

A REGISTER ANALYSIS IN DALIA MOGAHED'S SPEECH

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A MUSLIM IN AMERICA:

A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS STUDY

A GRADUATING PAPER

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The Bachelor's Degree in English Literature



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YOGYAKARTA

2023

A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris. Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

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MOTTO

Just because you are not making progress as fast as you think you should

does not mean you are not making progress



DEDICATION

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

my beloved parents and my dearest sister for their endless love, support, and encouragement,

and all my classmates and circle of friends who extended their help in the midst of problems while doing this work.



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Lastly, I realize this graduating paper will never be perfect because the greatest perfection only belongs to Allah SWT. Even though it probably has some mistakes, I hopefully expect this graduating paper will be useful for other researchers who are interested in this field.

Wassalamu'alaikum wr.wb

Yogyakarta, 23 Maret 2023

The Researcher,



A large, stylized watermark logo of the university is visible in the background, featuring a geometric pattern and the letters 'SIFA'.

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ABSTRACT

This study was concerned with the employment of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory in analyzing a speech text. The text used in this study was a speech entitled *What it's like to be a Muslim in America* by Dalia Mogahed. The selected text was reconstructed into some clauses and was analyzed in terms of its field, tenor, and mode. In analyzing the data, the researcher used discourse analysis method because it focused on the role of language. The results of the analysis showed that the register category of the field of the text is about the matter of Islamophobia and how it affected Muslims community in America. The tenor as the realization of the interpersonal meaning in three metafunctions of the text explained the relationships among the speaker, the audience, and the theme by analyzing status, contact, and affect. Status among the speaker, the audience, and the theme being talked in the speech was equal status. Contact between the speaker and the audience tended to be uninvolved, whereas contact between the speaker and the theme was involved. The use of complex clauses, simplex nominal group, simplex verbal group, and simplex adjunct group also showed that language used by the speaker in delivering her speech was understandable. Furthermore, affect between the speaker and the audience showed positive judgement, while affect between the speaker and the theme was negative judgement. Ultimately, the mode of the text was categorized as spoken language style because the speaker used many complex clauses that were common in spoken language.

Keywords: systemic functional linguistics, register, field, tenor, mode

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berkaitan dengan penggunaan teori Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional (dalam bahasa Inggris disebut dengan SFL) dalam menganalisis teks pidato. Teks yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah pidato yang berjudul *What it's like to be a Muslim in America* oleh Dalia Mogahed. Teks yang dipilih tersebut kemudian direkonstruksi menjadi beberapa klausa dan dianalisis dari segi medan (*field*), pelibat (*tenor*), dan sarana (*mode*) nya. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan metode analisis wacana karena metode ini menitikberatkan pada peran bahasa. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa medan pada teks tersebut adalah tentang masalah Islamofobia dan bagaimana pengaruhnya terhadap komunitas Muslim di Amerika. Pelibat sebagai realisasi makna interpersonal menjelaskan hubungan antara pembicara, audiens, dan tema yang dibicarakan dengan menganalisis status, kontak, dan afek. Status antara pembicara, audiens, dan tema dalam pidato menunjukkan status yang sejajar. Kontak antara pembicara dan audiens cenderung kepada *uninvolved*, sedangkan kontak antara pembicara dan tema adalah *involved*. Penggunaan klausa kompleks, grup nominal simpleks, grup verbal simpleks, dan grup adverbial simpleks menunjukkan bahwa bahasa yang digunakan oleh pembicara dalam menyampaikan pidatonya mudah dimengerti oleh audiens. Selanjutnya, afek antara pembicara dan audiens menunjukkan penilaian positif, sedangkan afek antara pembicara dan tema menunjukkan penilaian negatif. Variabel terakhir yaitu sarana pada teks dikategorikan sebagai gaya bahasa lisan karena pembicara menggunakan banyak klausa kompleks yang umum dalam bahasa lisan.

Kata kunci: linguistik sistemik fungsional, register, medan, pelibat, sarana

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is very crucial for human's need, and people use it in their daily lives as a means of communication to express their ideas, feelings, and purposes. However, people come from various backgrounds and create variations in language. The variations in language are formed because of various societies and characters as we know each person has different character from one to another. Ethnicity, religion, education, profession, and cultural environment are several factors that build the character of people. People tend to automatically choose a variety of languages when they meet a particular group and adapt themselves to the situation or context they are in.

Language variation can be viewed from two different focuses: focus on users and focus on uses (Holmes, 2012). From users' perspective, variation involves regional and social dialects, variation by gender and age, and variation by ethnicity and social networks. From uses' perspective, variation involves style, context, and register. However, in this study, the researcher will only focus on register, one of the language variations focuses on the use.

Janet Holmes (2012, p. 262) states that "register describes the language of groups of people with common interests or jobs, or the language used in situations associated with such groups." Holmes also mentions that some linguists describe the term 'register' to refer to language variation which is influenced by changes in

situational factors, such as addressee, setting, task, or topic. In addition, Wardhaugh (2010, p. 48) defines that “registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups.” From those several definitions, it can be concluded that register is a language variety used in a certain community which is influenced by some situational factors.

Furthermore, register has three variables called *field*, *tenor*, and *mode* (Santoso, 2003). The realization of these variables can be found in the discourse through three metafunctions. Field refers to “what is going on”, and it is realized by ideational meaning. Tenor refers to “who is taking part”, and it is realized through interpersonal meaning. The last is mode which refers to “how language is used”, and it is realized through textual meaning. Thus, it can be concluded that through the combination of the three metafunctions, it will draw the connection between the text and its context of situation. This analysis is part of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which discusses the function of language based on how it is used.

The variables of register are applied in almost all kinds of linguistic forms. It starts from spoken until written discourse. This happens because register can be found in all media and all forms, such as advertisements, films, novels or short stories, newspapers, daily conversations, speech, and so on.

However, in this research, the researcher is interested in analyzing register in a speech by Dalia Mogahed in TED entitled “What it’s like to be a Muslim in America”. Dalia Mogahed is an American-Egyptian who is also a practicing and spiritual Muslim. Besides, she is an inspiring woman who has been very vocal about

Islam and Muslims, especially American Muslims, to change the negative image and perspective of Islam. In her speech, she talked about Islamophobia, and how it affected Muslim community, especially after the 9/11 tragedy. Dalia Mogahed got so much attention after her speech, not only from the audience who attended, but also from other people around the world. It is proven by the views of her speech that have reached more than four million views on TED YouTube channel.

As a Muslim and human being, we need to be aware to the issue that Mogahed talked in her speech because Islamophobia is one of the types of discrimination and racism. This becomes one of the reasons why the researcher chooses Dalia Mogahed's speech as the object of the research. Another reason is because her speech contains the variables of register that can be analyzed by using SFL theory.

For a better understanding in applying SFL theory on register by Halliday in the object, the researcher gives an example of analysis as follows.

Its rhythmic beauty sometimes moves me to tears

Its rhythmic beauty	sometimes	moves	me	to tears
Subject	Adjunct	Finite/Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
	Mood			Residue
Phenomenon		Process: mental	Senser	
Unmarked topical theme	Rheme			

Indicative-declarative: proposition-giving

From the example above, from the transitivity point of view, it can be seen that the speaker uses mental process in the clause. According to Martin (1997, p.

105), mental process “construe a person involved in conscious processing, including the process of perception, cognition, and affection.” It enables the speaker to express her opinion, thoughts, and feelings. Mental process is also related to psychological matters. Then, the clause has declarative construction and a proposition of giving. Based on interpersonal meaning perspective, it means that the function of the clause is for giving information in declarative form. Meanwhile, from a thematic structure point of view, the clause begins with the subject which is included to the unmarked topical theme. The use of this theme means that the speaker would like to point out the subject as the theme because it is placed in the first position. From this analysis, it can be seen that register is applied in the clause.

Thus, it is important to analyze this speech because Dalia Mogahed uses many ways to deliver her speech so that it becomes more interesting. Also, the researcher would like to know how the speech is realized through the language especially when connected to register in order to get a deep understanding of how the language is used by the participants in the speech. Thus, the researcher will apply the SFL perspective on register by M. A. K. Halliday to answer the research questions.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the explanation earlier, the researcher proposes two problem statements: how the three metafunctions are applied in Dalia Mogahed’s speech and how the register variables are applied in Dalia Mogahed’s speech.

1.3 Objective of Study

Following the questions above, this research attempts to explain the three metafunctions and register variables applied in Dalia Mogahed's speech entitled "What it is like to be a Muslim in America."

1.4 Scope of Study

This research will be focused on the register analysis of the speech through the three variables: field, tenor, and mode by using M. A. K. Halliday's theory of SFL. The limitation of this study is that the researcher analyzes register in Dalia Mogahed's speech entitled "What it's like to be a Muslim in America."

1.5 Significance of Study

This research is beneficial for students, society, and also for other researchers. The benefit for students is the result of this research can be used as an addition in learning activities related to SFL on register. For society, the researcher expects this study will give information and knowledge about register. For other researchers, it can stimulate them to conduct other research in the similar topic.

1.6 Literature Review

In accordance with previous research about Dalia Mogahed and register, the researcher found several studies related to this research. The first study is a journal article entitled *Register Categories (Field, Tenor, Mode) of the Text* by Hieronimus Canggung Darong (2022) from Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta. His study aimed to describe the contextual description of field, tenor, and mode found in Barack Obama's victory speech. The researcher of this study applied SFL theory

on register by Halliday to analyze the data. This study suggests that the field of the text is the action of America's change. The tenor shows an intimate relationship that enables the orator to gain support from the audience. Meanwhile, the mode of the text is categorized as spoken language because of the use of simple nominal groups.

The second study is a journal done by Neiza Moulita (2021) from University of Syiah Kuala entitled *Register Analysis of Language Use in the Jakarta Post's Football News*. Her descriptive qualitative analysis attempts to examine the Jakarta Post's football news. Using Halliday's theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the writer found the meaning based on the context situation which consists of field, mode, and tenor. The field happened when the publisher posted the news updates about football, such as score updates, news of the last match, and news about the player or specific club.

Next study is a thesis entitled *A Register Analysis in Zamina Mithani's Speech "Did You Judge Me? Transform Stereotype, Racism, and Your World"* by Anisa Khoirun Fauziah (2022) from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta. This research aims to study the register of Zamina Mithani's speech script by using the SFL theory of M. A. K. Halliday. There are 237 pieces of data found. From the data, this study shows the ideational metafunction analysis involves transitivity, and the most used process in transitivity is the material process. Then, the interpersonal metafunction implies that the speaker puts herself in the same position as the audience in delivering the speech. The last, in textual

metafunction, the speech uses the textual theme in the dominant number. It implies that the ideas of the speech are delivered through a series of clauses.

The last study is an article journal done by Fakhriyah, et al (2022) with the title *Representative Acts in Dalia Mogahed's Speech "What it's like to be a Muslim in America."* This study aims to investigate various kinds of representative acts performed in Dalia Mogahed's speech and to analyze the Islamic values contained in the speech. The results shows that 111 utterances by Dalia are identified as representative acts, consisting of 54 utterances of stating, 32 utterances of describing, 10 utterances of asserting, 9 utterances of informing, 3 utterances of reporting, and 3 utterances of predicting.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that those studies have differentiations and similarities. The studies mentioned above take different objects in their research. Although the object of this study and the last study is the same, the last study did not analyze tenor or interpersonal meaning in Dalia Mogahed's speech since this study will analyze the tenor of the speech through the three aspects: status, contact, and affect. Thus, this study is worth discussing to fulfill the lack of the previous studies.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

This research focuses on analyzing the register and its function in Dalia Mogahed's speech by using Halliday's SFL theory. As it has been explained earlier that register is a language variety used in a certain community which is influenced by some situational factors. Santoso (2013, p. 47) states that because register

involves all aspects in language and linguistics, many linguists refer register as a style. Furthermore, language variation in register has three variables: field, tenor, and mode which work simultaneously to form a contextual configuration and a configuration of meaning.

Field refers to what is going on and what is the participant doing by using language as the medium. It also involves questions related to the environment of the event, such as when, where, how it happens, why it happens, and so on. Field can be realized by ideational meaning through the analysis of transitivity. Tenor refers to who is taking part, the character of the participants, including the social status they hold. Tenor is realized through interpersonal meaning with the analysis of mood structure and polarity. The last variable is mode which refers to how language is used and what is hoped by the participants by using language in a certain situation. Mode is realized through textual meaning with the structure of theme and rheme.

1.8 Method of Research

This section covers the methodology in this research that explains what the researcher will do with the research and how to do it. Method of research consists of type of research, data sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

1.8.1 Type of Research

According to the types of data, research is divided into two types: quantitative and qualitative (Abubakar, p. 7). Quantitative is research that collects

data in the form of numbers, while the data of qualitative research includes words of a discourse or text as the object material. Kumar (2011) states that the purpose of qualitative research is to describe a situation, phenomenon, problem, or event. In addition, Kothari (2004) explains that qualitative research “is concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind.”

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that this study is a qualitative research because the data is not in the form of numbers, and it does not need mathematics counting in analyzing the data. Instead, it tends to use descriptive analysis which fits the purpose of qualitative research. Also, in qualitative research, the researcher is the key instrument. The researcher will be the one who collects the data through examining, observing, or interviewing without relying on questionnaires or instruments developed by other researchers (Creswell, p. 234).

1.8.2 Data Sources

Data is a very important aspect in research because without data, a research cannot be conducted. Data source is the subject where data is obtained or taken (Abubakar, p. 57). Everything written and found by the researcher in a study can be called data, including transcript, note of observation’s result, document, and many more.

There are two types of data: primary and secondary. Kothari (2004, p. 95) explains that “the primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character. The secondary data, on the other hand, are those which have already been collected by someone else.” However, this

study uses primary data which are clauses that will be taken from the clauses of Dalia Mogahed's speech posted on TED YouTube channel with the duration around 16 minutes.

1.8.3 Data Collection Techniques

The qualitative data can assume any forms, such as interviews, observations, documents, and records. In collecting the data, this study uses a documentation method. Abubakar (2021) states that document is any written material or film. Documentation technique is a way of collecting data through the study of written sources, such as books, report, notes, records, and so on that contain data or information needed by researchers. In addition, Bowen (2009) explains that documentation here means a systemic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents, both printed and electronic. It takes a variety of forms, such as books, brochures, journals, radio, and television program scripts, moving pictures (video), and so on. From the explanation, it can be concluded that taking data from script is included in the documentation method.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Techniques

In this research, the researcher uses discourse analysis method to analyze the data. According to Yin (2011, p. 308), discourse analysis is "an approach to qualitative research that considers language to represent the construction of social reality, especially within the social context of what is said, rather than assuming language only to represent what a person is thinking." In other words, it analyzes

language, such as conversation, a speech, etc, within the culture and society it takes place in.

Discourse analysis method studies the meanings that the use of language and spoken interactions produce and the contexts of these meanings. This method is also focused on the role of language in the building of social reality. Thus, this method suits the theory and object used in this research because the researcher will analyze a speech that talks about how Muslim community in America experienced and dealt with Islamophobia and how the society attacked them.

1.9 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction, including background of study, research questions, objectives of study, scope of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical framework, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter will be a theoretical background that explains more about the theory used in this study. The third chapter is findings and discussions which explains and describes the analysis of the data. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion that consists of summary and some suggestion or recommendations.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion. Conclusion contains the final results of the data analysis, and suggestion deals with some recommendations. In the previous chapter, the researcher has found how is the relationship among Dalia Mogahed, the speaker of the speech entitled *What it's like to be a Muslim in America*, the audience, and the theme of the speech itself.

4.1 Conclusion

The researcher applies systemic functional linguistics by Halliday to analyze how the register variables are applied among the speaker, the audience, and the theme of the speech. The results of the analysis have shown that the field as the realization of ideational meaning in three metafunctions in the text is about the matter of Islamophobia and how it affects Muslims community in America, particularly after 9/11 tragedy. Meanwhile, tenor analysis is divided into two parts: tenor inside the text and tenor outside the text.

Tenor as the realization of interpersonal meaning inside the text explains the social role relationship between the speaker and the audience. It can be known by analyzing the status, contact, and affect between the participants. Based on the analysis, the status between the speaker and the audience is equal. It can be seen through the mood system and the use of the same choice of words. Next, contact between the speaker and the audience has uninvolved contact. It is because the contact between the speaker and the audience is the type of one-off contact. The researcher concludes this by analyzing the grammar and lexis used by Dalia

Mogahed, the speaker of the speech. For the affect analysis, the researcher found that affect between the speaker and the audience has positive judgement. It is shown by the use of indicative declarative clauses which function as proposition, polarity, and attitudinal lexis used by the speaker.

Next, tenor or interpersonal meaning outside the text explains the relationship between the speaker and the theme of the speech itself. The speaker is Dalia Mogahed, and the theme of her speech is about Islamophobia in America. Based on the analysis, the speaker and the theme have equal status. Moreover, the speaker and the theme have involved contact since the speaker herself experiences and hears a lot about attacks on Muslims and other Americans attack Muslims community and suspect them as the terrorists. For affect analysis, the researcher found that affect between the speaker and the theme is negative judgement. This is supported by the use of attitudinal lexis showing the speaker's position that she is strongly against Islamophobia.

Ultimately, the mode as the realization of textual meaning in three metafunctions of the text belongs to spoken language style. This is based on the analysis of thematic structure that shows most clauses are unmarked topical theme functioning as the agent. Also, the fact that the speaker uses many complex clauses, simplex nominal group, simplex verbal group, and simplex adjunct group supports that this text is spoken language.

To summarize, after analyzing the data with systemic functional linguistics theory, the researcher concludes that field of the text is about the matter of

Islamophobia in America. Meanwhile, status between the speaker, the audience, and the theme of the speech is equal. Meanwhile, contact between the speaker and the audience is uninvolved, while contact between the speaker and the theme is involved. The last is affect between the speaker and the audience is positive judgement, while affect between the speaker and the theme is negative judgement.

4.2 Suggestion

This research has revealed the variables of register in a speech entitled *What it's like to be a Muslim in America* by Dalia Mogahed by using systemic functional linguistics theory. Therefore, for further investigation, the researcher suggests that the other researchers can expand the analysis by exploring more register with another object. Also, the researcher expects this research can be useful for linguistics learners and inspires other researchers to conduct further analysis.

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