

## Interpersonal Meaning in Billie Eilish Interview: Hit Me Hard and Soft Album

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine conversation in interviews with Billie Eilish about her new album by identifying mood systems, speech functions, and the interpersonal relationship that Billie Eilish built with the interviewer. The research employs a descriptive qualitative method with a discourse analysis approach and document analysis as the data collection technique. According to the findings of this study, the most common mood type is declarative mood, followed by interrogative mood (polar and wh-interrogative mood), imperative mood, and exclamative mood. Meanwhile, the most common speech function is a statement. Furthermore, to be aware of how Billie Eilish establishes interpersonal relationships by examining mood and residue, combining mood types, applying the speech function, and the interacting contract. Studying interpersonal meaning may help us understand how language can produce meaning in a social context and how the interaction between Billie Eilish and the interviewer.

**Keywords:** interview, interpersonal meaning, mood types, speech function

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### 1. Introduction

An interview is a communication process that involves exchanging information between interviewees and interviewers for the aim of gathering information, data, or other relevant information. Arendt (2014) states that an interview is a communication process that involves a mutual exchange of questions between the interviewee and the interviewed to extract relevant information. It can be as varied as a video call, a phone call, or face-to-face (Kvale, 2007). Interviews can be conducted with a variety of people, including politicians, academics, authors, and even artists. Interviews with artists often serve to promote their work or their latest show, but also as a way for the public to understand their views and personalities (Gubrium & Holstein, 2002). These interviews are also a source of inspiration, entertainment, and cultural understanding. Interviews with public figures can influence public perception and impact the popularity and image of the public figure (Hennink et al., 2020). In social phenomena, people watch others to prevent offenses that lead to misunderstandings (Haryanto et al., 2024; Silverman, 1998). Furthermore, artist interviews are often used to prevent misunderstandings by communicating and asking in-depth questions about their personal lives and works (Holstein &

Gubrium, 2008).

In the entertainment industry, interviews are often a way for fans to better understand a public figure's work and personal journey, providing insight into behind-the-scenes innovations and issues (Ouellette & Gray, 2017). One of the public figures who has a great influence on popular culture and the younger generation is Billie Eilish. Her career as a singer and songwriter began when she was a teenager, and she has a loyal and wide following. Her music often reflects themes of emotionality, mental health, and identity, which are highly relevant to the issues facing the current generation (Manikandan, 2024; Smith, 2024). One of the interviews that invited Billie Eilish to be an interviewee was a Spotify account uploaded on her YouTube channel where Billie Eilish was interviewed about her new album, "Hit Me Hard and Soft," which was released on May 17, 2024.

In her album "Hit Me Hard and Soft," Billie Eilish takes a deep and personal approach in her interview with Jennie as an interviewer, with themes depicting her complex emotional experiences and personal journey as a young artist in the music industry. With a combination of honest lyrics and distinctive musical arrangements with soft electronic elements often joined by strong beats, portraying a sense of duality between strength and tenderness, the album is considered to explore feelings of vulnerability, relationships, and emotional challenges. On the Music Week official website, "Hit Me Hard and Soft" was a success in its week of release, and the songs on the album were high on the singles charts. The album *Hit Me Hard and Soft* by Billie Eilish debuted at the top of the chart with sales of 67,111 units, the second largest in 2024 after Taylor Swift. Sales included 12,699 CDs, 18,216 LPs, and 31,951 streaming equivalent sales. In addition, the success of the album was supported by the popularity of the songs on it, which proved Eilish's consistent appeal among fans and new listeners. The album also shows how Eilish continues to challenge her creative boundaries with her musical explorations and deep narratives, making it one of the most influential albums of the year.

There are many lyrics and songs that seem to tell stories to the listeners in her album, which are discussed in the interview of Billie Eilish and Jennie as an interviewer. The sentences in the conversation are a form of communication and interaction between one person and another. And also, the conversation in this interview is one of exchanging information. Therefore, to analyze the sentences and find out how the relations between the interviewee and the interviewer will be discussed in interpersonal meaning, one of the main meta-functions in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). It will be identified through mood and the speech function used to determine the grammatical structure of a clause in interaction and also related to the social purpose of the utterance, both of which contribute to the meaning of interpersonal communication (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Interpersonal communication is using language to engage with people. The clause's interpersonal meaning component is made up of the speaker's actions and interactions with the addressee (Thompson, 2013). The principal meta-function serves as a tool for fostering interpersonal interactions. This function's meaning includes grammatical choices that allow speakers to engage in complex and diversified relationships with others. In the interpersonal structure, there is a mood element that consists of two parts: Mood and Residue (Halliday &

Matthiessen, 2014). Mood is the core part of the clause that includes the subject and finite, which determines the type of clause and the speaker's position in the communication. Residue includes other elements such as predicates, complements, and adjuncts that complete the information in the clause. These mood systems help establish interpersonal relationships between speakers and listeners. It can thus be used to study how language can be used to express the speaker's attitudes, positions, and emotions. Thus, language not only conveys information but also helps to build an emotional connection with the audience (Thompson, 2013). SFL distinguishes several mood types, which reflect different communication functions in the exchange of meaning, namely, declarative mood is used to provide information; interrogative is either polar interrogative or WH-interrogative mood; exclamative mood is used to express feelings or surprise; and imperative mood is used to give orders or requests (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

In addition, interpersonal meaning, or interpersonal meta-function, is to understand how language builds meaning in a social context. The interpersonal meta-function plays an important role in establishing social interaction through language. One of the main aspects of this meta-function is the nature of dialogue, which involves patterns of verbal interaction between participants. Dialogue in SFL is understood as a two-way exchange involving speech rules. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) state the most basic types of speech roles, which underlie more specific types, are just two: giving and demanding. Crossing this basic distinction between giving and demanding is another, equally basic, distinction relating to the nature of the commodities being exchanged. This can be either goods & services or information. These two variables, taken together, define four main speech functions, namely, offers, commands, statements, and questions.

Human life depends on communication to establish relationships in society (Fitria & Rahmawati, 2020). Communicating and interacting effectively with others includes active listening, speaking clearly, understanding others' emotions, and working together in groups. In addition, communication allows us to share ideas and information (Mularsih & Maudy, 2020). Interpersonal interaction is very important in everyday life because it helps a person build significant relationships, resolve conflicts, and build mutually supportive relationships (Goleman, 1996). According to Halliday (2014), language functions in relation to interpersonal skills because language helps communicate social relationships and interpersonal meanings in various contexts of interaction. Meanwhile, the "interpersonal relationship" refers to a connection or bond formed between two or more people through continuous interaction. These relationships can be informal, such as friendship or family, or formal, such as work relationships. Trust, empathy, and effective communication are signs of healthy interpersonal relationships. The quality of interpersonal relationships affects one's psychological well-being (Duck, 1994). It is also an important component in maintaining mental and emotional health. In addition, Thompson (2013) and Eggins (2004) emphasize how important good interpersonal communication is for creating positive social dynamics. They explain that the use of language to gain mutual understanding, support emotional connection, and build trust in a variety of social contexts is often the basis of good interpersonal relationships.

Many writers have examined mood and interpersonal meaning, including the first, a study

by Rahmawati & Suprijadi (2021) entitled “The Mood Types Analysis in Script of Rm's Speech at The United Nation,” examining a speech made by BTS leader, Kim Namjoon. This study aims to find the mood type and the interpretation of the mood type. It was found that the declarative mood was the most dominant. The second is a study entitled “Mood Types of Donald Trump's Speech in The Arab Islamic American Summit” by Rahayu & Bilmona (2021), in which the writers examined a speech made by Donald Trump in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In this study, the writers found that the most dominant is the declarative mood, which shows that Donald Trump wants to provide information to the audience; while in adjuncts, the most dominant is adjuncts of intensity, which express expectation. The third is research on conversations between students and teachers, conducted by Maharani & Samsi (2024) with the title “Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of The EFL Student's Talk in Learning Descriptive Text at Junior High School.”. This research focuses more on the mood system, speech function, and modality. Fourth by Azura et al. (2022) with the title “Identifying Mood System and The Quality of Speech On Taylor Swift's Speech at The Graduation Of New York University 2022” And just like the previous writers, the declarative mood is the most dominant. Besides that, the writer found that the most dominant modality is a high-degree modality. The last is research on narrative text conducted by Utari & Fajriah (2023) with the title “Analysis of Mood Structure in EFL Students' Narrative Texts.” The most dominant is declarative with subject position before finite.

The previous research has explored mood systems and interpersonal meaning in speeches of influential figures such as a president, conversations between teachers and students, and those in field narrative texts. Research on how linguistic elements operate in the context of artist interviews, particularly in the entertainment industry, is still limited, especially for an artist named Billie Eilish. For that reason, this study will focus on analyzing the interpersonal meaning of the interview conducted with Billie Eilish.

This study is important because there is a lack of study exploring the meaning of SFL, especially in interpersonal meaning in interview conversations. Although several studies have studied interpersonal meaning, such as mood and speech function, they generally study influential people's speeches, such as presidents, everyday conversations, or narrative texts, and none have studied interpersonal meaning in interviews in the entertainment world, such as artists. Therefore, this study aims to expand the analysis of existing conversations by applying it to artist interviews. In addition to identifying mood types and speech functions in artist interviews, this study also discusses how interpersonal meaning is built in an interaction, in this case about how Billie Eilish builds interpersonal meaning with the interviewer. So this is a research gap and what makes it different from previous writers.

The important point is that the study findings, namely interviews, are related to real-world situations. Because this will improve systemic functional linguistic research on interpersonal meaning in interviews. This study will open the eyes of Billie Eilish fans about how language can create meaning in a social context. In addition, by combining interpersonal meaning theory and interview phenomena that frequently occur both on social media and in real life, this study offers a unique perspective.

## 2. Methodology

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a discourse analysis approach to explore the interpersonal meanings contained in Billie Eilish's interviews related to the album 'Hit Me Hard and Soft.'. An interview conducted by the YouTube channel Sportify on May 17, 2024, entitled "Sportify Presents: Billie Eilish Hit Me Hard and Soft Q&A With Jennie," can be found on the YouTube Sportify Official account. The writer will describe the words that will then be examined. In the book *Qualitative Research Methods* by Taylor (2019), qualitative research method is a research process that produces written or spoken words from individuals and observations of behavior. While descriptive research design is a design that is scientifically based on statistics or previous actual events. This design also allows writers to observe whatever is seen, heard, and understood (Ivankova & Creswell, 2009). Since the main purpose of this study is to analyze, describe, and interpret the data to examine how interpersonal meaning is realized and what the speech function is in the interview, a descriptive qualitative study was considered appropriate.

This research used document analysis as a technique to collect data. A type of qualitative research known as document analysis involves the writer's interpretation of documents to provide context and voice for an evaluation topic (Bowen, 2009). Bowen also emphasizes how important triangulation is to ensure a more accurate and valid interpretation of the data. The writer used "data triangulation" to ensure that the data in this study was valid, first by comparing the interview transcripts with the original videos to ensure that the content was accurate. The second was by referring to theories from Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), Thompson (2013), and Eggins (2004) to support the analysis. And finally, "peer debriefing"—a discussion with a supervisor to prevent wrong interpretations—was conducted. In addition, the data were checked for consistency through double-checking other data splits and analyses. This was done to ensure that the research results could be academically accounted for.

Therefore, the primary data is the transcript of Billie Eilish's video interview, which was aired on Spotify's YouTube channel on June 21, 2024, with the title "Spotify Presents: Billie Eilish Hit Me Hard and Soft Q&A With Jennie." There are some steps in collecting data. The first step is to observe and listen carefully to the video of Billie Eilish's interview on YouTube while reading the transcript of the interview. After that, the writer separated the whole speech into several clauses. The clauses became the data that would be analyzed in the SFL framework, especially Interpersonal Meaning, the theory of Halliday & Matthiessen (2014).

As mentioned above, the writer went through the following stages in this analysis: The writer identified all the data based on the types of mood by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), Eggins (2004), and Thompson (2013) that are available in 'Billie Eilish's interviews: Hit Me Hard or Soft Album' to know the relation of how the interviewee and interviewer convey their intentions and interact with each other. Next, the writer analyzes the purpose of Billie Eilish's interviews: Hit Me Hard or Soft based on the speech function by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014). And then, it analyzes the interpersonal relationship that Billie Eilish built with the interviewer. Finally, the writer will make a conclusion by explaining findings and the results of the analysis,

the realization of interpersonal meta-function, including mood types and speech functions that occur in Billie Eilish's interview: Hit Me Hard and Soft Album.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. Result

Approximately 407 data were discovered after a careful examination of Billie Eilish's interview regarding her new album. The interpersonal meaning of this Billie Eilish interview is examined, including mood type and the speech function. The type of mood found in this study is 350 declarative mood, 22 polar interrogative mood, 20 wh-interrogative mood, 13 imperative mood, and 2 exclamative mood. In addition, the speech function of the 407 data can be found in 3 offer data, 12 command data, 352 statement data, and 40 question data. However, in this study, the writers do not present all the results of the data analysis but only take some data that are considered to represent each type of mood itself.

The following is an explanation of the several results found.

- Datum 1: **I'm always surprised what does well.**

Table 1: Type of Declarative Mood

I	'm always	surprised	what does well.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
Mood	Residue		

The datum above belongs to the declarative mood because there is a subject at the beginning and followed by a finite (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The sentence consists of mood and residue elements. These elements are applied to convey interpersonal meaning. First, for the mood element, there is the word "I" as the subject and the word "am" as the finite. Second, the residue elements are predicators and complements. The verb "surprised" is the predicator. Finally, the word "what is well done" is the complement.

The speech function of the sentence "I'm always surprised what does well" is giving a statement. In this case, it shows that Billie Eilish is conveying her opinion to the interviewers without expecting any particular action from them. This sentence functions as a "statement" to express Billie Eilish's personal feelings and experiences, such as being surprised at something that is considered successful. The focus of this utterance is on sharing experiences and observations rather than requesting actions or information from the listener. It is used in conversation to extend a discussion or give listeners a chance to interact informally, such as sharing their opinions or agreeing with what they see.

- Datum 2: **When we were making this album, I was really struggling with who I was.**

Table 2: Type of Declarative Mood

When we were making this album,	I	was really	struggling	with who I was.
Adjunct	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
	Mood		Residue	

The datum above is also included in the declarative mood; there are mood and residue. The mood element in the sentence is the word “I” as the subject and the phrase “was really,” which is finite. While the residue elements contained in the sentence are adjunct, predicator, and complement. The sentence “when we were making this album” is included in the adjunct, which shows the time description and answer ‘when’; the word “struggling” is the predicator, and “with who I was” is the complement.

The speech function of the sentence “When we were making this album, I was really struggling with who I was” is a statement that aims to “provide information.”. It shows Billie Eilish's openness and reflection towards Jennie, building an emotional connection with the interviewer by revealing their personal information. It is typically used to expand the listener's understanding of the speaker's creative process without expecting a response other than understanding or empathy. This is because the function of the utterance in a conversational context is to provide insight or background regarding the speaker's struggles during a particular period.

- Datum 3: **Did you wanted to say hi to your fans here?**

Table 3: Type of Polar Interrogative Mood

Did	you	wanted to say	hi	to your fans here?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement	Complement
Mood		Residue		

The datum above belongs to the polar interrogative mood because the finite comes before the subject (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The sentence consists of two elements. The first element is the mood, which consists of “did” as the finite and “you” as the subject”. The second element is residue. In this sentence, there is “wanted to say,” which is a predicator, and “hi to your fans here,” which is a complement.

“Did you want to say hi to your fans here?” has the speech function of a question, which is intended to ‘ask for information.’. The interviewer uses the “question” structure with the “finite” “did” to ask the listener's desire or purpose, with the implicit subject

“you.”. The speaker, in this case the interviewer, expects an affirmative or negative answer. The function of this utterance is to provide an opportunity to address the audience. In this case, apart from asking for information, this sentence also functions as a cue or encouragement to act according to the situation.

- Datum 4: **Was any biggest surprised from the fans since the album dropped?**

Table 4: Type of Polar Interrogative Mood

Was	any biggest	surprise	from the fans	since the album dropped?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

The datum above presents the sentence grammatically and consists of mood and residue elements. First, the mood elements are the word “was” as finite and the word “any biggest” as subject. Based on the order, the sentence includes the interrogative mood because the finite is followed by the subject. The second element is the residue, consisting of the verb “surprise,” which is a predicator; “from the fans” is a complement; and the last word, “since the album dropped,” is also a circumstantial adjunct because it answers the question 'when.'.

The sentence “Have there been any big surprises from fans since the album was released?” is a question with an utterance function to request information. In this function, the speaker acts as the party who wants to know or get an answer from the listener. This sentence uses the structure “question” with the auxiliary verb “was,” which grammatically indicates the form of the question. With the aim of getting a specific answer, such as a specific event or experience, this question focuses on the reaction or response that fans gave after the release of the album. As a “question,” the main purpose of this sentence is to open a discussion or gain knowledge from the listener about matters related to the topic of discussion, such as fans' responses to the newly released album.

- Datum 5: **What were you the most nervous about?**

Table 3: Type of WH-Interrogative Mood

What	were	you	the most nervous about?
Complement/Wh	Finite	Subject	Complement
Residue	Mood		Residue

Because the form of a sentence in a question, the word “what” is a complement. It is



one of the wh-questions and asks the subject what the subject will do. “Were” is finite, expressing tense, and “you” is the subject because it is a nominal group, while “the most nervous about” is a complement as an adjective phrase describing the state of the subject.

The sentence “What were you the most nervous about?” has a question utterance function. This sentence uses the interrogative word “what” as a question, which aims to ask a specific thing. This question centers on a previous situation or experience, as shown by the “question” structure with the “finite” “were.”.

- Datum 6: **How did the making of this album differ from the precious albums?**

How	did	the making of this album	differ	from the precious albums?
Adjunct/Wh-	Finite	Subject	Predicator	Adjunct
	Mood			
	Residue			

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), it is mentioned that in WH-Interrogative Mood, it occurs when the subject is before the finite if the wh-element is the subject, or the finite is before the subject. In the sentence above, it is the finite that comes before the subject, and there is a wh-element “how” that shows the way or difference. The mood element in this clause is “did” as a finite that indicates past time, and the words “the making of this album” as the subject. In addition, the residue element is the word “how” as an adjunct that states the way or difference that occurs, the word “differ,” which is a predicator, and finally ‘from the precious albums’ as an adjunct, which also provides information about the difference with the previous album.

Speech function in the clause above is a question, with the intention of “demanding information.”. The sentence uses a question structure with the question word “How,” which shows that the interviewer is asking about the specific differences between the process of making this album and the previous albums. And with the auxiliary verb “did,” the question is placed in a past tense context, which allows the interviewer to ask for a response about an event that has already happened.

- Datum 7: **Give it up for Billie Eilish!**

Table 7: Type of Imperative Mood

Give it up	for Billie Eilish!
Predicator	Complement

Residue

The datum above is in the imperative mood because it only presents the residue element. As mentioned in Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) , the analysis of positive imperative mood Sentences do not have mood elements and only consist of residue. In the sentence “Give it up for Billie Eilish!” there are two residue components. The first residue element is the word “give it up,” which is the predicate, and the second residue element is “for Billie Eilish,” which is the complement. The sentence above is categorized as the imperative mood because it shows an order. And besides that, the predicate is the main part of this sentence.

The speech function of the sentence “Give it up for Billie Eilish!” is Command. In her delivery, Jennie, as the interviewer, asks the audience to perform a certain action, which is to give something to Billie Eilish in the form of applause or cheers. This sentence contains a direct “command” addressed to others without giving them a choice. In this case, the idiomatic English expression “give it up” is used to invite people to give honor or praise, especially in public events such as concerts or awards.

- Datum 8: **Make some noise!**

Table 8: Type of Imperative Mood

Make	some noise!
Predicator	Complement
Residue	

The datum above only presents residue elements. The first residue element is the word “make,” which is the predicate, and the last residue element is “some noise,” which is the complement. The sentence above is categorized as imperative mood because it shows an order. And besides that, the predicate is the main part of this sentence.

The sentence “Make some noise!” is a command because the interviewer asks the audience to perform an action. This sentence involves an exchange of goods and services, where the speaker expects the listener to perform an action or service. In the sentence “Make some noise!”, the speaker demands an action from the listener—to make some noise. This falls into the category of goods and services, as it requires the listener to provide an action in response. The form of the command is expressed through an imperative structure, where the subject is omitted, leaving only the base form of the verb “make.”. This sentence directly instructs the listener, highlighting the demanding nature of the utterance and positioning the speaker as the party in control of the interaction.

- Datum 9: **How random the order of these questions is!**

Table 9: Type of Exclamative Mood

How random	the order of this questions	is
Adjunct/WH-	Subject	Finite
Residue	Mood	

The datum above belongs to the exclamative mood because it expresses surprise. In the sentence, the phrase “how random,” which is an adjunct because it shows the level of randomness as an adverb, besides that, there are also mood elements in this clause, namely the phrase “the order of questions” as the subject and the word “is,” which is a finite that refers to the current condition. According to Eggins (2004) and Thompson (2013), exclamative mood usually involves the speaker's personal disclosure of a state or object, rather than asking for a direct response from the listener.

The speech function of the sentence “How random the order of these questions is!” is a statement, giving information. In this sentence, the interviewer conveys their personal observation or judgment about the randomness of the order of the questions asked by Billie Eilish's fans. Its main function is to provide emotional information, such as surprise or amazement at the randomness, without expecting an action from Billie Eilish.

- Datum 10: **How wonderful answer is!**

Table 10: Type of Exclamative Mood

How wonderful	answer	is
Adjunct/WH-	Subject	Finite
Residue	Mood	

The sentence “How wonderful the answer is” is also an exclamative mood because it shows admiration for something. In addition, Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) also explain that the elements in exclamative mood are what or how. In this sentence, “How wonderful” is the main sentence and is also called an adjunct, which is used to emphasize emotion or quality. In addition, there are mood elements, namely subject and finite. The word “answer” is the subject and “is” the finite.

Although it uses an exclamative mood structure, the sentence “How wonderful answer is” has the function of a statement or giving information because this sentence is a statement that conveys the interviewer's subjective assessment of the quality of Billie Eilish's answer. Its main purpose is to provide information that contains an expression of admiration or appreciation for the answer, without expecting Billie Eilish to answer or provide additional clarification.

The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, as presented by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), Thompson (2013), and Eggins (2004), can also allow us to examine the meaning of the language that Billie Eilish employs to establish interpersonal relationships with her interviewers. The following is the response based on these theories:

- Language has interpersonal meaning.

According to the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, interpersonal

meaning explains how language helps build social relationships and creates interaction between speakers and listeners. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), this interpersonal metafunction emphasizes the role of speakers in conversation, such as conveying their attitudes, sharing information, and responding to others.

The interpersonal meaning is reflected in Billie Eilish's word choice, tone of voice, and the way she handles information to build relevant relationships with her audience during her interviews. Mood and residue are the two main components of interpersonal metafunction. Mood is the basic clause structure that indicates communication functions such as giving or asking for information, offering something, or requesting an action. For example, Eilish uses declarative or interrogative sentences to share her personal experience giving an explanation and process of how the shooting of this album was done. Residue augments mood with additional elements such as complements, adverbs, or predicates that enhance or clarify the meaning of the main clause (Eggins, 2004).

How speakers manage power and solidarity relationships in interaction is also part of interpersonal meaning. Speakers can express a sense of empathy, emotional involvement, and equality or hierarchy through lexical choices and grammatical structures (Thompson, 2013). In Billie Eilish's interview, the use of honest and introspective language demonstrates an openness that creates closeness with the audience, and the interviewer contributes by asking relevant questions and providing empathic responses. This demonstrates how language, as a primary tool of interaction, creates social relationships and interpersonal meaning in various communication contexts.

- Combining of Mood Types in Interview Interaction: Declarative, Interrogative (Polar and Wh-Interrogative), Exclamative, and Imperative

Each mood shapes the dynamics of an effective conversation between Billie Eilish, the interviewer, and the audience. Creating an intellectual and emotional connection with the audience using these moods allows the interaction to be richer and more meaningful.

Billie often uses the declarative mood to share her own opinions and experiences. Statements like, "I've been very surprised by everybody's reactions and the way that people have just been responding to it," for example, show openness and give the audience insight. The declarative mood is the main way to convey viewpoints or facts in interaction (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

The two types of mood interrogative are polar interrogative and wh-interrogative. The former is a question that demands a "yes" or "no" answer, such as when the interviewer asks, "Is there any favorite part of producing yourself?" This question gives Billie the opportunity to directly verify or refute what she is saying. Examples are questions like, "How did the making of this album differ from the previous albums?" or "What were you listening to that inspired you, or what's the behind story of that song?" According to Eggins (2004), Billie's responses to the questions allow her to speak in more

detail and think critically so she can provide deeper insights to the audience.

The exclamative mood is used to show how intense the emotion is. To illustrate, Billie might comment, “How random the order of these questions is!” Phrases like this help foster a strong emotional bond with the audience and show admiration or gratitude.

The imperative mood, on the other hand, is used to advocate. For example, Billie may ask the audience to participate more actively by saying, “Everybody, make some noise!” The imperative mood enhances the dynamics of communication and makes the listener participate (Thompson, 2013).

- **Speech Functions**

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), the four main speech functions in verbal interaction are statements, questions, commands, and bargaining. These functions are used to give or request information, actions, or emotional reactions in the interaction. These four functions were used effectively by Billie Eilish during the interview to build interpersonal relationships with the interviewer, resulting in a conversation rich in meaning and emotion. Billie also used statements to provide information to the interviewer. “It’s just reliable; it’s like always good.,” for example. Statements like this show openness, provide an understanding of her creative process, and increase the emotional bond with her audience. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), statements are the main way to share experience or knowledge, which makes this function important.

Questions can be direct or rhetorical. Rhetorical questions such as “What has been your creative inspiration for this album?” can be used by Billie during the interview to encourage the audience to reflect and feel emotionally connected to them. In addition, to create a dialogic interaction, the interviewer uses questions to gain more knowledge, such as, “Did you feel any more like Freedom, or did you use anything that you learned over the years on yourself?”

According to Eggins (2004), “offer” is a phrase that is often used to draw attention or response from the interlocutor; in this case, it might give Billie the opportunity to share more about herself. For example, if you want to offer a personal perspective or experience in an interview or informal conversation, you can use a phrase like “Can I interrupt and say me personally, towards the end?” This can be a way to encourage your interviewee to listen to her views in more depth. Although this sentence starts with a question, its essence is still an “offer” because Billie gives people the opportunity to talk further, which in turn results in a better relationship between them.

Command gives instructions or encourages the audience to act. An example of this function is “Please turn the light on the fans!” because asking someone to do something, such as turning on the lights, although the word ‘please’ is used to give a polite impression, the main function is still asking the listener to do something directly.

- **Interaction Contracts in Interviews**

According to Eggins (2004), interaction contracts are implicit agreements that define interpersonal relationships in communication. This contract governs how

speakers and listeners adjust the way they speak in interviews to build a positive relationship. As an artist, Billie Eilish uses various techniques to establish and maintain a meaningful and engaging interaction contract.

Adapting the language style to the person interviewing is an important component of the interaction contract. Depending on the topic at hand, Billie uses a serious or casual style of speech. For example, she prefers a calmer, more open tone when answering questions about the emotional nature of her album's theme.

### **3.2. Discussion**

Based on the analysis, it is found that the declarative mood type and statement function are the most dominant. This shows that Billie Eilish is trying to provide factual information to Jennie as the interviewer and also the audience present in the interview to explain and provide information about her experiences, life, and opinions, as well as something related to her new album, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*. The strong relationship between Billie Eilish and Jennie is seen in the data analysis shown. The writer conveys information about the research on the interview through the details of the sentence that have been analyzed. By identifying the type of mood, be it declarative mood, polar interrogative mood, wh-interrogative mood, imperative mood, or exclamative mood, and identifying the speech function, be it offer, command, statement, or question, the author asserts the belief with the aim to influence the way of communication between the interviewer and Billie Eilish.

Overall, this study increases our knowledge of interpersonal meaning, how it functions, and how important this meaning is in people's conversations. There is no clear topic or finish requirement in this form of discussion. However, if speakers want to emphasize it, they can add topics or finishes to their statements. The configuration of the mood system that usually gives commands is called the imperative mood. Speakers offering goods and services usually convey offers, but sentences are usually articulated in modularized declarative structures.

Research conducted by Rahmawati & Suprijadi (2021) and the analysis conducted on the speech of influential people examine how the type and function of speech are realized. Most of the moods found are declarative moods, which show that the speeches convey more information. Similarly, research conducted by Maharani & Samsi (2024) examined interpersonal meaning in conversations between teachers and students. By using strong interpersonal meanings that support the interpretation and analysis of various communication objects, conversation researchers, students, and teachers can better understand the basic meaning and purpose conveyed through communication. This is in line with the research that the author conducted, in which the writer analyzed conversations in interviews. In this context, the underlying meaning and purpose of the communication between the interviewer and the interviewee can also be found.

## **4. Conclusions**

Based on the results obtained from the analysis of interviews conducted with Billie Eilish regarding interpersonal meaning, the writer concludes that the declarative mood is the most dominant, which is 350 data. While polar interrogative mood is found in as many as 22 data, wh-interrogative mood is 20 data, imperative mood is 13 data, and exclamative is only 2 data. This proves that since the purpose of the interview is to obtain clear and factual information from the interviewee, the declarative mood is the most dominant. During this interview process, Billie Eilish gave answers in the form of statements to make her point clearer and easier to understand. Declarative mood gives Billie Eilish a sense of authority and credibility, making the information provided more convincing. The declarative mood is also more common than other types of sentences because the informative and objective structure of the interview makes it easier for the interviewer to systematically extract data or opinions.

The writer also describes that the most common speech function found is in the form of a statement, which is 352 data. It is evident that most of Billie Eilish's answers were in the form of directly explained facts or opinions; statements were more prevalent during the interview as the interviewer acted as a guide, and Billie Eilish responded with statements explaining a particular topic or perspective. This form of statements also helps in creating effective communication and avoiding ambiguous information. Therefore, the declarative and statement moods are primarily used during interviews, as they are important tools for conveying information in a systematic and comprehensible manner.

In addition, in the interview, it can be analyzed the interpersonal relationship that Billie Eilish built with the interviewer, namely: First, examining mood and residue, mood indicates communication functions such as giving or requesting information, offering something, or requesting an action, while residue enhances or clarifies the meaning of the main clause; Second, combining all five types of mood, Billie Eilish creates a dynamic and meaningful interview for both the interviewer and the wider audience; Third, using the four speech functions, Billie Eilish not only conveys her message effectively, but also builds a strong interpersonal relationship with the audience and the interviewee, which results in a meaningful interview; Lastly, an interactive contract allows Billie Eilish to keep the interview authentic and meaningful for both the interviewer and the audience as she expresses her emotions and experiences deeply.

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