The Interpersonal Meaning of the "Elephant" Report Text toward EFL Secondary Students' Textbook

Bunga Agita Firnawati[1], Yogi Setia Samsi[2]
1910631060071@student.unsika.ac.id[1], Yogi.setiasamsi@staff.unsika.ac.id[2]
University of Singaperbangsa Karawang

Abstract

SFL analysis is very important to master in the grammatical field because it becomes the basis for analyzing and interpreting the meaning of a written or spoken text. This study analyzed a report text entitled "Elephant" using interpersonal meaning. The aim of this study is to identify the mood system contained in the report text, "Elephant," in an EFL secondary students' textbook. This study employed a qualitative descriptive method using the research object, a report text titled "Elephant," and focused on analyzing the mood system that includes declarative mood, interrogative mood, and imperative mood. The findings of this study showed that the percentage of the mood system contained in the report text entitled "Elephant" is 100% declarative mood. This showed that the report text being analyzed contains information according to the function of the declarative mood, which is to describe information through a statement. It also revealed the writer-reader interaction, in which the writer, as the interlocutor, delivers information while the reader, as the recipient, receives it.

Keywords: *interpersonal meaning, mood system, report text "Elephant"*

Introduction

In everyday life, humans interact using language, both written and spoken. Based on a study, Firth (1950) reveals that language is a system and emphasizes the importance of a context that aims to explain meaning. In fact, linguistic analysis is closely related to the field of education, especially in terms of grammatical function. Therefore, educators are familiar with text analysis in language learning as a way to deepen linguistic knowledge.

Accordingly, Setyowati et al. (2016) stated that Systemic Functional Language (SFL) is a linguistic branch that emphasizes two characteristics: systemic and functional. Discourse analysis, which is derived from a linguistic perspective, functionally encompasses ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). In an ideational sense, this relates to the text or spoken field or knowledge to be analyzed. The systematic explanation of ideational meaning provided by Hao (2015) provides a foundation for understanding how language is used to generate knowledge in any text, whether written, spoken, or a succession of texts that follow apprenticeship through time.

More specifically, the interpersonal meaning is related to how individuals connect with each other through language, and they see language interactions (Ratnasari et al., 2020). A speaker tries to convey information to listeners or readers through text, both spoken and written, which aims to exchange positions in rhetorical interactions such as statements, questions, offers, and orders. In simple terms, this interpersonal meaning also relates to all aspects that can be evaluated using the provided discourse analysis.

Furthermore, interpersonal meaning can be obtained by analyzing the mood of the clause. Based on the explanation from Gebhard & Accurso (2020), through English, the mood system enables the potential for making declarative assertions, posing interrogative questions, and providing instructions in the imperative mood. As the linguistic description of a specific language progresses, systemic components are sorted from left to right based on a fundamental presupposition known as delicacy: parts to the right are gradually more delicate than those to the left (Quiroz, 2018). The arrangement of systemic qualities in relation to one another is not arbitrary; rather, the position of each feature within the system is motivated by sentence structure patterns. In SFL, structural patterns are viewed as functional configurations that have been abstracted from common syntagmatic patterns. In system networks, realization statements preceded by a slanted arrow are used to introduce the structural specification of systemic properties.

Therefore, in language learning, especially in the grammatical field, SFL analysis is very important to learn because it becomes a provision for analyzing and understanding the meaning of a reading text or sound. In general, students study SFL analysis to analyze the meaning of a reading text such as narrative text, news text, descriptive text, procedural text, and other texts.

Numerous previous studies have conducted research on interpersonal meaning. Sari et al. (2019) has conducted research on the analysis of the lyrics of the song Don't You Remember by singer Adele using systemic function linguistics.

This study employed a qualitative approach and used descriptive methodologies. The statistics gathered demonstrate that the interpersonal meaning of the lyrics Don't You Remember is missing in 4 out of the 28 phrases since these sentences only feature one element, namely residue. As a result of this research, 85.7% of the data has been evaluated to determine mood and exists in the interpersonal meaning element.

Furthermore, Susanto & Watik (2017) examined the lyrics of Christina Perri's album "Love Strong" in their research on the same topic. The study's goals are to identify the frequent presence of mood types and speech roles, explain the modality occurring in lyrics, and describe the contribution of interpersonal meaning in Christina Perri's album "Love Strong." The study took a qualitative approach and employed a descriptive research methodology. The results revealed that in order to completely comprehend the interpersonal meaning contained in the song lyrics, we must carefully read them and analyze them utilizing the interpersonal meaning aspects. The songwriter or singer wants these songs to make a statement and transfer knowledge to readers or listeners based on the analysis of mood types and speech roles.

In addition, the same studies that have been conducted by Purwandari et al. (2022) talked about analysis of song lyrics. The purpose of this study is to analyze the mood, connecting each lyric, describing modality to find the transitivity process, and finding textual meaning (theme) in three songs from the album entitled "Energy of Asia". To conduct this study, the researchers employed the descriptive-qualitative method. The findings of this analysis reveal that the lyrics' primary message centers on Indonesian patriotism in celebrating the Asian Games and inspiring athletes to win this competition.

Whereas, other researchers have also conducted interpersonal meaning analysis research with different topics. Muin et al. (2023) conducted an analysis of the role of family communication using regional languages. The researchers used qualitative approach with data collection technique used interview, observation, and documentation. The findings of this study provide a broad overview of Flores families' interpersonal interactions in Tabarano Village. Currently, Indonesian is frequently used as a language of communication. Additionally, some family members have children who are fluent in Flores because some of their children have attended Flores schools and have grown up speaking the language. One way to preserve the Flores language is to listen to it when people are saying it, to teach it directly, and to use it when one's children ask what the words they hear mean. Currently, there is a change in family interpersonal communication, as seen in the

loss of the use of the Flores language when speaking to family members, the child's response to parents speaking in the Flores language being Indonesian, and the use of the Flores language being mixed with Indonesian when speaking, making the Flores language inferior in the preservation process. The lack of support from kids for parents' attempts to keep the Flores language alive so that parents may also comprehend and adapt to their surroundings.

Moreover, on a separate topic, speech, other scholars have undertaken interpersonal meaning analysis. Amalia et al., (2018) did this study, in which the researchers examined the interpersonal meaning of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech entitled "Toward Harmony Among Civilizations." The study took a qualitative approach, employing case studies. The study's goal is to identify the key mood and modality types in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech, describe the mood and modality types, and characterize the interpersonal meaning of those mood and modality types in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech. According to the findings of this study, there are two mood types in the interpersonal meaning of the speech, namely indicative and imperative; the indicative type is the dominant mood, which is declarative with a total of 97 clauses, or roughly 95%, and "can" is the most frequently used modal verb. Furthermore, the researchers discover that different moods and modality types may have an impact on how useful a speech is to the audience, with the overall dominant modality type accounting for 40.6% of the total.

In conclusion, various academics' research on the analysis of interpersonal meaning revealed that language may express meaning in both written and spoken forms, which are then examined using mood, modality, transitivity, and textual meaning. Overall, these studies provide a deeper understanding of interpersonal meaning in various contexts, such as song lyrics, speech, and communication. Interpersonal meaning is an important aspect of human communication, and a good understanding of it can help enrich the analysis and interpretation of communication texts.

Method

The descriptive-qualitative research method was used in this study. According to Creswell (2009) in Siallagan et al. (2017), qualitative research is a method for determining and appreciating the importance that individuals or groups place on social or human problems. To explore the interpersonal significance of a report text from the book "Elephant" adopted from 'The Little Animal Encyclopedia'. The material was obtained from an English textbook for

secondary EFL students written by Wachidah, Gunawan, Diyantari, and Khatimah entitled "When English Rings a Bell". Published by Pusat Kurikulum and Perbukuan, Balitbang, Kemedikbud, in 2017, ISBN 978-602-282-978-2. This study focuses on the mood analysis of the phrases in the five-sentence report text "Elephant".

Results

The analysis produced six clauses using interpersonal meaning, which focuses on analyzing the mood system that includes declarative mood, interrogative mood, and imperative mood. This also helps researchers to simplify the process of analyzing the report text of "Elephant" in an EFL secondary students' textbook. The following is an explanation of the results found:

- **Clause 1: "Elephant are the heaviest land animals"**

Elephant	are	the heaviest land animals
Subject	Finite	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Table 1. 1

Discussion: According to the information shown above, it is clear that the statement *"Elephants are the heaviest land animals"* is made up of two parts. In this clause, the subject *"Elephant"* and the finite verb *"are"* make up the first element, mood. The second element, residue, is made up of the complement *"the heaviest land animals."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that readers can understand the information contained in the text.

- **Clause 2: "They are also intelligent and have good memories"**

They	are	also	intelligent	and	have		good memories.
Subject	Finite	Adjunct: Conjun	Complement	Adjunct: Conjun	Finite	Predicator	Complement

		ctive		ctive			
MOOD		RESIDUE			MOOD	RESIDUE	

Table 1. 2

Discussion: Considering the information presented above, it was determined that the statement *"They are also intelligent and have good memories"* had two components. The first component of this clause is mood, which is composed of the subject *"they"* and the finite verbs *"are, have,"* and the second component is residue, which is composed of the conjunctions *"also, and,"* the predicator *"have,"* and the complement *"intelligent, good memories."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that readers can understand the information contained in the text.

● **Clause 3: "Most of them live in Africa and Asia such as in Lampung, Indonesia"**

Most of them	**live**		**in Africa and Asia**	**such as in Lampung, Indonesia**
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct: Circumstantial	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE		

Table 1. 3

Discussion: The aforementioned information indicated that the statement *"Most of them live in Africa and Asia, such as in Lampung, Indonesia,"* is made up of two elements. In this clause, the first element is mood, which is composed of the subject *"Most of them"* and the finite verb *"live,"* while the second element, residue, is composed of the predicator *"live,"* the adjunct: circumstantial *"in Africa and Asia,"* and the complement *"such as in Lampung, Indonesia."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that readers can understand the information contained in the text.

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● **Clause 4: "They use their long trunks almost like an arm"**

They	use		their long trunks almost like an arm
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE	

Table 1. 4

Discussion: It was found using the information previously provided that the phrase *"They are their long trunks almost like an arm"* consists of two elements. The first element in this clause is mood, which is composed of the subject *"They"* and the finite *"use,"* whereas the second element is residue, which is composed of the predicator *"use"* and the complement *"their long trunks almost like an arm."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that readers can understand the information contained in the text.

● **Clause 5: "to put food and water in their mouths"**

to put	food and water	in their mouths
Predicator	Complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial
RESIDUE		

Table 1. 5

Discussion: Considering the previously mentioned data, it was demonstrated that the phrase *"to put food and water in their mouths"* only contained one element, namely residue. Residue consists of the predicator *"to put,"* the complement *"food and water,"* and the adjunct: circumstantial *"in their mouths."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that

readers can understand the information contained in the text.

● **Clause 6: "They eat grass and plants"**

They	**Eat**		**grass and plants**
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
MOOD	RESIDUE		

Table 1. 6

Discussion: It was evident from the aforementioned information that the statement *"They eat grass and plants"* comprised two elements. This first clause component is mood, which is made up of the subject *"They"* and the finite *"eat,"* and its second component is residue, which is made up of the predicator *"eat"* and the complement *"grass and plants."* Declarative is the mood type for this sentence. Declarative mood is a statement that functions to represent the contents of the report text "Elephant" so that readers can understand the information contained in the text.

The analysis of the data presented reflects that the text has a strong relationship with readers, especially students. Through clear details of the clauses that have been analyzed, the researcher presented authoritative information. By identifying the type of mood as declarative, the researcher asserts confidence and expertise, aiming to influence the readers' perception of the information conveyed. The choice of this type of mood creates direct contact between the author and the reader and allows for an effective understanding of the content in the "Elephant" report text. Declarative statements evoke a sense of reliability and trust, thereby increasing reader engagement and facilitating absorption of the information presented. Overall, this use of the declarative mood contributes to the author's goal of building meaningful and impactful relationships with student audiences.

The correlation between previous research and the current study is that the theme of exploration includes the investigation of interpersonal meaning in how language conveys meaning in different forms of communication. Previous research examined mood and modality in a variety of circumstances, including song lyrics

and speech. These studies collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of how interpersonal meaning operates and its significance in human communication.

The research conducted by Sari et al. (2019) on the analysis of song lyrics revealed the presence and absence of interpersonal meaning elements in clauses, while Susanto & Watik (2017) examined the frequent appearance of mood types and speech roles in song lyrics. The same research conducted by Purwandari et al. (2022) has analyzed the lyrics of three songs to identify moods, relate each lyric, and describe modality to find transitivity and textual meaning (theme). On the other hand, Amalia et al. (2018) analyzed the interpersonal meaning in a speech context. Research on other topics has been carried out by Muin et al. (2023), who analyzes the interpersonal meaning of a person's conversations using regional languages, specifically the Flores language. These studies collectively highlight the importance of understanding and analyzing mood and modality in order to comprehend the intended messages and effects of communication texts.

By building upon the findings of previous research, the current study further contributes to the understanding of interpersonal meaning by exploring its presence and impact in a text report context. The overall correlation between these studies underscores the significance of interpersonal meaning as a crucial aspect of communication analysis. A comprehensive understanding of interpersonal meaning enhances the interpretation and analysis of various communication texts, enabling researchers and readers to grasp the underlying messages and intentions conveyed through language.

Based on the data analysis, the researcher presents a discussion in the form of a recapitulation of the data analysis. Here are the recapitulations:

The frequency of mood types found in the report text of "Elephant" EFL secondary students' textbook:

Mood	Frequently	Percentage
Declarative	6	100%
Interrogative	-	-
Imperative	-	-
Total	6	100%

Table 1.7

The researcher examined the mood types present in the report text of the "Elephant" EFL secondary students' textbook using the provided table. The study found that the declarative mood was the sole mood type present in the text, accounting for 100% of the total mood types discovered with a frequency of 6 occurrences.

In relation to students' aspect, this finding suggests that the report text in the "Elephant" textbook primarily utilizes declarative statements to convey information or facts. The absence of interrogative and imperative mood types indicates a focus on providing explanations or descriptions rather than posing questions or giving commands. This choice of mood type may align with the educational objective of the textbook, aiming to present information in a clear and informative manner to enhance students' understanding and knowledge acquisition.

Students studying with this textbook can expect to encounter a predominantly declarative mood in the report texts, which may influence their reading and comprehension strategies. It suggests that students should approach the text with an expectation of receiving factual information and focus on absorbing and understanding the content provided. Furthermore, this finding highlights the importance for students to be familiar with different mood types in various texts, as it can help them interpret and analyze the intended meaning and purpose of the written material effectively.

Conclusion and Suggestion

In accordance with the findings of the interpersonal meaning analysis of data contained in the report text "Elephant," the researcher determined that the declarative mood is the most commonly employed in the text. In addition, it indicates the writer-reader interaction, in which the writer, as the interlocutor, delivers information while the reader, as the recipient, receives it. This is in line with the function of the declarative itself, where the declarative mood is a statement that explains something to the reader. While the interrogative and imperative are not found in the report text entitled "Elephant," the overall percentage of the entire text indicates that the text contains 100% of the declarative mood system.

Due to various limitations in this research, the authors suggest continuing other related research projects. Other scholars who are interested in learning more about this subject are likely to find a research gap as a result of these restrictions. As a result, more data can be discovered.

Acknowledgement

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