



# ANALYSIS OF INTERPERSONAL FUNCTION IN GRETA THUNBERG SPEECH

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## ABSTRACT

*The research aimed to discover the types of interpersonal functions and encourage awareness in a speech. This analysis was conducted using the qualitative method analysis with Greta Thunberg's speech transcription in the United Nation Climate Action Summit as the subject of analysis. Then, the data were separated into the form of the clauses. The analysis was conducted based on Halliday's theory. The results of analysis showed that declarative sentences dominated Thunberg's speech, then inclination modality and second personal pronoun "you" predominantly found in the speech. Thunberg also attempted to use the subject "I" and "we" which mediated the speaker and the audience as an effort to communicate their common sense or desires in order to create an "equal" connection. In conclusion, Greta Thunberg aims to address the world leaders regarding climate change issues and even encourage the audience to be proactive in finding a solution to the issue.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a system used to construct the mindset and thoughts, intentions and actions, which control and affect the mind. (Syamsuddin, 1986). Oral or spoken language is an utterance, which form from the sound.



The representation of verbal or spoken language is a conversation, radio, TV news broadcast, and speech. One of the examples of spoken language is speech. The researcher develops discourse studies on the interpersonal meaning, which analyzed mood and modality types in Greta Thunberg speech at United Nation Climate Action Summit. The speech delivered in September 2019 at the United Nation Climate Action Summit.

Interpersonal meaning, the strand of meaning that is the focus of this study, performs on how expression is used in communication, especially in sustaining social interactions, communicating emotions, and affecting others (Eggins, 2004). There are three functions of language, those are: ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function (Toto, 2013)(Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In interpersonal metafunction, the level of closeness or distance and the type of social class between the speaker and the listener or the participants in the text researched through the sort of modality; in addition, the system of pronominal identification explains that a distinction identified through the attitudes of the pronoun to the speaker and listener. The interpersonal function is an interesting development that needs to examine since the understanding interpersonal function can create individuals effectively in communication, good and service to listeners. It is influence by features, which can suggest how to choose the correct grammatical choices in conversation. Using the grammatical options in communication is important since it will have a varied and meaningful interpretation that can affect the speaker and the listener's relationship.

Webster (2012) mentioned that despite on how complex or modern our culture is, effective interactions will still be an essential part of being human(Webster, 2012). Interpersonal function, according to Halliday, presumed language as connection in such a way as to show how Greta Thunberg sustained connection with her audience at the United Nations Climate Action Summit by examining interpersonal roles throughout her.

A significant number of academic publications on interpersonal analysis presented in recent times. First, Feng and Liu (2010) with their research entitled "Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning in Public Speeches-A Case Study of Obama's Speech". The research only focused on Obama's speech. The study have shown that Obama is making practical application of the vocabulary to accomplish his political aim in his speech by using a number of concepts to achieve interpersonal meaning (Feng & Liu, 2010). Second, Prihandini & Putra (2019) conducted analysis of interpersonal metafunction in Leonardo DiCaprio's speech. The finding reveal that the use of declarative sentences was identified to be dominant in Leonardo DiCaprio's speech, which implies that Leonardo preferred to include information on the occurrence of climate change (Prihandini & Putra, 2019). Third, (Setyowati, 2016) conducted interpersonal meaning analysis in short

story of Hans Christian Andersen 'The Real Princess'. Her paper focused on the interpersonal meaning in the short story entitled 'The Real Princess'. Her research showed that declarative mood is the most frequently used in the short story. Regarding the speech function, the statement occurs more in the text and intended the text is to give information. Fourth, Nur (2015) conducted her research entitled "Analysis of interpersonal metafunction in public speeches: a case study of Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration speech". The studies indicate that the framework of Mandela's speech accomplished its political intent and its interpersonal purpose not only by referring to its grammatical structure, but also by addressing contextual factors as well as the need to represent the economic and socio-political condition of the country at the time (Nur, 2015). Last, (Hadiani, 2019) with the title "Interpersonal meaning in student's explanation text". Here, she preferred to investigate the interpersonal meaning in student's explanation texts. The studies reveal that students have used mood forms that created by the Subject and Finite as Mood and Predicator and complement as Residue. This study is supposed to contribute to other people in several fields. It would allow a relevant correlation to the user, in specific, on how to implement interpersonal functions in famous speech.

The focus of this study was on interpersonal function, including speech function, mood, modality, tense shift and personal pronoun. The objectives of the study are to reveal what kinds of interpersonal function produced in Greta Thunberg speech.

## METHODS

This study conducted by qualitative methods. In general, the qualitative method defined as a research method that represents the value of the analysis process. (Polkinghorne, 1983), All of these approaches are based on textual rather than quantitative data and use meaning-based instead of quantitative data processing types. The method focused on the observation of current data. The data collected from the transcription of Greta Thunberg's speech in the United Nation Climate Action Summit. The data obtained by finding the video of the speech along with the transcription. The transcriptions needed for the main object of this study, and the video used as necessary data to find out the certain image, expression, or power that the speaker delivered. Lastly, when the data were gathered, the analysis conducted using theories applied in this study

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### RESULTS

Excluding language, it is indeed difficult to understand whether people will interact and treat each other with respect (Ramelan, 1999:1). On the background of that statement, it can be inferred how language is one of the instruments used to communicate. Language are used to communicate with people in such purposes, we might try to manipulate certain actions or to offer knowledge or to justify the speakers attitudes and behavior (Simon, 1997). The research is to discover the 14 paragraph in Greta Thunberg's speech on the implementation of the interpersonal analysis, which explained in table below.

*Table 1. Interpersonal Function*

	Interpesonal Function				Total
	Sta	Que	Off	Comm	
<b>Speech Function</b>	43	-	-	-	43
<b>Mood</b>	Dec	Int	Imp		43
<b>Modality</b>	Prob	Usual	Obli	Incli	11
<b>Tense Shift</b>	Past	Present	Future		43
<b>Personal Pronoun</b>	Fpp	Spp	Tpp	Other	43

Note :

Sta : Statement

Que : Question

Off : Offer

Com : Command



- Dec : Declarative  
Int : Interrogative  
Imp : Imperative  
Prob : Probability  
Usual : Usuality  
Obli : Obligation  
Incli : Inclination  
Fpp : First personal pronoun  
Spp : Second personal pronoun  
Tpp : Third personal pronoun

## DICUSSION

In Greta Thunberg's speech, there were four types of speech function: statements, question, offer and command. The research of the data showed that one of four speech functions found in the script of Greta Thunberg's speech at United Nation Climate Action Summit, that is Statement. The total number of speech functions occurred 43 (100%) with statement as the dominant type of speech function in the script of Greta Thunberg's speech. One of the declarative clause used in Greta Thunberg's speech is 'How dare you!' which reveal the statement of anger at the world leader who have failed to address this issue, she expresses powerfully as a representative of future generations who will have to bear the consequences of world leaders who have egotistically shied away from their responsibilities. The speech function divided into three type of Moods, namely declarative, interrogative and imperative. It seen that declarative sentences dominate the Greta Thunberg's speech. The declarative mood became dominant because Thunberg wanted to provide information about the current condition of climate change impact.

An example of declarative sentence in Greta Thunberg's speech:

### Data 1:

Entire ecosystems are collapsing.



**Table 2. Declarative mood of Greta Thunberg's speech**

Entire Ecosystem	are	Collapsing
S	F	Adjunct
Mood		Residue

The table shows that Greta Thunberg's utterance identified as declarative. The clause has the subject placed in the initial clause and then followed by Finite in the word 'are' after the subject shown in the phrase "entire ecosystem". Then, there are residue elements of the clause consisting of adjuncts shown in the word 'collapsing'. The utterance declares that Greta Thunberg realizes the climate change issue and gives information about what her generation and the entire ecosystem experienced when climate change becomes the crucial issue that needs to solve.

From the results table above, we can see the frequency of modality that Greta Thunberg used when she delivered her speech in front of the world leader in the United Nation Action Climate Summit. There are some modality that Greta Thunberg used, namely, 3 (8,3%) probability modality, 2 (37,5%) obligation modality, 6 (92%) inclination modality. Probability modality has become a modal that implies the potential of everything that going to happen, and it stated by modal adjuncts or modal auxiliaries. Below is the example of clause with probability modal.

**Data 2:**

*We **will** not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.*

In the clause above, 'will' is the probability modal and followed by the verb 'be'. The subject of the clause is 'We' which refers to Thunberg and her generation. The probability modal 'will' is indicating the Thunberg's observation of the evidence that going to occur. The clause conveys the message of Greta Thunberg's viewpoint in acting of aggression of such generation that is going to encourage movement and change throughout the world. Using modality auxiliary indicates that the speaker is sure and able to make the world developed. Her judgment will accomplished by developing progress for her power in public and the world leader's movement to resolve the climate change problem. The use of inclination modality also reveals that her conversation is about future hopes.

In the context of tense shift, Greta Thunberg used the present and future much more to show that she talked about the present situation and the future hope.

An example of tense shift in Greta Thunberg's speech:

**Data 2:**

*'This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!'*

The first phrase in her speech depicted the present tense, following with future perfect in 'I shouldn't be up here' phrase. The phrase 'Yet you all come to us young people for hope' tense shift is shown as the past tense and the last phrase 'how dare you!' is categorized in present tense in order to blame the world leader in the present situation, in this context is the climate change issue.

As a climate activist, she remains concerned about the present situation, in this context the issue of climate change. Her speech concerns the world leader who has a substantial opportunity to address this obvious issue. Based on Thunberg's speech, she used past tense as well. Greta Thunberg did not tolerate the old situation, after all. In this case, she definitely used the easy background to explain the situation that had occurred in the past. As the youngest climate activist, Greta Thunberg has used the past and current condition as the template to develop the preparation for the world leader to worked out in the future addressing the climate change issue

From the table above, we can notice that "you" is the most frequently used personal pronoun, together with "I". The second person personal pronoun that is most frequently used in Thunberg's speech refers to criticizing the world leader for a failure to solve the problem of climate change. The world leader seemed to be the intention since they had a powerful authority to control climate change. "We" used to refer to the group excluding the listener or the group including the listener. For instance, in the first and third sentences, "we" refers to Greta Thunberg and her generation. Based on Thunberg's explanation, her generation has begun to understand the incapability of the world leader to solve the problem of climate change, which means that her generation will be at risk in a few years' time.

An example of the personal pronoun used in Greta Thunberg's speech:



### Data 3:

*'You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!'*

The data above depicted the personal pronouns that used in Greta Thunberg's speech. We can notice the first personal pronoun 'I' in referring to herself and second personal pronoun 'you' in order to deliver her speech in blaming the world leader, which become the most frequently used personal pronoun in her speech. In the data above, Thunberg's depicted her concern to her generation and all living people which affected from the climate change issue and her disbelief of global leaders which are incapable to resolve climate change problems when it comes to maintaining their businesses. She explained briefly in her phrase 'People are dying' in order giving the power on her speech in simplistic way of communicating the issue that shown this has become the real disaster and make the people dying. Thunberg is not a leader of any political party; she is neither the first to awaken the alarm about the climate crisis nor the most qualified to fix it. Through clarifying an abstract risk with widespread outrage, Thunberg became the most persuasive voice on the most important issue in environmental crisis. To get the truly freedom to voice and take action regarding the climate change issue, Greta Thunberg, invites all people and the young generation to resolve this critical issue. The other data, which presented in the table above, also notice 'other' personal pronoun that refers to the possessive pronouns used in Greta Thunberg's speech. The possessive pronouns used are 'my', 'our', and 'your'. Regarding in her speech, the most frequently used is 'my' which occurred 4 times, following with possessive pronoun 'your' and the least frequent is 'our' possessive pronoun.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the study results and the discussion, the dominance of the present tense has revealed that she is concerned more about the present situation and several fact values. It has confirmed that obtaining her goal must started at the time of the existing process. The researcher concluded that Greta Thunberg had developed herself as an awareness distributor and communicated to the crowd the powerful connection between the past and the present condition within the world leader who has struggled to address the climate change issue. From the aspect of modality value, inclination value is the most common of the four values for Thunberg, and "will" and



"would" are the most prominent terms that convey the hopes, desire and commitment of the speaker or the opinions of the reporter, attitudes about the probability of an occurrence. For most contexts, the second person personal pronoun "you" is most frequently used which refers to criticizing the world leader for a failure to solve climate change. Thunberg also attempts to use the subject "I" and "we". Subject "we" affects the sense of language and preserves the roles between two sides, which helps for audiences to recognize their beliefs. In addition, "we" will combine speakers and her generation as a whole to communicate their common sense or desires to create an "equal" connection. This contributed to the intention of the speaker for all those aware and correlated with the risk and impacts of climate change, especially for future generations. In this case, Greta Thunberg aims to address the world leader regarding climate change issues and even encourage the audience to be proactive to find a solution to the issue

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