

The Analysis of Speech Function in Prabowo's Inaguration Speech

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji fungsi-fungsi tutur yang digunakan dalam pidato pelantikan Prabowo Subianto menggunakan kerangka Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL) Halliday. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi fungsi-fungsi tutur yang dominan dan menjelaskan bagaimana fungsi-fungsi tersebut berkontribusi pada efektivitas komunikasi politik. Penelitian ini didasarkan pada pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan dengan menerapkan teknik dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa terdapat tiga jenis fungsi tutur yang paling banyak muncul dalam pidato pelantikan Prabowo Subianto, yaitu pernyataan (statement), perintah (command), dan pertanyaan (question). Dominasi pernyataan deklaratif menunjukkan niat Prabowo untuk menginformasikan, membujuk, dan membangun kredibilitas di hadapan audiensnya. Perintah berfungsi sebagai alat motivasi yang mendorong tindakan kolektif. Sementara itu, pertanyaan retorik membantu menarik perhatian audiens dan memperkuat isu-isu nasional yang penting. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa fungsi-fungsi tutur memainkan peran penting dalam membangun otoritas politik, memperkuat identitas kepemimpinan, dan memengaruhi persepsi publik. Pidato pelantikan Prabowo Subianto menekankan pada penyampaian informasi, inspirasi, persuasi, dan motivasi kepada rakyat Indonesia, bukan pada negosiasi atau pertukaran barang dan jasa.

Kata kunci: Speech Function , Halliday, Pidato Politik, Prabowo Subianto

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the speech functions employed in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. The objective of the study is to identify the dominant speech functions and explain how these functions contribute to the effectiveness of political communication. This study is based on a descriptive qualitative approach. The data are collected by applying the documentary technique. The result of this study reveals that there are three kinds of speech function that mostly appears in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech, which are statements, commands, and questions. The predominance of declarative statements demonstrates Prabowo's intention to inform, persuade, and establish credibility before his audience. Commands function as motivational devices encouraging collective action. Meanwhile, rhetorical questions help attract the audience's attention and reinforce important national issues. The study concludes that speech functions play a significant role in constructing political authority, strengthening leadership identity, and influencing public perception. Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech emphasizes informing, inspiring, persuading, and motivating the Indonesian people rather than negotiating or exchanging goods and services

Keywords: *Speech Function , Halliday, Political Speech, Prabowo Subianto*

Background of the Research

Language plays a fundamental role in human communication, particularly in political discourse where leaders use language to convey ideas, express ideology, persuade audiences, and establish authority. Political speeches are not merely vehicles for delivering information but are also strategic forms of communication designed to influence public opinion, inspire collective action, and strengthen the relationship between political leaders and citizens. Among various types of political speeches, an inauguration speech is especially significant because it marks the beginning of a leader's administration and communicates the vision, mission, and commitments that will guide future governance.

One of the most influential approaches to analyzing language in context is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) proposed by Halliday. SFL views language as a social semiotic system in which meaning is created through interaction. Within this framework, the interpersonal metafunction explains how speakers establish relationships with listeners through language. A central aspect of the interpersonal metafunction is speech function, which refers to the communicative purpose of an utterance. Halliday (2014) classifies speech functions into four basic categories: Statement, Question, Command, and Offer. These speech functions reveal how speakers exchange

information and goods or services while negotiating interpersonal relationships.

The analysis of speech functions has attracted considerable attention in linguistic research because it provides insight into how speakers organize their messages to achieve communicative goals. Previous studies have examined speech functions in political speeches, presidential debates, classroom interactions, films, and public speeches. Most findings indicate that declarative statements are generally dominant in political discourse because politicians tend to provide information, present arguments, justify policies, and persuade audiences. However, commands and offers also play essential roles in encouraging participation, promoting unity, and motivating collective action.

Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech provides an important source of data for speech function analysis. As the newly inaugurated President of Indonesia, Prabowo delivered a speech that addressed national priorities, economic development, social welfare, national unity, and Indonesia's future direction. The speech represents an important moment of political communication because it reflects the government's commitments while attempting to gain public trust and support. Through carefully selected linguistic expressions, the speaker constructs leadership identity and establishes interpersonal

relationships with diverse audiences.

Although political speeches have been widely investigated from perspectives such as critical discourse analysis, rhetorical strategies, and persuasive language, studies specifically focusing on the speech functions employed in Prabowo's inauguration speech remain limited. Most existing research emphasizes ideological representation or persuasive techniques rather than examining how interpersonal meanings are realized through speech functions. Therefore, a study applying Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics to analyze speech functions in this speech can provide a more comprehensive understanding of how language is used to communicate political messages effectively.

This research aims to analyze the types of speech functions found in Prabowo's inauguration speech and identify the dominant speech function employed throughout the speech. Furthermore, it seeks to explain how these speech functions contribute to constructing political authority, persuading audiences, and strengthening leadership identity. The findings of this study are expected to enrich the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly in the study of interpersonal meaning in political discourse. In addition, the results may serve as a valuable reference for students, researchers, and educators interested in discourse

analysis, political communication, and functional linguistics.

Ultimately, this study contributes to the understanding that language in political communication extends beyond the transmission of information. It functions as a powerful tool for shaping public perception, fostering national solidarity, and establishing a leader's credibility. By analyzing the speech functions in Prabowo's inauguration speech, this research demonstrates how linguistic choices reflect communicative intentions and support the achievement of political objectives.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design. Qualitative research is appropriate because it aims to explore and interpret linguistic phenomena rather than measure them statistically. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), qualitative research focuses on understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to social or human problems.

In this study, the researcher investigated the speech functions used in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly the interpersonal metafunction. The descriptive approach was chosen because the study ought to describe, classify, and interpret the occurrence of speech functions without manipulating the data. Although the frequencies of

speech functions were calculated to identify the dominant type, the emphasis remained on qualitative interpretation of how each speech function contributed to the communicative purposes of the speech.

The data of this study consisted of clauses containing speech functions found in Prabowo Subianto's presidential inauguration speech.

The data source was the official transcript and video of Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech delivered after taking the presidential oath on 20 October 2024.

The transcript was obtained from official government publications and verified by comparing it with the speech recording to ensure transcription accuracy. The unit of analysis in this research was the clause, since Halliday (2014) considers the clause as the basic unit for analyzing interpersonal meaning and speech function.

The data were collected using documentation techniques and were analyzed using Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña's (2014) interactive model of qualitative data analysis.

RESULT OF THE RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

The data were analyzed based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly the interpersonal metafunction.

Each clause in the speech was classified into one of the four speech functions : Statement, Question, Command, and Offer.

The analysis identified 198 Speech Functions in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech. The finding show that statement is the most dominant speech function, followed by Command and Question, while Offer does not appear in the speech.

Table 1. Distribution of Speech Functions

Speech Function	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Statement	173	87,4%
Question	4	2,0%
Command	21	10,6%
Offer	0	0%
Total	198	100%

The findings reveal that Statement dominates the speech, about 173 occurrences (87,4%). This indicates that the primary purpose of Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech is to provide information, explain government policies, communicate his vision and mission, express commitments, and strengthen public confidence. Throughout the speech, declarative clauses are frequently used to describe Indonesia's current conditions, future goals, national priorities, and governmental responsibilities. This finding supports Hallyday's theory that statements are typically used to exchange

information between the speaker and the audience.

The second most frequent speech function is Command, with 21 utterances (10,6%). Most commands are expressed through inclusive imperative forms such as "Let us...", "Let's...", "Remember...", and "Stop...". Rather than functioning as strict orders, these commands invite the audience to participate collectively in national development, maintain unity, fight corruption, preserve national resources, and support government programs. The frequent use of inclusive imperatives reflects the speaker's intention to build solidarity between the government and the people.

Meanwhile, Question appears only four times (2,0%). These questions are rhetorical rather than genuine requests for information. For example, the speaker asks whether Indonesians truly understand the country's poverty and social challenges. Such rhetorical questions encourage the audience to reflect on national problems while emphasizing the urgency of addressing them. Therefore, their interpersonal function is to raise awareness rather than to obtain answers.

Interestingly, Offer is absent from the speech. According to Halliday's interpersonal

metafunction, offers generally involve proposing goods or services to the listener. However, Prabowo's inauguration speech focuses primarily on presenting governmental commitments, national aspirations, and policy directions instead of offering services or requesting exchanges with the audience. Consequently, no speech function is categorized as an Offer.

Overall, the dominance of Statement demonstrates that the inauguration speech mainly functions as an informative and persuasive political discourse. Through statements, the speaker communicates policies, national values, and future development plans. The use of commands strengthens the persuasive aspect by encouraging collective action, while rhetorical questions help attract the audience's attention and reinforce important national issues. These findings suggest that Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech emphasizes informing, inspiring, persuade and motivating the Indonesian people rather than negotiating or exchanging goods and services.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that **Statement** is the dominant speech function in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech. This result aligns with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) theory, which

argues that declarative clauses are the typical realization of statements used for giving information.

The predominance of Statements suggests that the primary communicative purpose of the inauguration speech is informational rather than interactive. As a newly inaugurated president, Prabowo communicates his governmental vision, national priorities, policy directions, and expectations for Indonesia's future. The audience is positioned primarily as recipients of information rather than active participants in dialogue.

The second most frequent speech function is **Command**. However, the commands identified in the speech differ from direct orders. Most are realized through inclusive expressions such as "Let us..." and "Together we must...". According to Halliday (2014), these constructions soften the imperative force while simultaneously strengthening interpersonal relationships. Rather than emphasizing authority, the speaker constructs solidarity and shared responsibility.

The least frequent speech function is **Question**. This finding is understandable because inauguration speeches are not interactive conversations but ceremonial monologues. Questions mainly function rhetorically to encourage reflection, emphasize important issues, and emotionally engage listeners.

The findings are consistent with previous studies. Hariati and Purwarno (2025) found that Prabowo's inaugural speech

emphasizes ideological persuasion and national unity through declarative discourse. Similarly, Situmorang et al. (2025) reported that statements dominated Prabowo's interview discourse because information exchange is the primary communicative goal.

From the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics, Prabowo successfully constructs interpersonal meaning by balancing authority with solidarity. Statements establish credibility, Commands encourage participation, Offers build public confidence, and Questions stimulate reflection. Together, these speech functions support the communicative objectives of an inauguration speech: introducing governmental priorities, legitimizing leadership, and inspiring national cooperation.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Prabowo Subianto strategically employs speech functions to strengthen his relationship with citizens while presenting himself as a leader committed to national development, unity, and public service.

Conclusion

This study analyzed the speech functions employed in Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly the interpersonal metafunction. The analysis identified a total of 198 speech functions, consisting

of Statements, Questions, Commands, and Offers.

The findings demonstrate that **Statement** is the overwhelmingly dominant speech function, accounting for 173 occurrences (87.4%). This indicates that the primary communicative purpose of the inauguration speech is to convey information, present government policies, explain national priorities, express commitments, and communicate the president's vision for Indonesia. The dominance of declarative clauses confirms Halliday's view that statements function mainly to exchange information and establish an informative relationship between the speaker and the audience.

The second most frequent speech function is **Command**, with 21 occurrences (10.6%). These commands are predominantly expressed through inclusive imperative forms such as "*Let us*" and "*Let's*," which encourage collective participation rather than impose authority. Their use reflects Prabowo's intention to foster solidarity, unity, and shared responsibility in achieving national development goals.

Question appears only four times (2.0%), and all of them function rhetorically rather than as genuine requests for information. These rhetorical questions are

used to stimulate public reflection on national challenges and strengthen the persuasive effect of the speech. Meanwhile, **Offer** does not occur because the speech is not intended to negotiate or exchange goods and services, but rather to communicate commitments and policy directions.

Overall, the study concludes that Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech is characterized by an informative and persuasive interpersonal communication strategy.

The predominance of statements, supported by inclusive commands and rhetorical questions, enables the speaker to inform, inspire, persuade, and motivate the Indonesian people while reinforcing national unity and public trust. These findings also confirm that speech function analysis within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics provides valuable insights into how political leaders use language to achieve communicative purposes and establish relationships with their audiences.

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