

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the research context and establishes the basis for the study of interpersonal metafunction use in speech that consists of several points: background of the study, research questions objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and research limitations.

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is the process of conveying information, messages, or ideas from one party to another with the goal of mutual understanding and influence. It refers to many things: it is the process through which individuals as well as institutions exchange information; it is the name for the everyday activity in which people build, but sometimes blast apart, their intimate, work, and public relationships (Tracy, 2008). According to Eggins (2004) text is the authentic product of social interaction, and it refers to spoken or written. Communication refers to many things: it is the process through which individuals as well as institutions exchange information; it is the name for the everyday activity in which people build, but sometimes blast apart, their intimate, work, and public relationships. Oral communication is the process of transmitting messages directly through spoken words, either in face-to-face interactions or through online media such as telephone or video calls. By communicating orally, language is a tool used to communicate and interact with people in delivering and expressing thoughts, ideas, concepts, or feelings (Utomo et al., 2018). Written communication, on the other hand, involves conveying messages through text, writing, or written symbols, such as letters, emails, or text messages. Both forms of communication play a crucial role in social interaction, enabling individuals to exchange ideas, express feelings, and build social relationships.

Speech is a form of oral communication that is highly relevant as a practical application of both textual and verbal communication. Sari (2020) emphasized that in delivering a message in a speech, the speaker needs to anticipate the expectations, needs and resources of the audience to involve themselves in the text being delivered, and influence their understanding to produce effective communication

with the speaker. According to Erwina (2020), speech can be interpreted as “The Art of Persuasion,” which is the art of influencing or convincing. Public speeches are a powerful tool for conveying messages, evoking emotions, and shaping perceptions in a variety of settings, from political events to global summits (Ningrum et al., 2023). Speech serves as a medium for building interpersonal relationships and conveying messages effectively, demonstrating that managing messages from written text to spoken language is crucial for successful interactions.

Each speech is designed by the speaker according to its communicative purpose and the sociocultural context in which it is delivered. Ceremonial speeches, such as commencement speeches, often aim to inspire, motivate, and celebrate collective achievements. These speeches are characterized by emotional appeal, narrative reflection, and persuasive strategies that encourage the audience to connect personally with the speaker's message. This speech can also be interpreted as a speech with a public message (Simanjuntak et al., 2022). Commencement speech should be memorable, inspiring young people to success, professional achievement, and personal development. By sharing their own experiences, speakers demonstrate the importance of choosing the right priorities, values, and overcoming various challenges (Chikileva & Aleshina, 2024). For graduates, this ceremony symbolizes a transition to a new stage in their lives.

Elizabeth Banks, a multi-talented actress, producer, and director who has achieved tremendous success in Hollywood. She delivered a commencement speech at the University of Pennsylvania in 2025. This speech was chosen as the object of research because it has a strong communicative function in building interactions between the speaker and the audience, also it is recent and provides rich linguistic data for analyzing interpersonal meaning through the use of mood choices. As an official speech delivered in an academic environment, this speech not only conveys an informative message but also builds closeness with the audience, making it relevant to be analyzed using interpersonal metafunction in Systemic Functional Linguistics. In addition, Elizabeth Banks's speech was delivered in a formal context but was persuasive and reflective, thus offering rich linguistic data through the range of mood choices used by Elizabeth Banks. Therefore, Elizabeth Banks's speech is considered appropriate and relevant as

research data to examine interpersonal meaning in graduation commencement speeches.

In communication, interpersonal metafunction refers to the aspects of language used to organize and maintain social relationships between participants. Interpersonal meaning shows the roles of participants in communication and how they interact, express attitudes, and manage social relationships through language. Through interpersonal meaning, people can establish, negotiate, and assume their social positions within those relationships. Grammatical systems related to interpersonal meaning include mood, modality, and personal pronouns, which regulate how clauses are used as an exchange in communication (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Linguistic research has extensively examined speech discourse from various perspectives, including text structure and message content. This study applies Systemic Functional Linguistics theory proposed by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) in analyzing the interpersonal meaning of mood choices. Moreover, the researcher investigates mood types and examines how these choices function to convey interpersonal meanings in Elizabeth Banks' commencement speech at the University of Pennsylvania 2025.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What types of mood choices are used in Elizabeth Banks' commencement speech?
2. What are the speech functions used in Elizabeth Banks' commencement speech?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To figure out the types of mood choices used in Elizabeth Banks' commencement speech.
2. To classify the speech functions realized in Elizabeth Banks's commencement speech

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide valuable significance, both theoretically and practically:

Theoretically, researcher hopes that this research can contribute to the development and application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly in the field of interpersonal metafunction analysis in spoken discourse. This research helps enrich theoretical knowledge about how mood choices are used to convey interpersonal meaning in a commencement speech. Therefore, the findings of this study are expected to serve as a reference for future research on interpersonal meaning, speech analysis, and discourse studies, both in educational and professional communication contexts.

Practically, this study is expected to be beneficial for students of English Literature in understanding the application of SFL theory, especially in analyzing mood choices in spoken texts. It may also help readers develop a better awareness of how speakers use language to interact with and influence audiences, especially in formal speeches. Furthermore, this research can serve as a model for introducing SFL-based analysis in English language education, linking linguistic theory with practical communication skills.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), specifically focusing on interpersonal metafunctions, which explore how language reflects social relationships, attitudes, and roles between speaker and audience. This study examines how linguistic elements, particularly mood choices are used by Elizabeth Banks in her speech to express emotions, build connections, and influence listeners in the context of formal public speaking. The researcher will use the theory developed by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004). Meanwhile, the limitations of this research are that the data are restricted to one selected speech by Elizabeth Banks at the University of Pennsylvania 2025, focuses solely on the analysis of mood choices.