

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. The first is background of the study that elaborates the rationale of the study. The second is research questions consist of the problem statement that will be addressed. Third, the objectives of the study which will specify how this study will answer it. Significance of the study will expound the reason of the study for literature condition and its contribution to the body of knowledge. The last is scope and limitation which will explain the extent to which the research area will be explored in the work and specifies the parameters within the study will be operating.

1.1 Background of The Study

A language consists of a set of concepts that are used to communicate approved for usage by a group of people to create a meaning. It is a tool that everyone uses in their daily lives to communicate information and arguments to others. Language is a form of social interaction that allows people to communicate with one another. The implications of language in communication and communication conflict is determined by various levels of language and meaning. The meaning can be literal or metaphorical (Timothy, 2016).

The process of two or more people exchanging messages or information while focused on the message is known as communication. It is the act of sending and receiving messages. Every encounter between people is a sort of communication. It is a tool that assists two people in expressing and conveying their thoughts and feelings. Sounds, symbols, such as written or spoken words, posture, gesture, or signs can all be used to transmit sentiments and thoughts, with the recipient deciphering a specific meaning (Shonubi& Akintaro, 2016).

In communication, the use of language is essential in human existence to convey and obtain information. There are two modes of communication: written language and spoken language. Written language refers to language in written form, such as text, magazines, books, journals, newspapers, letters and so on. Short

Message Service (SMS), mail, news, or advertisements in magazines are all examples of written language. Communication occurs when the reader understands and accepts the text's intentionality, the text producer's attitude (Kumral, 2013).

As the advantage of written communication is suitable for long distance communication and repetitive standing orders. Written communication is mostly used by people to convey their problem. Suicide by leaving a message for what was left has recently become a social phenomenon among people (Triana et al., 2020) People who decide to suicide must be needed a sufficient time to think, act, and react of their feelings in written text then end up in suicide.

A suicide notes, also known as a death note, is a message left behind by someone who has committed suicide or intends to commit suicide (Sujatna & Sujatna, 2020). It consists of the messages of the person who died which delivered their reasons and something happened before die. In Indonesia, suicides continue to be a concern. With 2.9 suicides per 100,000, the country is ranked 65 this year. Suicide note or suicide letter can be used as legal document if the case of that suicidal would be continued in the judicial institution.

As a result, the thought of suicide, threats, and suicidal behavior is a sensitive issue that must be resolved properly in order to minimize the number of occurrences. Linguists, particularly forensic linguists, can greatly accelerate the revelation of suicides. Linguists can comprehend the meanings of phrases, clauses, and sentences in a suicide will. Searching the meaning of each word in the text using language features and language algorithms can assist officers in determining the cause of suicide.

The use of uncommon words or diction is the focus of attention in analyzing the texts of suicide wills, so the involvement of a forensic linguist cannot be overlooked in revealing every suicide case. Language and memory studies, interpretation, discourse analysis, theory of grammar, cognitive linguistics, speech act theory, and other types of linguistic analysis can all be used to do the analysis (Olsson, 2008). Therefore, the suicide note also can be a part a forensic test.

In this study, the writer found the suicide letter uploaded in Google Drive by the link posted in his instagram bio named Valeri Blue. The link of the suicide note is entitled "The Unmade Planns of the unplanned Kid" with 1 file called Epilog (memorabilia) and 3 other documents outside the Epilog file. In the epilogue file contains 2 types of documents, namely photos and several files of his personal works. These works include drama texts and short stories. Because the letter was posted in April 2022, the writer decided to use that suicide letter as the material of the study. In view of the fact that suicide letter posted in his instagram as the private platform, there must be hidden reasons the note written and posted.

There are three kind of letters written by Valeri Blue that is Prologue, The ACT 1, and The ACT 2. Prologue, according to Merriam-Webster is the preface or introduction to the literary work. In his letter, he wrote prologue as the guideline to introduce the readers about The ACT 1 and 2. The ACT 1 is about the reasons why the victim finally commit to suicide himself. It is addressed to the general readers which means any kind of people who find the letter and willingly read it. The ACT 2 is the direct messages from the victim for the specific relatives such as his family and friends. The writer chose suicide letter written by Valeri Blue as the victim because he is a common student college and an ordinary people since most of the research using the artist or the famous people's suicide letter who commit suicide as the source of data.

Every words and phrases written by the victim should have motive which can be solved. Language features are crucial in forensic linguistics research (Fata et al., 2021). Discourse analysis is also used to conduct additional research in order to find solutions to legal cases involving language besides some other branches such as Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics. Language is used to inform and persuade, or probably just engage an audience which means conveying an attitude to what they say and to the readers that can be known as the motive of the suicide letter.

Metadiscourse embodies the idea that communication is more than just the exchange of information, but also involves the personality, attitude, and assumptions of those who are communicating. It is the term for the self-reflective

expressions used to negotiate interactional meaning in a text. Based on (Hyland, 2005) model of interactional metadiscourse is the intensity of human connection, assertion of behavior, interaction of commitments, and depth of reader engagement in metadiscourse characterize the writer's efforts to constrain the quality of personality in a work and establish a proper relation between their data, discussions, and readership such *some of them have **probably** never even seen the lake*. The sentence contains interactional metadiscourse in the type of hedges. The purpose of the function is to provide opinion rather than facts. He stated that some of them had probably never even seen the lake, implying that the speaker was unsure of what she said and whether some people had never seen it or not.

This study makes research on interactional metadiscourse use in Valeri Blue's suicide letter to indicate how the victim convey his feelings with the readers within the private letter by using interactional metadiscourse. It concerns the ways writers conduct interaction by intruding and commenting on his message. It also reveals the extent to which the writer works to jointly construct the text with readers. Interactional metadiscourse is divided into two features, that is stance feature and engagement feature which separated into nine sub-categories.

Some studies have been carried out to examine the case of forensic linguistics. First Sujatna and Sujatna (2016) do study on Kurt Cobain's suicide note from the perspectives of psychology, public health, and media, however there is insufficient research on Forensic Linguistics (FL) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Second, Fata, Yusuf, Kamal (2021) discover the peculiarities of language traits in the suicide notes of well-known people. Third, Mahfudurido (2019) identifies the key language aspects and does two analyses, lexical semantic analysis to find note writer's messages and pragmatic semantic analysis and relevance theory to determine the underlying motive.

After reading the previous studies above, the writer decide to analyse the suicide letter which were written by Valeri Blue as a victim of suicide relating to interactional metadiscourse especially the stance and engagement resource according to Hyland (2005).

1.2 Research Questions

As the guidelines of the research, the writer use two questions dealing with Interactional Metadiscourse. Those are,

1. What are kinds of interactional metadiscourse found in Valeri Blue's suicide letter?
2. What are the functions of the interactional markers used in Valeri Blue's suicide letter?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the research problems, this study aims:

1. To explain the kinds of interactional metadiscourse found in Valeri Blue's suicide letter.
2. To explain the functions of the interactional markers used in Valeri Blue's suicide letter.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study are:

a. The theoretical significance

The result of this study is expected to give valuable and beneficial contribution to English Department students to add their knowledge about interactional metadiscourse, especially in forensic linguistics study. The theoretical benefits of this research are expected to provide input in the development of language, especially language used in writing text. This research is expected to provide insight into discourse analysis, especially in the field of interactional metadiscourse, for those who are involved in the world of linguistics, especially in the field of metadiscourse.

b. The practical significance

The practical significance of this research are expected to provide new data or information about language and linguistics. In addition, it is useful for the linguist in forensic linguistics field to be able to know about the language used as the

reference of the research. This result of this study is expected to be used as a reference for all parties who want to study this research further especially in the scope of discourse analysis and forensic linguistics.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is metadiscourse, especially about interactional metadiscourse used in Valeri Blue's suicide letter. The main focus of this study is to analyze the interactional metadiscourse on The ACT 1 in Valeri Blue's suicide letter since it has 3 kinds of letters. As the metadiscourse itself has two kinds that is interactive and interactional, the study will not cover the interactive metadiscourse. In this study, the writer use metadiscourse theory by Hyland (2005) which discusses the stance resources incline to be writer-oriented and are primarily used to express the writer's evaluations and attitude, encompassing: Hedges, Boosters, Attitude Markers, and self-Mentions. Also the engagement resources which are more reader-oriented and functioned to intrude readers into texts explicitly and directly with the aim to realize the interaction between the writer and the reader. The writer focuses on the letters wrote by the victim in analyzing the types and the functions of interactional metadiscourse markers.