

A Discourse Analysis of Interpersonal Metafunction in Vladimir Putin's Speech Regarding Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

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Abstract. The present study discusses the strategies of discourse applied by Vladimir Putin in his speech regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The goal of the study is to find out language strategies used by Vladimir Putin in his speech and the way he implements the realization of strategies in the speech. The method used in the study is qualitative descriptive method. In addition, when performing the analysis, the study uses Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), especially the elements of interpersonal metafunction as the theoretical framework, to analyze the use of language in expressing social and personal relationships in the speech. The metafunction of interpersonal is often realized through the analysis of mood and modality. In the analysis of mood, it is possible to reveal the role that the speaker wants to be in the speaking situation, as well as the role that the speaker wants to assign to the listener. Moreover, in formal analysis, it cannot only show how the speaker perceives and thinks about the problem of the thesis topic, but also shows the power relationship and formal scale between the speaker and the listener. The results show that the design of Vladimir Putin's speech regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine reflects his political intentions. All of this manifests not only in the speaking strategies of interpersonal metafunction he employs, but also in the interpersonal meanings he builds in the speech. In conclusion, it can be stated that the fact found in the study is completely understandable since Vladimir Putin is trying to convince the world that what he did in directing Russia's invasion of Ukraine was the correct decision, and that it did not jeopardize world peace.

1. Introduction

The present study titled "A Discourse Analysis of Interpersonal Metafunction in Vladimir Putin's Speech Regarding Russia's Invasion of Ukraine" employs Discourse Analysis specifically in terms of interpersonal metafunction to find out how interpersonal characteristics are made by Vladimir Putin in his speech. Here, Putin's speech is classified as a political speech; therefore, he not only expresses his political views and hypotheses to the world, but also tries to persuade the world to act by following his idea and even his guidance [1]. By applying the Discourse Analysis of interpersonal metafunction to the speech, it will be discovered how Putin interacts with the world, especially to analyze the language he uses in establishing and maintaining his social relationship with the world.

Some pieces of study have been conducted previously by the present writer regarding the current study. First, the study entitled "Media Attention for Jerusalem Declaration: A Comparative Discourse Analysis on International Online Newspapers". The present writer also employs a Discourse Analysis in completing the study. However, the study focus is quite different from this study since the focus of

the previous study is to get a comparative analysis between two medias releasing the same news with different discourse [2]. Second, the present writer also conducted a study titled “A Discourse Analysis of Interpersonal Metafunction in Donald Trump’s Speech Recognizing Jerusalem as Capital of Israel”. The present writer uses the same theories and analysis techniques as the present study. However, the research object and goal is quite different from the present study since the previous study is conducted to get a clear description of Donald Trump’s discourse strategies in maintaining social relationship to his audience of his political speech [3]. Third, there is another previous related study. The study was performed by Wang, and he entitled the study “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama’s Speeches”. Here, Wang analyzed the same type of speech as the present study, a political speech, and he also used some elements of discourse analysis in his study [4]. However, the results of the study did not fully include factors of interpersonal metafunction as the present study. Forth, the other related study was conducted by Stefanny Lauwren entitled “Interpersonal functions in Greta Thunberg’s “civil society for rEUnaissance” speech. The study uses not only the theory of interpersonal metafunction but also the theory of Fairclough’s Critical Discourse Analysis [5]. Fifth, there is another study related to the present study entitled “The Philippine Online News Headlines on COVID-19 Pandemic: An Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis” conducted by Ryan P. Kabigting [6]. Although the study is quite similar to the present study, the type of data source is different; while the study uses online news headlines, the present study uses political speech as data source.

Related to the case focus of the present study, Vladimir Putin’s political speech on declaring Russia’s invasion to Ukraine was chosen as the central theme. Putin’s declaration to invade Ukraine has shocked the world since the invasion could not only threaten many people lives but also potentially lead to World War III. The statement speech itself is interesting to study because it can make a significant impact on the world even today; moreover, it was interesting to learn how Putin wrapped his speech and related his speech to the audience, not only Russians but also the world.

Therefore, the present study has some objectives; first, to find out language strategies used by Vladimir Putin in his speech through the analysis of interpersonal function analysis, and second, to analyze the realization of strategies in the speech through the elements of interpersonal function included: mood, modality and their other aspects. Besides, the present study employs qualitative method to implement the process of the study.

2. Method

Taylor, Bogdan, dan DeVault stated, “qualitative research identifies people they care about to understand how the people see something” [7]. In addition, Walliman also stated that qualitative research is a research which depends on carefully determining the meaning of words, developing concepts and variables, and graphically representing their interrelationships [8]. With regard to the two citations above, the present study focuses on how Vladimir Putin through his speech uses language to interact with the audience; the elements of mood and modality involved in interpersonal metafunction are employed to analyze it.

In addition, the method is implemented through doing several efforts as process parts in the study; a part of the efforts is to decide on the topic of speech to apply and the main issue to be observed. The present writer chose Vladimir Putin's political speech about declaring Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Furthermore, since the study focuses on the aspects of interpersonal metafunction, the principal consideration to be observed is the language used by Putin in the speech. Here, the effort conducted is by dividing the language from the transcribed speech into clauses. They are analyzed through interpersonal metafunction elements.

The next effort to complete is conducting analysis through interpersonal metafunction elements. MAK Halliday pointed out that interpersonal functions play the role of establishing social relationships, and represent the participants’ roles at a communication. Besides, Halliday also stated that the main focus of the interpersonal metafunction is the relation between the speakers’ role (connected to mood element) and the audience role (connected to modality element). In addition, the other part of interpersonal function system also consists of the system of pronoun and the rhythmic features of words

[9]. For that reason, mood and modality analysis is the most important things to be analyzed as part of the analysis in interpersonal function.

Furthermore, Halliday also added that mood element in interpersonal metafunction is related to speech roles. In speech roles, there are two fundamental types, namely: (i) giving and (ii) demanding. Here, giving means ‘inviting to receive, and demanding means ‘inviting to give. The speaker is not only doing something himself; he is also requiring something of the hearer [10]. To get a clear description, see the table of speech roles below.

Table 1. Basic speech roles in interpersonal metafunction

Role in Exchange	Commodity Exchanged	
	(a) Goods-&services	(b) Information
(i) giving	‘offer’ Would you like this teapot?	‘statement’ He’s giving her the teapot
(ii) demanding	‘command’ Give me that teapot!	‘question’ What is he giving her?

In Table 1, it can be seen that the combination of role in exchange and commodity exchanged results four speech functions, namely: offer, statement, command, and question. The speech functions are realized by ‘Mood Structures; those are four kinds of structures consisting of declarative, imperative, interrogative and exclamative structures. A declarative structure/clause realizes a statement, interrogative and exclamative structures/clauses realize offer and question, and imperative structure/clause realizes a command.

Furthermore, modality can be indicated through three values and modal operators: high, median, and low. Table 2 Modality Values and Table 3 Modal Operator Values below give a clear description about it [11].

Table 2. Modality Values

	Probability	Usuality	Obligation	Inclination
High	certain	always	required	determined
Median	probable	usually	supposed	keen
Low	possible	sometimes	allowed	willing

Table 3. Modal Operator Values

High	Median	Low
must	will	may
ought to	would	might
has to	shall	can
Is to	should	Could

Another aspect included in modality analysis is a personal pronoun analysis. It is also implemented in the study.

3. Results and Discussion

The study analyzes the interpersonal elements consisting of mood and modality analysis, and also a personal pronoun analysis. In Table 4 Analysis of Mood Structure shows the detail analysis as follows:

Table 4. Analysis of Mood Structures

Mood Structures	Declarative	Imperative	Interrogative
Total Clauses	298	0	6
Percentage	98%	0%	2%

There are 170 sentences and 304 clauses in Putin's speech. In Table 3 The Analysis of Mood Structures, it is shown that from three types of mood structures, Putin uses two types of mood structures, namely: declarative and interrogative. From all of the structures, declarative clauses are mostly used by Putin. Some examples of this clause type used in the speech are as follows:

- a) The Soviet Union in the late 80s of the last century weakened, and then completely collapsed. (*clause 20*) [12]
- b) Dissenters are broken through the knee. (*clause 33*) [12]

As Putin's speech is a political speech which definitely brings a political mission, it is crucial and vital for Putin to give information and demand services. In this case, Putin hopes to offer certain messages to the audience which shows his political assumption and attitude; in return he tries to demand and arouse the audience to take action, and even to follow his political will or proposal. Besides, Putin also uses imperative clauses in his speech; the use of this clause type functions to command others to do something, in this case he points his command to the Russians. Then, Putin also uses interrogative clauses in his speech; the use of this clause type functions to question the situation or the people/countries opposing his decision. Some examples of this clause type used in the speech are as follows:

- a) Where does this impudent manner of speaking from the position of one's own exclusivity, infallibility and permissiveness come from? (*clause 16*) [12]
- b) Where is justice and truth here? (*clause 80*) [12]

In modality analysis, values of modal operator analysis are applied in the present study as seen in table 5 Analysis of Model Operator Values.

Table 5. Analysis of Modal Operator Values

Values	Low	Median	High
Total Clauses	-	38	11
Percentage	0%	0%	0%

From Table 5, it can be seen that there are 49 verbal operators used in Putin's speech. Median and High values are used by Putin in his speech. Median verbal operators are mostly used by Putin. From all of median values operators, modal operator 'will' is mostly used by Putin. The use of the operator not only functions as a symbol of strong wish and determination but also functions to give the audience a good sight about the future impact of his decision in his speech. [10]

A personal pronoun analysis is also applied, especially the use of personal pronoun 'we/our/us' versus 'they/their/them'. Table 6 Analysis of Personal Pronoun shows the description of it.

Table 6. Analysis of Personal Pronoun

Personal Pronoun	We/our/us	They/their/them
Total Use	82	55

In the interpersonal metafunction, the first person plural pronouns ‘we/us/our’ are usually used to refer the speaker (in this case ‘Putin’ himself) as the representative of his people and country while the third person plural pronouns ‘they/their/them’ are usually used to refer the (political) opponent or the people/country having opposite idea to the speaker. In the case of the use of pronoun ‘we/our/us’, the pronouns can be applied as both inclusive and exclusive implementations. Inclusive means the speaker and the audience are equalized by maintaining emotional effectiveness of sharing same objectives while exclusive refers to the speaker and others which implies a sense of authority, making the audience feel that the speaker has authority and power to do something. From the speech, it is found that the inclusive implementations are mostly applied by Putin. The main consideration his doing this is that he tries to shorten the distance between him and his audience. He tries to share similar feelings and attitude over the case, and at the end of the day, he wants to persuade the audience to accept and support his decision that what he did in directing Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a correct decision, and that it did not jeopardize the world peace.

4. Conclusion

From the completed study, it can be concluded that Vladimir Putin has put many efforts to convince the audience, in this case the Russian and the world, that his decision to invade Ukraine is a right decision. It can be proven through the interpersonal metafunction analysis. In Mood structure analysis, some declarative clauses are mostly used in his speech. Putin does this because he tries to deliver his messages, assumption, and views as many as possible regarding the situation backgrounding his decision. As in interpersonal metafunction, that clause type is functioned as making statements. Besides, in the analysis of modal operator values, median verbal operators are mostly used by Putin in his speech. The main consideration he does this because he tries to show his firm determination over his decision in the case. In addition, in the analysis of personal pronoun, the first plural personal pronouns ‘we/us/our’ are mostly used by Putin. He does this because he tries to shorten the distance between him and the audience for sharing the similar feelings and attitude over the case. and at the end, tries to persuade the audience to support his decision for directing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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