as psychological energy citizenship which is "*people's belief that they as individuals and as collectives have rights and responsibilities for a just and sustainable energy transition, and their motivation to act upon those rights and responsibilities*" (Hamann et al., 2023, p. 4)

The psychological dimension of identity and belonging that precedes the idea of a membership in global and European citizenship, and also in this first notion of psychological energy citizenship, offers a valuable perspective for understanding energy citizenship beyond its dominant conceptualisations. While the traditional citizen-state relationship is less evident in energy citizenship, the psychological dimension provides insight into how psychological membership or belonging can emerge within the context of energy

transitions. Recent research by Dunphy et al. (2023b) found that the scale of local communities was by far the most prevalent in expressions of energy citizenship. Throughout the years, decentralising energy systems led to the rise of energy collectives and communal energy production (Ryghaug et al., 2018). Consequently, the frequent recognised participation within these collectives may be what constitutes the notion of membership in the realm of energy citizenship. Individual's collective belonging presents an alternative perspective to application to Bellamy's dimensions of the formalised membership status that energy citizenship clearly lacks. Maybe energy citizenship is more a psychological idea to identify with than a formal one. And as such it might need to develop regarding the connection between individuals and the collectives they belong to, making sense of this psychological idea of citizenship in the context of energy transitions.

5.4.   Energy citizenship as role constructions in imagined publics

The last theoretical perspective to be explicated offers another alternative lens for comprehending energy citizenship in its current and potential future forms. This perspective revolves around imagined publics and applying theory on role constructions to analyse them. Despite the clear significance of citizen inclusion in energy transitions, divergent views persist regarding the roles, responsibilities, and mandates for citizens in this context (Chilvers & Longhurst, 2016). Imagined publics, an analytical concept used within Energy Social Science, (ESS), is instrumental in exploring diverse perspectives on citizens roles and societal groups among energy actors. Its applicability to the concept of energy citizenship is recognised by the fact that different scholars allude to energy citizenship as a (socio-technical) imaginary (Rodhouse et al., 2021; Dunphy et al., 2023b).

Imagined publics are social representations of citizen groups that are shared by actors in governance networks (Rodhouse et al., 2021). These representations rely on varying, subjective assumptions and beliefs regarding the identities, capabilities, and responsibilities of the people within these collectives (Rodhouse et al., 2021). Energy citizenship is emerging as such an imagined public within energy governance. Energy actors depict energy citizens as prosumers, active enablers of renewable energy realization, and politically aware, motivated, and committed to fostering equitable energy systems (Lennon et al., 2020). While these depictions encourage citizen involvement, they simultaneously impose identities onto publics, resulting in the inclusion of certain citizens at the expense of others (Lennon et al., 2020).

The imagining of publics by actors in governance networks becomes problematic when they conceive them based on simplified and stereotypical biases of groups of people (Rodhouse et al., 2021). Narrow and biased imagined publics cause governance actors to misrepresent or exclude specific groups from decision-making processes (Rodhouse et al., 2021). This phenomenon resonates with contemporary energy citizenship notions, often reduced merely to participatory and consumerist actions which results in the recognition of energy citizenship as an exclusionary imaginary. Using CDA, this research, in a way, investigates how the EU imagines energy citizens through examining the responsibilities, agency and activities related to them in EU policy documents.

The problematic character of imaginaries mainly comes forward from its reliance on the static and pre-given view of institutions defining citizen inclusion that this research aptly rejects (section 3.1). Seeing public imaginaries, and as such democratic institutions that shape citizen inclusion and participation, as static and pre-given needs to be abandoned for these representations to become more representative and inclusive. Adopting the idea of conceptual flexibility is needed to develop energy citizenship into a concept that is less exclusionary and more representative of the broadness of citizen populations.

Analysing imagined publics in transitions necessitates understanding how certain assumptions construct public roles within energy systems (Rodhouse et al., 2021). Roles encompass an actor's position within a system or social structure, characterised by a set of activities, attitudes, and responsibilities.

Reconceptualising energy citizenship, as an imaginary, into particular role constructions provides three valuable inferences for a broader understanding and contextualisation of energy citizenship and the way in which examining the roles of energy citizens can be conducted in this research.

Firstly, role constructions introduce the idea that roles always concern the activities and responsibilities of actors in relation to an object or system (Chilvers & Longhurst, 2016). Here this perspective provides an alternative to Bellamy's conventional citizenship pillars that merely referred to the relation between citizens and states. In the context of energy citizenship, the interaction between the citizen and the energy system merits attention to how the energy system is tied to the apparatus of the state and how the relation to the state is shaped through national grids that provide energy to citizens (Silvast & Valkenburg, 2023). Thus, understanding the roles of energy citizenship necessitates considering the relation of the energy citizen to the energy system as well. This is taken to heart and the relation between citizens and the energy system will be considered in the execution of the CDA to account for a broader and more inclusive interpretation of energy citizenship as brought forward by the EU. Secondly, role constructions emphasise the interrelation of roles of different actors in the same context. The roles of different actors form so-called role constellations that interact, interrelate, and evolve with one another regarding a specific issue (Wittmayer et al., 2017). From this perspective, an examination of citizens' roles in energy transitions necessitates a simultaneous exploration of the roles played by actors such as governmental bodies in the same context. In the pursuit of unveiling democratic conceptions in the discourse under examination, insights from citizenship and democracy theory underscore the importance of the relation between individuals and the state (Bellamy, 2008). Acknowledging both the constitutive nature of one actor's role in relation to others and the systems around them and the importance of the relation between the state and the citizen in democratic theory leads to the decision to analyse not only citizen's roles but also the state's (and that of the energy system) in executing the CDA.

Finally, within public role construction in transitions, the interplay between agency and responsibilities forms the essence of the actor's role (Rodhouse et al., 2021). The delineation of agency and responsibilities within these constructions of energy citizenship establishes the criteria for their relations with other actors in energy transitions (Rodhouse et al., 2021). Furthermore, assumptions concerning agency and responsibility significantly influence the type of activities considered equitable and appropriate for public participation in transitions (Pelenc et al., 2013). This reaffirms the choice to prioritise the allocation of agency and responsibilities as pivotal indicators for shaping the roles of energy citizens in the discourse under examination.

6. Democratic conceptions of (energy) citizenship

The previous chapter presented and elucidation of citizenship and energy citizenship and their respective relations to democracy and energy democracy using descriptive democracy theory. While various constructions of citizenship are invariably connected to dimensions of membership, fundamental rights and participation, diverse normative theories offer contrasting perspectives on the ideal and desired configurations of each of these dimensions. At the core of normative democratic theory lies the correlation between democratic norms, values and beliefs and the consequent determination of desirable constructions of citizenship (Crick, 2002). Although normative democratic theories overlap in their consensus that freedom and equality are the bedrock of democratic citizenship, the broad spectrum of democratic theory is constituted through the disagreement about what citizen-state relation, rights and modes of public participation best realise these values (Bellamy, 2008; Biegelbauer & Hansen, 2011).

For this research, an exploration of the normative perspectives of democracy and citizenship is essential, as they offer insights into how democratic conceptions shape constructs of citizenship. Given that this research aims to uncover the democratic conceptions that underpin the prevailing discourse on energy citizenship, this section is devoted to comprehending the interplay between democratic conceptions and citizenship within the context of energy transitions. Initially, it provides the reader with a general understanding of how democratic conceptions bring forward different pre-constructions of (conventional) citizenship and how these conceptions influence responsibilities and agency allocated to them (section 6.1). This initial understanding of the connection between normative democratic perspectives and citizenship constructions serves as a precursor for establishing the connection between energy citizenship and normative democratic perspectives in section 6.2. The second section illuminates what elements of the current predominant conceptualisation of energy citizenship echo normative democratic theory. This final step is essential for the subsequent execution of the CDA, as it provides the necessary theoretical correlations for unearthing implicit democratic conceptions from the policy texts under scrutiny. Applying citizenship and democracy theory to the energy citizenship literature till date to understand what democratic conceptions underlie its theoretical conceptualisation answers the first sub-question of this research:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward in literature till date, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

6.1. Democratic conceptions and pre-constructions of citizenship

Republicans, liberals, neoliberals, communitarians, and others differ substantially in what they conceive to be reasonable to expect from and grant to citizens. There are two contemporary conceptions of citizenship that have been dominant in political philosophy throughout history: the liberal and republican traditions (Honohan, 2017). These can be traced back to their ancient antecedents respectively Athenian democracy and the Roman republic (Bellamy, 2008). These are not diametrically opposed theories but rather different interpretations of how values of freedom and equality can be realised through the way citizens are entitled to rights and how they should participate (Honohan, 2017).

6.1.1. Citizenship as membership and rights: liberalism and republicanism

Marshall's seminal work established a foundational perspective on citizenship, defining citizen rights concerning economic and social security, and shaping the evolution of modern democratic citizenship within the Western welfare state: liberalism (Steenbergen, 1994). Considered the predominant democratic philosophy today, liberalism centres on the relation between the individuals and the state, particularly

defining the boundaries of state authority (Dryzek, 2007). In liberal citizenship, rights predominantly take a negative form, emphasising individuals' freedom from state interference, in contrast to the ancient concept where liberty involved sharing social power among all citizens (Crick, 2002). Here, freedom is depicted as a constraint on government rather than a goal it should actively support (Honohan, 2017). Maximising freedom, within this framework, involves minimising public demands on individuals' lives, focusing primarily on fundamental rights such as freedom of thought, expression, assembly, private property, and subsistence (Dryzek, 2007). Participation in liberal ideology remains optional, valuing rationality and impartiality (Rawls, 2001). The creation of a public space facilitating deliberation between alternative viewpoints became central to liberal participation, framing the individual as a 'free agent' capable of rational choices within society (Emirbayer & Mische, 1998).

Where liberals see government power and law as constraints on freedom, republicans view freedom as politically realised, wherein rights constitute freedom accessed through the law, rather than from it (Pettit, 2012). Neo-republicanism emerged in the 1990s, expressing concerns about liberalism's failure to prioritise shared goods and effectively motivate citizen to sustain liberal institutions (Honohan, 2017). Republicans advocate for a more active citizenry and extensive involvement in political activity than the liberal consensus, emphasising that freedom is rooted in individual will and duty rather than material necessity or interest (Emirbayer & Mische, 1998). Republicans highlight the value of participation in the political realm, leaning towards extensive participation or even mandatory voting to uphold civic duty, emphasising the necessity of civic participation for the functioning of democracy (Honohan, 2017). Here the distinction that was made previously between responsibilities and duties becomes vague. Republicans often allude to civic duty when they talk about responsibilities citizens are ought to take on. According to republicans, maximising individuals' liberty involves ensuring that everyone actively engages in public affairs to prevent the concentration of governmental power within the ruling class (O'Donnell, 2010).

6.1.2. Citizenship as participation: representation, participation, and deliberation

Where liberalism and republicanism bring preconstructions of citizenship forward as a set of norms and overarching beliefs, democracy can also be perceived as a guide to prescribed behaviours shaping citizens' roles and participation patterns (Crick, 2002). Democratic conceptions do not only affect the desirable relation between the citizen and the state, and accordingly, the rights that manifest this. They also stand in relation to different patterns of participation and the opportunities that citizens get in participating in decision-making (Dalton, 2008). This dimension is influenced by three dominant models in contemporary democratic participation theory: representative, participatory and deliberative democracy (Escobar, 2017). These models are not distinct from liberalism and republicanism but rather emerged from them (and other normative, democratic theories). On top of that these three models coexist and overlap in practice, having evolved sequentially in response to each other (Escobar, 2017). Escobar's analysis provides a framework that will be explicated here to broaden the understanding of how normative democratic theories shape pre-existing constructions of citizenship participation and the allocation of responsibility and agency therein.

6.1.2.1.   *Representative democracy*

Representative democracy translates democratic participation into citizens' voting actions based on a minimalist view of democracy where multiple interests compete through diverse political parties and interest groups (Schumpeter, 1976). In this model, democratic equality is preserved through competition between parties aiming to satisfy the preferences of the largest number of people (Escobar, 2017). Citizen participation remains minimal, involving voting to influence policymakers and promote their individuals' interests (Escobar, 2017). As such, representative democracy imagines publics in an aggregative way. Publics are imagined through groups of people that are like-minded in terms of the interests they represent and how they mobilise these interests to influence political parties and policymakers (Escobar, 2017).

6.1.2.2.   *Participatory democracy*

The limitations inherent to the liberal model of representative democracy, prompted the emergence of participatory democracy, acknowledging the inadequacies of merely representing citizens' interests in an aggregated manner within representative systems (Westheimer & Kahne, 2004). The recognition that representative democracy fails to encompass the diverse array of social interests beyond parliamentary proceedings, elections, and party confrontations fuelled the evolution toward alternative participatory democratic paradigms (Escobar, 2017). Dryzek contends that the representative model accentuates the power of those most capable of mobilising their interests which narrows political equality (Dryzek, 2010). Representative democracy's failure to acknowledge the multifaceted nature of societal interests acted as a catalyst for the advent of participatory democracy (Escobar, 2017). Participatory democracy is fundamentally characterised as facilitating broad citizen involvement in continuous decision-making processes, whether at local or national levels, within communities or organisations (Escobar, 2017). While representative democracy entrusts politics primarily to elected officials, participatory democracy empowers citizens to engage directly without intermediary agents (Barber, 2003).

6.1.2.3.   *Deliberative democracy*

Expanding upon the principles of participatory democracy, deliberative democracy was introduced, prioritising communication as the pivotal element in democratic engagement (Escobar, 2017). This concept is anchored in the belief that decision-making should not hinge on the prevalence of preferences but instead revolve around discerning proposals supported by the best reasons (Young, 2002). In the context of deliberative democracy, public deliberation among citizens is very important, denoting communication that encourages contemplation on preferences, values, and interests in a non-coercive manner (Escobar, 2017). Public deliberation processes contribute to the improvement of decision-making quality and legitimacy, wherein participants express and subject their views to be challenged through persuasion rather than coercion (van Veelen & van der Horst, 2018). Through such deliberation, participants deepen their understanding of issues, develop awareness of others' interests, and actively contribute to public affairs, establishing the requisite conditions for a legitimate outcome—hence embodying the essence of deliberative democracy (Escobar, 2017).

Our ultimate understanding of citizenship is intrinsically intertwined with the democratic conceptions that underlie its manifestations. As elucidated in this section, diverse normative democratic theories offer varied perspectives on citizenship concerning the citizen-state relation, the accompanying basic rights, and their influence on participatory practices. Democratic theory and its practical application are intrinsically tied to constructions of citizenship, encompassing both their responsibilities and agency (Imbroscio, 2017). The delineation among the three models presented demonstrated how distinct democratic theories afford varying degrees of latitude for citizens in political participation. This accentuates the inherent connection between democratic conceptions and citizens' agency within the realm of participation.

6.2.   Democratic conceptions and energy citizenship

The second part of this chapter applies normative democratic theory to energy citizenship literature. This section explores the energy citizenship literature and what democratic conceptions underlie its contemporary conceptualisations. It uses the normative democratic theories elaborated in section 6.1. to see whether they resonate with the conceptualisations of energy citizenship that are dominant in the literature till date. As such, this section concludes by answering the first sub-question of this research and, thereby, finalises the contextualisation of the discourse under analysis, which is necessary for executing the CDA.

6.2.1.   Energy citizenship, neoliberalism, and republicanism

Energy citizenship scholars acknowledge that the energy citizenship concept speaks to elements of two main traditions of citizenship: liberalism and republicanism (Dunphy et al., 2023b; Hamann et al., 2023). As explicated in the beginning of this report, the dominant discourse on energy citizenship is characterised by emphasising the private sphere as a place for participation in the energy transition and doing so through consumer practices ((Dunphy et al., 2023b). The strong focus on active participation and focusing on responsibilities that come with this rather than the rights that accompany it reflect on a republican perspective (Hamann et al., 2023). Here energy citizenship alludes to republicanism since the roles it constitutes focus on public participation and the active citizen in energy transitions reflect the republican focus on what a certain legal order expects citizens to do and its focus on active citizen participation. In republican thinking, a clean environment would be a common good which must be achieved through active participation of citizens (Hamann et al., 2023). The privatisation of responsibilities as acknowledged to be present in energy citizenship implies that citizens have a moral responsibility for their behaviour and consumer choices in the energy transition (Dunphy & Lennon, 2020) and, with that, the common good. Notably, this emphasis on individual responsibility reflects on another normative perspective on citizenship that is relevant for political decision-making: neoliberalism.

Looking at what the roles and responsibilities entail in the dominant discourse of energy citizenship, one finds a strong neoliberal consumer approach (Hamann et al., 2023). The strong emphasis on citizens' consumer-led practices, while there is minimal attention given to the rights associated such as the right to energy, aligns with previous liberalising trends of the energy market that emerged in recent decades (Vihalemm & Keller, 2016). The consumerist orientation of energy citizenship, where citizens are commonly perceived as 'citizen-as-consumer' is recognised as an incorporation of neoliberal tropes of citizen participation (Lennon et al., 2020). Neoliberalism recognises citizen participation solely as an individual endeavour that alleviates states from their responsibility for public goods, such as the environment (Schindel Dimick, 2015). Furthermore, the extension of market rationality to the individual sphere of human activity is a characteristic for neoliberal ideology (Harvey, 2007). The dominance of citizens in a consumer role in energy citizenship is what makes neoliberal perspectives so visible in the concept. The exclusion that follows from this recognition of citizens-as-consumers is, in general, a criticism on the dominant rationales of (neo)liberal democracies (Bayer et al., 2021).

Another characteristic notion of the current conceptualisation of energy citizenship is the normative notion of the 'good' energy citizen. In general, citizens are seen as energy citizens if they comply with a set of virtues that are translated into different desirable behaviours that now make up our comprehension of energy citizenship (Machin & Tan, 2022). And in order to facilitate energy citizens in complying with the desirable behaviour, they are often framed according to the neoliberal archetype of the 'uninformed citizen'. The main premise of this archetype is that citizens must acquire the right knowledge and resources to act in accordance with what is desirable (Machin, 2015). This perspective is rooted in the rational choice perspective, characterising individuals as utility-maximising agents afflicted by deficits in knowledge, capability, or responsibility (Frederiks et al., 2015; Rodhouse et al., 2021). Based on these assumptions, governance primarily revolves around the facilitation and compensation of these deficits in order to make the public conform to the desired, normative behaviour (Machin, 2015). The perception of the uninformed citizen manifests itself in the six discerned discourses of energy citizenship identified by Mullaly et al. (2018). Among these, three predominant discourses—the paternalistic, majoritarian, and consumerist— prompt citizen engagement through individual behavioural change, facilitated by providing information, education, and market-driven mechanisms to align citizens with the goals of policymakers (Mullally et al., 2018). Characterising energy citizens by default as potential obstructions rather than collaborative partners in the pursuit of energy transitions (Lennon & Dunphy, 2022) reflects ideological mentalities associated with neoliberalism (Sharma, 2018). What is particularly conspicuous of neoliberal interpretation here is the

positioning of individual citizens that strategise for their own well-being rather than participants in communal, social, and environmental contexts (Brown, 2005).

Lastly, energy citizenship inherently involves the interaction between individuals and energy systems and how individuals relate to energy. The organisation of energy production and consumption and the conceptualisation of energy also prompt indications of democratic conceptions within the context of energy citizenship (Lennon et al., 2020; Pel et al., 2022). The market-driven paradigm of energy systems and the dominant portrayal of energy as a commodity further reflect neoliberal notions present in the dominant discourse on energy citizenship, viewing individuals primarily as economic actors and perceiving energy as an economic asset (Dunphy et al., 2023a).

Essentially, neoliberal values embody principles of competition, consumerism, individualism, and a continual emphasis on the monetary calculation of costs and benefits (Babaii & Sheikhi, 2018). Within neoliberal discourse, citizens are predominantly understood to be self-interested consumers, and it promotes consumerism among other social values (Babaii & Sheikhi, 2018). This representation is evident in current energy citizenship literature, particularly through the distinct action space that neoliberalism assigns to citizens in participatory endeavours.

6.2.2.   Typology of energy citizenship

Critiques on the neoliberal conceptualisation of the concept of energy citizenship led to research on more broad and inclusive accounts of energy citizenship. One of which is the newly published typology of energy citizenship by Dunphy et al., (2023b). Energy citizenship should not just represent the one singular expression of just individuals as consumers but encompasses various archetype expressions that the concept can manifest (Dunphy et al., 2023b). The typology goes beyond the consumer paradigm and includes manifestations that tend to be overlooked in discussions on energy citizenship. The typology groups its expressions of energy citizenship into four key categories around *access to energy*, *consumption*, *production*, and *politics and governance*. It covers categories that are both participatory as well as non-participatory. Each of these categories described four expressions of energy citizenship, except *the access to energy* category which consists of three. In addition to the work done in section 6.2.1. this section is dedicated to exploring any reflections of democratic conceptions in each of the fifteen expressions of energy citizenship the new typology brought forward. This section proceeds by giving a short explanation for each category defined by Dunphy et al., (2023b)[1] and then links the expressions within each category to democratic conceptions, thereby making the necessary linkage to provide valuable insights for answering the first sub-question of this research.

6.2.2.1.   Energy access

The energy access category pertains to those 'on the margins', encompassing individuals that operate outside of, or face negative impacts from existing energy system structures. This category primarily includes people marginalised by the energy system, often based on their socio-economic status. It consists of three expressions: the Excluded, the Dispossessed, and the Energy Poor. Upon exploring these expressions, it became apparent that aligning this non-participatory category with democratic conceptions proved unrealistic. Participatory categories seamlessly integrate with one of the conceptual dimensions of citizenship, inherently connected to democratic theory. However, this connection does not hold for the

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[1] For the descriptions of the different energy citizenship expressions this section relies exclusively on the report by Dunphy et al., (2023b) titled: Typology of Energy Citizenship(s).

energy access category and its expressions since they, simply, do not reflect on participatory practices or any other attribute that relates to normative democratic theory.

The Excluded expression identifies a group unable to connect to energy grids due to socio-political position or geographical location. The Dispossessed are characterised by the adverse effects of energy transitions and governance on their living conditions. The Energy Poor struggle with the inability to afford energy for essential services in their private lives. Collectively, these expressions strongly resonate with the concept of imaginary publics, where their characterisation is significantly shaped by limitations in energy access capabilities, with the imagining primarily driven by governance actors.

Table 2: Energy access expressions

Expressions	Characteristics
Excluded	Those who are prevented from connecting to energy grids due to socio-political and/or economic reasons or in terms of geographical location
Dispossessed	Indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups from whom energy resources have been unjustly taken and/or extraction schemes which have resulted in their displacement.
Energy Poor	Householders unable to afford the energy needed to for essential energy services. Income is important, but there is not a direct link. Not all those who suffer from monetary poverty are necessarily energy poor.

Note. Adapted from "D2.2. Typology of Energy Citizenship(s)", by N. P. Dunphy, A. Revez, B. Lennon, M. Brenner-Fließer, 2023, CC BY 4.0.

6.2.2.2.   Energy consumption

The energy consumption category, as delineated by Dunphy et al., (2023b), is recognised as the conventional role within energy citizenship. This category bears resemblance to the neoliberal depiction of energy citizenship as explicated in section 6.1. Particularly, the Active consumer is oriented towards the consumer paradigm of energy citizenship, exercising influence primarily through consumer choices. While the Digital native is principally characterised by a digital lifestyle, this expression also suggests an anticipation of their digital skills primarily utilised to enhance the management of consumptions patterns. Both the Energy champion and the Collectivist-consumer signify forms of consumerism, though not necessarily rooted in the rational choice perspective synonymous with neoliberal conceptions. Dunphy et al., (2023b) note that *"their motivation for reducing energy consumption is not just about money"* (p. 59), thereby deviating these expressions from the utility-maximising characterisation typical in neoliberalism (Frederiks et al., 2015). However, agency of citizens in all four expressions is narrowly confined to consumers choices or the decision to participate in top-down-led collectives of consumers (Dunphy et al., 2023b). This constrains their participatory capacities, aligning these expressions with centralised neoliberal norms that predominantly view citizens as consumers (Lennon et al., 2020).

Table 3: Energy consumptions expressions

Expressions	Characteristics
Active consumer	An energy literate consumer who understands the energy market and express power by influencing the market through consumer 'choice'. Sometimes linked in public information campaigns to the 'good citizen', wherein they are encouraged to use their market power to help meet public policy objectives.
Digital native	They can quickly adapt to change energy market and technologies e.g., smart meters, dynamic pricing etc. where it is expected that they will use digital skills to better manage consumption patterns (reducing their costs while help demand response).
Energy champion	An energy literate consumer able and willing to provide peer support to other consumers around energy savings. Typically, they will be environmentally conscious and technically minded. They may be thrifty, but their motivation for reducing energy consumption is not just about money. They energy conservator role often seems to result from an anti-consumerism philosophy, which may have its origins in their environmentalism.
Collectivist-consumer	Groups of consumers who come together to form buyers' clubs or join similar initiatives whereby they use their collective bargaining power to get better terms from suppliers (see e.g., 'One Big Switch' in Ireland). Most examples are commercially run programmes and so they do not often any agency to the consumers, as they only decision is whether to join or not.

Note. Adapted from "D2.2. Typology of Energy Citizenship(s)", by N. P. Dunphy, A. Revez, B. Lennon, M. Brenner-Fließer, 2023, CC BY 4.0.

6.2.2.3.   Energy production

The energy production category marks a departure from the previous limited role of energy citizens as mere consumers. Within this category, both individual and collective initiatives for energy production emerge, moving away from the prevalent consumer paradigm dominating the mainstream discourse on energy citizenship. The Self-Consumer is distinguished by a shifting interaction between the citizen and the energy system, minimising reliance on the grid. This alludes strongly to expressions of imagined publics as role constructions where roles are inherently shaped by activities in relation to an object or system (Rodhouse et al., 2021).

Similarly, the Prosumer not only consumes energy but also engages in selling privately produced energy to the grid, creating a bidirectional relationship with the system. The Collectivist-producer, involving collaborative efforts among energy producers, aligns with the collectivist or communitarian approach in political philosophy. Hamann et al., (2023) recognised this collectivist approach in energy citizenship, emphasising the individual's dependence on the collective to fulfil social needs such as energy. This perspective transforms the notion of energy from a commodity to a (social) necessity, viewing individuals through the lens of social needs and emphasising their role within collectives, distinct from market competition (Hamann et al., 2023). Among the ten analysed expressions, the Collectivist-producer is the first to reflect democratic conceptions associated with collectivism. This expression encourages communities to collaborate and jointly develop their energy production facilities, advocating for cooperation over market-driven competition in realising energy citizenship.

Table 4: Energy production expressions

Expressions	Characteristics
Prosumer	A production-consumer, one who both produces and consumes energy. In the domestic sphere, there is most typically (but not only) realised through the installation of solar photovoltaic array on their property. Prosumers use much of their energy when it is produced with excess production being sold (where that is permitted, other 'donated') to the grid or stored in batteries for future use.
Self-Consumer	The self-consumer consumes the electricity they produce and minimize if not cease transactions with the grid. There are a variety of technologies available for storage and management of the surplus. As its most extreme the self-consumer becomes an almost takes on the role of the "off-grider" – cutting they connection with the centralised grids.
Collectivist-producer	These are energy producers who combined in collective undertakings – with the best-known configuration being the energy co-operative, but it may also take the form of a social enterprise or a for profit company. This form of production involves communities (geographical or otherwise) coming together to develop and run their own energy production facility. As self-consumption grows, a shift to micro-grid arrangements could emerge amongst clusters of self-consumers – potentially allowing a federated form of collectivist-production of energy.
Citizen-investor	This is where the citizen invests their own money in an energy company or energy project. At one extreme it may involve investing in a small local community-orientated energy project, while at the other it could mean the purchase of shares in a large publicly quoted company. While there may be multiple motivations for getting involved, it is fundamentally a financial investment. There are several barriers to increasing this type of investment including regulation, market structures access to finance, etc.

Note. Adapted from "D2.2. Typology of Energy Citizenship(s)", by N. P. Dunphy, A. Revez, B. Lennon, M. Brenner-Fließer, 2023, CC BY 4.0.

6.2.2.4.   *Political & Governance*

The fourth category of the energy citizenship typology represents the political and governance realm. It stands as the sole category that is directly intertwined with the involvement of energy citizens in decision-making processes. The Citizen-litigator involves citizen participation prioritising concerns about legal rights and utilising the law to drive change. Representing a form of participatory democracy, the Citizen-litigator engages in the decision-making process through established regulatory mechanisms without intermediary agents (Barber, 2003). Aligned with liberal conceptions, it acknowledges citizens' legally mandated rights, providing the opportunity for formal participation without imposing a moral obligation.

The Citizen-challenger is active within political processes and embodies a participatory democratic perspective, collaborating with others to challenge established political norms. By questioning the prevailing beliefs and embracing diverse governance views, this expression also hints at deliberative democracy. Emphasising the importance of contestation over consensus, the Citizen-challenger also aligns with 'ecological agonism', recognising democratic disagreement as crucial in fostering alternatives and engaging citizens in lively environmental politics (Machin, 2020).

Differing from participatory democratic perspectives, the Citizen-activist leans towards forms of agitation and protest, aligning with what Hamann et al., (2023) defined as psychological energy citizenship. In this perspective, individuals act based on their beliefs about their rights in a just energy transition.

Table 5: Political & Governance expressions

Expressions	Characteristics
Citizen-litigator	This energy citizen is focused on procedural and administrative correctness. They work through established processes and aim to ensure that laws about environmental information provision, public consultation, and permitting of facilities are strictly followed. In doing this, they contribute to better energy policy development and regulation. Notably, public engagement is formal and expressed through established regulatory mechanisms.
Citizen-challenger	The citizen-challenger is active in political processes and sees the energy transition as an implementation challenge. They combine with others to challenge the status quo and enact change through the political system. They are usually motivated, well-informed, and well organised. However, while not necessarily welcomed by governments (and other incumbent stakeholders), citizen-challengers arguably play an important role in democracy by questioning accepted wisdoms.
Citizen-activist	This form of energy citizenship is somewhat similar to the citizen- challenger, but the citizen-activist works more on the political margins. They do not trust the political system to deliver change and so they are involved in radical action such as protest movements and other forms of agitation. In many respects they aim not achieve change through the system but to change the system itself.
Disenfranchised	These are the energy citizen who, or socio-political, economic, and/or geographical reasons, do not have a voice in the energy discourse. Accordingly, their perspectives are not reflected in policy development or implementation. They are in effect at the margins of the already marginalised. Many who experience this form of energy citizenship will also likely experience other marginalised forms in relation to access to energy, affordability of energy etc.

Note. Adapted from "D2.2. Typology of Energy Citizenship(s)", by N. P. Dunphy, A. Revez, B. Lennon, M. Brenner-Fließer, 2023, CC BY 4.0.

In summary, contemporary conceptualisations of energy citizenship in literature reflect varied democratic conceptions, addressing the first sub-question:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward in literature till date, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

The democratic conceptions that are predominantly present in contemporary, academic, conceptualisations of energy citizenship are those of republicanism and neoliberalism. Republicanism, foremost, privatises responsibilities, thereby placing moral responsibility for the energy transition squarely on the shoulders of citizens. The prescribed responsible actions strongly echo neoliberal tropes, confining the scope for (responsible) action to consumer choices and financial considerations. But as conceptualisations move away from the dominant portrayal of energy citizens solely as consumers – the narrative upheld until recently – they begin to encompass a broader array of democratic norms and beliefs from participatory and deliberative democracy and communitarian perspectives on citizen participation in energy transitions. The evolution of the energy citizenship typology reflects the critique of neoliberal co-optation of the 'traditional' concept. Simultaneously, it aligns with the complementary nature of energy democracy. The energy democracy literature offers alternatives to the prevailing top-down, centralised, and neoliberal visions of energy transitions prevalent in energy citizenship discourse to date.

Having explored the democratic conceptions embedded in the existing dominant discourse on energy citizenship, as presented in the literature, the focus now shifts to the empirical part of this research. It proceeds by preparing and executing the CDA to analyse how the EU articulates energy citizenship and to assess whether the EU aligns with or diverges from the democratic conceptions identified to answer the first sub-question.

7. Linguistic feature selection: transitivity

From the numerous schools of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this research applied Fairclough's approach. He outlines three procedural steps – data, analysis, and results – to guide the execution of the analysis. Chapter 7 and 8 delineate the preparation of CDA execution, setting out a detailed account of the application of Fairclough's framework and the selection of the linguistic feature used for the CDA (chapter 7) and the construction of the corpus for the analysis (chapter 8). Respectively these elements answer sub-question 2 and 3. After these sub-questions are answered the CDA is executed, and the results are reported (chapter 9).

The objective behind executing the CDA is to critically and systematically examine the dominant energy citizenship discourse brought forward by the European Union and the democratic conceptions that are implicitly present in shaping the roles of citizens in energy transitions. Fairclough's framework provides a guideline for determining what elements of the discourse under examination can be indicative of what this research aims to draw inferences on. First it is important to understand that Fairclough bases his framework on his definition of a discursive event: "*an instance of language use, analysed as text, a discursive practice or a social practice*" (Fairclough, 1993, p.138). Building upon this, Fairclough suggests that discourse can be analysed across three dimensions: the descriptive dimension using text analysis, the process and interpretative dimension using analysis of production and interpretation of the discourse and the explanatory dimension that sets out the sociocultural context of the discourse (Fairclough, 2006). These dimensions respectively relate to linguistic elements, discourse practices, and the larger societal context within which the discourse exists (Fairclough, 1995). Assessing each of these dimensions through applying CDA can provide a comprehensive understanding of the discourse under study (see figure 4).

Figure 4: Three-dimensional framework for CDA by Norman Fairclough
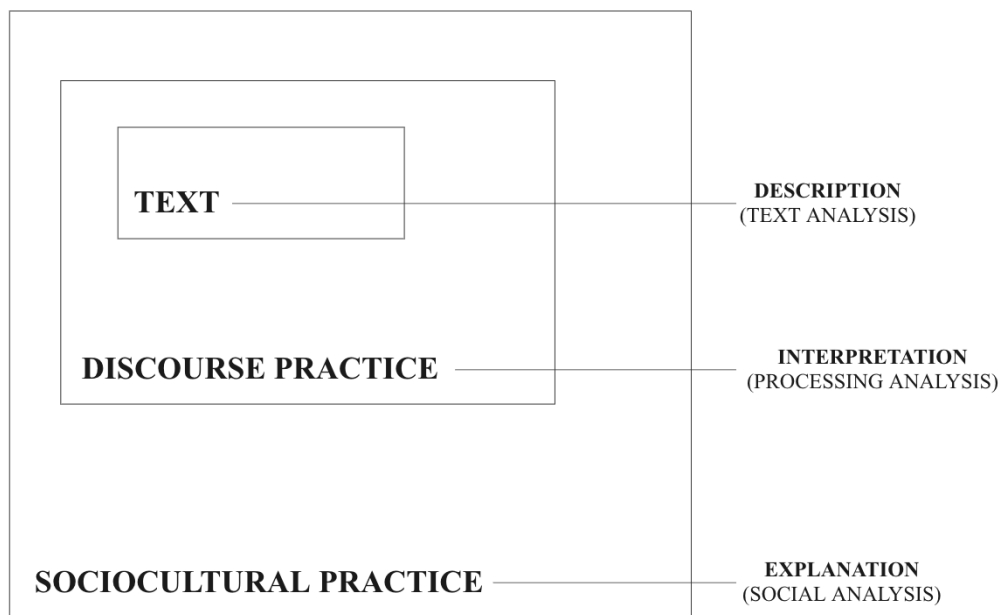
Fairclough highlights the importance of setting out the context of the discourse when doing CDA. This must always precede the execution of executing CDA. Typically, discourse analysts begin by elucidating the sociocultural context of the discourse, then proceed to describe or interpret the text or discourse practice,

and finally, interpret the descriptive findings using the social and theoretical context of the discourse under examination (van Dijk, 1994). This transitions the research from the theoretical phase setting out the theoretical sociocultural context of the discourse under examination (chapter 5 and 6) to the empirical phase (executing the CDA).

The CDA executed in this research positions itself on the descriptive dimension of Fairclough's framework. It analyses the dominant energy citizenship discourse using text analysis and interprets the results based on the explication of its context as done in chapter 5 and 6. How the discourse under examination was produced, distributed, and consumed is left out of the scope of this research as it is primarily concerned with critically assessing the dominant energy citizenship discourse brought forward by the EU (text analysis) and drawing inferences on its broader sociocultural context from the perspective of democracy and citizenship theory. Fairclough's framework is useful for this since it bridges findings from micro level text analysis to interpretation on a broader, macro level (Coffey & Marston, 2013).

7.1. Text analysis using Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG)

The descriptive dimension of Fairclough's framework, dedicated to performing text analysis, relies on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). With this transition this research shifts into the domain of (systemic functional) linguistics, an area that can quickly become technical. Consequently, this section provides an elucidating explanation of SFG and what elements of this semiotic approach are instrumental to the objective of this research.[2] As such this chapter answers the second sub-question of this research:

Based on Fairclough's framework for CDA, what linguistic features are indicative of the allocation of agency and responsibilities allocated to citizens in energy transitions from text?

The basic premise of SFG is that grammar is an important part of making meaning through language. Utilising SFG means to adopt the stance that language choice and structure convey meaning and reflect (personal) perceptions of concepts and events (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Halliday defines the grammar system as a set of options that a speaker or writer can chose from and, in making the selection, it encodes her/his experience of processes in either the external or their internal world (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). From this premise he emphasises that linguistic features are selected and arranged to represent the social world, relations, and identities in favour of certain ideologies (Babaii & Sheikhi, 2018). This resonates with the dialectical relation between discourse and social structure, a fundamental principle of Fairclough's CDA approach, but on a more detailed level of language.

Halliday's theory contends that the study of language entails reference to, and consideration of, three meta-functions of language: the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Respectively these functions refer to (1) texts embodying the experience of phenomena in the real world and reproducing systems of knowledge and belief (ideational), (2) the way in which a text sets up the relation between the communicator of the text and the listener/reader and how it informs, questions, greets and persuades its recipients (interpersonal) and (3) how texts make any stretch of spoken or written discourse into a coherent and unified text and make a passage different from a random list of sentences (textual) (Wang, 2010). Each of these functions is associated with specific linguistic features that are indicative of how each of these functions is embodied by written or spoken speech.

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[2] Note that for the application and explanation of Systemic Function Grammar and the transitivity analysis this research predominantly relied on the book Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and that most of the information in the following sections of chapter 7 comes from this methodological book.

7.1.1. Transitivity and the systematic categorisation of ideational process clauses

The dominant energy citizenship discourse pertains strongly to the ideational function of text since it signifies and refers to different objects and phenomena in the real world and it constitutes the systems of knowledge and belief around these objects and phenomena, being energy systems, transitions, and citizens. Since the dominant energy citizenship discourse primarily encompasses the roles citizens are allowed to take on in their interactions with energy systems, it constantly constitutes and reproduces the social reality around the energy transition and the meaning of citizen participation therein. Therefore, this research is particularly interested in linguistic features that indicate the ideational function of language since it wants to understand how citizens are invited to participate in the energy transition by the EU and what conceptions underlie the construction of knowledge and belief around this real-world phenomenon

The ideational function of text, i.e. how a text brings forward the experience and systems of belief around real world phenomena is constitute through a consistent flow of events and processes that bear these real-world experiences the text brings forward (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Understanding how the user of language brings forward the real-world phenomena it communicates about and to resolve the ideational function of language into something analysable, Halliday introduced the linguistic feature transitivity. The transitivity system is a semantic system that breaks the world of experience down into a manageable categorisation of six process types present in any language in use (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) and focuses on how language users use these process types to construe versions of reality in discourse (Bartley & Hidalgo-Tenorio, 2015). The transitivity system helps to systematically identify what type of processes are favoured in a text and the participants that are associated with them to constitute reality. The choices for certain process types to reflect on reality are in fact linguistic strategies to adopt ideological stances in discourse (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Through its system, transitivity helps to identify what process types are most used in a text, what factors may account for this and what functions they, ideologically, appear to serve (Fairclough, 2006). Application of Fairclough's three-dimensional framework and the examination of the three meta-functions of language from Halliday's systemic functional grammar navigated to the linguistic feature transitivity for executing the CDA in this research (figure 5).

Figure 5: Text dimension, meta functions of language and accessory linguistic features
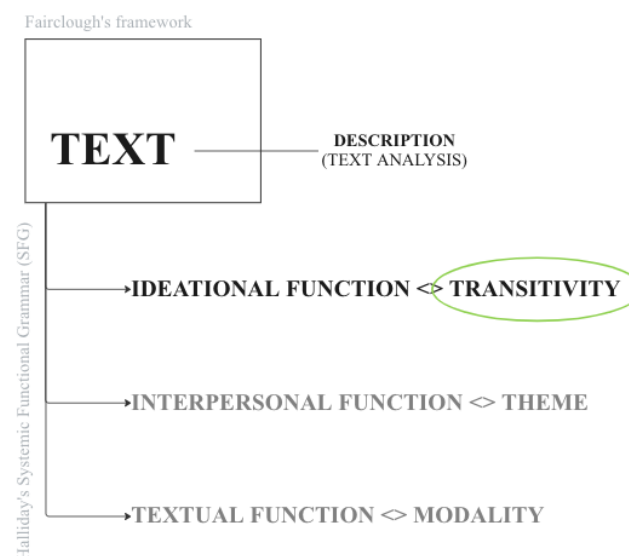
7.1.2. The experiential configuration of a text clause

The English transitivity system delineates six distinct types of processes that can be used in a text clause: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential processes. Each of these process types serves a unique function in replicating reality and contributes differently to the representation of experience in text clauses (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Text clauses with one of these process types consist of three key grammatical components: (1) the process itself; (2) the participant(s) engaged in that process; and (3) the circumstances associated with that process (figure 6). These components combine in various configurations to represent experiences, incorporating different participant arrangements within diverse circumstances (Bartley & Hidalgo-Tenorio, 2015). Participants are inherent in processes and, consequently, a process type is always linked to specific participant roles in a text clause. The axiomatic configuration of process + participant(s) forms the experiential core of a text clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Circumstantial elements augment this centre either temporally, spatially, causally, and so on. But their status in the configuration is more peripheral and, unlike participants, circumstantial elements are not necessarily involved in the process type of the text clause.

Figure 6: Central and peripheral elements of the experiential configuration of a text clause
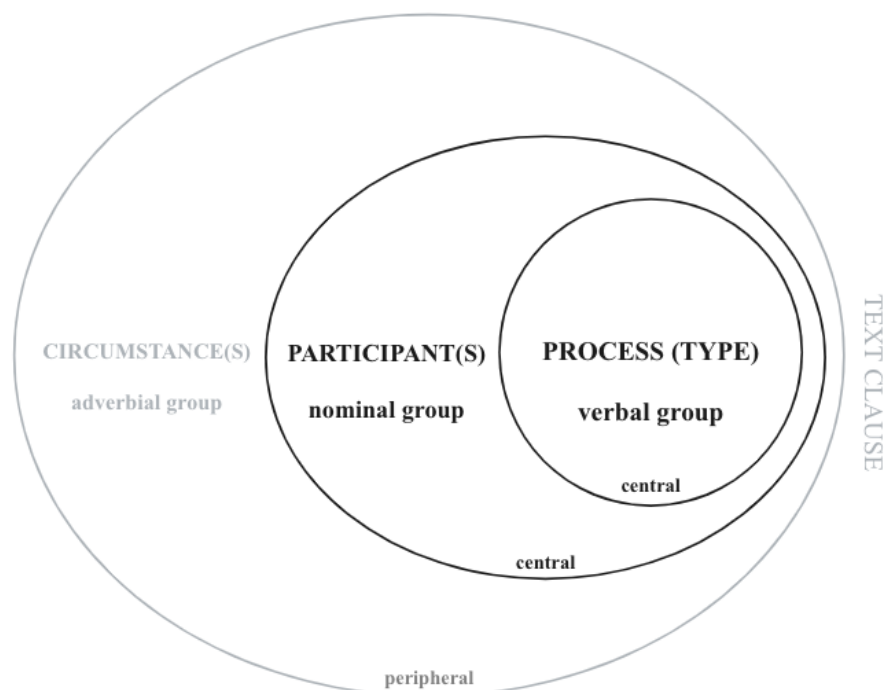
The transitivity system helps to systematically map what text clauses, i.e. experiential configurations the text consists of and allows for the interpretation of the frequencies and content of the process types used, the participants involved in these process types and, but not necessarily so, the circumstances of these text clauses. This section now proceeds by explicating the six process type categories that the transitivity system encompasses.

7.1.3.   **Material, mental, and relational process types**

The three primary and most frequent process types within the transitivity system are material, mental and relational processes. Material processes are part of text clauses that delineate events or actions taking place in the external world, involving individuals performing actions (doing) or causing events to happen (happening) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The participant in these text clauses brings about the unfolding of an event or action through time, leading to an outcome that is different from the initial phase of the unfolding. The participant in material processes is the Actor, which is responsible for bringing about the change. Within configurations of material process clauses, the primary participant is the Actor, responsible for instigating the change. If the process impacts another participant, known as the Goal (usually involuntarily), it constitutes a transitive clause that constitutes a doing. Conversely, if the clause involves only one participant, it represents an intransitive clause, signifying a happening.

Intransitive/happening	*The lion*	*sprang*	-
Transitive/doing	*The lion*	*caught*	*the tourist*
Tokenisation	**Actor**	**Process**	**Goal**

Material processes encompass various subtypes, which can become intricate quite quickly. However, in this research, it is pertinent to consider two subtypes of material processes: operative and receptive material processes. In transitive material processes involving a Goal, an Actor is doing something to the Goal. From the Goal's perspective, the same clause, represents something happening to the Goal rather than them doing something, the doing still belongs to the Actor of the clause. For example, in the operative material process, the lion is *doing* the action, whereas in the receptive material process, the same material process is *happening* to the tourist.

Operative/doing	*The lion*	*caught*	*the tourist*
	Actor	**Process**	**Goal**
Receptive/happening	*The tourist*	*is caught*	*by the lion*
	Goal	**Process**	**Actor**

While the experiential configuration of these clauses remains identical, their distinction lies in how these roles correspond to the participants within the clause. These subtypes are particularly relevant for this research as distinguishing between operative, receptive, and intransitive clauses allow the analyst conducting the transitivity analysis to draw conclusions on the agency ascribed to the different participants in the text. Intransitive clauses portray the Actor of a clause as an active agent. Operative clauses typically portray the Actor of the material process as an active agent effectuating change or performing actions in the external world. Conversely, the Goal in a material process clause undergoes an event (often involuntarily), which limits their agency or active participation in the clause. The transitivity analysis

executed for this research comprises three distinct categories of material process clauses: intransitive, transitive operative, and transitive receptive clauses (see figure 7).

Figure 7: Three included categories of material process clauses
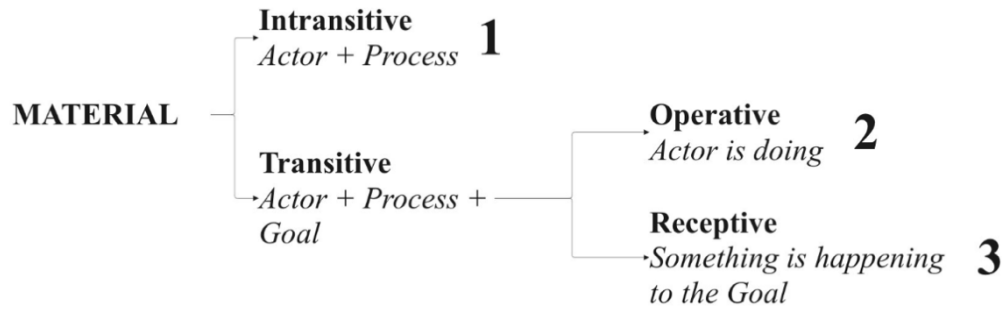
Where material clauses revolve around experiences of the outer world, mental processes signify the inner world of experience, referring to the experience of the world within one's consciousness (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Mental process clauses encompass processes of cognition, perception, emotion, and desire within the participant of the clause (Bartley & Hidalgo-Tenorio, 2015). At the core of these processes lies the Senser (Mary), the conscious entity undergoing the Phenomenon (the gift), which may involve activities like believing, seeing, hearing, liking, hating, wanting, etc. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Consequently, mental process clauses unveil aspects of the participant's inner world of experiences in a text.

Mary	*liked*	*the gift*
I	*see*	*the stars*
Senser	**Process**	**Phenomenon**

The third major process type is the relational process which serves to characterise and identify subjects or object in text clauses (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). These process types encompass states of being and transformation rather than actions and perceptions (Bartley & Hidalgo-Tenorio, 2015). Relational process clauses establish a relationship of being between two entities. This relationship typically manifests through verbs like *be* and *have*, signifying a connection between two elements. As such, relational processes construct relationships, predominantly through two types of clauses: attributive clauses and identifying clauses (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Attributive clauses attribute a specific class to an entity, where the assigned class becomes the Attribute and the entity receiving that classification is termed the Carrier. Conversely, identifying clauses assign an identity to an entity, establishing one entity as the Identifier and the other as the Identified, in the process of identification. In text these types of processes are often used to characterise subjects and objects in certain contexts.

Mice	*are*	*timid creatures*
The baby	*turned into*	*a pig*
Carrier	**Process**	**Attribute**

The deadliest spider in Australia	*is*	*the funnelweb*
Alice	*is*	*the clever one*
Identified	**Process**	**Identifier**

7.1.4. Behavioural, verbal, and existential process types

Besides the three primary process types that form the cornerstones of grammar as a theory of experience, there are also three subsidiary process types: behavioural, verbal, and existential processes. Each of these is located at the boundaries of the three major process types as figure 8 (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 216) shows.

Figure 8: Process types of transitivity system
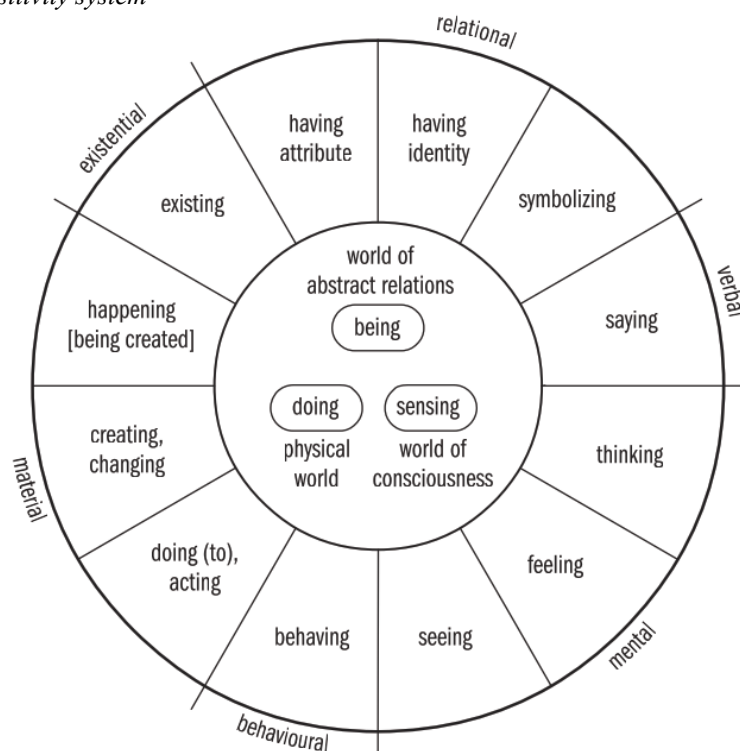
Note. Reprinted from "Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar" by Halliday, M.A.K. and Matthiessen, M.I.M., (2014) Retrieved from https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781135983413

Behavioural processes exist at the intersection of material and mental processes (see figure 8). These process types delineate typically human physical and psychological behaviours, such as coughing, breathing, smiling, and staring (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Typically, a behavioural clause comprises only a Behaver and a Process. The Behaver represents the participant engaged in the behaviour, while the Process signifies the action being performed (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). These process types form the least distinct category of all six process types. This is due to their lack of clearly defined characteristics.

She	*is laughing*
He	*sneezes*
Behaver	**Process**

The second subsidiary process type is the verbal process type, situated at the border between the mental and relational process types. Verbal process clauses pertain to instances of speech acts where the primary participant is the Sayer. These clauses are frequently used to illustrate dialogue scenarios, where one participant embodies the speaker, and there might be an additional participant representing the addressee (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The interpretation of 'saying' in verbal clauses encompasses any form of symbolic exchange of meaning. For instance, in the sentence '*my watch says it is half past ten*', the grammatical function of '*my watch*' still aligns with that of the Sayer.

The notice	*tells you*	*to keep quiet*
John	*said*	*'I am hungry'*
Sayer	**Process**	

Lastly, existential process types signify something's existence or occurrence. Typically, these process clauses contain the verb *be*, situating them at the boundary between relational and material process types (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Essentially, any phenomena construed as a 'thing,' whether a person, object, institution, abstraction, action, or event, can 'exist' within these clauses. The thing that is regarded as existing is termed the Existent. The word 'there' is commonly used in existential process clauses. While it does not function as a participant or circumstance within the clause's transitivity structure, it signifies the feature of existence and serves interpersonally as a Subject (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

There	*was*	*an old woman*
There	*was*	*a storm*
	Process	**Existent**

7.2.   Transitivity and democratic conceptions in energy citizenship discourse

The transitivity system revolves around configurations of three fundamental elements in text clauses: the process, the involved participant(s), and the associated circumstances. The inherent relationship between participants and process types within the transitivity system makes this system particularly suitable for this research, which seeks to understand how energy citizens are portrayed in discourse brought forward by the EU. The fundamental role of participants in the transitivity system ensures that the analysed process types consistently pertain to subjects or objects within the text under examination and provide insights on how they are portrayed in the discourse under examination.

In the grammatical structure of a text clause, transitivity shapes a particular world view by using various process types to represent it. The blend of process types used to depict real-life phenomena within a text contributes to its distinctive 'flavour' and its positioning within the order of discourse it belongs to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This reflects on Halliday's broader premise, emphasising those grammatical choices—the configurations of process types, participants, and circumstances within text clauses— offer diverse portrayals of reality in discourse. Transitivity is the cornerstone for representation because different selections of process types can represent the same event in different ways (Barca, 2018).

The outcomes of a transitivity analysis primarily aim to discern the most frequently used processes and how they construct the subjects under examination in the dominant energy citizenship discourse. When examining the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package, this research specifically targets the process types employed when referencing (energy) citizens. The goal is to understand the explicit representations conveyed by these process types concerning the responsibilities and agency attributed to energy citizens and, from there, interpret what democratic conceptions are present in the energy citizenship discourse using the answer to the first sub-question of this research.

By assessing the frequency and content of the process types employed in the discourse under analysis, the CDA aims to reveal how the European Union, as the author of the text, shapes the roles of citizens in the context of energy transitions through the allocation of responsibilities and agency. Aligned with theoretical insights on imagined publics and role constructions it does so not only for energy citizens. Given the inherent dependency of role constructions on the interrelations among different actors within the same context, as well as the activities and responsibilities of these actors in connection to an object or system, this research extends its examination beyond process types directly related to the energy citizen. On top of that, normative democratic theory shows that the identification of democratic conceptions is derived as much from the roles of citizens in a society as the role of the state in relation to them. The transitivity analysis will, therefore, focus on three distinct participants in the discourse under examination: the Citizen, the State, and the System. Acknowledging the interdependence of citizen role constructions on both the functioning of a system and the role constructions of other actors, considering these additional participants in the text is deemed essential for a comprehensive understanding of how the EU shapes roles for citizens and elucidating the implicit democratic conceptions embedded in this discourse.

7.2.1.   Interpretation of the allocation of agency and responsibility

This research places particular emphasis on understanding how transitivity in discourse reflects the agency and responsibilities attributed to the participants involved in various processes. As the interpretation of transitivity in text lacks a definitive framework due to its contextual dependence, prior applications of transitivity analyses and methodological literature on CDA were examined. As such this chapter finishes by setting out how transitivity serves as an indicator of agency, responsibility, and participation of subjects in text.

Prior studies show ample significance of transitivity analyses in delineating the allocation of responsibilities, and agency to subjects within discourse. Fairclough underscores the importance of

transitivity analysis in discerning the types of processes encoded in clauses and the participants involved in them. Shedding light on whether specific process types and participants are favoured in the text, and especially the choices made in process types related to a specific subject, bring forward how these subjects are positioned in the context under examination (Coffey & Marston, 2013; Fairclough, 1992). For example, material processes are particularly important in describing the roles people take on and the agency allocated to them using operative and receptive material process clauses (Bartley & Hidalgo-Tenorio, 2015). Coffey and Marston's study (2013) explored the influence of neoliberalism on environmental policy. Employing CDA and transitivity analysis, they extrapolated insights into the distribution of roles and responsibilities, thereby examining the articulation of key subject positions—government and citizens—in policy documents. Their findings revealed that the government's identity in the text under examination was primarily portrayed using material process clauses. These linguistic choices predominantly constructed the government as an active subject, having clear agency and capability to act (Coffey & Marston, 2013). Furthermore, their analysis indicated that citizens' identity was largely articulated through verbs associated with material, existential, and relational processes. These process types hinted at the actions and characteristics attributed to citizens in the text. The linguistic choices portrayed individuals' choices and behaviours as the primary causes of environmental issues, with relatively limited emphasis on the responsibilities of businesses or government (Coffey & Marston, 2013). This study demonstrates that analysing the frequency and content of diverse process clauses, using transitivity analysis, provides valuable insights into how a text portrays subjects through the agency and responsibility attributed to them. This concludes that through employing a transitivity analysis, this research can systematically approach the analysis of the dominant energy citizenship discourse and is able to discern the allocation of agency and responsibility to energy citizens based on analysing the process types used in the text. As such transitivity is the selected linguistic feature to execute the CDA and the answer to the second sub-question of this research:

Based on Fairclough's framework for CDA, what linguistic features are indicative of the allocation of agency and responsibilities allocated to citizens in energy transitions from text?

8. Corpus construction

The last step before executing the CDA is the construction of the corpus that will be used for the analysis. There is no clear-cut methodology for the corpus construction. Fairclough did not outline specific requirements for data collection in his framework. Since executing CDA is very context dependent, the research objective and main research question are a good starting point to determine what texts are instrumental to this research (Fairclough, 2006). Considerable time and deliberation were invested in aligning the selection of text samples for the corpus with the research objectives and the principle of representativeness. Additionally, corpus linguistic literature was reviewed to account for major criticisms and concerns regarding corpus construction for discourse analysis.

8.1. Representativeness of the corpus

In constructing the corpus, Fairclough references to representativeness as the guiding principle for selecting what text samples to include (Fairclough, 2006). Representativeness pertains to how accurately the corpus reflects the discursive practices under examination (Fairclough, 1995). Representative text samples are, thus, based on an understanding of the broader sociocultural context the research aims to draw conclusions on (Fairclough, 1992). Revisiting the research objectives and main research question proved valuable for understanding what representativeness means in the context of this research.

First, this research specifically attempts to draw inferences on the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU. Identifying what democratic conceptions underlie the way in which the EU invites citizens to participate in the energy transition necessitates the text in the corpus to originate from the EU itself or any EU-affiliated institutional body. Restricting text sample selection to texts from the EU sets the geographical scope of this research to be the European Union's physical borders. This demarcation confines the research's conclusions on the dominant energy citizenship discourse to the context of the European Union only. Secondly, the text must directly or indirectly address citizen participation in energy transitions, reflecting the expected roles of (energy) citizens when interacting with energy systems. Texts that do not mention the role of citizens as brought forward by the EU in energy transitions are simply not usable for this research since they would lack the presence of the object of research. Lastly, the text must be specifically scoped to the energy transition. In first instance I thought that, for example the European Green Deal could be analysed. Here the roles expected of citizens are mentioned, but in a broader context of sustainability transitions, not energy transitions in particular. The corpus must allude to the context of the energy transition specifically otherwise the discourse under examination does not pertain to energy citizenship and drawing inferences on the dominant discourse on energy citizenship is not possible.

8.2. Typical or unusual texts?

When the corpus under construction must reflect a dominant (or hegemonic) discourse it is particularly important to determine whether the text samples that are included are typical or unusual (Baker, 2006). This can be hard to tell, especially when, like this research does, a small corpus of text is constructed and analysed. Since the CDA will be executed manually the corpus is consciously kept to a manageable size for reading and interpreting it within the time frame of this research project. The main concern with small corpora is that they either lack the features of the dominant discourse or contain them in too small frequencies to draw inferences on them (Baker et al., 2008). Using a large corpus of text allows researchers to identify wider patterns in the corpus and, based on frequencies, distinguish dominant discourses from opposite narratives in a text (Baker et al., 2008). A small-scale analysis may not be able to identify which linguistic patterns are cumulatively frequent (and therefore likely to represent dominant discourses) and

those which are less frequent (and therefore may represent minority or resistant discourses). Finding an opposite narrative in only a small number of texts may even result in mistaken it for a dominant discourse (Baker et al., 2008).

To draw inferences about the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU the text samples that are included must be typical of what the EU brings forward regarding citizen participation in energy transitions. The corpus under examination cannot be constructed of text that comes from 'just' a narrative brought about by 'some' institution of the EU. It must represent the order of discourse the EU adopts on energy citizenship and reflect its dominant approach to the energy transition (Montessori, 2023).

8.3. The Clean Energy for all Europeans package

All in all, the cumulation of these considerations for the corpus construction led to answering the third (and last) sub-question of this research:

What corpus of text is representative of the dominant discourse in energy citizenship as brought forward by the EU shaping the roles (energy) citizens are allowed to play in energy transitions?

The search for usable and representative text samples for the corpus started on the European Commission's 'Energy' webpage. Among other topics like Agriculture, Transport, Industry, and Environment and Oceans, Energy stands as one of the nine pillars of the European Green Deal. A substantial amount of content related to the EU's energy strategy was found, including various policy documents that collectively convey the EU's multi-faceted governance framework for approach the energy transition. Central to the EU's energy strategy lies the Energy Union, an integral component of the multidimensional European Green Deal, along with the REPowerEU plan (European Commission, n.d.). These initiatives form the cornerstones of the EU's approach on the Energy dimension as formulated in the EU Green Deal. While the European Green Deal outlines policy initiatives for the broader green transition toward climate neutrality by 2050 in the EU, initiatives like the Energy Union and REPowerEU specifically address the energy transition.

The European Commission categorised the Energy dimension of the Green Deal into 13 topics. This helped navigating towards topics likely to cover the broader EU strategy for the energy transition and those encompassing citizen participation. For example, the topics on Nuclear Energy, Heating and Cooling or Energy Taxation were expected to provide less useful content than topics like Energy Strategy, Energy Consumer Rights or Energy Communities. The 'Energy Strategy' webpage provided several policy documents that delineate the EU's long-term strategy for the energy transition and decarbonisation of its energy systems. The search function within documents was employed to evaluate their representativeness and usability in terms of the occurrence of citizen participation. Using keywords like 'citizen(s)' or 'consumer(s)' facilitated a quick assessment of how frequently citizen participation was mentioned in the different documents that were downloaded from the webpage. Additionally, scanning the tables of contents provided for quick estimations on the texts' utility for the corpus in this research.

The *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package was deemed most suitable for the analysis' corpus based on its representativeness and typicality. This document outlines a set of new rules that define the legislative parameters for the coming years and the basis for future discussions on the energy transition (European Commission, 2019b). The *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package comprises a 22-page PDF document, containing 16 pages of analysable text. The document consists of seven chapters (excluding the foreword), where the European Commission delineates measures aiming to ensure a clean and fair energy transition across all economic levels (European Commission, 2019b). These rules and ambitions are a significant contribution to the EU's long-term strategy for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 (European Commission, n.d.).

Employing the search function revealed nearly 50 instances of the words 'citizen(s)' and 'consumer(s)'. The document extensively addresses citizen participation, is presented by the European Commission, and specifically pertains to the energy transition. Therefore, it aligns with the representative criteria outlined in Section 8.1. Regarding typicality (8.2.), this document is considered reflective of the EU's typical strategy for the energy transition and citizen participation, a fact stated within the package itself. The document explains that the establishment of the European Energy Union underpins the EU's comprehensive energy approach in all policy areas, with the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package being central to this approach (European Commission, 2019b). For this research, this PDF document is presumed to representative of the dominant discourse the European Union brings forward concerning the energy transition and its perspective on citizen participation in this context.

9. Executing the CDA and reporting results

Having addressed the sub-questions that are instrumental for conducting the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the research transitioned to executing the analysis. To begin, the 24-page PDF document titled "*Clean Energy for all Europeans*", published by the Publications Office of the European Union in 2019, was thoroughly examined. By reading the text and identifying all process types associated with the Citizen, the State, or the System a micro level analysis of text was executed applying the transitivity system to the corpus under examination. This section outlines how the transitivity analysis was executed, the results of the analysis and then moves on to their interpretation (chapter 10).

9.1. Data management

The data derived from the transitivity analysis consisted of 1) frequencies of the subjects under examination in the text, 2) text clauses containing process types and associated participants (i.e. the Citizen, the State, or the System) and 3) categorisation and interpretation of these text clauses based on transitivity.

All these data were systematically recorded and stored in an Excel spreadsheet, securely saved on my personal TU Delft OneDrive cloud. Throughout the project, I maintained exclusive access to and was the only one that modified this file. Appendix B provides exports from the complete data collection and processing from the Excel file, presenting formatted tables for clarity. These tables were directly exported from Excel to the Appendix, offering a complete overview of the reported results. In the subsequent sections of this chapter only concise portions of the data are presented using adjusted and illustrative tables derived from the original Excel document. These tables are intentionally kept concise to enhance readability and are used primarily to complement the understanding of the execution the transitivity analysis and the results rather than provide an exhaustive overview of the results. Engaging with the content in this chapter, it is recommended to refer to Appendix B where it is mentioned in the text. Appendix B provides the complete results from the analysis which are presented in chronological alignment with the outline of the text in the following sections. The original Excel spreadsheet (*Descriptive results transitivity analysis.xlsx*) is made available for all that want an extensive reference to complement the following chapters reporting and interpreting the results of the transitivity analysis.

9.2. Executing the transitivity analysis

The first step involved a general reading of the complete text to understand its overarching narrative and the interconnectedness of the different chapters. Before shifting to a micro level analysis of the text as done in the transitivity analysis, this initial read proved useful in grasping the general storyline and coherence of the text under examination.

Executing the transitivity analysis proceeded by identifying where the text references to either the Citizen, the State, or the System. Employing the terminology of the transitivity system derived from Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, the first procedural stage concentrated on identifying and reporting all instances where the text referred to 'participants' in text clauses. The identified participants are the three subjects under scrutiny in this research: 'the (energy) Citizen', 'the State' (EU) and 'the (energy) System'.

9.2.1. Subject frequencies and synonyms

The second step involved systematically reading the corpus and marking each participant under examination with a distinct colour in the text, as presented in Appendix B1. For every chapter, the frequency of instances of each of the subjects was recorded in the Excel spreadsheet, along with the synonymous terms or references used for either the Citizen, the State, or the System. For instance, in the first chapter of the corpus, 'the Citizen' was referenced six times using three different expressions: citizen(s), people's homes, and consumer(s). An illustrative example of the manual documentation of these six instances is presented in table 6.

Table 6: Exemplary reporting subject frequencies and synonyms

	Foreword	Chapter 1
The Citizen	6	....
Citizen/citizens	3	...
People's homes	1	..
Consumer/consumers	2	.
The State	3	...
The EU	2	..
We (EC)	1	.
The System	1	..
The grid	1	.

The diverse synonyms and their respective counts per chapter for the Citizen, the State, and the System were documented in the *Subject Frequencies and Synonyms* tab of the Excel document. Table 7 provides an overview of synonyms used more than once to refer to each of the subjects under examination in the corpus. The text also indirectly referred to the Citizen and the State using pronouns such as 'they' or 'them'. For all synonyms and their respective counts per chapter please refer to the tables in Appendix B2. Marking participant instances and documenting their frequencies served as a valuable step for the systematic allocation of process types associated with each subject under examination.

Table 7: Subject synonyms in corpus

The Citizen	*citizen(s), consumer(s), individuals, EU citizens, consumer's pockets, people, European civil society, vulnerable citizens, the most vulnerable in our society, households, European energy consumer, vulnerable consumers, Europeans, those most impacted by the transition*
The State	*the EU, European Commission, the Commission, Europe, we*
The System	*(EU's) electricity grid, network, (EU's) energy system, infrastructure*

9.2.2. Reporting text clauses

The descriptive results of the transitivity analysis report which process types are most prevalent concerning the subjects under examination. Following the counting and marking of each of the three subjects in each chapter, the next step involved an in-depth analysis of the process types utilised in each instance of text associated with the subjects under scrutiny. Given that both participants and their corresponding process types are the central elements of the experiential configuration of a text clause (see section 8.1.2.) the initial marking of participants allowed for a systematic and complete identification of relevant text clauses and, as such, all the process types used in relation to the subjects under examination. Leveraging the subject frequencies per chapter (table 8) provided a direct insight into how frequently every subject was mentioned and what words the text used to reference the Citizen, the State of the System. This facilitated the subsequent step of navigating to the relevant text clauses more easily.

Table 8: Subject frequencies per corpus chapter

Chapter	Citizen count	State count	System count
Foreword	6	3	1
1	2	12	3
2	9	9	0
3	3	11	3
4	8	6	9
5	43	3	3
6	1	21	0
7	7	7	1
Total	**79**	**72**	**20**

Documented in one spreadsheet tab per subject, a detailed record was extracted documenting the text clauses for each chapter that were associated with every instance mentioning either the Citizen, the State, or the System. This phase created three distinct spreadsheet tabs, where all text clauses related to each subject were reported. To illustrate, using the foreword where the Citizen is mentioned six times through three distinct synonyms, the Excel spreadsheet includes the respective text clauses for each instance in the text. Table 9 serves as an illustrative example, showcasing how these results were documented in the Excel.

Table 9: Reporting text clauses for each instance in the corpus per subject

Foreword	Instance in text	Text clause
1	Citizens	*"The clean and fair energy transitions increases our quality of life as citizens"*
2	Citizens	*"The new measures are not just for businesses - they provide far greater opportunities for citizens"*
3	Citizens	*"Citizens will have real influence over their energy footprint - through smart meters, taking control of household bills, or investing in renewable energy"*
4	Consumers	*"The key message is that these changes are good for the planet, good for jobs, and good for consumers"*
5	Consumer	*"This document presents the numerous benefits the new EU rules will provide, from different angles environmental, economic, security of supply, consumer, international, and from a longer time scale"*
6	People's homes	*"The purpose of these measures is to ensure a clean and fair energy transition at all levels of the economy – from energy generation all the way to people's homes"*

9.2.3. Categorisation of Process Types

The conclusive step of reporting the results involved the analysis of all text clauses associated with each of the three subjects under investigation, categorising them using the transitivity system as outlined in Chapter 8. This process resulted in one additional column to table 9, encapsulating the categorisation of the process type of that particular text clause (see Appendix B3). As such, all text clauses in the corpus that mention each of the three subjects under examination as a participant of that clause were systematically categorised. Important to mention here is that not all text clauses containing a reference to each subject could be categorised. In instances where the subject could not be tokenised as a participant, categorisation was not feasible. For example, consider the sentence:

"This document presents the numerous benefits the new EU rules will provide, from different angles: environmental, economic, security of supply, consumer, international, and from a longer time scale." (Corpus, p. 1)

In this sentence, the word consumer was initially marked as an instance of the Citizen in the text and reported under the '*Subject Frequencies and Synonyms'* tab. However, upon further scrutiny, this instance could not be categorised under the transitivity system, since the word *consumer* cannot be tokenised as a participant inheriting a process type in the text clause. Consequently, the number of categorised text clauses per subject did not match their initially reported frequencies (table 10).

Table 10: Categorised text clause frequencies per subject

	The Citizen	**The State**	**The System**
Total instances in corpus	79	72	20
Categorised text clauses	58	60	11

9.2.4. Consulting a CDA expert

Following the extraction and categorisation of process types within the corpus, the reported results underwent a comprehensive discussion with an expert in the field of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Given my limited experience in conducting CDA and transitivity analysis, I sought guidance from a highly experienced CDA researcher affiliated with another university in the Netherlands. Our collaborative effort involved an examination of the reported results, with particular attention devoted to ensuring the accuracy of the categorisations for the text clauses in the corpus. Given the substantial number of categorised text clauses (150+), an exhaustive review was not possible within the time constraints of our meeting. Ahead of meeting with the expert, I filtered the categorisations that I felt least confident about and discussed these 'uncertain' categorisations with the expert. This allowed me to apply the expert's expertise and clarification where most needed. Another crucial aspect of consulting the expert was the interpretation of the results from the transitivity analysis, considering the context of the discourse under analysis and the objectives of this research. The discussion of the results facilitated a nuanced understanding, drawing on the expert's expertise and experience in executing CDA. The interpretation of the results was enriched the expert's in-depth comprehension of the theoretical foundation of CDA and its extensive practice in analysing texts based on grammatical structure and, from there, drawing inferences on a broader sociocultural context. This consultation, therefore, did not only functioned as a validation of the categorisation of the process types found in the corpus of text, but also enriched the interpretation of the results as set out now in chapter 10.

10.   Interpreting results

The application of the transitivity analysis is what enabled this research to delve into the descriptive dimension (text analysis) of Fairclough's framework this research positioned itself on. Transitivity served as the linguistic feature under examination to analyse the discourse at the micro level of text. However, a mere presentation of the descriptive frequencies and occurrences of the subjects under analysis and their associated process types falls short of fulfilling the objectives of this research. It would also fail to do justice to the explanatory power of CDA and pass the importance of interpreting descriptive results using theory and context this methodology is known for. Consequently, the results necessitate interpretation, and inferences must be drawn on the frequency and content of the process types in connection with the sociocultural context of the discourse. This section, therefore, interprets the results of the transitivity analysis and draws inferences on the allocation of agency and responsibility to each of the subjects under examination using process type frequencies and content. After that chapter 11 will use these interpretations to answer the main research question of this research.

10.1. Agency and responsibility of the Citizen and the State

Table 11 presents the frequencies of process types observed in the corpus concerning each of the three subjects under examination. The analysis reveals a diverse utilisation of process types when referencing the Citizen and the State, while exclusively employing relational process types when referring to the System. Notably, material clauses emerge as most prevalent though exclusively used in relation to the Citizen and the State. Appendix B3 presents the exported tables from the spreadsheet containing all the instances, text clauses and their categorisations using the transitivity system per subject.

Table 11: Process type frequencies per subject

	The Citizen	The State	The System
Material: intransitive	2	29	0
Material: operative	1	12	0
Material: receptive	46	5	0
Mental	5	10	0
Relational	4	9	11
Behavioural	0	0	0
Verbal	0	5	0
Existential	0	0	0
Total categorised	58	70	11

The descriptive feature in this table that immediately sparks an interest are the material processes related to the Citizen and the State. Within the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package a striking contrast surfaced in the use of intransitive, operative and receptive material clauses when comparing instances of the Citizen and the State. Specifically, the text predominantly depicts the Citizen through receptive material clauses and scarcely employs operative or intransitive ones, adopting the exact opposite grammatical choices for

the State. Intransitive and operative clauses depict the participant tokenised as the Actor as active agents capable of effecting change or executing actions in the external world (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In contrast, receptive clauses, where the participant is tokenised as the Goal, signify occurrences happening to that participant of the text clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), portraying the 'involuntary' participants of these receptive material clauses as having no or very limited agency.

Drawing on the frequencies outlined in table 11 and the interpretative foundations of material process clauses, the initial interpretation of the process type frequencies related to the Citizen and the State suggests a tendency in the corpus to portray the Citizen as an actor with limited capacity for action, experiencing events rather than instigating them. Conversely, the State is depicted as an active agent. This observation prompted a more in-depth examination of the material text clauses associated with the Citizen and the State.

10.1.1. Citizen agency and responsibility

The material process clauses associated with the Citizen prominently convey a prevailing narrative found throughout the entire corpus, wherein citizens are firmly settled, granted with the means to act in specific, desired ways, or have their situations influenced by the initiation of certain rules or goals set by the EU. Among the 57 categorised text clauses referring to the Citizen, 46 instances depict the Citizen as an actor to whom something has happened, is happening, or will happen. Table 12 presents a representative selection of receptive material clauses that exemplify the consistent portrayal of the Citizen echoed in nearly all receptive material clauses related to them.

Table 12: Receptive material clauses of the Citizen

No.	Text clause
2	*"The new measures are not just for businesses - they provide far greater opportunities for citizens"*
9	*"At the same time, cleaner and smarter energy will allow citizens to take their own decisions regarding their energy use"*
21	*"The new governance system, puts European citizens at the centre of the political debate on the definition of National Energy and Climate Plans that cover 10-year periods"*
39	*"Improved rules will give consumers more flexibility and better protect consumers"*
45	*"Consumers will be put in a stronger position in the supply chain"*
46	*"Consumers will be better informed"*
68	*"This democratisation will alleviate energy poverty and protect vulnerable citizens"*
77	*"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition"*

Applying Halliday's theory on transitivity, a material clause is a clause in which the primary participant that is responsible for instigating change is termed the Actor (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In an intransitive material clause, the Actor is the participant that is doing something, i.e. performing an action. In an operative material clause, the Actor is the participant that is doing something that effectuates another participant. This involuntary participant is the Goal, which is the participant that is impacted by the doing of the Actor. From the Goal's perspective, something is happening to them. In the case of receptive material clauses linked to the Citizen, the Citizen is tokenised as the Goal. The Actor, in turn, varies and includes entities such as the EU itself, rules or regulations, or the energy transition and its attributes, such as clean energy or the democratisation of energy systems. The frequency and content of the receptive material clauses related to the Citizen suggest that the Citizen is depicted as an actor lacking agency to act

independently, which relies on other actors or system changes to act on terms set by others, in a desirable or self-effective way.

The Citizen's dependence on other objects and subjects for their capacity and power to act provides insights into the allocation of agency to citizens in the corpus. Emphasising the Citizen predominantly as an actor to whom something is happening, as opposed to actively doing something, diminishes their agency. A closer examination of the content within these text clauses sheds light on what the Citizen is enabled, by another actor, to do or be. The receptive material clauses contain information about the agentic space and the room for action granted to the Citizen as brought forward by the EU in the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package.

10.1.1.1.   *Citizens can make their own decisions about consumer behaviour*

The initial insight into the agentic space of the Citizen in the corpus under examination is its inclination to refer to the Citizen more often as a 'consumer' [44] than as a 'citizen' [42]. The use of the term 'consumer' inherently constrains the Citizen's agency to financial capacities and purchasing decisions. Regardless of the reference to the Citizen as 'citizen(s)' or 'consumer(s)', the allocated agentic space to the Citizen in this text primarily revolves around strengthening its role in energy consumption and emphasising citizens' ability to 'make their own decisions'. Table 13 shows a selection of eight receptive material clauses from the corpus that elucidate the dominant demarcation of the Citizen's agentic space to their economic behaviour. For a complete list of all 29 receptive material clauses identified to convey this narrative on citizen's agency in the corpus, please refer to table B4.1. in Appendix B4.

Fundamentally, the reinforcement of the Citizen's position occurs through enhanced information provision, 'more transparent energy bills', 'more understandable contracts', 'the right to request a smart meter', or improved investment options. Consequently, their agentic space is characterised by the capability to 'make their own decisions on how to produce or sell their energy', 'have more choices in their homes and more flexibility to reduce their energy use', or 'find it easier to invest in renewable energy'. Based on these text clauses, the Citizen's agentic space predominantly exists through other actors facilitating a boundary-free path for them to autonomously make financial decisions regarding their interactions with energy systems, as well as their energy consumption and production.

Table 13: Agentic space of the Citizen: consumer behaviour

No.	Text clause
40	*"Improved rules will also allow consumers to make their own decisions on how to produce, store, sell or share their own energy."*
54	*"The consumer will be in a stronger position in the chain"*
33	*"More opportunities for citizens to make their own decisions on which type of energy they want to use."*
7	*"The new rules will make it easier for individuals to produce their own energy, for example through solar panels, store it or sell it onto the grid."*
55	*"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more choice in their homes and more flexibility to reduce their energy use when it is expensive and consume or store energy when it is cheap"*
53	*"Certified price comparison tools will help consumers in their choice of supplier."*
35	*"More democracy means more opportunities for citizens to take their own decisions on which type of energy they want to use"*
71	*"Technologies are creating ample opportunities for European citizens to participate and benefit from energy markets."*

From the 29 receptive material clauses focused on empowering the Citizen to make informed consumer decisions, eleven clauses explicitly highlight the presence of an 'Actor' in relation to the Citizen as the Goal of that text clause (table 14). Among these, nine instances cite certain rules and regulations such as 'European energy and climate policies' or 'The Clean Energy for all Europeans package' as the Actor within the text clause. Interpreting these clauses based on the transitivity system this suggests that these rules and regulations bear the responsibility for enabling, safeguarding, or shaping the agentic space of the Citizen. Other mentioned subjects as the Actor include 'technologies,' 'installing solar panel systems,' and 'cleaner and smarter energy'.

Table 14: Receptive clauses (the Citizen) regarding consumer behaviour with explicit mentioning of an Actor

No.	Text clause
2	*The new measures provide greater opportunities for <u>citizens…</u>*
7	*The new rules will make it easier for <u>individuals</u>…*
9	*Cleaner and smarter energy will allow <u>citizens…</u>*
29	*The new rules can help <u>them…</u>*
39	*Improved rules will give <u>consumers</u>…*
40	*Improved rules will also allow <u>consumers</u>…*
44	*The Clean energy for all European package gives <u>consumers</u>…*
52	*Dynamic pricing offers best value to <u>consumers…</u>*
53	*Certified price comparison tools will help <u>consumers…</u>*
71	*Technologies are creating ample opportunities for <u>European citizens…</u>*

An important feature of doing CDA and integrating sociocultural theory to interpret its results is the ability of the researcher to not only consider what is written in the text, but also identify what it does not mention (Baker et al., 2008). Here this research, being attentive to what remains unaddressed in the corpus, highlights the absence of accountability attributed to the State, specifically the EU, in shaping the agentic space of the Citizen. The absence of any relation between the State and the Citizen in these clauses is regarded as a noteworthy aspect of this corpus. The frequent portrayal of rules and regulation as proactive agents in driving change in the energy transition and fostering opportunities for citizens is construed as shifting responsibilities for the empowerment of citizens onto a passive actor. A more detailed discussion on this latter notion will be provided in section 10.4.

10.1.1.2.   Vulnerable citizens are protected

Upon examining the receptive material clauses, another aspect influencing the Citizen's role emerged, shedding light on the various actors and objects featuring as the Actor in these text clauses. Within the 46 receptive material clauses analysed, fourteen clauses specifically address the protection of (vulnerable) citizens during energy crises, the preservation of equitable benefits from energy transitions, and the assurance of their voices being heard through participation and consultation (see table B4.2, Appendix B4). Notably, the Citizen is referred to in these clauses as 'vulnerable,' 'more impacted,' or 'most vulnerable in our society.' In most of these instances, the responsibility for safeguarding the Citizen is not attributed to specific actors but is rather connected to broader entities such as the energy transition itself or a set of rules

and regulations. Additionally, the strategies for attaining these objectives are comparatively less concrete than those outlined for instigating responsible consumer behaviour by the Citizen. A representative selection of receptive material clauses that allude to protection of vulnerable citizens is depicted in table 15.

Table 15: Agentic space of the Citizen: protecting vulnerable citizens

No.	Text clause
11	"*The clean energy transition must benefit everyone - no citizen, no region should be left behind*"
25	"*A number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation of national stakeholders have been introduced , thus enabling European civil society to make its voice heard more clearly.*"
68	"*This democratisation will alleviate energy poverty and protect vulnerable citizens.*"
77	"*The EU will support those more impacted by the transition*"
18	"*The new emphasis given to security of energy supply will make blackouts less likely and ensure that EU citizens and businesses always receive the energy they need*".

In thirteen out of fourteen receptive material clauses addressing the protection of vulnerable citizens and the promotion of equitable benefits from the energy transition, the Actor is explicitly mentioned in the relation to the Citizen (the Goal). Within this subset, the EU is identified as the Actor in three instances, signifying their role in initiating the protection and safeguarding of vulnerable citizens and promoting equality (table 16). Although these text clauses do not outline specific measures detailing how the EU will accomplish these objectives, they do articulate a clear responsibility assigned to the EU in this regard.

Table 16: The EU protecting vulnerable citizens

No.	Text clause
12	"*The EU has launched a series of initiatives to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their location, benefit from the energy transition.*"
67	"*An EU and Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will not leave any citizen behind.*"
77	"*The EU will support those more impacted by the transition*"

Similar to the receptive material clauses addressing consumer behaviour, there are numerous instances where specific configurations of rules and regulations are identified as the active agents enacting the protection of vulnerable citizens in the text clauses. These clauses provide more concrete insights into how the rules, once enacted, bring about changes that, in turn, ensure the equitable standing of all citizens. A selection of these clauses is presented in table 17.

Table 17: Rules and regulations protecting vulnerable citizens

No.	Text clause
18	"*The new emphasis given to security of energy supply will make blackouts less likely and ensure that EU citizens and businesses always receive the energy they need*".
25	"*a number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation of national stakeholders have been introduced, thus enabling European civil society to make its voice heard more clearly.*"
60	"*The new rules will improve access to energy for all, tackling energy poverty at its root and protecting vulnerable consumers.*"

10.1.1.3.   The clean and just energy transition

These two predominant manifestations of receptive material clauses related to the Citizen appear to mirror the two primary ways in which the text conceptualises the energy transition. On the one hand, the corpus emphasises the need for a clean energy transition, moving away from fossil fuels, and achieving cost efficiency. This is reflected in shaping the agentic space of the Citizen predominantly through creating capacities to make their own decisions about their economic, consumer behaviour. On the other hand, the text frequently alludes to the overarching goal of a fair and just transition, evident in receptive material clauses addressing the protection of citizens and the pursuit of equitable outcomes. Table 18 provides an overview of instances where adjectives characterise the energy transition, along with their frequencies. Other ways that the corpus referred to the energy transition was by using neutral instances being 'the transition' or 'the energy transition'.

Table 18: Adjectives used for the energy transition

Instance	Frequency
The gradual transition away from fossil fuels	1
The clean energy transition	14
The clean and fair energy transition	2
The fair and just transition	1
The global energy transition	2
A cost-efficient energy transition	1
The transition	2
The energy transition	10
Total	**33**

10.1.1.4.   The active citizen at the heart of the energy system

The final interpretation concerning the receptive material clauses related to the Citizen comprises a set of clauses that touch upon recurring themes in shaping the Citizen's role in the corpus, although they are not as predominant as the two set out above. Within the corpus, the EU suggests an active and central role for the Citizen in the energy system/transition, emphasising collaboration with other relevant actors involved in the energy transition (table 19). As discussed in section 10.1.1.1., this active participation is primarily anticipated to manifest in making informed decisions regarding energy consumption. The explicit mention of energy communities stands out as the sole instance in the corpus explicitly acknowledging active participation in the formation of a group of citizens, working collectively.

Table 19: Agentic space of the Citizen: active citizens

No.	Text clause
21	*"the new governance system, puts European citizens at the centre of the political debate on the definition of National Energy and Climate Plans that cover 10-year periods."*
23	*"we can reach our collective ambitions in the most efficient way, bring people, regions and countries together."*
28	*"Bringing people and countries closer"*
36	*"Citizens can join in "energy communities", pooling their energy"*
38	*"Consumers need to be at the centre of a renewed EU energy system"*
42	*"Consumers have been put at the hearth of the Energy Union."*
43	*"Allowing consumers to actively take part in the energy transition."*
59	*"The move to a more decentralised energy system where consumers play an active role"*

10.1.1.5.   Responsibilities of the Citizen

Responsibilities are the tasks assigned to citizens by the state, expected to be fulfilled to qualify as a good citizen (Talbert, 2023). This text does not explicitly mention such responsibilities for the Citizen, which would typically be indicated by verbs like 'should,' 'must,' or 'have to' in operative material clauses where the Citizen is the Actor in the tokenised configuration of that clause. The three operative material clauses neither portray the Citizen in an agentic manner nor assign specific responsibilities to them. Similarly, none of the other text clauses referencing the Citizen could be interpreted as bringing forward such notions. However, by alluding to the active citizen as desirable and explicitly shaping the agentic space of the Citizen based on energy-efficiency and consumer behaviour, there is an implicit reference to what can be interpreted as moral responsibility on the part of the Citizen.

10.1.2. State agency and responsibility

Examining the material process clauses concerning the State yielded a totally distinct interpretation compared to the analysis of material clauses related to the Citizen. Among the total of 42 material clauses associated with the State, 37 were intransitive or operative, while only five were receptive. Intransitive and operative material clauses depict the State as the Actor, the participant of the text clause that is *doing* something, rather than the recipient of actions (the Goal). The prevalence of the State as the Actor in the material clauses suggests that the State is presented as an active agent capable of initiating change. However, a more detailed examination of the material clauses associated with the State provided deeper insights into how responsibility and agency are assigned to this subject.

In most material clauses, the corpus refers to the State as the EU [44], the (European) Commission [7], or Europe [8]. A clear observation emerges when reviewing the intransitive and operative material clauses of this subject – its role is evidently portrayed as active and agentic. All the intransitive and operative material clauses related to the State focus on what the EU has done, is doing, or will do to accelerate the sustainable energy transition in various ways and forms. Appendix B5 provides a complete list of all intransitive and operative material clauses related to the State, each contributing to this overarching portrayal of the EU as an active actor in the corpus. Table 20 presents a selection of intransitive and operative material clauses in past, present, and future tense that characterise the State as an active and agentic subject in relation to the energy transition. The major difference between the intransitive text clauses and the operative material clauses in terms of their interpretation is that the intransitive clauses do not refer to an entity (the Goal) that the State is acting upon, that it is changing. Regardless, the State is, in either of these process clauses, depicted as an active agent that is *doing* something.

Table 20: the State as an active, agentic actor

No.	*Text clause*
2	*"The EU has taken a wide range of initiatives"*
5	*"the EU is striving for a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy system"*
20	*"the EU is staying at the forefront of this revolution"*
28	*"the EU is already providing assistance"*
46	*"the EU continues to fill the missing links to better integrate energy markets and production of renewables"*
53	*"The EU has shown that the world can count on Europe"*
54	*"The EU played an instrumental role in making the Paris Agreement operational, with the adoption of a clear rulebook"*
74	*"the European Commission has again shown leadership by publishing a blueprint for taking things further forward"*

The content of these material clauses shows the commitment of the EU to the energy transition, showcasing their past efforts, ongoing initiatives, and future commitments. While the text does not allude to the Citizen as an actor with the power to influence and change the energy system, it consistently depicts the EU in this agentic role throughout the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package. The material clauses pertaining to the State underscore the EU's achievements (past), active involvement (present), and positive intentions (future) in steering the energy transition. Within these process clauses, alongside other types of process clauses, two recurring themes emerge, shedding light on the EU's endeavours in the energy transition that define how they themselves portray their agentic space.

10.1.2.1. *The strategic position of the EU*

Among all categorised process clauses for the State, 18 clauses delve into what is interpreted as a central theme – the EU's strategic position in the global energy transition (Appendix B5, table B5.2). These clauses discuss the EU's portrayal as a 'leader in the energy transition', that 'strategizes to defend this position', and the 'strategic' alliances and mechanisms it uses to 'stay at the forefront' of the transition. The *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package accentuates the role of the EU concerning its position in the global stakeholder field of the energy transition. Notably, it explicitly articulates the ambition to reduce the EU's reliance on imported fossil fuels to enhance its strategic position and its energy sovereignty. This is to be achieved by reducing energy consumption, increasing renewable energy production, strengthening alliances, improving cross-border connections within the EU, and enhancing trade. The EU defines its

agentic space with a strong focus on a set of mechanisms it uses to improve its strategic position, emphasising engagement in global politics and power dynamics among countries on a global scale.

10.1.2.2.   *EU as regulator*

Another element recurrent in the corpus, considered part of the EU's agentic space, is its ability to establish rules and regulations that guide the energy transition appropriately. The text clauses that are related to this overarching theme are depicted in table B5.3. in Appendix B5. In twelve instances, the corpus references the EU as having 'established', 'set', or 'adopted' various 'initiatives', 'targets', or 'rules' aimed at 'fostering necessary investment', 'screening and monitoring foreign direct investments' or 'take things forward'. The frequency and content of these text clauses are interpreted to signify that the EU presents itself as an agent with the capacity to create the rules and regulations essential for directing the desired transition in energy systems. This regulatory capacity is the second theme that stands out from the portrayal of their agentic space within this corpus.

10.1.2.3.   *Responsibilities of the State*

Various text clauses, not exclusively material ones, indicate explicit responsibilities assigned to the EU (table 21). Text clauses 17 and 51 distinctly assign defined actions to EU institutions. In Text clause 17, the European Commission is tasked with evaluating the drafted National Energy and Climate plans (NECPs) of each European country (European Commission, 2019, p. 4). Text clause 51 involves the EU's commitment to assist in monitoring energy poverty through the Energy Poverty Observatory in Member States.

Table 21: Responsibilities of the State

No.	*Text clause*
14	*"the EU as now pledged to move further ahead"*
15	*"The EU has now pledged to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions"*
17	*"The draft plans will be evaluated by the European Commission"*
26	*"the EU needs to accelerate its efforts in order to maintain its position"*
50	*"An EU and an Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will not leave any citizen behind, and not least the European energy consumer"*
51	*"The Energy Poverty Observatory – launched by the Commission – will assist in this task"*
61	*"The EU will defend its strategic interests and scrutiny purchases by foreign companies that target Europe's strategic assets"*
66	*"Europe is committed to systematically including energy efficiency and renewable energy"*
74	*"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition so that everyone can benefit from our investment in the clean energy transition"*

Two noteworthy text clauses refer to potential duties of the State in the energy transition. Clauses 14 and 15 indicate that the State has pledged itself to specific actions in the future, introducing a sense of obligation through the use of the verb 'pledge'. Additionally, clause 26 strongly implies what the EU needs to do within the context of the energy transition, albeit to maintain its forefront, competitive position in the transition towards other countries outside the EU. While some of these clauses portray the State as taking

action in the future tense, lending them a promise-like quality, they can be interpreted as the EU committing itself to certain actions in the future and, consequently, assuming responsibility for them.

10.2. Relation between the State and the Citizen

The decision to analyse both the State and the Citizen using the transitivity analysis stems from the theoretical framework on role constructions in imagined publics, emphasising that the role of one subject interacts, interrelates, and evolves with the roles of other actors in the same context. Additionally, the foundation of citizenship and democratic theory relies on the relationship between the Citizen and the State, offering insights into the understanding of democratic conceptions in constructing citizenship in any given context.

Within the corpus there are three instances where State actions are directly linked to the Citizen (see table 22). These text clauses revolve around the State's responsibility to protect, support, and empower citizens in the context of the energy transition. The role of the State vis-à-vis the Citizen is, based on these four clauses, depicted as one that entails supporting the Citizen in their role within the energy transition.

Table 22: Relation between the State and the Citizen

No.	Text clause
50	*"An EU and Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will not leave any citizen behind."*
74	*"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition"*
73	*"The EU will achieve this by investing in realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as…."*

In addition to the instrumentality of the transitivity analysis for examining agency and responsibility to address the primary research question, it is insightful to explore how the corpus indicates the membership and basic rights dimension of citizenship as outlined in Bellamy's framework. How the text brings forward the participation dimension of energy citizenship is already discussed in sections 10.1.1. and 10.1.3., where the agentic space and responsibilities of the Citizen are delineated based on the transitivity analysis.

10.2.1. EU citizenship: membership dimension

The corpus contemplates the membership dimension of Bellamy's framework in instances where the Citizen is referenced in connection with the EU. The corpus does so in 13 instances by employing various characterisations of the Citizen as an integral part of the EU (see table 23).

Table 23: Instances of European energy citizens

Instance	Frequency
Europeans	4
EU/European citizen(s)	6
European civil society	1
EU Households	1
The European energy consumer	1

Most of the text clauses that mention the Citizen as part of the EU emphasise themes such as 'protection against energy crises,' 'placing European citizens at the centre of the political debate,' ensuring that Europeans do not suffer, and 'leaving no one behind'. However, these are not responsibilities directly assigned to the State. Instead, they allude to how this text brings the implications of being an EU citizen forward within the context of the energy transition.

10.2.2. Basic rights

Similarly, the second dimension of Bellamy's framework, which pertains to the allocation of basic rights to citizens, is perceptible in the examined corpus. The text mentions rights in four instances. In three of these instances, it discusses the need to reinforce, strengthen, and increase 'consumer rights'. The fourth instance specifically mentions the right of consumers to request a smart meter. This aligns with existing literature on energy citizenship, where the recognised rights within the context of the energy transition are primarily statutory consumer rights associated with the roles of energy consumers or producers (Mullally et al., 2018).

10.3. The System and the Citizen

The third subject analysed through the transitivity system was the System, specifically referring to the energy system. Throughout the text, the energy system is mentioned 20 times, with eleven references categorised using the transitivity system. All eleven categorised references are relational process clauses that characterise the energy system (see Appendix B6). These clauses depict the EU's energy system as it currently exists or how it should evolve in alignment with the energy transition. Table 24 shows a selection of relational clauses that capture the prevalent characterisation of the energy system in the corpus.

Table 24: Characterisation of the System

No.	*Text clause*
5	*"Interconnected electricity and gas grids are also vital for energy security of supply."*
9	*"In the coming years, electricity projects will become increasingly important for the integration of renewable energy across borders, including the digitalisation and smartening of the grid"*
10	*"A safe, sustainable and affordable energy system is only possible if EU countries work together in a spirit of solidarity."*
11	*"To deliver a secure, sustainable and competitive energy system, the EU can now rely on a new rulebook"*
12	*"Active participation of local and regional authorities is key for the success of the energy transition, as the energy system becomes more decentralised"*

The corpus discusses changes in the energy system, emphasising 'decentralisation' and 'digitalisation,' while highlighting the imperative to maintain a 'safe,' 'secure,' 'sustainable,' 'affordable,' and 'competitive' energy system.

The rationale for including the System as a subject of analysis in the CDA stems from the understanding that in role constructions, the role of an actor pertains to their activities and responsibilities in connection with an object or system. Consequently, the scrutiny of the System focused particularly on instances where it mentions a relation to the Citizen. The text explicitly alludes to the Citizen in two text clauses. In both instances, it emphasises a central role for the Citizen, referred to as consumers, in the decentralised energy system, emphasising their active participation.

10.4. Rules and Regulations as an active, agentic agent

The last descriptive result derived from the transitivity analysis that will be interpreted here pertains to the frequent representation of rules and regulations as an active agent in the corpus under examination. The preliminary examination of the Citizen, the State, and the System, particularly focusing on material process clauses related to the first two subjects, revealed a consistent portrayal of rules and regulations as an agentic force that instigates change. While rules and regulations were not initially a primary subject of investigation, their recurrent reference in the corpus (55 times) prompted a detailed examination.

The transitivity analysis identified 55 text clauses referencing rules and regulations implemented by the EU to support the energy transition. The corpus employs various terms, such as 'the new rules', 'these measures', or 'a regulatory framework', to refer to rules and regulations. Specific directives like 'the new Renewables Directive' or 'the new Electricity Directive' are also mentioned. Of these 55 instances, 43 were categorised using the transitivity system, with 36 text clauses falling under material process clauses (see Appendix B7, table B7.1.). Notably, in 30 operative material text clauses, rules and regulations were depicted as the active participant in the clause (the Actor), driving actions, instigating change, and acting upon another entity (the Goal).

Operative material clauses associated with rules and regulations predominantly emphasise these instruments as the catalysts in essential changes for the successful energy transition. Notably, the content of these clauses, when compared to their use in relation to the State, exhibits a distinctive feature – specifically defining the changes they enact. While operative material clauses related to the State primarily conveyed the general idea of the EU's strategic role and regulatory capacity, those related to rules and regulations elucidate specific aims that are deemed crucial for advancing the energy transition in the EU. In addition to the general goals of ensuring a clean, safe, and fair energy transition, meeting decarbonisation targets, and establishing a stable policy framework, two prevalent themes emerged in the text clauses associated with rules and regulations.

10.4.1. Shaping the citizen's agentic space

Given that rules and regulation were often found to serve as the active participant (the Actor) in receptive material clauses concerning the Citizen, it is not a surprise to find the that primary theme of these rules and regulations centres around creating the right conditions for the Citizen (predominantly referred to as consumer) to act in financially desirable ways. Fourteen text clauses explicitly reference rules and regulations relating to actions such as 'strengthening the position of the consumer', 'providing opportunities for citizens', or 'accelerating necessary private investments' (Appendix B7, table B7.2). Rules and regulations are sharply focused on shaping the desirable agentic space for the Citizen and, through targeted changes, prescribing desirable behaviour, particularly related to consumer choices. The corpus reflects a

strong emphasis on behavioural changes among citizens as consumers, promoting sound investments, encouraging individual energy production, and reducing overall energy consumption.

10.4.2. Enhancing cooperation and Member State action

Another recurring objective of rules and regulations is to instigate change at national and local levels. Twelve text clauses specifically guide EU countries in their pursuit of decarbonised energy systems (Appendix B7, table B7.3). The regulations support national governments by enhancing 'interconnections,' 'cooperation,' and 'consultation' between Member States and the EU. Additionally, rules and regulations mandate EU countries to 'monitor energy poverty,' 'prioritise households suffering from energy poverty,' or 'coordinate efforts and prepare solutions to any potential threat or crisis.' Consequently, these regulations focus on the intermediate role of national or regional governments in the energy transition and, with that, their role vis-à-vis the citizen. While this research centres on the EU's relation with the energy citizen and did not include the analysis of the role of national governments in the CDA, the prevalence of the role of national governments in the rules and regulations in the corpus will be addressed discussing the limitations of this research in chapter 11.

10.4.3. Personification of institutions

Although the corpus brings the agency of the EU forward as establishing these rules and regulations in place, the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package gains most of its authority from the rules and regulations it mentions. What renders the frequency and substance of these material operative clauses, particularly their depiction of rules and regulations as an active agent in the corpus, intriguing is the acknowledgement of the phenomenon of 'personification of institutions' in discourse analysis (Montessori, 2023). Personification involves attributing essentially agentless objects with the capacity to act and actively bring about change in the real world. This does not imply anthropomorphising rules and regulations as human entities but rather portrays these non-human constructs with human-like attributes such as agency, intentionality, or actions (Dorst, 2011). Particularly noteworthy is the corpus's treatment of rules and regulations as if they possess independent agency, with concrete responsibilities and actions vis-à-vis the Citizen allocated to them, especially in instances where they are portrayed as actively shaping the agentic space of the Citizen.

11. Conclusion and discussion

In committing to the Paris Agreements goals of limiting global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the decarbonisation of energy systems and pledging to renewable energy targets became pressing issues on the political agenda of the European Union (EU). A key facet of these commitments involves diversifying the pathways for EU citizens to actively engage in the energy transition, highlighting the significance of citizen participation and framing the discourse of energy citizenship. However, the current operationalisations of energy citizenship have left citizens feeling disempowered and disconnected, primarily due to their bias towards a normative emphasis on 'the good citizen' narrowly defined through adapted financial behaviour and desired consumer choices. This narrow perspective diverts attention away from stakeholders capable of effectuating the structural changes needed to achieve climate targets and, with that, amplifies disparities in energy justice and inherently excludes certain segments of populations.

In response to these concerns, this thesis sought to contribute to a broader understanding of energy citizenship by exploring democratic conceptions embedded in the dominant discourse and examining how these conceptions shape the roles constituting the concept. To this end the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package was analysed using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). This is a method that enables researchers to unearth the social norms and beliefs entwined with language and unveil its underlying meaning. As such, the research was set out to answer its main research question:

What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them?

The second and third sub-questions of this research facilitated the execution of the CDA. The contextual insights from the first sub-question guided the interpretation of the descriptive results from the transitivity analysis. In response to the explicit call in the literature to establish a connection between energy citizenship and democratic theory, Chapter 5 provided a detailed framework on how democratic theory could be applied to the concept of energy citizenship. This chapter descriptively contextualised energy citizenship using a three-dimensional framework of citizenship. Chapter 6 then presented an overarching view of how various normative democratic conceptions bring about pre-constructions of citizenship, particularly concerning the agency and responsibilities allocated to them. The agentic space and responsibilities allocated to the Citizen (and the State and the System) that were extracted using the transitivity analysis, were combined with the insights into how democratic conceptions shape the roles (energy) citizens are allowed to play through the agency and responsibilities allocated to them.

11.1 Answering the main research question

This research concludes that the prevailing democratic conceptions in the dominant discourse on energy citizenship, as brought forward by the EU, are rooted in liberalism and neoliberalism. The interpretation of the transitivity analysis results revealed different aspects of the agentic space assigned to the energy citizen that contribute to this conclusion. First, the emphasis on establishing a space where citizens can autonomously make decisions, providing them with information, and safeguarding consumer rights to do so aligns with liberal conceptions of citizenship and citizen participation. Secondly, the role of the EU in shaping this agentic space is portrayed indirectly, with the EU depicted predominantly through its regulatory capacity to establish rules and regulations that encourage desirable citizen behaviour. Instances linking EU actions directly to impact the Citizen's private sphere are scarce, idealising the relation between the EU and the energy citizen as one of freedom, where the state minimises public demands on individual lives. Thirdly, the examination of text clauses related to EU-established rules and regulations also underscores the presence of liberal conceptions in the corpus. The text clauses wherein the rules and

regulations shape the agentic space of the Citizen are characterised by their efforts to for example, encouraging private investments, strengthening the position of the consumer, giving more flexibility, and improving market conditions. Importantly, none of these rules interfere with the private lives of citizens. Rather they emphasise creating a liberated public space wherein citizens are enabled to act, rather than being morally compelled to do so. Lastly, the absence of explicit mention of responsibilities assigned to energy citizens reinforces that the EU places minimal demands on EU citizens through this pathway supporting the energy transition. In instances where a direct relation between EU actions and citizens is acknowledged, the EU is portrayed as safeguarding the safety and equality of citizens vis-à-vis energy systems. These responsibilities align with liberal conceptions, emphasising the allocation of civil rights and equality to its citizens.

The predominant focus on citizens-as-consumers and primarily addressing their agentic space through financial means and consumer decisions, reflects the neoliberal appropriation of energy citizens that is criticised by academics. The frequent reference to citizens using 'consumer(s)' in the corpus can be seen as an indicator of this neoliberal influence in itself. Additionally, the strong focus on citizens' energy consumption and production and the need for directing these through informing and facilitating citizens reflects neoliberal tropes.

While less prominently featured in the corpus, the construction of the Citizen's role includes notions of active participation and the central role of citizens in the energy transition and system. Various text clauses highlight the active role of consumers in the energy system, citizen inclusion in political debates, and collaboration between governmental institutions and citizens. These clauses suggest notions of participatory democracy, where citizens engage directly in decision-making processes with local or national institutions. When advocating for an active role for citizens, aligning with notions of moral responsibility associated with republicanism, the text adopts a cautious, liberal approach by 'allowing' citizens to actively participate rather than morally obliging them to do so. The *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package adopts a careful approach in positioning citizens in the energy transition in terms of the responsibilities they are ought to take on. This approach is interpreted as the corpus framing the active roles of citizens in a liberal way rather than adopting republican conceptions of citizen participation.

11.2. Scientific relevance and theoretical development of energy citizenship

The findings of this research revealed the prevalence of liberal and neoliberal conceptions in the analysed discourse, diverging from prior literature that also identified republican values in the dominant energy citizenship discourse. In extant literature scholars did, however, not rely on policy documents but on previous academic work on the concept. This sets out the first main scientific contribution of this research to the academic field on energy citizenship. This research extended the exploration of energy citizenship to the analysis of policy documents and is one of the first to analyse how the concept is constituted in governmental outings. Although initially thought to be the first to apply this new perspective, during the execution of this research project, Hamann et al., (2023) published their research on an interdisciplinary understanding of energy citizenship wherein they included a legal analysis of EU directives. In their research they also found the presence of neoliberal conceptions in addressing citizen participation and in particular energy consumers. Together with Hamann and her colleagues this research differs from previous research in the sense that it acknowledges the influence of narratives in policy documents on the concept of energy citizenship through the definition of roles for citizens in energy transitions. It diverges from extant literature that solely focuses on the examination of the academic contributions that formulate energy citizenship. Secondly, this study addressed a knowledge gap recently highlighted in energy citizenship literature by Silvast & Valkenburg (2023): the limited understanding of the democratic conceptions underpinning the dominant and biased conceptualisation of energy citizenship. This research explicitly bridged this gap through both generating new understandings of energy citizenship based on different

dimensions of (traditional) citizenship and reflecting on the implicit democratic conceptions that resound in the concept. These theoretical contributions advance the current academic debate on energy citizenship and provide a fundamental understanding of the starting point for reconceptualising the current concept.

11.2.1. Theoretical conceptual development of energy citizenship

This study adopts the perspective that energy citizenship is a dynamic construct, that continuously evolves based on empirical and theoretical challenges that emerge from its changing environment. Both the understanding of energy citizenship based on different dimensions of (traditional) citizenship and the identification of the implicit democratic conceptions that resound in the concept functions as theoretical challenges for the concept. Particularly chapters 5 and 6, addressing the first sub-question of this research, have offered valuable, theoretical insights into the understanding of who the citizen is in energy citizenship, thereby setting off the transcendence of its existing, biased conceptualisation.

The democratic conceptions unveiled from the dominant energy citizenship discourse provided insights into the assumptions that sustain the current definition of the concept. It shed light on how these conceptions constrain the solution space of energy citizenship policies, determining what is considered suitable and appropriate and, consequently, formulated as the modes of citizen participation. Recognising the prevalence of liberal and neoliberal conceptions within the discourse on energy citizenship reflects this research' commitment to the primary research endeavour when applying Critical Theory: to make implicit norms explicit and using this as a source of transformation. Explaining how liberalism and neoliberalism construct the current, unilateral construction of energy citizenship identified what is flawed in current social reality and set off the transformation of the concept (Horkheimer, 1993). These insights guide energy citizenship literature towards exploring normative democratic theories that are not reflected in its current conceptualisation. Deliberately diverging away from the unearthed economic rationality of energy citizenship is, therefore, what this research brings forwards as the desired direction for innovating the energy citizenship concept.

Norms that could direct the emancipatory transformation of energy citizenship are, for instance, the collectivist and communitarian approaches which diverge from the notion of the autonomous individual and its prevalent participation through market competition (Hamann et al., 2023). These approaches have fundamentally distinct implications for the extent and way in which governments intervene in society and expect citizens to participate. By analysing how agency and responsibilities are ascribed to citizens in alternative democratic conceptions, a new reference framework can be created that transcends the bias in energy citizens' agentic space. Their agentic space can be redefined based on what these alternative perspectives deem suitable for citizen participation (in energy transitions). Forging these alternative pathways for citizen participation was already undertaken by, as illustrated in section 6.2.2., Dunphy et al., (2023b) in their recent typology for energy citizenship. Their typology incorporates notions of participatory democracy, collectivist consumerism, activism and the inclusion of disenfranchised citizens, all reflecting conceptions of democratic theory beyond (neo)liberalism.

Expanding the concept beyond (neo)liberal interpretations of citizen participation and employing alternative normative democratic theories to redefine the agentic space that energy citizenship encompasses is a strategy to innovate the concept that implies the participation dimension of citizenship only. Plotting the concept on the established dimensions of traditional citizenship, this study generated additional insights into the interpretation of 'citizenship' in energy citizenship beyond its participatory dimension. Nonetheless, applying Bellamy's citizenship framework revealed that energy citizenship primarily aligns, if not exclusively, with the pillar of public participation. Due to the absence of a direct relationship between the state and the citizen in the energy transition context, attributing the notion of membership to energy citizenship seemed challenging. While calls for basic rights in the context of the energy system do emerge in the literature, these rights would apply to all citizens rather than being regarded as a specific dimension of energy citizenship. Advocating for energy rights often stems from critiques of citizen participation in

energy transitions, framing energy as a commodity rather than recognising it as a necessity for basic human rights. Viewing energy as a fundamental human need that applies universally shifts the exploration of energy rights away from energy citizenship towards the sphere of international law and human rights research, as extensively explored by scholars such as Wewerinke-Singh (2022).

Utilising these three dimensions, this study brought forward a theoretical challenge that surfaced during the contextualisation of the energy citizenship concept using citizenship and democracy theory. In light of this contestation, this research does not advocate for the complete abandonment of the term 'citizenship' from energy citizenship. It did, however, demonstrate that being an energy citizen primarily depends on one's capacity to engage in participatory practices allocated to this 'status', making it inherently exclusionary. Unlike membership and basic rights, which unconditionally confer the title of citizen to an individual regardless of their participatory activity and capability, energy citizenship, in its current definition, lacks such unconditional status markers. Therefore, it not only acknowledges the limitations imposed by (neo)liberal conceptions of the concept's development but also advocates to foster its dynamism beyond the conventional dimensions that define 'classical' citizenship.

Psychological dimensions of citizenship present alternative ideas about what it means to be a citizen that are unconditional of participation. These perspectives emphasise the importance of one's need for identity and belonging to a larger community as a precondition for defining citizenship. They suggest the emergence of virtues through shared ideas on rights and responsibilities rather than being formally managed from the top-down. A crucial aspect of the psychological perspective is that people's beliefs about their rights and capability to act collectively are key to collective action. Especially in efforts to empower energy citizens and foster collective action, such as in energy communities, the emphasis on self-efficacy offers a valuable direction for the development of energy citizenship and its manifestations, deepening the evolution of democratic energy systems. Expanding the conceptualisation of energy citizenship beyond mere participation to include self-efficacy, beliefs, and virtues as elements constitutive of citizenship can introduce alternative dimensions that are more inclusive and invite larger segments of populations to resonate with the concept. Forging these alternative descriptive and normative pathways of citizenship and citizen participation encourages the exploration of new ways of thinking about the energy citizen. It fosters the innovative nature of the concept through adaptation to contemporary struggles for recognition and inclusivity and does justice to acknowledging its ongoing evolution, encompassing its changes over time.

11.2.2. Methodological research contributions

This research made a methodological research contribution to the literature by employing CDA and connecting normative democratic theory to the allocation of agency and responsibility to citizens in energy transitions. This research employed agency and responsibility as the bridging factors between the micro level analysis of text and the macro level analysis of the sociocultural context of the text. The approach began by illustrating how various democratic conceptions underpin diverse allocations of agency and responsibilities to citizens and examined their relation to the state. As such this research contributed to the research domain of CDA, particularly in the application of Fairclough's three-dimensional framework using transitivity to measure agency and responsibility and drawing conclusions on what democratic conceptions are reflected in the discourse under analysis.

11.3. Societal relevance, policy implications and challenging the status quo

The adoption of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was primarily motivated by its capacity to elucidate implicit norms within the discourse under examination, aligning with the broader objective of this research to challenge the uncritical adoption of prevailing preconceptions of citizenship, while also reflecting on the broader societal inequalities this causes. CDA adopts the stance that social power and inequality are *"enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in social and political contexts"* (van Dijk, 2015, p. 352)*.* This emphasises the importance of analysing text and speech in these contexts. Neglecting the impact of discourse would mean overlooking the socially constitutive nature of discourse; it not only represents social entities and relations but actively constructs them. In constructing social reality and subjects, discourse also reflects power dynamics and brings forward social conventions that are taken as accepted truths which, if left unquestioned, keep the status quo in place.

Utilising the transitivity analysis provided insights into how the EU delineates the agentic space and responsibilities of citizens in the energy transition that was instrumental to answering the main research question. These observations drawn from the transitivity analysis proved valuable for the reflection on innovating the concept of energy citizenship from a policy perspective. However, the fundamental ontological underpinnings of CDA necessitate a reflection on the broader power dynamics and social structures that, based on the relational dialectical approach, are assumed in analysing discourse. As such, this section will not only consider on the policy implications that emerge at first hand from the observations concerning the agentic space and responsibilities of citizens as derived from analysing the corpus, but also consider the macro level implications and reflections from the interpretation of (micro level) results of the transitivity analysis on the ontological premises adopted when applying CDA.

11.3.1. Giving back to the EU how they invite citizens to participate in the energy transition

Analysing the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package, this research specifically examined how the EU invites citizens to participate in the energy transition through the formulation of their agentic space and responsibilities. The key take-away for European policymakers is that it is imperative to shift the (energy) citizen out of its passive role in the grammatical structure of sentences that articulate the citizen's agentic space. The prevalent use of receptive material clauses relating to the citizen contradicts the EU's desire to put citizens in an active position to participate. The notable contrast in the use of operative and receptive clauses between the EU and energy citizens in the corpus, shows there is room for improvement for more conscious language use in representing and constructing the citizen's role in contributing to the EU's aspiration for a more inclusive and citizen-centred energy transition. Empowering citizens involves not only facilitating a set of participatory opportunities but also addressing them as active agents capable of instigating change, underscoring the need for addressing citizens through more active and operative grammatical structures. Recognising the EU's goal of placing citizens at the heart of the energy transition and enabling active participation, the language they use should align with this objective.

The EU contradicts their desire to put the citizen in a central and active position in another way reflected in the corpus. On the one hand the text, and with that the EU, explicitly mentions the desire to put citizens at the heart of energy transitions, enabling active participation and opening the agency of citizen for more diversity and inclusivity. Simultaneously, but on the other hand, they take this agency away for a large part of society by formulating the agentic space in a very narrow way. The EU expresses the general desire to include more citizens in the energy transition, recurringly alluding to a more just and inclusive transition, but in concretising how they invite citizens to participate, they formulate an agentic space that is out of reach for many citizens. This results in a sort of performative juxtaposition in inviting a diversity of citizens to act as energy citizens by the EU. To empower citizens and encourage them in taking an active role, the EU should not only improve on constructing them as active subjects in the language they use, but they also have to back up the words they use. They must take more convincing action in aligning the agentic space

they concretely formulate on the account of citizens with the broader desires they express about their (equal) position in the energy transition.

Recognising that the narratives within policy documents contribute to the overarching notion of energy citizenship, both considerations regarding how the EU invites citizens to participate hold significance for the envisioned innovation of the concept. In a sense, it could be argued that the EU itself acknowledges the contested nature of the prevailing conceptualisation of energy citizenship by expressing the desire to foster a more equitable and inclusive energy transition. This contested nature serves as a prerequisite for conceptual innovation (Gallie, 1956) and as such the EU holds an important position to concretely innovate energy citizenship towards this aspired conceptual innovation. Merely placing a point on the horizon proves insufficient in this context; especially when, within the same narrative, the EU doesn't bear equal responsibility for authentically empowering citizens and broadening their agency to encompass greater objectives of diversity and inclusivity.

11.3.2. Forging alternative policy pathways

Understanding the democratic conceptions that underlie energy citizenship offered a deeper understanding of how the solution space for policymaking is constrained. Rather than simply critiquing established political and democratic institutions, deeming them inadequate, and subsequently dismissing democracy entirely, this research advocates for seizing these shortcomings as opportunities to transcend past approaches. Based on the foundational notion that modes of public participation are inherently influenced by political culture and ideology (Dryzek & Tucker, 2008), the democratic conceptions unearthed from the dominant energy citizenship discourse delineate its boundaries and thereby define the starting point for innovating the concept beyond its current bias.

This research revealed that the dominant construction of energy citizenship is underpinned by both liberal and neoliberal conceptions. These normative perspectives dictate ideas regarding the appropriate modes of citizen participation, translated into the allocation of agency and responsibilities to energy citizens in the EU. Both scholars and policymakers contend that the current modes of energy citizenship fail to achieve desired outcomes in terms of decarbonisation objectives, fostering citizen empowerment and ensuring an inclusive and just energy transition. This research argues that these entrenched liberal and neoliberal conceptions keep these inadequate operationalisations in place and, with that, presents an empirical contestation of the dominant discourse on energy citizenship by the EU. This contestation presents an opportunity to reassess the past approach to energy citizenship and transform it. As such, the insights of this research are used to reflect on policy options beyond the solutions space that is currently settled in energy citizenship in the EU.

Important to underscore is that this section refrains from offering explicit recommendations about what policies should be implemented by the EU in the energy transition or advocating for the rejection of existing means provided for citizens to participate. It did not delve into identifying the most effective policies for the energy transition or the empowerment of energy citizens, nor does it adopt a specific political stance on the desirability of certain policy types in the future. However, it does acknowledge that reducing citizens to mere consumers and the limiting effect of (neo)liberal conceptions on the concept are problematic and exclude significant segments of society to participate in energy transitions. Based on this, this section reflects on how the EU can open the solution space of its policies regarding energy citizenship to transcend the narrow bias it is now characterised by.

To move away from (neo)liberal tropes that currently fixate energy citizenship on the market-driven paradigm and consumerism, the EU must acknowledge the role (neo)liberal conceptions prescribe for the state (themselves) and citizens and, from there, assess future policy options. In doing so, the EU should consider the new knowledge that is emerging around critiques on neoliberal appropriation of the energy citizenship concept in literature. The prevalent criticism in the literature regarding the bias in energy

citizenship is bringing forward new ideas and modes of (energy) citizen participation, collaborative decision-making, and joint problem framing in the energy transition. For instance, the new typology of energy citizenship (2023b), grounded in on-the-ground case studies of existing decarbonisation activities, introduces new operationalisations of energy citizenship across various scales of policy and decision-making. It diverges from the prevalent consumer paradigm in the dominant energy citizenship discourse, thereby presenting modes of participation that are less exclusionary than the mainstream operationalisations of energy citizenship and consciously moving away from (neo)liberal fixations of the concept. The EU should use these new conceptualisations of energy citizenship to transcend the current, deficient operationalisations of energy citizenship and to redefine the agentic space of citizens in energy transitions in line with their own commitment of ensuring an inclusive and just energy transition. Given the dialectical relation between discourse and social structure, this will, subsequently, contribute to the emancipatory innovation of the concept and impact its evolution to a more expansive definition of the roles that citizens are allowed to play in energy transitions.

11.3.3. Shifting responsibilities towards citizens

This section will conclude with a reflection that bases itself on the Foucauldian notion of discourse that is central to adopting CDA as a research methodology. Foucault argued that discourse is a mechanism of power, shaping the systems of knowledge and practices that construct truths about objects, subjects, and their corresponding social realities (Fairclough, 2006). Discourse renders some objects and subjects knowable and governable, while others are not. Moreover, dominant discourse establishes this knowability and governability of subjects and objects as unquestioned, common sense. Consequently, dominant discourses construct what is possible, necessary, and inevitable in social reality, masqueraded as accepted wisdom. The role of discourse analysts is to discern the (subtle) ways in which language reflects on these underlying ideologies, thereby fostering resistance to the writer's attempts to impose unchallenged truths and notions of common-sense on social reality. Of paramount importance in introducing the last reflection on the corpus under analysis, is the recognition that what dominant discourses brings forward as 'given' are the social phenomena that serve power best and that keep the status quo in place. Grounded in this strong position that provides the fundamental rationale for assessing discourse in a critical way, this section concludes by reflecting on how the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package (i.e. the EU) brings forward the role of the EU (itself) in the energy transition.

What readers of the corpus inescapably experience is that the EU portrays itself as an indisputably legitimate actor. The EU depicts itself as fully aligned and dedicated to its aspirations and taking effective actions in the energy transition, perceiving itself as an active and agentic role. Through the application of transitivity analysis, a striking contrast between use of operative and receptive material clauses relating to the EU and energy citizens was identified in the corpus. This contrast sheds light on the preferred process types the EU uses when referring to itself and energy citizens and how these shapes systems of knowledge and belief around these subjects in the text.

The transitivity analysis revealed that the EU actively, almost diligently, emphasises its own past achievements, current well-doing and involvement, and future, ambitious intentions in the energy transition. This stands in stark contrast with the portrayal of energy citizens in the document. Through the (almost exclusive) use of receptive material process clauses when referring to energy citizens, they are depicted as passive actors requiring a facilitated agentic space to make informed decisions and behaving in the right, desired way. Their portrayal largely revolves around what citizens 'still need to do' and the information and opportunities the EU needs to hand them to act accordingly. While the role of the discourse analyst is to reveal the delicate ways in which the text under examination brings forward dominant discourses, these portrayals are far from subtle and are readily imposed on the reader of the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package.

The prevalent portrayal of the EU as already acting in an exemplary manner, collocated with energy citizens being primarily portrayed as the actor that needs to change its actions for driving the energy transition, echoes a significant concern highlighted in energy citizenship literature regarding the unequal distribution of responsibilities between citizens and other powerful stakeholders, including governments. Through the selection and content of process types concerning the EU and citizens, the EU reflects the same division of responsibility in this discourse. Furthermore, drawing from theory on Systemic Functional Grammar, the language utilised by the EU must be interpret as their 'personal' perception of citizens within the context of energy transitions. Citizens are depicted as the ones required to initiate the desired actions, necessitating a change in their behaviour, which is encouraged and facilitated. Meanwhile, the EU does not indicate any inclination toward altering its established pathways, policies, or actions. This distinctly mirrors the problematic nature of dominant discourses to dictate who is considered knowable and governable and, with that, shape the commonly accepted social reality that perpetuates the status quo. In the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package, the EU actively contributes to constructing truths about the subjects involved in the energy transition in such a way that its own role remains uncontested and unchallenged. Let this research be a critical assessment of that and, through the contestation of the dominant discourse on energy citizenship, highlight there are other ways of conceiving and formulating what is possible and what is necessary in (re)framing and emancipating citizen participation in the energy transition, and the responsibility and accountability of the EU in doing so.

11.4. Limitations and future research recommendations

The results and methodology of this research are subject to limitations. These are reflected upon in this section together with the recommendations for future research on energy citizenship.

11.4.1. Using CDA as a CoSEM student (limitations)

Being the first to apply Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) at my faculty at the TU Delft is not just something that poses limitations to this research, it was also a conscious decision I made that I want to reflect on in this section. First, the absence of discourse analysis as part of the curriculum at my faculty implies that I did not have any expertise or experience with this methodology going into this research project. In fact, I only first read about CDA when formulating my research proposal six months ago. This limits this research in the sense that the accurate implementation and interpretation of the CDA are less assured compared to using a method firmly established within the academic setting of Complex Systems, Engineering and Management (CoSEM). Opting for a more conventional method would have provided me with better access to resources and expertise.

Regarding my decision to apply CDA, two things are important to mention. First, believing in the inherent value of applying this methodology within the context of CoSEM, I invested significant effort in acquainting myself with CDA. Collaborating with an expert in CDA further facilitated the correct application and interpretation of the methodology and gave me reassurance that I executed the CDA in an accurate way. Secondly, had I encountered significant difficulties midway through the project, impeding my ability to apply the method accurately, I would have considered alternative approaches. Nevertheless, I acknowledge that my relative lack of experience does impose constraints on the outcomes of this research. For future studies aiming to build upon my findings and advance the exploration of democratic conceptions in energy citizenship (using CDA), it is advisable to collaborate more extensively with experienced practitioners of (critical) discourse analysis.

The choice to apply CDA comes with another important implication. It is a method that relies on very little empirical evidence to draw comprehensive conclusions on a broad context. It is a method that, unlike for example survey research, says a lot about a little, rather than a little about a lot. However, it does so for

well-argued reasons. Without prior explanation and contextualisation, the results of a qualitative CDA remain unsignificant statistic results that lack explanatory value. Where traditional analytical methodologies ought to examine several interpretations of one phenomenon, CDA involves prior judgements making this impossible. These judgements, however, often come from a desire to challenge the status quo towards more emancipation, equality, and justice. CDA offers a theoretical interpretation of how the status quo comes into being in discourse, recognising concealed systems of power, beliefs and values underlying our understanding of what is possible and desirable in the 'real world'.

This defining characteristic leads to two specific implications for this research and its future research recommendations. Firstly, it strongly emphasises that this research does not claim objectivity of its outputs, nor did it aim to provide objective research outputs. It does provide explanatory results that validate the criticism of the current state of energy citizenship, provide understanding for its narrow scope, and its misalignment with the EU's objectives for a just and equitable energy transition. Secondly, for future research, it is recommended to use the findings of this study and integrate them into quantitative research methodologies capable of establishing statistically significant results regarding the prevalence of liberal and neoliberal conceptions in energy citizenship discourse. Utilising qualitative evidence for the identification of these conceptions, combining them with other expected inferences, can serve as hypotheses to be tested to establish a more objective outcome on the democratic conceptions present in energy citizenship discourse.

11.4.2. Reflecting on using CDA as a CoSEM student

Throughout my studies, I have always been naturally drawn to understanding the assumptions shaping our perception of the socio-technical environments under examination. CDA provides new perspectives that challenge the status quo and include perspectives from marginalised groups in society. It facilitates what, to me, is the epitome of democracy: the constant openness to transforming the way we govern things based on changes in context and the challenges we face. To comprehend shifts in context and their implications for formulating democratic institutions, continual critical assessment of established norms and recognising groups advocating the recognition of their perspectives is essential. This is what is truly necessary to include those at the margins of society and to stay connected to the very essence of democracy: the rule of the people. Having been educated as a CoSEM student and now having gained insights and new perspectives from applying CDA, I would like to briefly elaborate on some personal reflections on the relation between this methodology and the ways in which CoSEM students are taught to critically assess socio-technical environments and design the suitable interventions within these contexts.

As CoSEM students, we learn to design interventions in complex socio-technical environments by analysing various aspects that constitute the multi-faceted nature of these contexts. The dialectical relational approach acknowledges that discourse constructs the social entities, their relations and the accepted truths about the objects and subjects within these socio-technical contexts. Discourses inevitably reflect how the writer or speaker of the language in use perceives reality through the linguistic choices the actor makes. These linguistic choices reflect the actors' positions, power, and social status that, in their turn, influence the actor's perception of reality.

Contemplating this research in relation to many of the design projects from the past years at CoSEM made me realise that in making sense of the socio-technical contexts for designing interventions, students constantly rely on discursive language in use. Whether we make sense of an institutional context, a stakeholder arena, or the scope of a technical system, as a CoSEM student you are always dependent of text and speech coming from other actors to design in socio-technical contexts. As such we constantly use (implicitly) biased perspectives on these contexts constructed through the linguistic choices made by the writers or speakers of the language in use. Such biased perspectives embedded in discourse narrow down our perception of what is feasible and desirable in developing interventions. Critically scrutinising the language we consult to understand these contexts is crucial to avoid being misled by what is presented as

accepted, definitive truth. Through notions of Critical Theory, Hegemony theory and Foucault's theory on discursive formation of objects, CDA provided me with an understanding of how discourse, if left unchallenged, can narrow down what we as CoSEM students perceive to be socio-technical reality and what is possible and necessary in designing interventions.

For instance, the way in which discourse is acknowledged to render some actors knowledgeable and governable while others are not, actively constructs our understanding of multi-actor networks that are embedded in socio-technical contexts. This research explicitly showed how discourse can be skewed in allocating agency and responsibilities to actors in a text and how this influences the recipient's ideas of what is possible and desirable in effectuating change and the diverging roles of stakeholders in achieving this. In courses on institutional economics, our design of institutions is grounded in institutional analysis. Students must consider the existing institutional landscape, including the rights, responsibilities and agency allocated to different actors and the institutions that shape issuing these. Based on the current (institutional) state of affairs and the desired institutionalised action situation, an institutional design is formulated. As this research has shown, the elements that construct the institutional context of this new design are highly subjectable to ideological appropriation and should not, uncritically, be accepted as truth. On top of that, it is noteworthy to mention that in the SEN1131 course, institutions are defined as "systems of established and embedded social rules that structure social interactions". Using terms like 'established' and 'embedded' already suggests the hegemonic and 'accepted' nature of the institutions that students must adapt their design to. CDA can aid CoSEM students in adopting a more critical perspective towards the institutional context they are confronted with and, especially, how underlying beliefs and ideology shaped the acceptance and establishment of these institutions in the first place.

Conducting an institutional analysis is a valuable approach to systematically investigate and understand the observable and explicit institutions that need to be considered in the design of a new intervention. The institutional analysis is used to comprehend and map what is 'out there'. In contrast, CDA is capable of unearthing what is 'not there', guided by a predefined, critical standpoint on what ideological perspectives shape the context under examination. This adds value since exploring what is absent essentially prompts analysts to transcend the socio-technical reality constructed through dominant discourses, which reveals the solution space for designing interventions in socio-technical systems beyond what is presented as 'common-sense'.

I do not argue that every text ever used by CoSEM students should first be thoroughly assessed using CDA. I do contend that this approach and its theoretical underpinnings on power, hegemony and equality add value in designing interventions beyond what is desired by the status quo. The linguistic information we use to make sense of what is desirable and necessary in intervening in socio-technical systems should, at a minimum, not be taken for granted. Through understanding the position and goal of the writer or speaker of a text, CDA helps analysts unearth marginalised perspectives from critically assessing discourses and assuming their ideological appropriation through power and dominance. Only like so can we truly remain open to an independent and unbiased solution space for designing interventions.

11.4.3. Linguistic feature selection and corpus construction

Executing CDA involves two pivotal decisions that both have strong implications for the (reliability of) the results of this methodology. These concern the choice of linguistic features instrumental in addressing the research question and the construction of the corpus for analysis. In this research, transitivity was employed as the chosen linguistic feature indicative of the agency and responsibility assigned to energy citizens in the corpus. However, Fairclough's framework suggests other linguistic features, such as nominalisation and passivation, which, based on their grammatical theory and functioning, can also provide insights into agency and responsibility (Fairclough, 2006). Although the initial intent was to include these additional linguistic features, time constraints made this turn out to be too ambitious. Given my lack of prior experience with CDA, achieving a thorough understanding of how linguistic features function and the

theoretical implications that underlie their interpretation and utility for the given research objective was very time-consuming. To enhance the validity of conclusions regarding the agency and responsibility of energy citizens from policy documents, future research could incorporate different linguistic features, offering a more comprehensive understanding of citizen's agentic space and, with that, the democratic conceptions underlying modes of citizen participation.

A second limitation arises from the size of the corpus under examination and the decision to manually analyse it. CDA studies have face criticism for examining small or short texts, limiting the ability to detect patterns of dominant narratives and provide statistically significant results (Titscher et al., 2000). While considerations of corpus representativeness and discourse typicality were taken into account, qualitative CDA's limitations in discerning language patterns make it challenging to assert whether the results truly represent the broader dominant energy citizenship discourse as presented by the EU. Only analysing one text restricts the ability to validate the democratic conceptions indicated in this corpus, leaving uncertainties about potential variations in responses to the research question if analysing different texts. Future research can use the findings of this study and use it in automated discourse analysis using computers. Quantitative, computerised discourse analysis can analyse large corpora including more than one text, allowing researchers to identify patterns in a discourse more effectively (Baker et al., 2008) and draw more reliable conclusions on the context of the discourse under analysis.

Lastly, for the *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package it remains rather unclear who the intended audience of this text is. Consequently, drawing definitive conclusions regarding the document's direct impact on the empowerment, facilitation, and support of energy citizens proves challenging. Analysing formal directives from the EU such as the new *Renewables or Electricity Directive* that the corpus references, would offer more tangible insights into the specific allocations of agency and responsibilities the EU makes to energy citizens. The *Clean Energy for all Europeans* package does not explicitly formulate policy implications of the EU but rather conveys its general strategy for (citizen participation in) the energy transition. Future research endeavours could concretise conclusions on how the EU invites citizens to participants in the energy transition by looking at 'lower level' policy documents that formulate the direct expected roles and activities of (energy) citizens more specifically.

11.4.4. Subjects of analysis

Decades of specialisations in the field of discourse analysis unearthed numerous relevant units, dimensions, and linguistic features for analysing content and structure of discourse. However, in executing CDA researchers need to select the units relevant for their research and feasible within the time constraints of their project. Executing the CDA this researched maintained a strict focus on the chosen linguistic feature of transitivity and the selected subjects of analysis – the Citizen, the State, and the System. However, during the process, an important limitation emerged from a characteristic of the text that felt out of the initial scope of the analysis. Notably, Member States, national governments, and local authorities were frequently mentioned subjects in the corpus, mentioned in 27 instances in total. These subjects appeared to be relevant in the assignment of responsibility and agency to energy citizens and, as such, were construed to be integral to the role constellations related to the role of energy citizen. This led to a broader reflection on the selection of subjects and particularly the EU as the representative of the State in this research.

One could argue that the EU's regulatory role has a stronger connection to its member states than to individuals directly. Moreover, it is the member states that poses a more direct relation with (energy) citizens, and their role in inviting citizens to participate may have a more profound impact on shaping their agentic space than that of the EU. The dynamic between Member States and their citizens manifests differently than that between the EU and EU citizens. This justifies the recommendation for exploring the meaning of energy citizenship on a national level and understanding how national (or local) governments invite citizen participation in the energy transition in further research. This would contribute to an enhanced understanding of energy citizenship across different governance scales.

11.4.5. Separating energy consumers from energy citizenship

In their legal analysis of two EU directives related to energy communities, Hamann et al., (2023) made a distinction between energy consumers and energy citizens when uncovering democratic conceptions within these legal documents. Their analysis revealed a neoliberal orientation focusing on the energy consumer and a collectivist orientation concentrating on energy citizens (Hamann et al., 2023). This prompted a reflection on this research, where instances of the term 'consumer(s)' in the corpus were construed as 1) a reference to citizens and 2) an indication that conceptions of neoliberalism underlie the portrayal of energy citizens. If these two concepts would have been analysed separately this could have yielded different results for concluding on the dominant energy citizenship discourse. However, due to the small corpus and the inability of the qualitative CDA to generate statistically significant results this would, in this research, not yield statistically significant results on the differences between the two. The differentiation between consumers and citizens made by Hamann and her colleagues, along with the association of separate democratic conceptions with these distinct concepts, did present food for thought in advancing prior research on energy citizenship and particularly research that criticises the concept for being equalised to citizens-as-consumers. Future research could use quantitative discourse analysis to disentangle statistic significant differences in democratic conceptions underlying energy consumerism and energy citizenship.

Exploring the potential separation between the roles of energy consumers and energy citizens has emerged as a valuable avenue for future research. Deliberately distinguishing between these roles in the context of energy transitions provides an opportunity to disentangle the consumer paradigm from the energy citizenship concept, thereby totally redefining the conceptual scope of energy citizenship. Research focused on untangling energy consumerism from energy citizenship has the potential to introduce a novel and more inclusive perspective on energy citizenship, while still acknowledging the importance of economically driven consumer roles in energy transitions. Consumption plays a pivotal role in citizens' agency, particularly in market-based economies where consumer behaviour holds important power to influence the demand side of the system. Consequently, governments should not completely overlook consumer roles in energy transitions. However, this research does underscore that equating energy citizens with consumers strongly limits their agency and offers minimal self-efficacy in fostering their active participation. Especially this notion of self-efficacy is what is so important in enhancing the inclusivity of the concept and the empowerment of citizens in energy transitions. Separating consumer interests from citizen interests in the energy transition can help open the agentic space of energy citizenship towards novel and a broader range of actions and responsibilities that constitute the concept. On top of that, it must be recognised that maximising the agentic space of consumers within a market-based system is the fundamental notion of neoliberal theory. Advocating self-efficacy within the boundaries of economic behaviour is, therefore, what constitutes the current approach to the energy transition. To truly challenge the status quo and reinforce the structural changes needed to accelerate the clean and just energy transition, alternative operations of self-efficacy and empowerment must be sought outside the consumer paradigm.

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Appendix A - Research flow diagram

Figure A1: Research Flow Diagram

Step 0: Kick-off meeting
02-10-2023

Step 1: Setting out the theoretical context of (energy) citizenship and connecting it to democracy theory - [SQ1]

SQ1. "What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward in literature till date, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the way in which agency and responsibility are allocated to them?"

Step 2: Setting up the analysis using Fairclough's framework for CDA [SQ2]

SQ2. "Based on Fairclough's framework for CDA, what linguistic feature is indicative of the allocation of agency and responsibilities allocated to citizens, thereby reflecting their roles in energy transitions in text?"

Step 3: Selecting a 'corpus' for examination [SQ3]

SQ3. "What corpus of text is representative of the dominant discourse in energy citizenship as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles (energy) citizens are allowed to play in energy transitions?"

Step 4: Executing the analysis and interpreting the results [Main Research Question]

RQ. "What democratic conceptions are present in the dominant energy citizenship discourse as brought forward by the EU, shaping the roles energy citizens are allowed to play through the way in which agency and responsibility are allocated to them?"

conceptualization: selection of theoretical concepts and relations, assumptions

procedures and instruments

theory

operationalization

discourse/text

interpretation

examination of assumptions

selection of information

Appendix B - Reporting results

B1. Marking the subjects under examination, i.e. the participants of text clauses

The first step of the transitivity analysis consisted of marking the subjects under examination, i.e. the participants of text clauses in the text. Any references to the Citizen were marked green, to the State were marked blue and the System were marked red. Below the text box contains the marked text from the first chapter of the corpus.

Chapter 0: Foreword

The gradual transition away from fossil fuels towards a carbon-neutral economy is one of the greatest challenges of our time. How will the EU tackle it? Through the clean and fair energy transition that creates growth and jobs in a modern economy and increases our quality of life as citizens, while at the same time putting us in the lead in the fight against climate change following the Paris Agreement.

To do so, the EU has taken a wide range of initiatives. In broad terms, the establishment of the EU Energy Union provides a framework for a consistent approach in all policy areas – and central to the Energy Union is the Clean energy for all Europeans package. The purpose of these measures is to ensure a clean and fair energy transition at all levels of the economy – from energy generation all the way to people's homes, such as increasing renewable electricity and encouraging the use of smart meters. These measures aim to improve energy interconnections between Member States and to make the different actors in the energy field more competitive and innovative. This means finding the right blend between regulatory tools and market forces, encouraging private investment on clean energy where it makes economic sense and using EU funding to stimulate investment where market forces alone are not sufficient.

The Clean energy for all Europeans package aims to set the right balance between making decisions at EU, national, and local level – because all levels of government are involved. In doing so, we unearth synergies and efficiency gains that could not be found if each EU country acted alone. And yet each country retains its independence to choose its own energy mix and the path it will take to reach its energy and climate targets – but within an EU context and following a common approach. This is European added value.

The new measures are not just for businesses - they provide far greater opportunities for citizens. Indeed, through improved market efficiency and reinforced consumer rights, citizens will have real influence over their energy footprint – whether through smart meters, taking control of household bills, or actually investing to produce their own renewable energy, which is then fed into the grid.

This document presents the numerous benefits the new EU rules will provide, from different angles environmental, economic, security of supply, consumer, international, and from a longer time scale. The key message is that these changes are good for the planet, good for growth and jobs, and good for consumers. It is no coincidence that we called it the 'Clean energy for all Europeans' package.

B2. Participant frequencies and synonyms

Doing this for all chapters allowed for a fully highlighted corpus and reporting all the references in the text to the Participants in Excel, led to a record of all Participant frequencies and synonyms in the text. For each (initial) subject under examination the table was exported from Excel and shown below.

Table B2.1: Subject frequencies and synonyms - The Citizen

Chapter	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The Citizen	**6**	**2**	**9**	**3**	**8**	**43**	**1**	**7**	**79**
Citizens/citizen	3		4			5	1	2	15
People's homes	1								1
Consumers/consumer	2	1	1			10			14
Individuals		1							1
People			1		2				3
Some sections of society			1						1
Europeans			1		2			1	4
The most vulnerable in our society			1						1
EU citizens/European citizens				2	2	1			5
Consumers' pockets				1					1
European civil society					1				1
Civil society					1				1
Them (consumers)						6			6
Vulnerable citizens						1			1
Households						5			5
They (consumers)						2			2
Them (citizens)						2			2
Their energy consumption (consumers)						1			1
Their data (consumers)						1			1
Their energy use (consumers)						1			1
Their own decisions (citizens)						1			1
Their investment (households)						1			1
Their energy (citizens)`						1			1
Energy communities						1			1
(EU) Households						1			1
They (citizens)						1			1
The European energy consumer						1			1
Vulnerable consumers						1			1
European citizen								1	1
Those more impacted by the transition								1	1
Everyone								1	1
European population								1	1

Table B2.2: Subject frequencies and synonyms - the State

Chapter	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The State	3	12	9	11	6	3	21	7	72
the EU	2	9	6	7	5	2	10	3	44
we (EC)	1	1		1					3
the (European) Commission		2	2			1	1	1	7
Europe			1						1
Our energy independence				1					1
Our objectives (EC)				1					1
Europe				1	1		6		8
the EU's external energy policy							1		1
the EU's external energy dependency							1		1
the EU's vision							1		1
the EU's commitment							1		1
the EU's targets								1	1
the EU's long-term contribution to the aims of the Paris climate agreement								1	1
the EU's long-term strategy								1	1

Table B2.3: Subject frequencies and synonyms - the System

Chapter	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The System	1	3	0	3	9	3	0	1	20
The (electricity) grid	1	1			2				4
the energy system		2			3			1	6
A decarbonised system									0
The electricity and gas grids				1					1
Well integrated networks				1					1
Infrastructure				1	3				4
Europe's electricity grid					1				1
A renewed EU energy system						1			1
Smart grids						1			1
A more decentralised energy system						1			1

B3. Text clauses for each subjects' instance

Note that the number of text clauses reported in the text clause tables might not correspond with the total frequency of a subject in the participant frequency table. This is because sometimes one instance of a subject was mentioned in a long text clause made up of different parts separated by a comma and therefore one instance was related to more than one process type. For comprehensibility and correct categorisation using the transitivity system these text clauses were split up and reported separately in the text clause tables. This was particularly often the case for instances of the State. All tables below were formatted for readability and then exported from Excel.

Table B3.1: Text clauses and categorisations for each instance of the Citizen

the Citizen			
Chapter 0	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
1	Citizens	*"The clean and fair energy transitions increases our quality of life as cit*	*Material: receptive*
2	Citizens	*"The new measures are not just for businesses - they provide far great*	*Material: receptive*
3	Citizens	*"Citizens will have real influence over their energy footprint - through sr*	*Material: receptive*
4	Consumers	*"The key message is that these changes are good for the planet, good*	*-*
5	Consumer	*"This document presents the numerous benefits the new EU rules will f*	*-*
6	People's homes	*"The purpose of these measures is to ensure a clean and fair energy tr*	*-*

Chapter 1	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
7	Individuals	*"The new rules will make it easier for individuals to produce their own e*	*Material: receptive*
8	Consumers	*"More rights for consumers"*	*-*

Chapter 2	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
9	Citizens	*"At the same time, cleaner and smarter energy will ... allow citizens to t*	*Material receptive*
10	Citizens	*"a fair and just transition can ensure that these benefits are shared by a*	*-*
11	Citizen	*"The clean energy transiton must benfit everyone - no citizen, no regio*	*Material receptive*
12	Citizens	*"the EU has launched a series of initiatives to ensure that all citizens, r*	*Material: receptive*
13	Consumer(s)	*"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the c*	*Material: receptive*
14	The most vulner	*"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the c*	*Material: receptive*
15	Europeans	*"With estimates suggesting that more than 50 million Europeans are af*	*Material receptive*
16	Some sections c	*"the EU is well aware that it will be particularly difficult for some regions*	*Material receptive*
17	People	*"Renewable energies already employ 1.4 million people in Europe."*	*Material receptive*

Chapter 3	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
18	EU Citizens	*"The new emphasis given to security of energy supply will make blackc*	*Material: receptive*
19	EU Citizens	*"With the principle of solidarity enshrined in EU legislation for gas secu*	*Relational*
20	Consumer's poc	*"the arrival of European energy where it is most needed" is good for the*	*-*

Chapter 4	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
21	European Citize	*"the new governance system, puts European citizens at the centre of th*	*Material: receptive*
22	EU Citizens	*"future energy and climate policies will therefore be developed closer to*	*-*
23	People	*"we can reach our collective ambitions in the most efficient way, bring p*	*Material receptive*
24	Civil Society	*"A strengthened political collaboration between regulators, government*	*-*

	25	EU Civil Society	*"a number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation o*	*Material: receptive*
	26	Europeans	*and provide real added value for Europeans"*	*Material: receptive*
	27	Europeans	*"it encourages a new political dialogue between Europeans and enhan*	*Material: receptive*
	28	People	*"Bringing people and countries closer"*	*Material: receptive*

Chapter 5		Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
	29	Them	*"The new rules can help harness all aspects of human potential to driv*	*Material: receptive*
	30	Citizen(s)	*"Empowering citizens (and giving citizens ownership of the energy tran*	-
	31	Citizen(s)	*"Giving citizens ownership of the energy transition are not slogans."*	-
	32	Citizen(s)	*"More opportunities for citizens to make their own decisions on which t*	*Material*
	33	They: citizen(s)	*"More opportunities for citizens to make their own decisions on which t*	*Mental*
	34	Citizen(s)	*"Citizens can benefit from incentives for renewable energy production"*	-
	35	Citizen(s)	*"More democracy means more opportunities for citizens to take their ov*	-
	36	Their	*"Citizens can join in "energy communities", pooling their energy"*	-
	37	Citizen(s)	*"Citizens can join in "energy communities"*	-
	38	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers need to be at the centre of a renewed EU energy system"*	-
	39	Consumer(s)	*"Improved rules will give consumers more flexibility and better protect c*	*Material: receptive*
	40	Their: Consume	*"Improved rules will also allow consumers to make their own decisions*	*Material: receptive*
	41	Consumer(s)	*"More control and more access for consumers will translate into better*	-
	42	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers have been put at the hearth of the Energy Union."*	*Material: receptive*
	43	Consumer(s)	*"Allowing consumers to actively take part in the energy transition."*	*Material: receptive*
	44	Consumer(s)	*"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more c*	*Material: receptive*
	45	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will be put in a stronger position in the supply chain"*	*Material: receptive*
	46	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will be better informed"*	*Material: receptive*
	47	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will have clearer, more transparent energy bills"*	*Material: receptive*
	48	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will have more understandable contracts."*	*Material: receptive*
	49	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will have the right to request a smart meter."*	*Material: receptive*
	50	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will have the right to be informed about their energy consu*	*Material: receptive*
	51	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers have the right of full control over their data."*	*Relational*
	52	Consumer(s)	*"Dynamic pricing offers the best value to consumers."*	*Material: receptive*
	53	Consumer(s)	*"Certified price comparison tools will help consumers in their choice of*	*Material: receptive*
	54	Consumer(s)	*"The consumer will be in a stronger position in the chain"*	*Material: receptive*
	55	Consumer(s)	*"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more c*	*Material: receptive*
	56	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers know that the widely recognised EU energy label is an imp*	*Mental*
	57	Consumer(s)	*"Consumers will also find it easier to invest in renewable energy"*	*Mental*
Chapter 6		Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
	72	Citizen(s)	*"European energy and climate policies are accelerating public and priv*	*Material: receptive*

Chapter 7		Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
	73	Citizen(s)	*"The EU will achieve this by investing in realistic technological solutions*	*Material: receptive*
	74	Citizen(s)	*"Economic, social and air quality: meeting the concerns of citizens: wha*	-
	75	Europeans	*"Reducing emissions and transforming the energy system does not imp*	-
	76	European citizer	*"In this process, no European citizen and no region should be left behir*	*Material: receptive*
	77	Those more imp	*"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition"*	*Material: receptive*
	78	Everyone	*"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition so that eve*	*Material: receptive*
	79	European popul	*"By going climate neutral, we can reduce this by more than 40% and se*	-

Table B3.2: Text clauses and categorisations for each instance of the State

The State			
Chapter 0	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
1	The EU	*"How will the EU tackle it? Through the clean and fair energy transition*	*Material: operative*
2	The EU	*"The EU has taken a wide range of initiatives"*	*Material: intransitive*
3	We	*"It is no coincidence that we called it "The Clean energy for all Europea*	*Material: intransitive*

Chapter 1	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
4	The EU	*"is leading the clean energy transition"*	*Material: intransitive*
5	The EU	*"is striving for a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy syste*	*Material: intransitive*
6	The EU	*"is setting ambitious energy and climate targets for 2030"*	*Material: intransitive*
7	The EU	*"is giving a clear sense of direction"*	*Verbal*
8	The EU	*"provides a stable legal framework to foster the necessary investment"*	*Material: operative*
9	The EU	*"is looking further ahead than 2030"*	*Material: intransitive*
10	The EU	*"is setting the foundations for what a cleaner planet will look like"*	*Material: intransitive*
11	The EU	*"was an early mover on clean energy"*	*Relational*
12	The EU	*"was the first to set ambitious energy and climate targets"*	*Relational*
13	The EU	*"is broadly on track to achieve the 2020 objectives"*	*Relational*
14	The EU	*"has now pledged to move further ahead"*	*Verbal*
15	The EU	*"has now pledged to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions"*	*Verbal*
16	The EU	*"has adopted a set of ambitious new rules"*	*Material: operative*
17	The European C	*"The draft plans will be evaluated by the European Commission"*	*Material: operative*
18	The European C	*"That is why the European Commission – in the context of the COP24*	*Verbal*
19	We	*"have felt the economic benefits of clean energy"*	*Mental*

Chapter 2	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
20	The EU	*"is staying at the forefront of this revolution"*	*Material: intransitive*
21	The EU	*"is modernising its economy and business"*	*Material: operative*
22	The EU	*"will be able to enjoy first-mover benefits"*	*Material: receptive*
23	The EU	*"will see its competitiveness increase"*	*Mental*
24	The EU	*"is still a leader in manufacturing in the renewables sector"*	*Relational*
25	The EU	*"is facing greater competition"*	*Mental*
26	The EU	*"needs to accelerate its efforts in order to maintain its position"*	*Mental*
27	The EU	*"is well aware"*	*Mental*
28	The EU	*"is already providing assistance"*	*Material: intransitive*

Chapter 3	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
32	the EU	"The EU currently imports more than half of its energy, mainly in the for	Material: operative
33	the EU	"the EU has enormous potential to significantly reduce its imports of fos	Relational
34	the EU	"Being the global leader in the development and deployment of renewa	Material: receptive
35	the EU	"The EU has recently agreed rules to ensure that EU law will be applie	Verbal
36	the EU	"Producing more renewable energy and improving cross-border conne	-
37	the EU	"The new Energy efficiency and Renewables directives of the Clean En	Material: receptive
38	the EU	"by making the electricity market in the EU better suited to variable and	-
39	We (EC)	"We can lower this reliance on imports by reducing consumption, produ	Material: intransitive
40	Our energy depe	"Saving energy through energy efficiency is the easiest way to improve	-
41	Our objectives	"This important change reconciles our objectives of decarbonisation on	-
42	Europe	"Europe has given itself a strong set of tools to deal effectively and coll	Material: intransitive

Chapter 4	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
43	the EU	"can now rely on a new rulebook"	Mental
44	the EU	"has the most interconnected and secure electricity grid in the world"	Relational
45	the EU	"continues to improve its key interconnections"	Material: intransitive
46	the EU	"continues to fill the missing links to better integrate energy markets an	Material: intransitive
47	the EU	"manages the highest share of electricity generated from renewable en	Material: intransitive
48	Europe	"Europe should soon achieve a well-interconnected and shock-resilient	Mental

Chapter 5	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
49	The EU	"Energy represents on average 6% of the annual expenditure of the 20	-
50	The EU	"An EU and an Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will	Material: operative
51	The European C	"The Energy Poverty Observatory – launched by the Commission – will	Material: intransitive

Chapter 6	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
52	the EU	"given that the EU imports half of its energy needs"	Material: intransitive
53	the EU	"The EU has shown that the world can count on Europe"	Material: intransitive
54	the EU	"the EU played an instrumental role in making the Paris Agreement ope	Material: intransitive
55	the EU	"The EU has a unique opportunity to promote the clean energy transitio	Material: intransitive
56	the EU	"the EU reinforces its global role, mitigates threats and contributes to a	Material: intransitive
57	the EU	"That is why the EU will continue to promote the clean energy agenda	Material: intransitive
58	the EU	"The EU is Africa's biggest partner for sustainable energy, and access	Relational
59	the EU	"The EU is the world's largest energy importer, with an annual energy i	Relational
60	the EU	"the EU has also adopted new rules to screen and monitor foreign dire	Material: operative
61	the EU	"The EU will defend its strategic interests and scrutiny purchases by fo	Material: intransitive
62	The European C	"the European Commission is seeking to increase the use of the euro i	Mental
63	Europe	"Europe is showing the world the way forward"	Material: intransitive
64	Europe	"Europe is also strengthening its energy alliances with strategic partne	Material: operative
65	Europe	"The world can count on Europe for clean energy transition and climate	-
66	Europe	"Europe is committed to systematically including energy efficiency and	Mental
67	Europe	"to ensure that Europe is well equipped to protect its essential interests	Material: receptive
68	the EU's externa	"The EU's external energy policy is based on close cooperation with all	-
69	the EU's externa	"International energy cooperation is also key for managing the EU's ex	-
70	the EU's vision	"The EU's vision to create a European Energy Union and place Europe	Mental
71	the EU's commit	"The EU's commitment to international energy cooperation"	-

Chapter 7	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
72	The EU	"the EU has been the first major economy to present a longterm vision	Relational
73	The EU	"The EU will achieve this by investing in realistic technological solution:	Material: operative
74	The EU	"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition so that even	Material: operative
75	The European C	"the European Commission has again shown leadership by publishing	Material: operative
76	the EU's targets	"The EU's targets for 2030 are important, but the energy transition will	-
77	the EU's long-ter	"this strategy constitutes the EU's long-term contribution to the aims of	-
78	the EU's long-ter	"Building on the 2030 energy and climate framework now being put to	-

Table B3.3: Text clauses and categorisations for each instance of the System

The System			
Chapter 0	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
1	The electricity gr	"Whether through smart meters, taking control of household bills, or actually investing to produce their own renewable energy, which is then fed into the grid."	-

Chapter 1	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
2	The electricity gr	"The new laws will increase our security of supply and flexibility by help	-
3	The energy syste	"The EU is leading the clean energy transition: striving for a more secu	Relational
4	The energy syste	"Constantly adding higher volumes of variable renewables is a challeng	-

Chapter 2	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type

Chapter 3	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
5	The electricity ar	"Interconnected electricity and gas grids are also vital for energy secur	Relational
6	Well integrated n	"Well integrated networks are not only the best protection against a pos	Relational
		"they also bring more supply options and hence more competitive price	Relational
7	Infrastructure	"Well integrated networks are not only the best protection against a pos	Relational

Chapter 4	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
8	The electricity gr	"The EU has the most interconnected and secure electricity grid in the	Relational
9	The electricity gr	"In the coming years, electricity projects will become increasingly impo	Relational
10	The energy syste	"A safe, sustainable and affordable energy system is only possible if EL	Relational
11	The energy syste	"To deliver a secure, sustainable and competitive energy system, the E	Relational
12	The energy syste	"Active participation of local and regional authorities is key for the succ	Relational
13	Infrastructure	"Cooperation and solidarity also mean stronger interconnections and so	-
14	Infrastructure	"Stronger interconnections and infrastructure = better and safer energy	-
15	Infrastructure	"EU support for modern infrastructure and interconnections is channele	-
16	Europe's electric	"Making Europe's electricity grid fit for the energy transition still require	-

Chapter 5	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
17	A renewed EU er	"Consumers need to be at the center of a renewed EU energy system"	-
18	Smart grids	"From enhanced digitalisation, to smart grids and smart appliances, pa	-
19	A more decentra	"Finally, the move to a more decentralised energy system where consu	Relational

Chapter 6	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type

Chapter 7	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
20	The energy syste	"Reducing emissions and transforming the energy system does not imp	-

B4. Receptive material clauses shaping the agentic space of the Citizen

Table B4.1: All receptive material clauses the Citizen - Decisions about consumer behaviour

No.	Text clause
2	"The new measures are not just for businesses - they provide far greater opportunities for citizens"
3	"Citizens will have real influence over their energy footprint - through smart, meters, taking control of household bills, or investing in r
7	"The new rules will make it easier for individuals to produce their own energy, for example through solar panels, store it or sell it onto
9	"At the same time, cleaner and smarter energy will ... allow citizens to take their own decisions regarding their energy use."
29	"The new rules can help harness all aspects of human potential to drive the energy transition and help them reduce costs."
32	"More opportunities for citizens to make their own decisions on which type of energy they want to use."
33	"More opportunities for citizens to make their own decisions on which type of energy they want to use"
34	"Citizens can benefit from incentives for renewable energy production"
35	"More democracy means more opportunities for citizens to take their own decisions on which type of energy they want to use"
39	"Improved rules will give consumers more flexibility and better protect consumers"
40	"Improved rules will also allow consumers to make their own decisions on how to produce, store, sell or share their own energy."
41	"More control and more access for consumers will translate into better quality of life and better finances."
44	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more choice in their homes and more flexibility to reduce their energy
45	"Consumers will be put in a stronger position in the supply chain"
46	"Consumers will be better informed"
47	"Consumers will have clearer, more transparent energy bills"
48	"Consumers will have more understandable contracts."
49	"Consumers will have the right to request a smart meter."
50	"Consumers will have the right to be informed about their energy consumption and costs in real time."
51	"Consumers have the right of full control over their data."
52	"Dynamic pricing offers the best value to consumers."
53	"Certified price comparison tools will help consumers in their choice of supplier."
54	"The consumer will be in a stronger position in the chain"
55	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more choice in their homes and more flexibility to reduce their energy
56	"Consumers know that the widely recognised EU energy label is an important tool to help them choose"
57	"Consumers will also find it easier to invest in renewable energy"
64	"Households can save energy costs by installing solar panel systems"
71	"Technologies are creating ample opportunities for European citizens to participate and benefit from energy markets."
72	"European energy and climate policies are accelerating public and private investment in innovation and modernisation, creating susta

Table B4.2: All receptive material clauses the Citizen - Vulnerable citizens are protected

No.	Text clause
1	"The clean and fair energy transitions increases our quality of life as citizens"
11	"The clean energy transiton must benfit everyone - no citizen, no region should be left behind"
12	"the EU has launched a series of initiatives to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their location, benefit from the clean energy trans
13	"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the consumer in the market will support the most vulnerable in our
14	"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the consumer in the market will support the most vulnerable in our
18	"The new emphasis given to security of energy supply will make blackouts less likely and ensure that EU citizens and businesses alw
25	"a number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation of national stakeholders have been introduced, thus enabling E
60	"The new rules will improve access to energy for all, tackling energy poverty at its root and protecting vulnerable consumers."
65	"Member States have to give priority to households in social housing and suffering from energy poverty"
67	"An EU and an Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will not leave any citizen behind, and not least the European ene
68	"This democratisation will alleviate energy poverty and protect vulnerable citizens."
76	"In this process, no European citizen and no region should be left behind."
77	"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition"
78	"The EU will support those more impacted by the transition so that everyone can benefit from our investment in the clean energy tran

B5. Intransitive and operative material clauses the State

Table B5.1: All intransitive and operative material clauses the State

No.	Text clause
1	"How will the EU tackle it? Through the clean and fair energy transition that creates growth and jobs in a modern economy and increases our quality o
2	"The EU has taken a wide range of initiatives"
3	"It is no coincidence that we called it "The Clean energy for all European package"
4	is leading the clean energy transition
5	is striving for a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy system
6	is setting ambitious energy and climate targets for 2030
8	provides a stable legal framework to foster the necessary investment
9	is looking further ahead than 2030
10	is setting the foundations for what a cleaner planet will look like
16	has adopted a set of ambitious new rules
17	The draft plans will be evaluated by the European Commission
20	is staying at the forefront of this revolution
21	is modernising its economy and business
28	is already providing assistance
29	is closely cooperating with the European Defence Agency to improve the nergy use of the military sector
30	has established the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative aimed at providing a long-term framework to help islands become more energy independen
32	"The EU currently imports more than half of its energy, mainly in the form of oil and gas"
34	"Being the global leader in the development and deployment of renewables will allow the EU to substantially reduce dependency on external energy s
37	The new Energy efficiency and Renewables directives of the Clean Energy Package will therefore boost the energy security of the EU.
39	"We can lower this reliance on imports by reducing consumption, producing more renewable energy and improving cross-border connections within th
42	"Europe has given itself a strong set of tools to deal effectively and collectively with our external energy suppliers."
45	continues to improve its key interconnections
46	continues to fill the missing links to better integrate energy markets and production of renewables
47	manages the highest share of electricity generated from renewable energy sources
50	An EU and an Energy Union that protects, defends and empowers will not leave any citizen behind, and not least the European energy consumer.
51	The Energy Poverty Observatory – launched by the Commission – will assist in this task.
51	given that the EU imports half of its energy needs.
52	The EU has shown that the world can count on Europe
53	the EU played an instrumental role in making the Paris Agreement operational, with the adoption of a clear rulebook.

Table B5.2: All intransitive and operative material clauses the State - Strategic position

No.	Text clause
4	"is leading the clean energy transition"
11	"was an early mover on clean energy"
20	"is staying at the forefront of this revolution"
23	"will see its competitiveness increase"
24	"is still a leader in manufacturing in the renewables sector"
25	"is facing greater competition"
26	"needs to accelerate its efforts in order to maintain its position"
32	"The EU currently imports more than half of its energy, mainly in the form of oil and gas"
33	"the EU has enormous potential to significantly reduce its imports of fossil fuels and increase its energy sovereignty"
34	"Being the global leader in the development and deployment of renewables will allow the EU to substantially reduce dependency on external energy suppliers"
39	"We can lower this reliance on imports by reducing consumption, producing more renewable energy and improving cross-border connections within the EU."
56	"the EU reinforces its global role, mitigates threats and contributes to a more stable and peaceful world."
58	"The EU is Africa's biggest partner for sustainable energy, and access to energy in Africa is a key European policy goal"
61	"The EU will defend its strategic interests and scrutiny purchases by foreign companies that target Europe's strategic assets."
64	"Europe is also strengthening its energy alliances with strategic partners and looking to enhance trade by advancing the international role the euro in energy contracts."
67	"to ensure that Europe is well equipped to protect its essential interests, while remaining one of the most open investment regimes in the world."
70	"The EU's vision to create a European Energy Union and place Europe at the forefront of energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy production and the fight against climate change, is becoming a reality."
72	"the EU has been the first major economy to present a longterm vision towards a modern and climate neutral economy by 2050"

Table B5.3: All intransitive and operative material clauses the State - Regulator

No.	Text clause
2	"The EU has taken a wide range of initiatives"
6	is setting ambitious energy and climate targets for 2030
7	is giving a clear sense of direction
8	provides a stable legal framework to foster the necessary investment
12	was the first to set ambitious energy and climate targets
16	has adopted a set of ambitious new rules
30	has established the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative aimed at providing a long-term framework to help islands become more energy independent
35	"The EU has recently agreed rules to ensure that EU law will be applied"
43	can now rely on a new rulebook
54	the EU played an instrumental role in making the Paris Agreement operational, with the adoption of a clear rulebook.
60	the EU has also adopted new rules to screen and monitor foreign direct investments,
75	the European Commission has again shown leadership by publishing a blueprint for taking things further forward,

B6. Relational clauses the System

Table B6.1: All relational clauses related to the System

No.	Text clause	Process type
3	*"The EU is leading the clean energy transition: striving for a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy system*	Relational
5	*"Interconnected electricity and gas grids are also vital for energy security of supply."*	Relational
6	*"Well integrated networks are not only the best protection against a possible infrastructure failure in an EU country"*	Relational
	"they also bring more supply options and hence more competitive prices into the national markets."	Relational
7	*"Well integrated networks are not only the best protection against a possible infrastructure failure in an EU country"*	Relational
8	*"The EU has the most interconnected and secure electricity grid in the world"*	Relational
9	*"In the coming years, electricity projects will become increasingly important for the integration of renewable energy a*	Relational
10	*"A safe, sustainable and affordable energy system is only possible if EU countries work together in a spirit of solidarit*	Relational
11	*"To deliver a secure, sustainable and competitive energy system, the EU can now rely on a new rulebook"*	Relational
12	*"Active participation of local and regional authorities is key for the success of the energy transition, as the energy sys*	Relational
19	*"Finally, the move to a more decentralised energy system where consumers play an active role means more democr*	Relational

B7. Text clauses relating to rules and regulations

Table B7.1: All text clauses related to rules and regulations

The EU			
Chapter 0	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
1	These measures	*"The purpose of these measures is to ensure a clean and fair energy tr*	Relational
2	These measures	*"These measures aim to improve energy interconnections between Me*	Mental
3	The CEFAEP	*"The Clean energy for all Europeans package aims to set the right bala*	Mental
4	The CEFAEP	*"The establishment of the EU Energy Union provides a framework for a*	-
5	The new measure	*"The new measures are not just for businesses"*	Relational
6	They	*"They provide far greater opportunities for citizens."*	Material: operati
7	The new EU rules	*"This document presents the numerous benefits the new EU rules will*	Material: intransi

Chapter 1	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
8	A set of ambituou	*"The EU has adopted a set of ambitious new rules"*	Material: recepti
9	The new rules	*"The new rules contain the principle of "energy efficiency first", and set*	Relational
10	The new rules	*"The new rules establish that each country will decide how it contribute*	Material: intransi
11	The new rules	*"The new rules provide a stable enabling framework that should facilita*	Material: operati
12	The new rules	*"The new rules will make it easier for individuals to produce their own e*	Material: operati
13	An ambituous ne	*"An ambituous new target of at least 32% renewables by 2030, binding*	Material : operati
14	The new laws	*"The new laws will increase our security of supply and flexibility by help*	Material: operati

Chapter 2	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
15	The CEFAEP	*"The Clean energy for all Europeans package is an important step in th*	Relational
16	Many of the new	*"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the c*	Material: operati
17	The Energy Pove	*"the Energy Poverty Observatory has been established to help Membe*	Material: recepti
18	A stable policy en	*"A stable policy environment is therefore essential, one which encourag*	Relational

Chapter 3	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
19	The CEFAEP	*"The new electricity market design resulting from the Clean energy for*	Material: operati
20	The new rules	*"The new rules will ensure more flexible and efficient electricity market*	Material: operati
21	The new rules	*"With the new rules, electricity can be traded closer to real time, when*	-
22	The new rules	*"Under the new rules on risk preparedness, all neighboring countries a*	-
23	Our new rules	*"With our new rules in place, we can lower this reliance on imports by r*	-
24	The new Energy	*"The new Energy efficiency and Renewables directives of the Clean En*	Material: operati
25	The new regulatic	*"The new regulations also strengthen price signals and increase cross-*	Material: operati
26	The new electricit	*"The new electricity market design rules introduce a framework for cros*	Material: operati
27	A strong set of to	*"Europe has given itself a strong set of tools to deal effectively and coll*	-

Chapter 4	Instance in text	*Text clause*	*Process type*
28	The CEFAEP	*"the Clean energy for all Europeans package also introduces new task*	Material: operati
29	The new rules	*"The new rules also enhance the cooperation among the Transmission*	Material: operati
30	The new rulebool	*"By creating a new rulebook on how the EU and its Member States coll*	-
31	The new rulebool	*"To deliver a secure, sustainable and competitive energy system, the E*	-
32	The Governance	*"Embodying trust and consensus between all parts of the EU, it encour*	Material: operati
33	The new governa	*"the new governance system puts European citizens as well as local g*	Material: operati
34	A number of strict	*"Number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation of*	Material: operati
35	the PCIs framewc	*"EU support for modern infrastructure and interconnections is channele*	-
36	the PCIs framewc	*"Europe should soon achieve a well-interconnected and shock-resilient*	-

Chapter 5	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
37	The CEFAEP	"That is why the concept of access to energy has been reinforced in the	-
38	The CEFAEP	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more c	Material: operativ
39	The new rules	"The new rules can help harness all aspects of human potential to drive	Material: operativ
40	The new rules	"With the new rules, consumers will be better informed and have cleare	Material: operativ
41	The new rules	"The new rules will improve access to energy for all, tackling energy po	Material: operativ
42	The new rules	"The new rules promote this actively with provisions on self consumptic	Material: operativ
43	The new rules	"The new rules promote this actively with provisions on self-consumptic	Material:operativ
44	Improved rules	"Improved rules will give them more flexibility and better protect them, l	Material: operativ
45	A regulatory fram	"The package creates a regulatory framework which enables new serv	Material: operativ
46	The new Renewa	"The new Renewables Directive helps with the administrative procedur	Material: operativ
47	The new Electrici	"The new Electricity Directive improves the market conditions. Citizens	Material: operativ
48	The new Electrici	"The Electricity Directive together ask that Member States monitor ene	Material: operativ
49	The new energy (	"Under the new energy efficiency rules, Member States have to give pr	-

Chapter 6	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
50	The new rules	"The EU has also adopted new rules to screen and monitor foreign dire	Material: receptiv
51	A clear rulebook	"At the UN climate conference in Katowice in December 2018, the EU	-
52	European energy	"European energy and climate policies are accelerating public and priv	Material: operativ

Chapter 7	Instance in text	Text clause	Process type
53	These measures	"These measures will improve the overall air quality, and particularly in	Material: operativ
54	The CEFAEP	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package has put in place the mos	Material: operativ
55	The most advanc	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package has put in place the mos	-

Table B7.2: Rules and regulations shaping the Citizen's agentic space

No.	Text clause
6	"They provide far greater opportunities for citizens."
11	"The new rules provide a stable enabling framework that should facilitate and encourage private investment in the clean energy transition."
12	"The new rules will make it easier for individuals to produce their own
16	"Many of the new elements aimed at strengthening the position of the consumer in the market will support the most vulnerable in our society."
18	"A stable policy environment is therefore essential, one which encourages and accelerates the necessary public and private investment in innovation and modernisation in all key sectors."
33	"the new governance system puts European citizens as well as local governments and stakeholders at the centre of the political debate on the definition of National Energy and Climate Plans that cover 10 year periods."
38	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package gives consumers more choice in their homes and more flexibility to reduce their energy use when it is expensive and consume or store energy when it is cheap."
39	"The new rules can help harness all aspects of human potential to drive the energy transition and help them reduce costs."
40	"With the new rules, consumers will be better informed and have clearer, more transparent energy bills and more understandable contracts."
41	"The new rules will improve access to energy for all, tackling energy poverty at its root and protecting vulnerable consumers"
42	"The new rules promote this actively with provisions on self consumption of energy, and local and renewable energy communities."
44	"Improved rules will give them more flexibility and better protect them, but also allow them to take their own decisions on how to produce, store, sell or share their own energy."
47	"The new Electricity Directive improves the market conditions. Citizens can join in "energy communities", pooling their energy, and benefit from incentives for renewable energy production."
52	"European energy and climate policies are accelerating public and private investment in innovation and modernisation, creating sustainable jobs, and enabling all citizens to benefit from the transition to a modern and low-carbon economy."

Table B7.3: Rules and regulations stimulating cooperation

No.	Text clauses
2	"These measures aim to improve energy interconnections between Member States and to make the different actors in the energy field more competitive and innovative."
3	"The Clean energy for all Europeans package aims to set the right balance between making decisions at EU, national, and local level – because all levels of government are involved"
10	"The new rules establish that each country will decide how it contributes to these EU
17	"the Energy Poverty Observatory has been established to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty"
22	"Under the new rules on risk preparedness, all neighboring countries are required to coordinate efforts and prepare solutions to any potential threat or crisis."
25	"The new regulations also strengthen price signals and increase cross-border trade to ensure that electricity can always flow to where it is most needed."
29	"The new rules also enhance the cooperation among the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) through the Regional Coordination Centres."
30	"By creating a new rulebook on how the EU and its Member States collaborate to reach our ambitious energy and climate goals, we can reach our collective ambitions in the most efficient way"
32	"Embodying trust and consensus between all parts of the EU, it encourages a new political dialogue between Europeans and enhances forms of regional cooperation between Member States."
34	"Number of strict requirements on the participation and consultation of national stakeholders have been introduced, thus enabling European civil society"
48	"The Electricity Directive together ask that Member States monitor energy poverty and introduce in their (MS) National Energy and Climate Plans specific national objectives on energy poverty."
49	"Under the new energy efficiency rules, Member States have to give priority to households in social housing and suffering from energy poverty, and must consider energy poverty in their long-term renovation strategies."