

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction consisting of the background of the study, the statements of the problems, the research objectives, and the research significances, and definition of key term.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is an essential part of human to communicate. Throughout the entire time of human history, human has developed many ways to communicate with each other. Humans use language to communicate to share information, opinions, and feelings toward something that happens around them. In this modern era, human beings have various media to convey their knowledge and views on politics, economy, humanity, flora and fauna, and others. One example is from politicians, who delivered their message through speech.

Speech is an act of delivering someone's opinions using spoken words and is also one subject studied in linguistics. (Feng & Liu, 2010) there are several kinds of public speeches, one of which is political speeches based on functions and contents with a political purpose that tries to influence listeners. Humans can do all of this easily, either written or spoken. This matter is not an exception for a person who has a big role in politics, such as a President. This research uses speeches about racism between the two presidents of the United States of America with different periods of government, namely Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

The researcher uses the speeches of Donald Trump and Joe Biden as research objects because, firstly, in terms of linguistics, both have their way of delivering their speeches. Donald Trump is known to be more aggressive with his speech, while Joe Biden is more conservative. This statement is also supported by the views of (Körner et al., 2022), that said Trump's approach represents more coercive power while Biden's approach represents more collective power. Those

views prove that both Biden and Trump have their way of delivering their speeches to the audience.

Secondly, both speeches gain a lot of attention from people. According to the data sources, both speeches gained more than 300.000 views combined. That means both Biden and Trump have big enough influence in their speeches to catch people's attention. This phenomenon occurs because of their status in the country, and their power can affect social life in America. They are the ones that control public discourse, and since racism is primarily learned through such public discourse, the elites are primarily responsible for the reproduction of racism in society (Van Dijk, 2004)

Thirdly, this research aims to discover the differences and similarities of interpersonal meanings from both speeches because in the eyes of Americans and even the rest of the world, these two people have different charisma and also different ways of leading, so by comparing the two people, the way they spoke can be seen and deliver speeches related to how the American public views Trump and Biden.

Donald Trump's speech titled "*Racism is evil': Trump condemns white supremacist groups after deadly protest in Charlottesville*" in this speech, trump talks about the racism case that happened in America and make a statement about delivering justice. While in Biden's speech entitled "*Pres. Biden talks racial equity*" Biden talks about the application of racial equity in America. Racial Equity is a system used in social life to make everyone get fair outcomes without getting racially biased towards them, and racial equity is focused more towards accurate results and not about treating everyone the same.

Racial equity is one of the ways to fix the issue of racism. According to (Gorski, 2019), To achieve racial equity, people need to confront racial inequity or racism. This statement proves that Trump and Biden's speeches, talking about racial equity, their speech can also be interpreted as talking about a way to fix the racism

issue. This makes both speeches include the same theme about racism issues so that both speeches can be compared.

Racism is a social problem that cannot be resolved in this world. According to (Bonilla-Silva, 1997), races and ethnic groups are made up of the in-groups and out-groups in society, and racism and ethnocentrism are the ideas used by in-groups to rationalize their dominant position. Because someone's hatred toward some race is the cause of frequent acts of racism ranging from bullying to genocide, things happen because of this racial inequality. One country where racism still occurs is the United States. In that country, cases of racism can still be found. According to (Lavalley & Johnson, 2022), Across the country, demonstrators and protestors mobilized to end police brutality, one mechanism of systemic racism in this country's history and present.

Due to many cases of racism, this is the reason for the president of the United States, as the highest person in government, to find ways to reduce these cases of racism. The researcher decided to focus on this issue in this research because, according to (Bechhofer et al., 2010), the primary purpose of a research object is to prove some things based on facts that also improve human knowledge and provide a media for sharing and discovering somethings and can be re-used by others and also added that something can be used as a research object as long as those things fulfilled some principles like reusable, repurposable, reproducible, replayable, traceability, and more. So by their points, researchers can also use the issue of racism as their research object because it can be reused again. Also, it can be repeated in the future with different methods.

The researcher used the speech from Joe Biden and Donald Trump. In this research, the researcher will explain the interpersonal meaning that appeared in Joe Biden and Donald Trump's speeches from the Linguistics perspective. This research will use M.A.K. Halliday's theory about Interpersonal meaning, which said that to find the interpersonal meaning of someone, an analysis of the mood and modality is needed. According to (Halliday, 1970), interpersonal meanings are expressed by

the intonation contour, by the ‘mood’ element, which may be repeated as a tag at the end, and by expression of modality that may recur throughout the clause.

In this research, the researcher analyzes each clause in both speeches. The research subject of mood and modality has existed for some time. People that use mood and modality subjects want to see the word's expression of someone from a linguistic perspective. (Khomutova, 2014) claimed that the category of mood is often seen as the category of the verb expressing relations between the situation and reality from the speaker's point of view. That also became why the researcher picked mood and modality as the subject of this research. By taking an issue that occurs a lot of time in this world as an object, the researcher hopes this research can attract and helps other people by giving them a view of this issue from a linguistic perspective.

Before analyzing, the researcher has read and studied some previous research to find the gap in this research. The first study was written by (Jiang, 2013), entitled “*A Comparative Investigation into Interpersonal Meaning of Two Corporate Apology Letters.*” The writer found frequent use of appreciation of quality and impact helped to exhibit the writer and the company’s English for Specific Purposes. Besides, a positive tone of voice renders customers and the public much hope for the company’s future operation. But ideal effects can be achieved on the premise that evaluative expressions and stances are stamped on the right evaluative entities which are most closely pertinent to the exigence of the genre.

Then the next reading material is a study entitled “*A Comparative Study of Interpersonal Function Political Speeches—A Case Study of Inaugural Speeches by Theresa May and David Cameron,*” written by (Zeng & Wang, 2019). Apart from using mood and modality as a comparison tool in this study, they added Vocative Address analysis to compare the objects studied. In those studies, the researchers found there are similarities lie in that 1) in the vocative address, they both are good at making use of the first person to express their will and build their authority; 2) in modality, they utilize tactfully modal verbs of median and low to

shorten the distance between them and people to establish a good relation successfully; 3) in the mood they take advantage of employing indicative mood to express their propositions to gain support.

The last is Comparative Study of Interpersonal Meaning, written by (Yokossi, 2018) Which is entitled "*Exploring the Interpersonal Meaning in two extracts from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Chinua Achebe's Anthills of the Savannah: A Comparative Systemic Functional Linguistic Perspective.*" In this research, the researcher concludes that the two studied texts share a lot in common. For instance, the declarative mood type is the most overriding one in the two analyzed extracts. While they counted one hundred and thirty-three (133) out of the hundred and sixty (160) recorded mood types in the first extract, they added up to ninety-nine (99) out of the one hundred and thirteen (113) mood types registered in the second extract.

The difference between this research and previous research is that the first can be seen from the issues raised. In this research, the researcher presented the problem of racism as an issue of the object to be studied. Then this research will also focus more on comparisons using the mood and modality system to look for similarities and differences between the two objects. Another difference is that this research will use CDA as a method to help the researcher answer the research problems that exist in this research (specifically the similarities and the differences) and give a more scientific answer. By using the CDA, Trump and Biden used their will and power to deal with problems like this will be revealed.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background in this research above, researchers determine some of the problems to be analyzed in this study; from these problems, the research questions are:

1. What are Joe Biden and Donald Trump's interpersonal meanings toward racism in their speeches?

2. What are the similarities of interpersonal meaning in Joe Biden's and Donald Trump's speeches?
3. What are the differences of interpersonal meaning used in Joe Biden's and Donald Trump's speeches?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the researcher determines some of the objectives of this study; here are the research objectives of this study:

1. To explore Joe Biden and Donald Trump's interpersonal meaning toward racism that is seen through their speeches.
2. To find out the similarity of interpersonal meaning used in Joe Biden and Donald Trump's speeches.
3. To find out the difference of interpersonal meaning used in Joe Biden and Donald Trump's speeches.

1.4 Research Significances

There are theoretical and practical significances that can be taken from this research.

1.4.1 Theoretical Significances

This research can be used as a reference to analyze speech for other language learners interested in this subject. The researcher also hopes that reading this research will motivate the readers to further their study of linguistics and use this research as a reference. Through this research also, more people will realize that racism should have no place of existing in society.

1.4.2 Practical Significances

The comparative method in this research will also provide a better understanding of future projects in interpersonal meaning analysis using this method. It can also be used for other researchers or readers to develop their

knowledge about comparing interpersonal meaning analysis, especially in the meaning of a speech.

This research will also increase student understanding of how these two presidents reacted and operated to handle racism cases in their respective periods. Moreover, this research will raise student appreciation for these two presidents about how they can handle this kind of situation.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to prevent any misinterpretations, particularly among readers, this section will provide an explanation of certain essential terminology that are included within this research. The following is a basic explanation aimed at highlighting the significance of the terminology in the field of linguistics. The research in discussion is characterized by the following definitions:

1.5.1 Interpersonal Meaning

According to (Halliday, 1970), interpersonal meanings are expressed by the intonation contour, by the 'mood' element, which may be repeated as a tag at the end, and by expression of modality that may recur throughout the clause.

1.5.2 Mood

The mood system is focused on analyzing an interaction between humans where they use language as a medium to convey and express something, whether it is giving, demanding, or asking for services or information.

1.5.3 Declarative Mood

The declarative mood has a pattern of the subject of the clauses coming after the finite. This type of mood is known to be used when someone wants to make a statement or give information.

1.5.4 Interrogative Mood

According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), Interrogative clauses are used to ask a question, and the speaker that spoke with the interrogative clause demands some information.

1.5.5 Imperative Mood

According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) An imperative clause has a message of 'I want you to do something' or 'I want us (you and me) to do something.'

1.5.6 Modality

Modality construes a region of uncertainty where people can express, or ask you to express, an assessment of the validity of what is being said (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

1.5.7 Probability Modality

The probability of something that appears in the clause going to happen is the focus of probability analysis. The value of the probability of an act is calculated to find the likelihood of that thing happening.

1.5.8 Usuality Modality

Usuality is realized through the words that show the speaker's judgment toward the frequency of something happening. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), usuallity is a modal assessment referring to a position on a scale between positive and negative (always/never).

1.5.9 Inclination Modality

The inclination is a modality to judge the speaker's determination or commitment toward something in the clause. It also showed the speaker's capability to do what he/she said.

1.5.10 Obligation Modality

The modal used in obligation is those that express necessity, such as 'must to' and 'have to.' This is applied because the speaker uses the obligation to demand or command something from the listeners.

1.5.11 Critical Discourse Analysis

According to (Van Dijk, 1995), CDA studies how such influence and control of the mind is socially or morally illegitimate in which when powerful speakers self-serving control the mind of others in a way that is in the interest of those powerful people.



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