



# The Analysis of the Song Lyrics of the Energy of Asia Music Album from the Perspective of Systemic Functional Grammar

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## Abstract

Music has played a role as the media in modern society. It is used not only to be listened to accompany in doing activities but also as the media to inform people about what is happening around them. This study aims to investigate the most frequent occurrence of mood system and adjunct of each lyric and describe the modality realized in the lyric of Energy of Asia's album of the 2018 Asian Games, to find the transitivity processes, and to find the textual meaning (theme) of the song lyrics. In this descriptive qualitative research, three song lyrics from the "Energy of Asia" music album released in 2018 were selected, including *nonpolitical Asian dance*, *unbeatable*, and *dance tonight*. The analysis of the data involved some activities, including listening to the songs, finding the printed lyrics of the songs, analyzing the clauses based on the mood residue elements, describing the most frequent used-mood types, seeing the modality finite and mood adjunct, finding the transitivity process, and the textual meaning occurred on the song lyrics and making a conclusion. This paper attempts to reveal how the perspective of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is employed to analyze song lyrics. The result of this study showed that the message in the lyrics is mostly about the pride of being Indonesian people in celebrating the Asian Games and motivating the players to be the winner in this event.

**Keywords:** SFG, Mood System; Song lyrics; Transitivity Process

## **Introduction**

A language is a tool or system of symbols designed for people to communicate and interact with each other (Lyons, 2002). People use words to express ideas and emotions in oral or written forms. Moreover, the language is expected to be meaningful and prevent misunderstandings between speakers and listeners. A language is also a communication tool found in advertisements and entertainment such as music, novel, or movie.

One of the entertainment media is music, which is familiar in today's life. Music is a basic human instinct and a daily human activity that is universally inspired by love and experience (Piragasam, 2013). Now the use of music is not merely for pleasures, such as accompanying activities like working, studying, and thinking. Still, it also can be used to convey social or moral messages. Music is defined as vital in human biological history; not only that music equip the process and ability to experience, but the music was also used to prolong human life (Piragasam, 2013). Moreover, music relates to lyrics, and lyrics can give inspiration for life. Therefore, when people listen to a song lyric, they not only understand the literal meaning of the lyrics, but also the deep meaning of the readers or speakers.

The researchers choose systemic functional grammar (SFG) for this study because it can interpret the speaker's intention in the concrete form and meaning. In SFG, 'clause' rather than 'sentence; is the unit of analysis. In systemic theory, a clause is a unit in which three different kinds of meta-functions are combined, including ideation function, interpersonal function, and textual function. The ideational function is used to explain things and convey processes, whereas the interpersonal function is used to communicate through language, and the textual function is used to organize information (Xiang, 2022).

Systemic functional grammar is concerned with the choices that grammar makes available to speakers and writers (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). These choices relate speakers' and writers' intentions to the concrete forms of a language. The SFG approach is used worldwide, especially in language education, and for several goals like discourse analysis. Halliday's tradition, as an illustration, is more interested in how language is utilized in social settings to attain a specific target (Donnell, 2012).

In SFG, language is analyzed in three ways: semantics, phonology, and lexicogrammar. These grammatical structures consist of interpersonal, ideational, and textual meaning or clauses as the message. The interpersonal meaning is used to interact between the person speaking now and the person who will talk next; to establish this relationship, we take turns speaking. We take turns and take on different speech roles in the exchange. The central characters we can take on are speech functions, the typical mood of the clause, and types of adjuncts (Eggins, 1994). According to Eggins (2004), the primary roles we can take on are speech functions, the typical mood of the clause, and types of adjuncts. They are declarative, interrogative, imperative, answer elliptical (declarative mood), acknowledgment

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elliptical (declarative mood), and accept (minor clause).

The ideational meaning is concerned with 'ideation,' grammatical resources for construing our experience of the world around and inside us. Ideational meaning is called the transitivity system, and they are material, mental, verbal, behavioral, existential, relational, circumstances, and cause processes. Ideational meaning is one of the elements of functional grammar explaining the writer's experience of a person or what is going on (ErniYuhriyah, 2014). Her research found the ideational meaning in that song's lyrics are participant, process, and circumstances, and the dominant process in that study is physical processes.

Textual meaning is realized through a structure in which the clause falls into just two primary constituents: a theme (the first part of the term) and a rhyme. The theme involves three significant systems: choice of theme, choice of marked or unmarked theme, and choice of predicated or unpredicted theme. There are always different perspectives of saying, and different expressions can be used to influence the reader or hearer.

This music album becomes interesting because it is an official music album for the 2018 Asian Games. We know that the Asian Games is an international sports event involving members of the Asian countries, and the 2018 Asian Games were held in Indonesia. Thirteen songs consist of seven songs in Bahasa Indonesia and six in English created and delivered by Indonesian musicians. The previous research is about analyzing interpersonal meaning, ideational meaning, and textual meaning of news item text (Prawiro, 2017). He said that in his research on the SFG, a pattern of thematic choice is seen as realizing textual meanings, which in turn are the realization of mode dimensions of the context of the situation. Thus thematic choice recognizes the meanings of the organization of the forthcoming event and the experiential and interpersonal distance. In the other case, the researchers will focus on song lyrics based on the theory of SFG. The other study is about the interpersonal meaning of Muse song lyrics in Black Holes and Revelation Album (Marhamah, 2014). The results show that a declarative mood becomes the dominant mood used in this song's lyrics. To extend the knowledge, the researchers want to analyze the mood system, transitivity process, and textual meaning in the song lyrics of Energy of Asia, in the 2018 Asian Games. The results are to give a contribution to the listeners, singers, English language learners, the teachers, and the researcher. For listeners, this study is to strengthen their understanding of the meaning and context of the songs in the music album of the 2018 Asian Games. For the singers, it can help them convey the singer's intention. Meanwhile, for English language learners, it can be useful for them to help them analyze the song lyrics based on the systemic functional grammar theory. For teachers, this research can be supplementary materials related to listening and speaking skills. For future researchers, the study can help them analyze the other song lyrics, music groups, or other social-political issues by employing the perspective of SFG.

## Method

This research is aimed to investigate the mood system, transitivity processes, and textual meaning of the song lyrics in the Energy of Asia Music album (the official music album of the 2018 Asian Games). The researchers analyzed three of them: "Nonpolitical Asian Dance, Unbeatable, and Dance Tonight" materials based on the ideas of SFG. The method used by the researcher is descriptive qualitative because this research describes the singer and song writer's mood, ideational, and intention meaning. The researchers listen to the songs, take a note, analyze, and apply the song lyrics as the primary material for this research.

## Findings

This research was conducted to seek answers of the research aims mentioned in the previous section. Below is the analysis of song lyrics based on the SFG.

### *Song lyric 1: (Non-Political) Asian Dance by Slank*

#### 1. The Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning: Mood

The interpersonal meaning is the interaction between speaker and addressee, the grammatical resources for social roles in general, speaking roles, and dialog interaction, for example, establishing, changing, and maintaining interpersonal relationships. In the song lyric entitled Non-Politician Asian Dance by Slank, the result of the analysis mood system are as follows:

*Table 1: Total Count and Kind of Mood*

Clause	Count.	Kind of Mood
1	2	Declarative
2	2	Declarative
3	2	Declarative
4	2	Declarative
5	2	Declarative
6	2	Declarative
7	2	Declarative
8	2	Declarative
9	1	Declarative
10	1	Declarative
11	1	Imperative
12	1	Declarative

The mood frequently used in this song lyric is declarative; the form of the sentence is the statement. There is no modality used in this song's lyrics. The total count of the declarative mood used is 95%, and 5 % use an imperative mood. The modality is not used in this song lyric.

*Table 2: Adjunct Used in the Song Lyric*

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Clause	Count.	Kind of Adjunct
5	2	Circumstances
6	2	Circumstances
9	1	Circumstances
10	1	Circumstances

After analyzing the mood analysis, the writer analyzes the adjunct used in the song lyric. We know that there are many kinds of adjuncts, such as mood adjunct, circumstances adjunct, comment, polarity, and continuity adjunct. There are four clauses of circumstances adjunct used in this song lyric.

## 2. The Analysis of Ideational Meaning: Transitivity Process

The ideational meaning reflects the contextual value of the "field," that is, the nature of the social process in which the language is implicated. This is the analysis of the ideational meaning of the song lyrics of "Non-Politician, Asian Dances" which can be summarized below.

Table 3: Total Count of Process

Clause	Count.	Process
1	2	Attributive: relational
2	2	Attributive: relational
3	2	Mental
4	2	Mental
5	2	Existential
6	2	Existential
7	2	Mental
8	2	Mental
9	1	Existential
10	1	Existential
11	1	Material
12	1	Material

The study sums up four kinds of transitivity used in this song lyric: attributive/ relational, mental, existential, and material processes. In total, twenty processes are used in these lyrics. The dominant processes used in these lyrics are the mental process 40%, followed by the existential process 30%, the attributive/relational process 20%, and the last is material process 10%.

## 3. The Analysis of Textual Meaning: Theme and Rheme

The theme in the above song lyrics shows that the theme is realized by position (initial). Theme related to the context of speaking as the signal to the

listeners that someone/something is about to start, resume, or continue speaking. Following is the analysis of kinds of themes and rheme in the song lyric of non-politician, Asian dance.

Table 4: Total Count and Kind of Theme

Clause	Count.	Kind of theme
1	2	Topical
2	2	Topical
3	2	Topical
4	2	Topical
5	2	Topical
6	2	Topical
7	2	Topical
8	2	Topical
9	1	Topical
10	1	Topical
11	1	Textual
12	1	Topical

The table shows 20 words/phrases indicating to theme and rheme (further analysis in appendixes). 19 topical themes are used in this song, and only one textual theme is in this lyric.

**Song lyric 2: Unbeatable by JFlow feat Dira Sugandi**

**1. The Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning: Mood**

JFlow feat Dira Sugandi takes this song, talking about the singer’s belief that Indonesian players of Asia Game 2018 will be the winner. The writer analyzed this song lyric through the mood system used in it. The analysis of interpersonal meaning/ mood system used in this song lyrics are drawn in the table below:

Table 5: Kinds of Mood and Total Count

Kinds of mood	Count.	Clause
Imperative	4	1, 3, 22, 24
Declarative	28	2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11,12,13,14,15,16, 17,18,19,20,21,23,25,26 27,28,29,30,31,32

The Table above presented that the dominant mood used in this song lyric is declarative 87.5 %, and

the other mood is imperative 12.5%. The modality found in this song lyric is "can and will."

Table 6: Adjunct Used in the Song Lyric

Clause	Count	Adjunct
2,3,17a,b, 18a,b	6	Mood adjunct
3,4,7,8,9,10,13,14,15,16	10	Circumstances adjunct

Table 6 presented that lyrics, mood adjunct, and circumstances adjunct are used in this song. There are six clauses used in mood adjunct and ten clauses of circumstances adjunct.

## 2. The Analysis of Ideational Meaning: Transitivity Process

The study had analyzed the transitivity process of the song lyric entitled "unbeatable." The result can be seen in the following table.

*Table 7: Transitivity Process and Total Count*

Transitivity	Total number	Percentage
Relational processes: Attributive	26	40%
Material processes	7	10.7%
Behavior	8	12.3%
Existential processes	4	6.15%
Verbal processes	16	24.6%

It can be seen that the dominant process that occurred in this lyric is the relational process of attributive 40%, followed by the verbal process of 24.6% (16 clauses). Many verbal processes occurred, such as "says." Then, behavior, material, and the last existential processes follow.

## 3. The Analysis of Textual Meaning: Theme and Rheme

The study of the theme and rheme that occurred in this song lyric is summarized as follows.

*Table 8: Kinds of Theme and Total Count*

Kind of theme	Count	Clause
Topical theme	25	1,3,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 18,19,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32
Textual theme	7	2,4,10, 20,21,22, 23

Of 32 clauses of data, 78% are categorized as the topical theme, and 21% are textual themes.

### **Song lyric 3: *Dance Tonight by Bunga Citra Lestari***

#### **1. The Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning: Mood System**

Dance tonight, one of the song lyrics of Energy of Asia/official music album 2018 that Bunga Citra Lestari took has many kinds of moods. They are imperative and declarative moods. 68% used declarative mood, and 31% used an imperative mood. It can be summarized in the following table:

*Table 9: kind of mood and total count*

<b>Kind of mood</b>	<b>Count.</b>	<b>Clause</b>
<b>Imperative</b>	15	2,3,4,15,16,17,28,33 35,36,37,43,44,46,48
<b>Declarative</b>	32	1,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 14,18,19,20,21,22,23,24 25,26,27,29,30,31,32,34 38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,47

No modality is found in this song lyric, but the study moves to the adjunct analysis. There are 32 adjuncts found in this song lyric, consisting of circumstances adjunct 75% then, followed by mood adjunct 18.75%.

#### **2. The Analysis of Ideational Meaning: Transitivity process**

*Table 10: Transitivity Process and Total Count.*

<b>Transitivity</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Relational processes: Attributive</b>	18	28.1%
<b>Material processes</b>	17	26.5%
<b>Behavior</b>	2	3.1%
<b>Existential processes</b>	2	3.1%
<b>Verbal processes</b>	1	1.5%
<b>Mental processes</b>	15	23.4%

The transitivity process that dominant occurred in this song lyric is relational processes: attributive 28.1%, in the second place, is material process 26.5%, the



third place is mental process 15%, then behavioral process, existential, and verbal process.

### 3. The Analysis of Textual Meaning: Theme and Rheme

Table 11: Textual Meaning and Total Count

Kind of theme	Count.	Clause
<b>Topical theme</b>	45	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,43,44,45,46,47,48
<b>Textual theme</b>	3	13,39,42

There are 48 clauses in this song. The study found 45 clauses using a topical theme of 93.75% and 3 clauses of the textual meaning of 6.25%.

### Discussion

The aims of this research are first to investigate the dominant mood that occurred in each song lyric, the second question is about the transitivity processes, and the last is the kind of the theme of each lyric. Three song lyrics had been analyzed in this research entitled "No politician, Asian dance" by *Slank*, "*Unbeatable*," and "*Dance Tonight*." The first song is about the motivation of Indonesian people, especially some players of the 2018 Asian Games, to keep the spirit and gain this championship, to be fair play without any politician effect and practice in it. The result of the mood system that is dominantly found in that song is declarative mood. It means that the singer, through this, the song gives more information in statement form. The singer wants to inform the listeners always to foster their spirit to face this proud event. There is no found modality in it, and the adjunct in that song is circumstances adjunct and mood adjunct. The frequent use of that adjunct indicates that song lyrics give information to the readers. The primary process used in this song's lyrics is mental processes (40%). The second place is relational processes with 30%, then is the existential process with 20 % process, and the last is material processes with 10% of this song lyrics. Mental processes found in that song lyric is, for example, we don't need politics; it means that the singer wants to convey his intention that the Indonesian people do not need politics in having this special event. And the next place is relational processes that are used to assign a quality to something. It means that the singer used much sense of feeling to convey messages. The last analysis is textual meaning; the theme can be identified as that or those elements which become the first clause or starting point to deliver sense, and the topical theme is 95% found in this song lyric.

The second song is entitled "unbeatable.". This song is taken by JFlow and Dira Sugandi. This song is about the singer's belief that the Indonesia player in Asian Game 2018 will win the championship. The study found the mood analysis is that the singer dominantly used a declarative mood of 87.5%, followed by an imperative mood of 12.5%. It indicates that the song lyric intends to give information to the listeners; besides that, the singer used the imperative mood that indicates the singer's command and persuades some Indonesian people, especially Indonesian players of Asian games, to be more spirit in winning this event. The modality used in that song lyric is "can" and "will" it means that the singer gives advice/suggestion to the listener to win this event. The other modal is "will," which says that the singer gives planning, intention, and hope to the Indonesian people to gain and win the game. The adjunct mostly found in the second song is the circumstances adjunct, which indicates the song lyrics give information on the circumstances of place, time, and manner. The dominant process of this song lyrics is relational processes with 40%, followed by verbal processes (24.6%), then behavioral processes (12.3%), material processes (10.7%), and the last place are existential processes (6.15%). For example, the lyric "you can be the fire that lights up the world" this lyric means that the singer gives spirit to the player to win the event and make Indonesia proud of itself. That means that the singer wants to show the process of being and assign a quality to something; the last is textual meaning analysis. The writer found the topical theme is the dominant frequency used in this song lyric.

The third song is entitled "Dance tonight," sung by Bunga Citra Lestari. This is one of the most famous and best songs of the thirteen songs in this music album. The main point of this song lyric is the singer persuades the Indonesian player of Asian Game 2018 to foster their spirit even though there are so many rivals outside. The mood analysis that is dominantly used in that song lyric is a declarative mood 68%; the other mood is imperative 31%. It indicates that the song gives information (statement). The modality used in that song lyric is "won't." It means that the singer suggests to the listeners (Indonesian players of the Asian Games) not to be afraid to face the rivals. There are mood adjuncts and circumstances adjuncts found in the song lyrics. The most adjunct mostly found is circumstances adjunct. From the above analysis, the dominant transitivity meaning found in that song lyric is relational processes: attributive (28.1%), the second place is material processes with 26.5%, the third place is mental processes (23.4%), behavior and existential process, then the last is verbal processes. The textual meaning found in this song lyric is a topical theme.

## Conclusion

By analyzing the mood system in the three-song lyrics of the 2018 Asia Games Music album, the researchers conclude that the message in those song lyrics in that music album mostly used declarative mood, and the second place is an imperative mood. This proof makes us clear that the singers want to inform the message about the pride of being Indonesian person and persuade the players to do their best in

this event. After we discuss the mood types, and then move on to modality. There are two modalities used in these song lyrics. Those are the use of can and will. So, it assumes that some information is in the form of “advice” and some wishes. This result can be completed by a consideration of Adjuncts in the text. There are some types discussed. These are circumstantial, mood, comment, polarity, conjunctive, and continuity. Each song's lyrics found circumstantial adjunct and mood adjunct. Mood adjunct expresses probability meanings closely related to the modal operators. Circumstantial adjunct indicates that the text is not arguable (what is written is non-arguable by readers). Based on the analysis table above, it also can be concluded that five transitivity processes are used in this text. The primary process used in this text is the attributive process. In the second place are the mental, material, and verbal processes of behavioral process and existential processes. The system of Theme and Rheme provides essential ways in which textual meanings at the clause level may be established.

Several suggestions may be useful for teachers and further researchers. For teachers, this study can be used as a tool to analyze songs that will be used as media in teaching English. This analysis may be the teaching materials to introduce the processes used in clauses. Further researchers are recommended to analyze song lyrics consisting of different issues. It is beneficial to find the differences between music groups, songs, and meaning in each issue, such as human and socio-political issues. Hopefully, the present study will contribute to the music listeners to read and listen carefully and critically.

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