

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains five subsection or five points related to this study. These points include the background of the study, the research questions posed, the objectives to be achieved, the significance of the research, and the scope limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Communication is one of the fundamental aspects of human interaction. With communication, individuals can convey their thoughts, feelings, ideas, and information to others both verbally and non-verbally. In communication people conduct social interaction by means of language to convey information. The information conveyed can be in the form of ideas, concepts, or expressions of feelings using language as the medium (Syahri & Emidar, 2020). It is in with stated by Wohltjen & Wheatley, (2021) that in communication the words used represent human thoughts related to ideas, norms, and their bonds with society. Therefore, this makes communication an integral part of human life that cannot be separated.

According to Halliday (1994), every time someone uses language, they automatically embody three main types of meaning called the three metafunctions of language, namely the ideational metafunction, the interpersonal metafunction, and the textual metafunction. These three metafunctions do not operate separately, but interact with each other in forming the overall meaning of every utterance or text. The ideational metafunction relates to the use of language to represent the speaker's experiences and reality, both external and internal. Through this metafunction, the speaker describes events, actions, circumstances, and the relationships between elements in an experience. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) explain that the ideational metafunction is realized grammatically through a system of transitivity that includes processes, participants, and states. For example, in the sentence "The student completed the assignment on time," the verb completed represents a material process, the student functions as a participant (agent), the assignment as the target, and on time as the state. This sentence shows how language is used to construct linguistic representations of experience. In addition,

interpersonal metafunction relates to the role of language as a means of social interaction that allows speakers to establish and negotiate relationships with their interlocutors. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), interpersonal metafunction focuses on how speakers express attitudes, judgments, and social roles through grammatical choices. This metafunction is realized through the Mood system, such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative, as well as through Modality that indicates the degree of certainty, necessity, or possibility. For example, in the sentence “You should submit the report tomorrow,” the declarative form is used to convey a statement, while the modality should indicates the speaker's attitude of recommendation. This sentence reflects the interpersonal relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor in a particular social context. Furthermore, textual metafunction relates to how language is used to organize messages into coherent texts that are appropriate to the context of the situation. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) state that textual metafunction plays a role in connecting ideational and interpersonal meanings so that both can be realized in the form of a complete text. Grammatically, textual metafunction is realized through a system of theme and rheme that regulates the flow of information in a clause. For example, in the sentence “Regarding the meeting, the decision will be announced tomorrow,” the phrase regarding the meeting functions as the theme, while the decision will be announced tomorrow is the rheme that contains the main information. This arrangement allows the message to be conveyed clearly and in a structured manner.

From this metafunction arises the concept of interpersonal meaning. Interpersonal meaning is the meaning generated from the interpersonal function of language (Davidse & Davidse, 2015), namely the meaning that arises when language is used to conduct social exchanges, whether in the form of information or actions. In other words, interpersonal meaning is the realization of meaning that originates from the interpersonal metafunction. Interpersonal meaning is one aspect of meaning in language that relates to the speaker and listener in terms of how a person uses language to interact, influence, and build social relationships. According to Daulay (2022) in his study, interpersonal meaning can be obtained

from the perception of language in its capacity as an exchange of experiences in linguistic studies. Interpersonal meaning presents attitudes and judgments (Gerot & Wignell, 1994). Interpersonal meaning is related to how a person uses language, such as when asking for or giving information, asking someone to do something, and how we express our attitudes and judgments about things such as desires, needs, and possibilities. Interpersonal meaning is also related to grammatical resources for playing social roles in general, for changing and building relationships with others, and for revealing perspectives on various things in the world. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), interpersonal meaning is an interpretation of a clause that functions as an interpersonal exchange of meaning related to two elements called Mood and Modality.

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), Mood at the clause level consists of two main elements, namely Subject and Finite. Subject functions as an element that is the basis of responsibility for the truth of a statement, while Finite is part of a verbal group that marks time (tense) or Modality, such as possibility, necessity, or desire. The combination of Subject and Finite forms the structure of Mood, while other clause elements are in the Residue, which includes Predicator, Complement, and Adjunct. Based on the Mood structure, clauses can be realized in several main types, namely declarative to convey information, interrogative to request information, and imperative to give orders or invitations. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) state that speech functions are divided into four types, namely offers, statements, commands, and questions. These speech functions are classified into two variables, namely giving and demanding (speech role) and information or goods and services (commodities exchanged) (Halliday, 1994). On the other hand, modality is divided into two types, namely Modality and Modulation. Modality is related to probability and normality. However, Modulation is a type of Modality that represents obligation and tendency.

The realization of interpersonal meaning can be found in various forms of communication involving human interaction, both written and digital, such as personal letters, memos, instant messages and email, which allow the exchange of emotions, ideas, and build closeness between users. With the development of

technology, digital communication such as chat, online forums, and video calls increasingly enrich interpersonal interactions by presenting quick responses and nonverbal expressions virtually. More direct forms of interpersonal communication then emerged in audiovisual formats such as talk shows, namely programs that feature two-way conversations between hosts and sources through questions and answers, discussions, and verbal and nonverbal expressions that make interpersonal relationships clearly visible to the audience. In the context of modern communication, forms of social interaction are increasingly found in digital spaces, one of which is talk shows broadcast on YouTube. Talk shows on this platform serve not only as a means of entertainment but also as an alternative public space that allows for social interaction between hosts, guests, and viewers (Antebi, 2009). In their research, Mustikaningtyas et al. (2019) stated that a talk show is a program in which the host interviews guest stars, such as prominent figures, famous artists, or other participants. Ilie (2001) emphasized that talk shows display patterns of communicative and social behavior and can be considered a type of entertainment program packaged through casual communication. This makes talk shows appealing to viewers because they use relaxed, spontaneous, and easy-to-understand language, thus creating a friendly and intimate atmosphere. The popularity of talk shows is also supported by their ability to present information from various sources combined with entertaining humor (Wu, 2021). With the development of digital media, the presence of online talk shows is increasing, especially among young celebrities and influencers who utilize this format to build their self-image and build closeness with their followers. Thus, the analysis of interpersonal meaning in the context of YouTube talk shows becomes relevant to understanding how such meaning is constructed and negotiated in contemporary digital communication practices.

One of the YouTube channels that features Talk Shows is SEA Today, a television news channel packaged in a lifestyle format using English as the language of instruction. This channel was officially launched in October 2020 with a mission to deliver information and news from an Indonesian perspective to the global community, primarily through digital platforms, including YouTube (Kompas.com,

2020). In commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2024, SEA Today held a special program featuring Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi as guest speakers. Both are young Indonesian content creators with outstanding academic records. In addition to being active in the digital creative era, both also have international educational experience, having studied in South Korea (**Utomo & Pratiwi, 2025**).

The talk show segment in this program then become an interesting object of study in this thesis, because it featured quite popular guests, especially among young people. Xaviera Putri became known for her appearance on the Clash of Champions program and became one of the most popular participants thanks to her academic achievements. In addition, Nabila Sindi also has quite a large influence among the younger generation through her activities as an educational content creator on social media. The popularity of these two sources makes this talk show segment relevant to study because it attracts the attention of a young audience and receives a high response in digital media. However, academic studies on talk shows using the interpersonal meaning theory approach are still limited. Most previous studies focused their analysis on political talk shows, such as Mata Najwa, or on programs with formal or semi-formal formats. Thus, this can be a gap in this research. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of linguistic studies, particularly in the field of discourse analysis in entertainment programs closer to the lives of young people.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulated the following Research questions:

1. What are the types of Mood System found in the clauses produced by Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi?
2. What are the types of Modality found in the clauses produced by Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research question, the following are the Objectives of this study:

1. To explain the types of Mood System found in the clauses produced by Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi
2. To explain the types of Modality found in the clauses produced by Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the development of linguistic studies, particularly in the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics, with a focus on interpersonal meaning. Most previous studies on talk shows have focused on political-themed shows or formal programs. Through the study of entertainment talk shows featuring popular guest stars, especially among young people with strong academic backgrounds, this study is expected to extend the scope of the application of interpersonal meaning analysis in the context of communication. The practical benefits of this study are expected to contribute as reference material for future researchers, especially students of English Studies who are interested in researching interpersonal meaning in talk shows.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the study

The scope of this research is within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, with the main focus on the analysis of interpersonal meaning as proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), particularly through the study of the Mood and Modality systems that realize the attitudes, roles, and interpersonal relationships between speakers and listeners in discourse. In talk shows featuring young public figures with strong academic backgrounds. This research is limited to one talk show program on the SEA Today YouTube channel that is Talkshow with Xaviera putri: What is like being student in South Korea. This analysis emphasizes the language used by guest stars Xaviera Putri and Nabila Sindi during their special interview segment on linguistic features that reflect interpersonal meaning according to the systemic functional linguistic framework.