



The Realization of Interpersonal Meaning in Donald Trump's 2020 Speeches

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Abstract

Interpersonal Metafunction of a speech refers to the way speakers and audiences establish and maintain the relations among themselves and influence their behaviors. Analyzing interpersonal meaning in speech is very useful to see how the speakers interact with the listeners. This research analyzed three speeches of Donald Trump's 2020 speeches. It analyzed mood, modality, mood and modality relation, and the conceptual application of the findings toward English Language Teaching. It used the Systemic Functional Linguistics theory by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The result shows that Donald Trump mostly used a declarative mood to give American information as much as possible. Donald Trump mostly used the median degree of Inclination because his ability to protect the American people was not strong enough at the time because he and his people had not provided vaccines. In the mood and modality relationship, it was expressed the seriousness of the situation and prevention act, commitment, empathy, and encouragement. Further, the conceptual application of the findings toward English Language Teaching concluded that mood and modality are very useful in teaching writing because they can give them understanding and knowledge about grammatical features of Mood and modality.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the mediums used to express feeling, attitude, and judgment is speech. Speech is the expression of someone's thoughts and feeling by articulate sound. Usually, people who use speech have power or inspirational people. They can easily deliver the meaning to the whole community so that the listener can get the point and catch the meaning. In addition, speech is a directive and effective way to express emotions, give information, and establish social and personal relationships. The speaker can establish and assume their position in social relationships through interpersonal metafunction. It related to clauses as exchange (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The researcher analyzed Donald Trump's speeches about the coronavirus. It used the interpersonal meaning proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) by analyzing mood and modality. The interpersonal realization in speech is to understand Donald Trump's speech judgment in his statement. Donald John Trump is the current president of the United States. As the leader, he can influence other people towards his speech because he has a strong relationship with the community to influence people's behavior and attitude in responding to this problem. As Halliday (2004) defined interpersonal meaning as the speaker using language as a tool to communicate, assert feelings, and understand the listener's judgment.

The mood element is constructed by the subject and the finite. Its system plays crucial roles in exchanging goods and services, making offers, providing information, asking questions, and giving commands. According to Paltridge (2000), The clause encodes the relationship built by the participants taking part in the interaction. It represents the attitude and comment of the speaker, for instance, indicative, imperative, and interrogative construction. From those statements, the Mood system plays a primary role in the language system to make the interaction run well. Modality tells us how a person feels about the topic, their stance or attitude (it can be assertive or tentative), how committed or detached they are, and the other crucial aspects of interpersonal meaning. Therefore, analyzing the modality will help us to understand the speaker's attitude and judgments. Modality functioned to argue about the probability or usually of prepositions. However, when modality

is to argue about the obligation and inclination of proposals, it is called Modulation (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

Several studies have been conducted on interpersonal meaning in Donald Trump's speech and use Halliday's interpersonal function in the system functional grammar. Some of the studies focused on mood and modality (Bustam, 2020; Ping and Lingling, 2017), mood system and speaker's attitude and judgment (Savitri et al., 2018), and interpersonal meaning and political discourse (Menghe & Cenglian, 2018). A study by Ping and Lingling (2017) analyzed the application of interpersonal meaning in Hillary's and Trump's election speeches and focused on the realization of mood and modality. Meanwhile, several researchers have conducted many studies on interpersonal meaning using Halliday's theory with various speakers and different focuses. Some of those studies analyzed Muhammadu Buhari's speech and focused on mood and modality (Okafor & Issife, 2017; Koutchade, 2015; Jegede, 2018), Barack Obama's speech and analyzed mood and modality (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015; Yang, 2017; Pengsun & Fengfeng, 2013; Ye, 2010; Chen & Shuo, 2018; Nuraini, 2019; Wang, 2010; Kazemian, 2014).

The previous studies presented are only some examples from many studies dealing with interpersonal meaning. However, this research is different from the previous studies which generally analyzed the interpersonal meaning of political speech and also focused on political structures. This research focused on the interpersonal meaning of public speech. In addition, it also concerned the pedagogical application of EFL as reflected in the use of interpersonal meaning realization in speech.

METHOD

This research is a qualitative research because it investigated the data in the form of words. The data is donald trump's 2020 speech transcripts delivered in different places in america that address challenges to battling the spread of the coronavirus and informing his people to prevent the spread of covid-19. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the table analysis of mood and modality proposed by halliday and matthiessen (2004). The speech transcripts are broken down into clauses and

assigned to tables to identify the mood and modality structure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings have four parts based on the research questions, they are; the finding of the realization of mood in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches, the realization of modality in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches, the relation between mood and modality in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches, and the conceptual application of the findings toward English Language Teaching. The following is the explanation of the finding:

The realization of mood in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches.

The indicative mood has substance subject and finite and has two kinds of mood; declarative and interrogative. The declarative marked by the position of finite is after the subject. The interrogative marked by WH-question, finite is before the subject. Meanwhile, if the order of mood structure is finite without a subject, it will be classified as imperative mood.

The mood type found in Donald Trump’s speeches are:

Table 1. the frequency of mood type found in Donald Trump’s speeches

No	Mood Types	Frequency
1	Declarative	929
2	Imperative	12
3	Interrogative	3
Total		944

The table showed the mood types found in Donald Trump’s speeches. There were 944 clauses. The declarative mood found was 929 clauses, and the imperative mood found was 12 clauses. Meanwhile, the interrogative mood found was only in 3 clauses.

In summary, the data in the table indicated that declarative mood was the most frequently used in Donald Trump’s speeches. Imperative and interrogative were the least.

Some examples of declarative mood in Donald Trump’s speeches are:

(1) We’ve learned so much about this disease.

(2) Ultimately, our goal is not to manage the pandemic but to end it.

(3) Data shows children have the lowest fatality risk and 99.96% of all virus fatalities are in adults.

In examples (1), (2), and (3), Donald Trump used a declarative mood. Trump mostly used a declarative mood in his speeches because he was trying to give Americans as much information as possible. He used a declarative mood to inform them that he and his people will do their best to save America from the dangers of coronavirus by providing vaccines, learning about the virus, and other worthwhile progress.

Furthermore, Donald Trump used an imperative mood to request Americans to do something as he needed. There were some examples of imperative mood found:

(4) Wear a mask!

(5) Wash your hands every chance while sheltering high-risk populations!

(6) Cover your face and mouth!

Examples (4), (5), and (6) are the imperative mood used in the speeches. Donald Trump used imperative mood to ask Americans to use the mask and wash their hands because the virus spread from droplets touched by hand and air. Therefore, wearing masks and washing hands is essential to protect their bodies from coronavirus.

The realization of modality in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches

In Donald trump’s speeches, the researcher found 171 modalities consisting of 62 modalization and 109 Modulations. The modalization type of probability found was "will, would, can, could, should, may, maybe, probably, perhaps" while the Usuality type found was only one, which was "usually" The modulation type of obligation was "must, has to, will, can, should".

Modalization

The modalization found in Donald trump’s speeches is in the table below.

Table 2. The modalization In Donald trump’s speeches:

No Modal	Type	Modal Values	Frequency
1	Will, would	Probability Median	48
2	Can, could	Probability Low	6
6	May	Probability Low	4
8	Perhaps	Probability Low	1
9	Maybe	Probability Low	1
10	Usually	Usuality Median	1
Total			62

The table shows that the modalization type often used by Donald Trump is probability in the median degree. The most frequently used probability type is "will" which gains seventy modals, followed by "can" used twenty-two times, "would" fourteen times, "could" ten times, and "should" six times. Whereas the least used type is modal "may" only found four times while "perhaps" and "probably" was only once. The high degree of probability type "must" is only once in Trump's speeches and the usuality type likewise.

In the speeches, the modal "will" is the future predictor. It means that Donald Trump tried to encourage the American people and to give them a good insight into the plan for handling the spreading coronavirus in America. Since America was one of the countries that faced a high fatality risk of coronavirus, he had to be more careful in making a further decision to go to the lower alert level.

Modulation

The modulation in Donald trump's speeches is in the following table 3:

Table 3. The modulation In Donald trump’s speeches

No Modal	Type	Modal Values	Frequency
1	Will, would	Inclination Median	66
2	Can, could	Obligation Low	27
3	Should	Obligation Median	12
4	Must	Obligation High	2
5	Has to	Obligation High	2
Total			109

The table denoted the types of modulation in Donald trump's speeches. He used willingness,

ability, and obligation. The inclination was the modulation type generally used by Donald Trump which gained nine times. The ability gained six times. In the obligation, "should" is more frequent than others. It gained six times, followed by "must" and "has to" found twice for each. The least used is "can" found once.

Briefly, the inclination and probability most dominant type found in Donald Trump's speeches. It indicated that Donald Trump tended to express his strong commitment and determination and deliver his perception of the possibility of America's country in the future. It relates to the good chance that will occur in the country, especially in handling coronavirus.

The relation between mood and modality in Donald Trump’s 2020 speeches.

Based on the analysis result, the researcher found four interpersonal meanings expressed by mood and modality relation in the speeches. They were the seriousness of the situation and prevention act, commitment, and encouragement.

The seriousness of the pandemic and prevention acts to respond to the situation are revealed through the relation between declarative mood and a high degree of obligation, median degree of inclination, and median degree of probability. For examples:

(7) We must put politics aside, stop partisanship and unify together as one nation and one family.

Example (7) is declarative mood and modal finite "must" is the high degree of obligation. Here, Donald Trump prefers to use a declarative mood and the modal type of obligation to an imperative mood. He tried to narrow the gap between the audience and himself so that he is not looked bossy to them. In addition, the use of the subject "we" showed the relationship between him and his people that they have the same obligation to defeat and work together to protect America from coronavirus.

The commitment is stated through declarative mood and inclination relation. Here, Donald Trump tried to inform Americans about his commitment and ability to handle coronavirus in America. For example:

(8) *I pledge in honor that we will develop a vaccine.*

Example (8) is declarative mood and the finite "will" is the median degree of inclination to express his commitment. Regarding the context of the speech, because the American government had not had vaccines at the time, he conveyed his commitment with the median degree of inclination. He tried to give the American people his commitment to handling coronavirus by pledging them the vaccine.

Empathy and encouragement are expressed through declarative mood and modalization of probability. For example:

(9) *Well, the virus will disappear*

Example (9) is declarative mood. Modal finite "will" is the median degree of probability type. Donald Trump used the declarative mood indirectly to encourage Americans and to give them positive insight that they no longer faced coronavirus. While the median degree of probability indicated that he was unsure of the information he delivered. He and his people had not provided vaccines at the time.

The conceptual application of the findings toward English Language Teaching

Mood and modality are beneficial in teaching English, especially in teaching writing. Using grammatical features of mood and modality helps students to produce a good text. Regarding the benefit of teaching writing and using grammatical features of mood and modality, the researcher distributed a questionnaire to students to obtain data about students' responses relating to it.

In terms of benefits in teaching, all students strongly agreed that mood and modality are very useful in writing and they agreed that teaching mood and modality in writing helps them to produce a good text. In addition, they agreed that having knowledge and understanding of mood and modality helps them deliver meaning properly in a text.

Further, regarding using grammatical features of mood, they agreed that using declarative mood (delivering a message and making a statement) to imperative mood (motivating the audience and narrowing the gap between the speaker and audience) in a text so that they are not looked bossy

to the readers. They agree that using the personal pronoun in their text shows the relationship between the readers and them as the writer. In modality features, all students agreed that the readers will be able to understand their attitude through the use of modality features in the text that they made. They agreed that the degree of modality demonstrates the different kinds of interpersonal relationships between the writer and the reader, and the use of obligation modality helps to position the writer to specify what readers should do.

CONCLUSION

The realization of Donald Trump's speeches had been discussed in this research. In general, there are four main findings in this research. The first finding is about the realization of the mood in Donald Trump's 2020 speeches. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Donald Trump tended to use the subject "We" which refers to Donald Trump himself, doctors, and the governor. It showed that the ones who had responsibility for dealing with the spread of the coronavirus as not only Trump himself but also the governor, doctors, and other experts in their field. The present tense has a dominant role in Trump's speeches. It indicates that he tends to give factual information about the situation at the moment of speaking to the listener, especially the American people. In mood types, Donald Trump's tended to use declarative mood to express statements that contained information to Americans. It implied that Trump mostly used a declarative mood in his speeches because he was trying to give American information as much as possible. By giving them information, he tried to make Americans receive something from him or accept his ideas. In addition, a declarative mood was used to deliver information to Americans that he and his people will do their best to save America from the dangerous illness coronavirus by providing vaccines, learning about the virus, and other useful progress.

The second finding is about the realization of modality in Donald Trump's 2020 speeches. It found 171 modalities which consisted of 62 modalization and 109 Modulations. In modalization, the probability type was found "will, would, can, could, should, may, maybe, probably, perhaps" and the usuality type was only found one

that was “usually”. However, the most frequently used probability type is "will" as a predictor of the future. It means that Donald Trump tried to encourage the American people and to give them a good insight into the plan for handling the spreading coronavirus in America. Since America was one of the countries that faced a high fatality risk of coronavirus, he had to be more careful in making a further decision to go to the lower alert level. In Modulation, the median degree of Inclination is mostly used by Donald Trump to express his strong wish or determination. The median degree of Inclination used indicated that his ability to protect the American people was not strong enough at the time since he and his people still learned about the virus and they had not provided vaccines. Therefore, the steps taken by Donald Trump to protect them were asking them to use masks, avoid crowded areas, work from home, and close the schools.

The third finding is about the relationship between mood and modality in Donald Trump's 2020 speeches. Based on the analysis of the relationship between mood and modality in Donald Trump's speeches, it was found four interpersonal meanings represented by mood and modality relation in the speeches. They were the seriousness of the situation and prevention act, commitment, empathy, and encouragement. Regarding the seriousness of the pandemic and prevention acts to respond to the situation revealed through the relation between declarative mood and a high degree of obligation, median degree of inclination, and median degree of probability. Regarding the commitment, it was expressed through the relation of both declarative mood and inclination which aimed to give information to the American regarding his commitment and ability in handling coronavirus in America. Donald Trump's empathy and encouragement, it was expressed by the relation between declarative mood and modalization of probability, declarative mood, and low degree of probability.

The fourth finding is about the conceptual application of the findings toward English Language Teaching. It was concluded that mood and modality are very useful in teaching writing because they can help students to produce a good text and give them understanding and knowledge about grammatical features of Mood and modality so that they can deliver meaning properly in a text. Regarding using

grammatical features of mood, it was concluded that students prefer to use declarative mood to imperative mood in a text so that they are not looked bossy to the readers.

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