

# Delivering A Good Speech by Identifying the Interpersonal Meaning Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech

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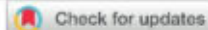
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# Delivering A Good Speech by Identifying the Interpersonal Meaning Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech: A Case on Systemic Functional Linguistics

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**Abstract:** This research aims to classify the interpersonal meaning in Joe Biden's victory speech. It is an interesting phenomenon because by revealing the interpersonal meaning, people can be assisted to be successful in communication. The researchers used a qualitative research design to answer the research question and chose content analysis since the results of data analysis were in descriptive phenomena, such as words, clauses, and utterances. The research findings showed that mood elements: found 174 subjects and 176 finites. Meanwhile, residue elements found 120 predicators, 133 complements, 9 mood adjuncts, 71 circumstantial adjuncts, 2 comment adjuncts, and 54 conjunctive adjuncts. In addition, the speech function identified 162 Statements, 4 Questions, and 11 Commands. Thus, it is concluded that Joe Biden tended to use finites, in contrast with comment adjuncts, and Statements, in contrast with questions (only 4 questions were found in his speech). This study also showed that the speaker was greatly assisted by using interpersonal meaning to make a good speech.

**Keywords:** Discourse, Good Speech, Interpersonal Meaning, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Speech, Indonesia.

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## 1. Introduction

Speech is one instrument used to express emotions, opinions, and ideas. Speech is a speaker's act of expressing ideas, messages, and emotions to listeners. In other words, Speech is a speaking activity to express emotions, opinions, ideas, and information, as well as entertain listeners and is usually performed to deliver speeches in front of the public (Firmansyah et al., 2019). Speech is an important way to reach a speaker's goals, such as delivering messages, persuading people, and influencing audiences (Jin and Lu, 2013). Thus, a speaker must sustainably interact with others by carefully selecting acceptable sentences and vocabularies related to systemic functional linguistics (SFL). According to Herman, Sulistiyani, Ngongo, Fatmawati, and Saputra (2022), Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is defined as a study of language in the process of making meaning or a study of language function (Susanto and Watik, 2017). Boccia (2021) defined Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a language theory centred on the concept of language function. In other words, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is the study of language function to make meaning. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) state that there are three meta-function types in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL): ideational meaning, textual meaning, and interpersonal meaning (Purba et al., 2022).

Xiang (2022) clarify that interpersonal meaning refers to language as a tool to interact with people. Interpersonal meaning considers language as a tool to interact with other people (Halliday, 1994; Darong, 2021). Interpersonal is an intriguing phenomenon to study because understanding interpersonal meaning can help people succeed in exchanging information, goods, and services with listeners (Dalton-Puffer, 2005). It is due to its function, which can provide guidance on how to select appropriate grammatical choices in communication (social interaction). It is critical to employ good grammatical choices in communication because they can create various and meaningful expressions influencing the relationship between a speaker and audience within the communication. According to Hulu (2019), Interpersonal meaning is an intriguing topic to discuss because interpersonal meaning may help people succeed in delivering information, goods, and services to listeners by providing ideas on how makes the right grammatical choices in communication (Chefor, 2019). Thus, the researchers were interested in investigating interpersonal meaning frequently utilized in speech and represented, for example, by Joe Biden. In conducting this research, the researchers have provided previous research from a thesis related to interpersonal meaning as a theory. The research was written by (Marhamah, 2014) from Yogyakarta State University, entitled "Interpersonal Meaning Analysis on Muse's

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Song Lyrics found in Black Holes and Revelations Albums". The research aimed to characterize kinds of mood and modes of interpersonal meaning realized in the Muse's Song lyrics found in Black Holes and Revelations albums. Halliday's hypothesis was applied by the researchers. Mood and Residue are the interpersonal meaning components (Ping and Lingling, 2017). The Mood elements consisting of Subject and Finite show the clauses' interpersonal functions. Meanwhile, the other component is known as Residue.

However, this research has similarities and differences with the previous research. Both focused on mood structures. Yet, the researchers also focused on speech function and mood structures using Gerrot and Wignell's theory. Thus, the novelty of this research is shown and important to be conducted. This research can be a good reference for speakers to deliver a good speech since using functional linguistics, especially interpersonal meaning.

## 2. Research Methodology

A descriptive-qualitative method was employed by the researchers in this study. According to Munthe *et al.* (2021), the descriptive technique consists of gathering, categorizing, evaluating, and interpreting the data, eventually followed by a conclusion drawing without making generalizations (Silalahi *et al.*, 2022). The researchers employed descriptive-qualitative research since the researchers collected and analyzed the data and then drew the conclusion. The researchers employed a document or content analysis because the research subject was Joe Biden's speech script. Document or content analysis, according to Herman, Shara, Silalahi, Sherly, and Julyanthry (2022), is a research method used to detect certain characteristics of written or visual resources. Public records, textbooks, newspapers, letters, videos, diaries, topics, reports, or other documents may be used.

### 2.1. Research Data Source

The researchers had to identify the data source relevant to the research problem. In this study, the researchers used the data from a Google website (<https://www.washingtonpost.com>) containing Joe Biden's Victory Speech November 7, 2020, at 9:56 p.m. EST. The researchers chose this issue because Joe Biden was recently elected as the President of the United States, according to the most recent election results.

### 2.2. Data Collection Technique

In this study, the researchers used qualitative data. According to Feng and Liu (2010), data collection processes included identifying the research limits, collecting information through unstructured or semi-structured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, as well as establishing a strategy to record the information.

There are numerous data-gathering methods, including documents, observations, tests, interviews, and surveys. The documentation technique was used by the researchers to gather the data. According to Ezeifeka (2013), documentation is a technique used to gather data based on documents, including transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, and others. In this study, the researchers obtained the data from the transcript. The documentation method was used for data gathering. As a result, the researchers employed the documentation method by reading, analyzing the text, and then collecting the data.

Opening the webpage [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

Searching the topic of Joe Biden's Victory Speech from the website of Washington Post Newspaper.

Copying the article of Joe Biden's Victory Speech from the website of Washington Post Newspaper.

### 2.3. Data Analysis Technique

After the data was collected, the researchers then analyzed the data. Herman, van Thao and Purba (2021) defined that data analysis allows the researchers to put the research hypothesis to the test or answer the research question. Hence, data analysis contains four components: data collecting, data condensation, data displays, and conclusion drawing.

### 2.4. Data Collection

The researchers used Joe Biden's Victory speech in this study. The researchers also tried to obtain materials and references from other books related to the topic under study.

### 2.5. Data Condensation

Data condensation is an act of selecting, limiting, simplifying, and changing the raw data from the written-up field notes, so the researchers limited the interpersonal meaning analysis by focusing on mood structures and speech functions found in the clauses. Speech function is a technique used by someone to express ideas in communication for listeners to fully comprehend the concepts. When exchanging and expressing ideas, humans play two roles: giving and requesting commodities, such as information, goods, or services. The speech function is separated into four types: statement, question, command, and offer. The researchers examined the interpersonal meaning in Joe Biden's Victory speech by deeply exploring the Mood Structure of clauses found in the speech. Thus, the speech was separated into clauses (clause-complex), and then each clause was interpersonally evaluated.

## 2.6. Data Display

The researchers went beyond the data by offering certain clauses from Joe Biden's Victory speech as the representation to describe the explanation related to the analysis of mood structures and speech functions. The researchers also conducted an overall investigation of mood structures and speech functions in tables. There are two types of tables: mood structures analysis and speech functions with mood types analysis tables.

## 2.7. Conclusion Drawing

In this research, the researchers drew some conclusions based on the analysis results by making some explanations.

## 3. Findings

This research focused on the interpersonal meaning of systemic functional linguistics found in 50 clauses taken from Joe Biden's victory speech. In this case, the researchers presented 10 clauses as the corpus data.

**Table 1:** (Clause 1) My fellow Americans and the people who brought me to the dance, Delawareans.

My fellow Americans and the people who	Did	Bring	Me to the dance, Delawareans.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue		
Speech Role	Speech function		
Giving information	Declarative Statement		

From the clause above, *My fellow Americans and the people* were the Subjects of the clause. *My fellow Americans and the people* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *did* as the Finite because the researchers split the verbal operator from the Predicators (the finite element is always fused with the other element, known as Predicator, *brought* from *did + bring*), and *Me to the dance, Delawareans* as the complement. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 2:** (Clause 2) I see my buddy Tom, Senator Tom Carper, down there

I	Do	See	My buddy Tom, senator Tom Carper	down there
Subject	finite	predicator	Complement	Cir. Adjunct
Mood	Residue			
Speech Role	Speech function			
Giving information	Declarative Statement			

From the clause above, *I* was the Subject of the clause. *I* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *do* as the Finite because the researchers split the verbal operator from the Predicators (the finite element is always fused with the other element, known as Predicator, *see* is from *do + see*), *My buddy Tom, senator Tom Carper* as the complement, and *down there* as Circumstance adjunct. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 3:** (Clause 3) And I think.

And	I	do	Think
Con. Adjunct	subject	Finite	Predicator
Re-	Mood	-sidue	
Speech Role	Speech function		
Giving information	Declarative Statement		

The clause above was a conjunctive adjunct because (*And*) was the cohesive conjunction and categorized as a Conjunctive Adjunct to provide linking relations between one sentence and the others (linking sentences), *I* was as the Subject of the clause. *I* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun, and *do* was as the Finite because the researchers split the verbal operator from the Predicators (the finite element is always fused with the other element, known as Predicator, *think* is from *do + think*). The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 4:** (Clause 4) I think Senator Coons is there.

I	Do	Think	Senator coons	is there
Subject	finite	predicator	Complement	Cir. Adjunct
Mood	Residue			

<i>Speech Role</i>	<i>Speech function</i>
<i>Giving information</i>	<i>Declarative Statement</i>

From the clause above, *I* was as the Subject of the clause. *I* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *do* was as the Finite because the researchers split the verbal operator from the Predicators (the finite element is always fused with the other element, known as Predicator, *think* is from *do + think*), *Senator coons* as a compliment, *is there* as circumstances adjunct since telling adverb of place. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 5:** (Clause 5) And I think the governor's around

And	I	Do	Think	The governor's around
Con. Adjunct	Subject	Finite	predicator	Complement
Re-	Mood		-sidue	
<i>Speech Role</i>			<i>Speech function</i>	
<i>Giving information</i>			<i>Declarative Statement</i>	

From the clause above and was as a conjunctive adjunct because (*And*) was the cohesive conjunction and categorized as Conjunctive Adjunct to provide linking relations between one sentence and the others (linking sentences), *I* was as the Subject of the clause. *I* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun, and *do* was as the Finite because the researchers split the verbal operator from the Predicators (the finite element is always fused with the other element, known as Predicator, *think* is from *do + think*), *The governor's around* was as complement. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. Statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 6:** (Clause 6) and is that Ruth Ann?

And	Is	That	Ruth Ann?
Con. Adjunct	Subject	Finite	Complement
Re-	Mood		-sidue
<i>Speech Role</i>			<i>Speech function</i>
<i>Question</i>			<i>Interrogative</i>

From the clause above and was as a conjunctive adjunct because (*And*) was the cohesive conjunction and categorized as Conjunctive Adjunct to provide linking relations between one sentence and the others (linking sentences), *that* as the Subject of the clause. *that* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *is* was as the Finite, *Ruth Ann* was as a compliment. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a question. A question occurs when the speaker wants to demand information about something from the listener. This can be seen from the grammatical structure of the Question in the form of Interrogative Mood (Mood Type is Interrogative Mood) functioning to demand information.

**Table 7:** (Clause 7) And that's former Governor Ruth Ann Minner.

And	that	Is	former Governor Ruth Ann Minner.
Con. Adjunct	Subject	Finite	Complement
Re-	Mood		-sidue
<i>Speech Role</i>			<i>Speech function</i>
<i>Giving information</i>			<i>Declarative Statement</i>

The clause above was as a conjunctive adjunct because (*And*) was the cohesive conjunction and categorized as a Conjunctive Adjunct to provide linking relations between one sentence and the others (linking sentences), *that* was as the Subject of the clause. *That* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and was as the Finite, former Governor Ruth Ann Minner was a compliment. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 8:** (Clause 8) Folks, the people of this nation have spoken.

Folks, the people of this nation	Have	spoken.
Subject	Finite	Predicator
Mood	Residue	
<i>Speech Role</i>	<i>Speech function</i>	
<i>Giving information</i>	<i>Declarative Statement</i>	

From the clause above, *Folks, the people of this nation, were* as the Subject of the clause. *Folks, the people of this nation* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *have* was as the Finite, *spoken* was as the predictor. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 9:** (Clause 9) They've delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for we, the people.

They	Have	Delivered	us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory	for we, the people.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Cir. Adjunct
Mood	Residue			
Speech Role		Speech function		
Giving information		Declarative Statement		

From the clause above, *they* were as the Subject of the clause. *They* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *have* been as the Finite, *delivered* was as predicator, *us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory* was as a complement, *for we, the people,* was as circumstances adjunct. The researchers found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener.

**Table 10:** (Clause 10) We've won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation.

We	Have	Won	with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation.
Subject	Finite	complement	Cir. Adjunct
Mood	Residue		
Speech Role		Speech function	
Giving information		Declarative Statement	

From the clause above, *we* were as the Subject of the clause. *We* appeared as the element picked up by the pronoun and *have* was as the Finite, *won* was as a complement, *with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation* was as circumstances adjunct. The researcher found that this clause belonged to speech functions in the form of a statement. A statement occurs when the speaker wants to give information about something to the listener. From the data analysis presented above, taken from Joe Biden's victory speech, there were two research findings: mood structures and speech functions.

### 3.1 Mood Structure Types

After analyzing the data, the researchers calculated the number of mood structures and made a table showing the text-analysis results. Mood structure types were analyzed in this research, divided into mood and residue elements. Mood elements consist of a subject and finite, while residue elements consist of a predicator, complement, and adjunct. Adjunct is also divided into four types: mood adjunct, conjunctive adjunct, comment adjunct, and circumstantial adjunct.

**Table 11:** Mood Structures in Joe Biden's Victory speech

Mood Structure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Subject	174	23.5 %
Finite	176	23.8 %
Predicator	120	16.3 %
Complement	133	18 %
Mood Adjunct	9	1.2 %
Circumstantial Adjunct	71	9.7 %
Comment Adjunct	2	0.2 %
Conjunctive Adjunct	54	7.3 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>100 %</b>

From the table 11 of the diagram above, it can be concluded that to find the percent of mood structure types is the appearing number of types divided by the total number of data and multiplied by one hundred so that the results will be found. The Mood structures found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech based on Yule theory found that there were 174 (23.5%) subjects and 176 (23.8%) finites, 120 (16.3%) predicators, 133 (18%) complements, 9 (1.2%) mood adjuncts, 71 (9.7%) circumstantial adjuncts, 2 (0.2%) comment adjuncts and 54 (7.3%) conjunctive adjuncts presented in the following bar chart.

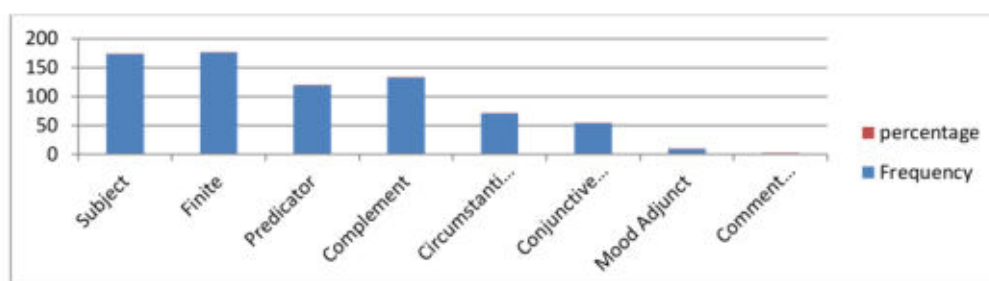


Figure 1: Mood Structures in Joe Biden's Victory Speech.

### 3.2 Speech Function Types

Clauses were also analyzed in this research. The speech function types included Statement, Question, Offer, and Command.

Table 12. Speech Function Types Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech

Speech Function	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Statement	162	92%
Question	4	2%
Offer	7	4%
Command	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table 12 above shows that there were 177 data found in Joe Biden's victory speech. There are four Speech Function types found in the analyzed data consisting of a statement occurring 162 times (92%), a question occurring 4 times (2%), Command occurring 4 (2%), and an Offer occurring 7 times (4%). From the explanation above, the researchers found that the most dominant Speech Function type used by Joe Biden in his victory speech was a statement. In addition, the findings related to the implicature types are shown in the following chart.

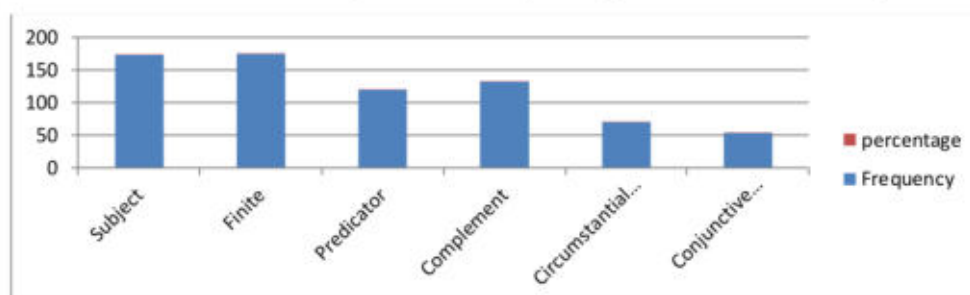


Figure 2: The percentage of Speech Function Types

The researchers found four data belonging to the generalized conversational implicature. The type of generalized conversational implicature depended on the context and needed no particular background knowledge to understand what was talked about. In this context, it was known that the context was about Joe Biden's victory speech published by the Washington Post web. Thus, most people could understand what was generally implied in the announcement.

## 4. Discussion

After analyzing and classifying the above data, the researchers made a clear discussion on mood structures and speech functions of Interpersonal meaning to answer the previously stated research questions. In mood structures, the researchers found Subject (23.5%) and Finite (23.8%), predicator (16.3%), complement (18%), mood adjuncts (1.2%), circumstantial adjuncts (9.7%), comment adjuncts (0.2%), and conjunctive adjuncts (7.3%). The researchers also found speech functions in the form of a statement (92%), question (2%), Command (2%), and Offer (4%). Some examples of speech analyzed based on mood structures, and speech functions are as follows.

The American story is about slow yet steadily widening opportunities in America. Make no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long. We must make the promises of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability."

Based on the utterances above, the realization of mood was analyzed as follows. "The American story is about the slow Yet Steadily Widening the Opportunities in America" (Speech function: statement). The word "The American story" was as Subject, the word "is" was as finite, the word "about" was as predicator, the word "slow" was a complement, and the word Yet Steadily Widening the Opportunities in America" was as an adjunct. So, based on mood structures, "the American story is" was as a mood and "about the slow, yet steadily widening the opportunities in America." was as residue. This statement means America's development was not maximized yet.

**Table 13:** Mood Structures "The American Story is about Slow, Yet Steadily Widening the Opportunities in America."

<b>The American Story</b>	<b>Is</b>	<b>About</b>	<b>Slow</b>	<b>Yet Steadily Widening the Opportunities in America</b>
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

The realization of mood was found in the sentence, "Make no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long." (Speech function: command). The word "make" was as finite, "no mistake" was as a complement, and the word "too many dreams have been deferred for too long." was as circumstantial adjuncts. So, based on mood structures, "make" was as mood and "no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long." was as residue.

**Table 14:** Mood Structures "Make no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long."

<b>(You)</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>no mistake</b>	<b>too many dreams have been deferred for too long.</b>
subject	Finite	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

The realization of mood was found in the sentence, "We must make the promises of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability." (Speech function: command). The word "We" was as a subject, the word "must" was as finite, the word "make" was as predicator, the word "The promise of the country real" was as complement, and the word "For everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity, or their disability" was as circumstances adjuncts. So, based on mood structures, "We must" was as mood and "make the promises of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability" was as residue.

**Table 15:** Mood Structures "We must make the promises of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability."

<b>We</b>	<b>Must</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>The promise of the country real</b>	<b>For everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity, or their disability</b>
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Cir. Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

This study was supported by a previous study in the related field. There were similarities and comparisons between this study and the previous one. The previous study, "Interpersonal Meaning in Sri Mulya Indrawati's Speech", from Universitas Sumatera Utara in 2017 from (Syafirah, 2017). This study looked at the interpersonal meaning found in Sri Mulyani Indrawati's speech through mood structures and speech functions used. The qualitative research design was adopted in this study. The transcripts from Sri Mulyani Indrawati's commencement speech to the students at the University of Virginia were used as the research data source. The data for this study was gathered using a documentation method. The researchers used four steps to analyze the data, as suggested by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, stating that data analysis consists of four components: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The researchers found that there were mood elements in Sri Mulyani Indrawati's speech, consisting of 141 subjects, and 158 finites, 117 predicators, 122 complements, 27 mood adjuncts, 75 circumstantial adjuncts, 3 comment adjuncts, and 67 conjunctive adjuncts as the residue elements. Speech Functions have resulted from the specific actions from the cross-categorization of Speech Roles and Commodity Exchanges in four basic moves: statement, question, offer, and command.

## 5. Conclusion

A speaker may have a different status, serve different goals, and impact on audience depending on how mood, modality, and personal pronouns are used. The speaker assumed the roles of information processor and deliverer in the text under investigation used an interpersonal function in the form of declarative mood. In addition, the speaker developed a close bond with the American audience, which allowed him asking support and provide information to share. Instructional implications were also found in this study. Interaction is crucial in the classroom



to success the language acquisition. Interpersonal contact in the classroom is impacted by the students' communication errors leading to meaningful negotiation, explanation requests, or message restructuring. Teachers and students may be able to engage, exchange meanings, and adopt positions more successfully if they are aware of how language serves interpersonal functions.

The greater significance lies in this understanding encouraging classroom agents to uphold their relationships, shape behaviors, and communicate their opinions. To indicate how information is transmitted, certain grammatical elements, such as subject-verb agreement as well as finite 19 modal pronouns, are used. In other words, the ability to develop and preserve social ties throughout exchanges is one of the more difficult aspects in learning a language. By examining the mood systems, modalities, and pronouns used in response to the discourse moves occurring in the classroom interactions from the SFL point of view, these difficulties may be successfully controlled.

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