

## Investigating the Realization of Speech Function in a Speech through Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective

**Herman<sup>1</sup>, Ridwin Purba<sup>2\*</sup>, Putri Anggita Sijabat<sup>3</sup>, Nanda Saputra<sup>4</sup>, Mas'ud Muhammadiyah<sup>5</sup>,  
 Nguyen Van Thao<sup>6</sup>**

Universitas HKBP Nommensen, Indonesia<sup>1,3</sup>

Universitas Simalungun, Indonesia<sup>2\*</sup>

STIT Al-Hilal Sigli, Indonesia<sup>4</sup>

Pendas PPs Universitas Bosowa, Indonesia<sup>5</sup>

Hanoi Pedagogical University 2, Vietnam<sup>6</sup>

\*Email Correspondence: nridwin@yahoo.com

### Abstract

**Background:**

Delivering a speech is one way to transfer ideas to the listeners. However, some research has been done before indicating that the focus to have a good speech must consist of all elements of speech functions such as statement, question, command, and offer. As a result, this research aimed to investigate the speech delivered by President Biden to fix the misunderstanding with the business owner.

**Methodology:**

The data was collected from President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. speech at the United States of America on white House YouTube on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. Content analysis was chosen since the result of the data analysis involves descriptive phenomena such as words, sentences, and utterances.

**Findings:**

The findings of this research showed 294 data that statement is 292 data (99%), Question finds 2(1%) data, 0 data for command and offer. The most type of speech function is statement. In contrast which just 2 questions and nothing data for command and offer in his speech.

**Conclusion:**

Some of the videos that appear on YouTube use speech function and realization in mood with various reasons for understanding the text especially in speech. It is important to know the component of speech function process so the reader may not have a different perspective in understanding the meaning.

**Originality:**

The goal of delivering a speech is to make the listeners understand the ideas well, but President Biden's speech caused the dialogue to fall into a misunderstanding with what the President said, resulting in the President's objective being unable to be carried out by the owner because they do not understand what the President means.

**Keywords** : Discourse; Interpersonal metafunction; speech function; systemic functional linguistics

**DOI** : <http://dx.doi.org/10.24903/sj.v7i1.917>

**Received** : February 2022

**Accepted** : March 2022

**Published** : April 2022

**How to cite this article (APA)** : Herman, H., Purba, R., Anggita Sijabat, P., Saputra, N., Muhammadiyah, M. and Van Thao, N., (2022). Investigating the Realization of Speech Function in a Speech through Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective. *Script Journal: Journal of Linguistics and English Teaching*, 7(1) 31-41. <http://dx.doi.org/10.24903/sj.v7i1.917>

**Copyright Notice** : **Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication** with the work simultaneously licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License** that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgement of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

As we know that communication is essential in exchanging and expressing ideas, this is in line with Halliday (1994)'s theory about two roles in exchanging and expressing ideas (giving and demand) along with goods and services as a commodity (Purba & Herman, 2020); (Ngongo, 2021). After reviewing previous research studies conducted by other researchers, the researchers can confirm that speech functions play a crucial part in English skills, especially in speaking for communication. However, there are only a few, and only a few articles clarify the importance of speech functions in a speech for communication.

There are several reasons why this research is significant to be carried out. The first reason is the speech delivered by President Biden caused misunderstanding among the business owner in having communication. Biden spoke to a small business owner in Philadelphia, and his speech played a role in imparting and sharing knowledge with others. They can use a statement to convey information to others or ask a small business owner for information. On the other hand, President Biden utilized an incongruent comment to transmit information to others during this conversation. Whether requesting information or a direction, the message provided in words is incomprehensible to the business owner. As a result, the business owner was bewildered about what the president had said to him. As a result of the preceding, the business owner's speech tasks must understand are sophisticated and prone to misinterpretation.

The second reason is that some previous studies have been conducted about speech functions in various aspects, such as in the teaching and learning process and speech (literature case). The advantages taken from the previous studies show and give more references in aspects of theory or use the speech functions in analyzing the data. However, the previous studies were limited to discussing the speech functions without having a clear gap in knowledge and with the expectation/hope that the readers want to know.

In fact, in everyday life at school, the teacher frequently utilizes incongruent words to convey knowledge to students. Instructors realize the speech function incongruently, which causes students to misunderstand what the teachers said and causes the teacher's intention to be unable to be carried out by students because they do not comprehend what the teacher intends. However, by using declarative, you express your realization rather than a question. However, in this situation, the teacher did not inquire about the time since she was upset with the pupil. The teacher was telling the kids, "Don't be late again!" but satirized them by asking what time it was at the time. However, the pupil is unable to interpret the message of language, whether it is seeking information or order. As a result, the student was perplexed as

to what the teacher had actually said to him. As a result of the foregoing, the speech functions that the student should easily understand become complicated and ambiguous.

The phenomenon of speech function from the past until now, in communicating people need other people who will be our listeners as well as our talking partners at the same time. These actions give rise to various phenomena due to variations in the ability of each person to apply language and linguistics as well as their cultural background. Because of these divergences, it is undeniable that misunderstandings between listeners and speakers often occur, especially when both participants in communication are non-native speakers. This phenomenon affects the speech function in a speech by the president. The phenomenon in a speech by President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. can be words and phrases that can usually be found in the study and content.

To effectively communicate, we must clearly organize the messages we wish to convey through speech (Cordeiro, 2018; Sulistyowati, 2011). Message organization entails both giving and requesting, and this interaction may be more sophisticated than it appears. If we demand something, we invite others to give, and if we give something, we invite others to receive. Speech functions are utilized as a means for exchanging experiences in order to meet their needs. It can be stated that speech functions are techniques in communication to transmit someone's ideas and help listeners grasp the ideas, which come in a variety of forms depending on the situation or issue (Dunn et al., 2022; Mensah et al., 2022; Ngongo & Ngongo, 2022).

As President Biden spoke to a small business owner in Philadelphia, there is a role of speech function in offering and sharing knowledge for other individuals. They can use a statement to provide information to others or use a question to obtain information from a small business owner. However, during this conversation, President Biden used an incongruent statement to convey information to others. President Biden discovered that the speech functioned incongruently, causing the dialogue to fall into a misunderstanding with what the President said and causing his objective to be unable to be carried out by the owner because they do not comprehend what the President means.

That utterance occurred as a result of the President's visit to the business owner. Actually, the President comments that we all want to get back to normal, get our lives back, get our economy back on track, and combat the virus (statement/declarative). It demonstrates that he did not directly say what he truly meant to convey. President remarks may be left

open to interpretation. As the president stated, "what you need the most" is classified as a question, but the realization is achieved by employing declarative language.

However, in this case, the president did not ask about the truth, but he was emphasized with the business owner and others. The president was asked to the business owner so that everything could return to normal, lives back, the economy back, and the track is to bear the virus. But wonder the business owner by what she needs the most. However, the business owner is unable to comprehend the message conveyed by language, whether it is demanding information or a directive. So the business owner was perplexed as to what the president had actually said to him. As a result of the foregoing, the speech tasks that the business owner must easily understand become complicated and prone to misinterpretation.

In conducting this research, the authors conducted a review of various previous studies that are relevant to the issue of this research. Sibarani & Ringo (2017) study the types and function of Advertisement Shampoo slogans on Television. It analyzed speech function in advertisement shampoo slogan in television. Furthermore, A study of the interpersonal function of speech function in six English films was conducted (Jing, 2021). Xiaochen and Yang (2021) has performed research utilizing big data to examine the statistics of the words used in President-elect Joe Biden's inaugural speech. Plemenitaš (2020) investigates the rhetoric used by the American president, particularly Barack Obama's speech on the killing of black American.

According to Halliday (1994), Saragih (2009) there are four types of speech functions: statement, question, offer, and command. According to Herman (2014), interpersonal meaning must be realized at two levels: semantics (discourse) and lexicogrammar, which is referred to as mood (Hulu, 2019). Human beings execute two semantic functions in interactions: giving and requesting or demanding. The commodities involved in providing and demanding are divided into information and goods and services (Chefor, 2019). This brings us to the four speech functions: statement, question, offer, and command. The researchers used technique of descriptive analysis by collecting and analysis data technique.

The similarity of this research with previous research, researchers focus on knowing types of speech functions. But this research also needs to know the dominant type of speech function in speech. This research is also different from the previous research. In previous research, the researchers only analyse advertisement shampoo slogans on television. Then the researchers did not mention channel television, and the researchers did not mention date and

time of collecting data. This research used (Halliday, 1994) for speech function types (Herman, 2014). The researchers used Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) theory for the realization speech function in mood.

This research finds out the dominant Speech function in Speech President Joseph Robinette Biden because the researchers often watch it on YouTube channels. In addition, to the explanation, the researchers are interested in this topic because it is a recent phenomenon in the speech.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### ***2.1 The Study Design***

For the purposes and goal of this research, descriptive qualitative was implemented in order to investigate the problems formulated in this study. The content analyzing approach was used since the data in this research were the script of speech and video.

### ***2.2 Data Source and Instrument***

The researchers took data from the YouTube channel in the video application and script speech from the website White House America. The latest speech is being broadcast on YouTube Channel, making it easier for researchers to collect data. Researchers used the video applications YouTube to be more efficient and save time because researchers can watch videos anywhere and anytime without missing a video.

A research instrument collects, measures, and analyses data related to your research interest. This data uses primary data because this data is taken directly from the source. According to (Herman et al., 2019), primary data is factual and original. While primary data is acquired to solve the problem at hand, secondary data is obtained for other reasons (Purba et al., 2021). Then primary data is collected for the first time by the researchers. Some instruments that collect data based on primary data sources include surveys, observations, experiments, questionnaires, and personal interviews (Herman et al., 2021). The researchers used observations because they observed the object's body language, expression, and spoken. Then, the researchers added several instruments such as video applications, handphones and digital dictionaries, books, pens, and laptops.

### ***2.3 Data Collection Techniques***

The main purpose of the research is to get the data. So, researchers used the documentation method to take the transcript from the website White House (House, 2021) and the video on YouTube. The documentation method is the researchers obtained from the process of transcript observation. The video was used to take a speech utterance transcript containing a speech function. In collecting the data, there are some steps by researchers as follow: First, create a new account in the application video; second, type and search in the video application “President Biden delivers remarks on 1st anniversary COVID-19 pandemic”, third, click and downloading the video channel from YouTube, and last was copying the script of speech from website internet White House. (House, 2021).

### ***2.4 Data Analysis Techniques***

After the collected data, the researchers analysed it. Data analysis is a systematic process to analyse data that have been collected. To analyse the data, the researchers used descriptive qualitative to analyse data Qualitative research was conducted concurrently with the ongoing data collection process. These activities are also carried out during and after data collection. According to (Purba et al., 2022), this research used data reduction, display, and conclusion drawing and verification based.

## **3. FINDINGS**

Findings are the result of the research. The data are taken from President Biden speech at White House USA. Some clause from text of President Biden speech was analysed by Speech function, divided into statement, question, offer and command.

There are clauses analysed in this research. The types of processes were statement, question, offer and command.

**Table 1. The Percentage Types of Speech Function in President Biden speech**

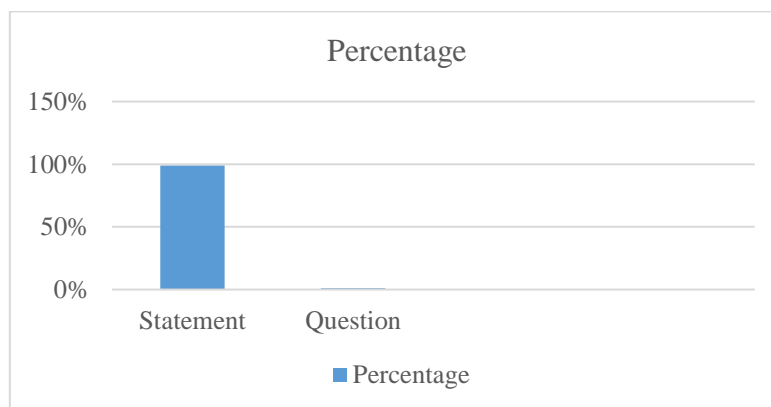
<b>Speech Function</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Statement	292	99%
Question	2	1%
Offer	0	0
Command	0	0

**Table 2. The Percentage Mood element of Speech Function in Biden's speech**

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Mood</b>	<b>Residue</b>
294	120	254

The table 2 shows that there are 294 (100%) data taken from Biden's speech. There are four types of speech functions found in that data: statement 292 times (99%), Question 2 times (1%), Command 0% and Offer 0% and 120 moods, and 254 residues. From the explanation in the table, the researchers found that the most dominant type of speech function used in Biden's speech at the White House USA was the material process.

From the explanation, the finding of the types of implicature can be shown in the chart;



**Chart 1. The percentage of the type of Speech Function**

## 2. Reason Used realization mood element based on Gerot and Wignell Theory

Based on the data analysis, the researchers found that there are two parts realization of mood element in speech reason using speech function found in speech of YouTube. There is realization of mood and residue of clarifying the speech function.

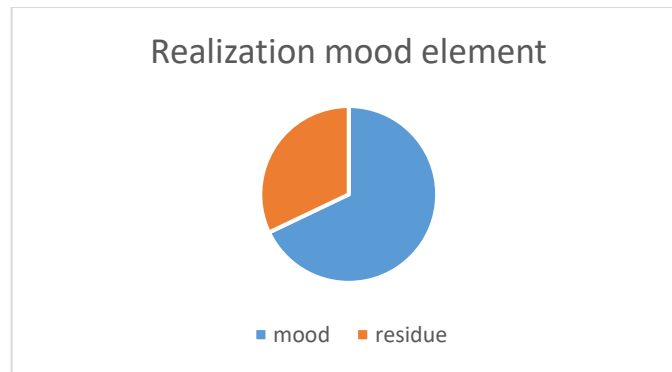


Chart 2 the percentage of the realization of Speech function in Mood

The researchers found four data belong to generalized conversational implicature. The type of generalized conversational implicature depends on the context, and it does not need any particular background knowledge to understand what it is talking about. In this context, it has been known that the context is about broadcast coronavirus shutdown and published by white house web has been usual for it has been a pandemic in America. So, most people could generally understand what is implied in the announcement.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

After analysing and classifying the data, the researchers would like to discuss speech function clearly. The researchers found the types of speech function based on Halliday's theory: statement, question, command and offer. The researchers found that there are two parts realization of mood element in speech reason using speech function found in the speech on YouTube. These findings showed that the prominence of statement inside the declarative (statement) mood indicated that Joe Biden's role here was that of a speaker, a man with a lot of information to impart. The preceding fact demonstrated that the speech was informative. This study demonstrated that the speech can impact the relationship between the orator as a speaker and the audience.

Then the researchers found four reasons for using speech function in Matthiesen's theory, there are Talking about statement, question, offer and command. The results of this study's realization of speech function in a mood defined those 294 speeches were rhetorically examined using a Systemic Functional Grammar technique, resulting in a move-based genre model. Actual examples and mixed-method analysis support the findings of this study. The findings can be useful for both applied linguists interested in discourse analysis and language practitioners interested in using critical discourse approaches to reading and writing skill analysis.



The previous research described by the earlier researchers is "the realization of the speech function in the shampoo slogan in TV commercials" This research involves the speech function in the shampoo slogan in the TV commercial of (Sibarani & Ringo, 2017). This study aims to describe the speech function of language coding in TV commercial shampoo slogans, examine the types of speech functions used in TV commercial shampoo slogans, and derive the types of speech functions used in TV shampoo slogans. Advertisement, explaining the reason for using the speech function. Use content analysis technology to collect data (Yanti, 2021). The data is the slogan of the shampoo, taken from advertising media such as television, the Internet, or billboards. The data is analysed based on the speech function theory (Saragih, 2009) proposed. The study found that there are only four speech functions in the slogan. They are statement, question, offer and command. The most frequently used speech function is sentences (90.9%).

The researchers can conclude that insertion is the most dominant type of speech function used by the community for all reasons, both personal interests and other needs. In insertion, the speaker only inserts his utterance using Indonesian, which is more dominant. The second formulation's answer should be analysed the realization of speech function in mood.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

After analyzing and getting the result, based on the findings and discussion above, the researchers conclude that the speech President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. on the channel YouTube contained four types of speech functions based on Halliday's theory: statement, question, offer and command.

1. In this research, there is no alternation as a type of speech function because Alternation is a clause in types of speech function, so it is rare to find alternation in the speech used. statement is the dominant type of speech function in this research. Of 294 clauses that used speech function, 292 clauses are included in the statement, and then there are two clauses as a question as types of speech function.
2. Then, the researchers also concluded that there are four reasons for using speech function. Based on Gerot and Wignell's theory in speech function, talking about a particular topic, is a mood element for clarifying the speech. There are two parts they are subject, which is realised by a nominal group and finite element, which is part of the verbal group. The rest of the verbal group is the predicator, which forms parts of the residue, a clause consisting of mood + residue. In 294 clauses, 254 are parts of mood and 120 is parts of residue.

In this research, the researchers also concluded that some Speech that appears on YouTube use speech function and realization in mood with various reasons for understanding the text primarily in speech. In knowing speech function analysis, especially the speech function process realized in mood, it is important to know the component of speech function process so the reader may not have the different perspective in understanding the meaning.

## 6. REFERENCES

- Chefor, V. M. (2019). Interpersonal function in Paul Biya's 2018 French inaugural speech and its English translation. *International Journal of Systemic Functional Linguistics*, 2(2), 47–54. <https://doi.org/10.22225/ijlsfl.2.2.1371.47-54>
- Cordeiro, C. M. (2018). Using systemic functional linguistics as method in identifying semogenic strategies in intercultural communication. study of the collocation of “time” and “different” by Swedish managers with international management experiences. *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, 47(3), 207–225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17475759.2018.1455601>
- Dunn, K., Rumbach, A., & Finch, E. (2022). Language function in the acute phase following non-traumatic subarachnoid haemorrhage: A prospective cohort study. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 96, 106192. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcomdis.2022.106192>
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An introduction to functional grammar (second edition)*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *An introduction to functional grammar*. London: Arnold Publication.
- Herman. (2014). *An experiential function on students' genre of writing*. Jakarta: Halaman Moeka Publishing.
- Herman, Murni, S. M., Sibarani, B., & Saragih, A. (2019). Structures of representational metafunctions of the “Cheng Beng” ceremony in pematangsiantar: A multimodal analysis. *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change*, 8(4), 34–46.
- Herman, Van Thao, N., & Purba, N. A. (2021). Investigating sentence fragments in comic books: A syntactic perspective. *World Journal of English Language*, 11(2), 139–151. <https://doi.org/10.5430/WJEL.V11N2P139>
- House, T. W. (2021). *Remarks by President Biden on the anniversary of the covid-19 shutdown*.
- Hulu, F. (2019). Interpersonal function in Martin Luther King Jr's speech. *International Journal of Systemic Functional Linguistics*, 2(1), 43–46. <https://doi.org/10.22225/ijlsfl.2.1.999.43-46>
- Jing, Y. (2021). Interpersonal functions of interjections. *Functions of Language*, 28(1), 81–108. <https://doi.org/10.1075/fo1.19008.jin>
- Mensah, E., Alexander, J., & Ayeni, Q. (2022). The ethnopragmatic functions of Owe and Tiv personal names in Nigeria. *Language Sciences*, 91, 101474. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langsci.2022.101474>

- Ngongo, M. (2021). The investigation of modality and adjunct in spoken text of proposing a girl using Wajewa language based on Halliday's systemic functional linguistic approach. *ENGLISH REVIEW: Journal of English Education*, 10(1), 223–234. <https://doi.org/0.25134/erjee.v10i1.5382>
- Ngongo, M., & Ngongo, Y. (2022). Mood clauses in spoken text of proposing a girl using Wajewa language : A systemic functional linguistics approach. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 18(1), 669–691.
- Plemenitaš, K. (2020). Framing violence in presidential discourse. *Ars & Humanitas*, 14(1), 139–155. <https://doi.org/10.4312/ars.14.1.139-155>
- Purba, R., & Herman. (2020). Multimodal Analysis on Ertiga Car Advertisement. *Wiralodra English Journal*, 4(1), 21–32. <https://doi.org/10.31943/wej.v4i1.77>
- Purba, R., HermanVeronika R. M. Manullang, & Ngongo, M. (2021). Investigation of decoding fillers used in an English learning talk show “ English with Alice .” *English Review Journal*, 10(1), 37–48. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25134/erjee.v10i1.5352>
- Purba, R., Sibarani, B., Murni, S. M., Saragih, A., & Herman. (2022). Conserving the Simalungun language maintenance through demographic community: The analysis of taboo words across times. *World Journal of English Language*, 12(1), 40–49. <https://doi.org/10.5430/WJEL.V12N1P40>
- Saragih, A. (2009). *Semiotik bahasa*. Medan: Pascasarjana UNIMED.
- Sibarani, I. S., & Ringo, L. S. (2017). Realization of speech functions in shampoo's slogan in television advertisement. *International Journal of Linguistics*, 9(3). <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v9i3.11123>
- Sulistyowati, T. (2011). The Speech Functions in the Conversations Between the Fourth Semester English Department Students of Muria Kudus University and Some Foreigners. *English Education Journal*, 1(1).
- Xiaochen, W., & Yang, G. (2021). Analysis of the social interpersonal function of Biden's inaugural speech based on big data technology. *2021 International Conference on Public Management and Intelligent Society (PMIS)*, 71–74. <https://doi.org/10.1109/PMIS52742.2021.00023>
- Yanti, N. P. M. P. (2021). Multimodal analysis of “Energen ” ads. *International Journal of Systemic Functional Linguistics*, 4(1), 25–28. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25134/erjee.v10i1.5352>