



## **A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF PARTS OF SPEECH FROM TED-TALK VIDEO: HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES THE WAY WE THINK**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the study is to identify the use of parts of speech in speaking. In this study, the descriptive qualitative method was used to find and analyze types of parts of speech from the speaker's talk. This study is based on Critical Discourse Analysis which was developed from the Systematic Functional Grammar (Halliday, 1971). In the current study, within a descriptive qualitative, critical discourse analysis approach was used. The data were taken from the TED-Talk video. The findings show that the speaker employs various types of parts of speech. Also, it can be identified that the use of modal verbs helps the speaker to be close to the audience while communicating the point of view relating to the topic. Moreover, personal pronouns may shorten the distance between the speaker and listeners on the event. Furthermore, using personal pronouns can help the speaker focus on the topic and associate the words into the real context.

**Keywords:** *Critical Discourse Analysis, Parts of Speech, Speaking, TED Talks, Linguistics.*



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

## Introduction

English is a language utilized as a means of communication among countries on an international scale. Researchers have conducted research studies into speaking skills because it is one of the four major skills necessary in any languages. These are integrated to extend the students' ability to communicate. To support this, language teachers especially English may use various media to practice speaking skills on the teaching and learning process.

In the past twenty years, as Wang (2010), Cerci (2017) and Kohandani, Farzaneh, and Kazemi (2014) stated that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA, henceforth) in linguistic was developed by some researchers. At first, an Australian linguist developed the CDA theory. The research then became one of the analytical research tools focusing on social and political contexts. CDA is a kind of diagnostic research that fundamentally considers manners by which predominance and social force imbalances are enforced in social settings. CDA can be utilized to break down how talks shape generalizations and social structures (Darweesh & Abdullah, 2016). Furthermore, the motivation behind CDA is to communicate a some of the hidden and invisible values, positions, and points of view and CDA begins with the supposition that language use is constantly social and that discourse both reflects and develops the social world (Paltridge, 2007). Researchers and language educators have long been utilized Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) Talks as their focus of study due to its potential in providing linguistics support for their teaching as well as helping the clarity of their presentation (e.g. Wolfe, 2013; Anderson, 2016). The research of CDA has been concerned in the realm of public speaking familiar in specific forms. The format can be executed as text of news, advertisement, political agreement et cetera. In this way, it will be worth investigating the TED Talk from the CDA perspectives.

In line with this, a speech by an international speaker is interesting to be investigated, in which we can learn the language used from the point of view of



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

interpersonal function. The theoretical bases of CDA by Halliday (1978) mentioned that functional grammar aims to define the relation analysis system in language. The stylistic analysis can be divided into three (3) logically ordered phrases: analysis, interpretation and evaluation; all of them have functions. There are some functions of critical discourse analysis (CDA); the ideational function, the interpersonal function and the textual function.

The first function of CDA according to Halliday is the ideational function. The ideational function indicates that the language can be transferred or adopted by using experience of the real life. Speakers or writers may transform life experience into the way of using language. When speakers or writers apply linguistic acts, they demonstrate them as reaction of their cognitive process. This is in line with Halliday (1971) which describes that the linguistic experience escorts new information. Whether in speaking or listening, speaker and listeners will transfer the meaning by delivering message. On the other hand, the meaning will be accepted by putting them into the function of the linguistic format.

The second function is interpersonal function. This function describes that speakers use language into the speech event as expression, comments, attitude and evaluation. This means speaker may communicate information that they adopt already by the process of linguistic act into the form of questions, information, et cetera. To reveal the interpersonal function speaker or listener can use modality and mood, according to Wang (2010), modality familiar use in social interaction may affect different reactions or perceptions. When interacting, speakers express their cognitive and perception by having a variety of topic. It may appear the new perception so that in the social context people can relate one thing to other. Further, this process will form and strengthen the human communication system.

The third function is textual function. It refers to the mechanism of language that stretches spoken or written discourses. The textual function helps speakers and



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

listeners to practice the linguistic form into the real context of the situation. It will be natural from the conversation between them.

On the other hand, English has good rules in terms of pronunciation and writing called Grammar which forms sentence patterns. Those patterns are composed from words that have its own typical form called Parts of Speech. Parts of speech are always used by speakers while doing presentation regarding exploring the speaking skills.

There are eight forms of Parts of Speech namely noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection (Frank, 1993; Nurzaenab, 2016). Further, Gaspari and Marconi (2019) explained that every sentence used by the speaker can be determined by the type of speech, depending on the user input. The sentence pattern will be determined according to user input based on its part of speech. This becomes the background of the study that the authors want to identify and determine the type of Parts of Speech used when a speaker delivers a speech especially in a video published to the worldwide community.

The first part of speech is noun. It is the most important part of speech. Noun is the object which also can be in the position as a subject in a sentence. Nouns include non-living things and also living things. Nouns are the most important parts of the word type because their existence in sentences as subjects combined with verbs as predicates determines the formation of a core sentence in a language construction.

The second is verb. Verbs are words which carry out the meaning of work or act by the subject. As one of the parts of speech, it modifies what subject do to the object or act based on the timing. The verbs can make sentences clear about the thing happened based on the context. In English, the verb changes according to the changes in the tense used. Conjugation of verbs follows the form of eternity used. Further, verbs are divided into regular verbs (irregular verb) and irregular verbs.

The third part of speech is called as adjectives. These kinds of words are used to describe nouns. This is in accordance to Frank's definition (1993) which states that in



## JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

the sentence, adjective is positioned in front of the noun or after auxiliary. The function is to illustrate the noun in the sentence so that it will be clearly understood about the description or the condition. Adjectives indicate the characteristics possessed by the described noun. Adjectives are placed before the noun described. This is different from the construction in Indonesian language which places adjectives after the noun explained.

Fourth, another part of speech is pronouns. Pronouns are words that are used to replace the position of an object, person, and or condition and ownership. In short, Kusuma (2017) defines pronominal as follows that pronoun can be used to replace person or things in the sentence to position as subject. In English, there are different pronoun between male (*he*) and female (*she*).

Fifth, a part of speech is identified as adverbs. These are words used to describe verbs or adjectives. This is connected to the statement which underlines the adverb as follows. It has been customary to include the most disparate elements among the adverbs, those that cannot be put into any other part-of-speech classification. Adverbs range in meaning from words having a strong physical content to those that are used only for emphasis. Adverbs can be formed from adjectives by adding *-ly* so the word *loud* becomes *loudly*.

Sixth, words are called as prepositions which are used to indicate the location of an object. Frank (1993) said that the preposition is one part of speech used as combination to the word. The preposition used in the sentence structure. The preposition can also be put before and after words to indicate the location of the object or action such as *in*, *on*, *at*, *before*, *behind*, *beside*, *under*, *in front of*, et cetera.

The seventh is called as conjunction. Conjunctions are words used to assemble two things in the form of nouns, phrases or sentences. Kapanadze (2018) mentioned that like prepositions, the conjunctions are members of a small class that has no characteristic form. Conjunctions are divided into two groups, namely coordinate



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

conjunction and subordinate conjunction. Coordinate conjunction includes *and*, *or*, and *but*, while subordinate conjunctions include, *before*, *until*, *after*, *since*, *because*, *because of*, *moreover*, *nevertheless*, *in addition*, and *on the contrary*. Exclamation or interjection is the word used to indicate the surprise of the speaker.

And eighth, exclamations are words that can be in the form of utterances such as 'oh my God', *phew*, *Oops*, *My oh my*, etc. These words usually express strong emotion, such as surprise, pleasure and anger.

In this study, the researchers discuss the interpersonal function which focuses on using pronoun by the speaker in TED Talk video. Shrosbree (2008) stated that video is a multi-sensory medium to help students comprehend topic on discourse form so that they can perform well their long-term listening comprehension skills. TED Talks has been providing intellectually stimulating presentation. This presentation is delivered by non-native and native speakers of English. In fact, that talk is supplied with the transcripts that can accessed by people around the world. A great number of educators utilized it as the learning materials so that they can use as learning media to enrich their resources.

The present study focuses on modality in which one of them is personal pronouns. It investigates mainly from the point of pronoun as one kind of modality in analyzing speaker's attitude towards the situation or event described by the utterances.



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

## Method

In the current study, within a descriptive qualitative, CDA approach was used. Wodak (2009) stated that CDA is commonly used in the social context through speaking and writing. Using CDA in language practice considers how to understand the meaning or message from the situation happened (Mullet, 2018).

The basic aim in critical analysis is to investigate the object of analysis, the process and the socio-historical conditions. This is connected to the Janks (1997) who mentioned that there are three kinds of analysis:

- Text analysis (description)
- Processing analysis (interpretation)
- Social analysis (explanation)

The present study focuses more on the text analysis. This is another way to determine and describe what kind of parts of speech used by the speaker while she was presenting the speech. The data were taken from videos downloaded from Ted-Talk by a cognitive scientist, Lera Boroditsky. The speaker presented a topic entitled “*How Language Shapes the Way We Think*”. To collect and analyze information about types of parts of speech, the study selected more than one minutes from the whole duration of the video to be analyzed.

## Findings

As mentioned previously, modality refers to the sentence used by the speaker and how it expresses attitude in uttering sentences. The sentences can describe how the speaker feels and respond to the situation faced. It is possible that the information in line with the listeners’ prediction or vice versa is not as expected.

### Part 1

*I hope that’s happening. So because of this ability, we humans are able to transmit our ideas across vast reaches of space and time. We’re able to transmit knowledge across minds. I can put a bizarre new idea in your*



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

*mind right now. I could say, "Imagine a jellyfish waltzing in a library while thinking about quantum mechanics."*

## Personal Pronouns

1st Person : I (3 times) we ( 2 times)

2nd Person : -

3rd Person : -

From that analysis, personal pronoun as first person was often appeared. The personal pronoun "I" or "We" was utilized to make audience feels enjoy or relax while listening to the speaker. The non-formal situation can set the situation of the presentation to be more pleasant. Similar case to the written genre, the use of personal pronouns significantly increases compared to few decades ago as the writing genre evolves and it is anxious to seem "scientifically objective" (Hyland & Jiang, 2017). Hence, the use of personal pronouns is believed to create a more relaxing and informal situation through its personalization.

## Part 2

*So let me tell you about some of my favorite examples. I'll start with an example from an Aboriginal community in Australia that I had the chance to work with. These are the Kuuk Thaayorre people. They live in Pormpuraaw at the very west edge of Cape York. What's cool about Kuuk Thaayore is, in Kuuk Thaayorre, they don't use words like "left" and "right" and instead, everything is in cardinal directions: north, south, east and west. And when I say everything, I really mean everything. You should say something like, "Oh there's an ant on your southwest leg." Or "Move your cup to the north-northeast a little bit." In fact, the way that you say "hello" in Kuuk Thaayore is you say, "Which way are you going?" And the answer should be, "North-northeast in the far distance. How about you?"*





### Personal Pronouns

1st Person: I/me (4 times)

2nd Person: You (4 times)

3rd Person: They (2 times)

### Possessive Pronoun

Your (1 time)

**Table 1: Pronouns**

Personal Pronoun	Used	
<b>First Person</b>	I (me)	7 times
	We (us)	2 times
<b>Second Person</b>	You	4 times
<b>Third Person</b>	He (him)	-
	She (her)	-
	It	-
	They (them)	2 times

### Discussion

Form the speech, it can be identified that the use of modal verbs helps the speaker to be close to the audience while communicating the point of view relating to the topic. When the speaker uses the modal verbs, the audience can identify and understand the points of the speech. Consequently, it enables the audience to follow the flow of conversation from beginning to end. Even though the duration of the speech is limited, listeners do not have a lot of time to study more deeply or just ask, but the



# JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

explanation that has been obtained from the speaker is sufficient for listeners to be able to interpret the topic (Mishima & Cheng, 2018).

The present study has analyzed spoken communication from CDA perspectives. Despite a quite robust discussion the present study has made on how spoken interaction was analyzed through the CDA perspectives, there is still a fairly large evident on the limitations of this study. One the criticisms relating to the use of critical analysis is on its rigour in the methodology though the methodology contains researchers' pure intuitions. Regarding this, Stubbs (1997) put it nicely "there is very little discussion of whether it is adequate to restrict analysis to short fragments of data, how data should be sampled, and whether the sample is representative (p. 7)". Uncovering these limitations may shed light on how future similar studies should be conducted to reach their utmost results.

## Conclusion

According to Halliday Systemic Functional Grammar, it can be concluded that speakers use more simple words and expressions. If the language that the speaker uses is simple, then the audience could understand the context of the presentation content fast. It can also be sum up that when the speaker uses modality, the sentence may describe the purpose of the speech. Therefore, the speaker delivers the speech confidently.

Through CDA, readers may easily comprehend the speaking content and the way speaker talks using modal verbs. Moreover, personal pronoun may shorten the distance between the speaker and listeners on the event. Furthermore, using personal pronoun can help the speaker focus about the topic and can associate the words into the real context.

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Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

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## JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND TEACHING (JLLTE)

Vol. 2 No. 1, March 2020, pp. 49 - 60

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