

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the research background, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Manchester United is a football club from Manchester, England. Manchester United is known as one of the biggest football teams in the world. FourFourTwo, a football media, reported on 31 January 2024 that Manchester United is in the third rank of the biggest football team in the world. In addition, based on Forbes released in May 2024, Manchester United is only behind Real Madrid for the most valuable team in the world with a current value of 6.55B USD.

The team was built in 1878 and was initially named Newton Heath LYR Football Club changed into Manchester United Football Club in 1902. The success of the team makes them popular and one of the best teams in the world. They have won many major trophies such as league, local, and European trophies. Manchester United reached their first peak success in 1945-1969 in the Sir Matt Busby era. Then, they reached their peak again ever since Sir Alex Ferguson became the manager from 1986-2013. After Sir Alex's retirement, Manchester United is struggling to reach their peak performance again.

Their success brings them loyal supporters and they become one of the teams with the biggest fanbase in the world. Based on The Sun article on June 2024, Manchester United is behind Barcelona and Real Madrid. Transfermarkt reported that Manchester United is fourth rank average attendees in 2023. Supporters support the team in many ways such as making choreography, sharing banners and posters, including singing chants. They sing chants to express their feelings.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2024), Chant (N) is a word or phrase that is repeated. Chant (V) is to sing a prayer or song to a simple tune, or to repeat or sing a word or phrase continuously. In football, the supporters sing chants during a match. According to Gravidal, football chant is a music genre that is related to folk tradition, Blason Populaire. Blason Populaire, quoted from Luhrs in Gravidal, is a group expression on rivalry. Chants are a representation of supporters' expressions that they express through singing during the game. It is used to support the team or to mock opponents (Gravidal, 2021). Simply, the chant is a song that represents supporters' expressions during a football match.

Many supporters express their feelings through chant including Manchester United supporters. Manchester United supporters created many chants that are sung in the Manchester United match. Supporters sing a chant to express their feelings regarding the situation. In the match, supporters sing a chant to support players, the manager, or the team itself. Not only regarding the match, supporters may sing chant regarding club conditions such as protesting the club that is represented in the "Sell United" chant. Chant is a tool of communication by supporters to communicate their feelings to the addressee. Through chant, supporters feel free to show their feelings in a match. Feelings such as happiness, anger, and sarcasm are shown through the chants. This phenomenon is analyzed using Interpersonal Metafunction.

Interpersonal Metafunction is included in Metafunction analysis which concerns the use of language and what it does in social life (Gebhard & Accurso, 2022). Interpersonal Metafunction supports analyzing the speaker's intention to the listener or writer to reader in communication. A speaker or writer expresses their feelings through language and it is the listener's or reader's turn to understand the speaker's intention to reach good communication.

Since Interpersonal Metafunction supports maintaining communication, Halliday explained the speech role. Speech role is the role of someone in communication such as speaker and listener or writer and reader. Halliday stated that there are two speech roles to be recognized, they are giving and demanding. Giving means asking to receive and demanding means asking to give. Besides, Halliday introduced a tool that he called MOOD.

The MOOD system is a main part of Interpersonal Metafunction which focuses on analyzing interpersonal meaning between interactants. The MOOD system's function is to find out what an utterance means through its mood. The MOOD system of Interpersonal Metafunction can be applied to many kinds of objects in society such as conversation, speech, or song. Since the song is close to chants, the following previous researches show the song in Interpersonal Metafunction analysis.

Interpersonal Metafunction has been applied to some objects. In this research, the researcher focuses on different objects as this research analyzes Interpersonal Metafunction in Manchester United chants. Since chants are likely similar to songs, here are various previous research focuses on songs. The first previous research is research by Pranoto et al who research titled *An Analysis of Interpersonal Metafunction in "A Head Full of Dreams" Coldplay's Album of Song Lyrics*. This research discusses mood and modality in five songs of "A Head Full of Stars" Album. The discussion of mood is discussed to find what mood types appear in the object. It is found that Declarative mood is dominant in two songs, they are *Hymn for The Weekend* and *Everglow*. Meanwhile, imperative mood is dominant in two songs, they are *A Head Full of Dreams* and *Adventure of A Lifetime*. Yet in *Birds*, declarative mood and imperative mood have equal percentages. Modalities that are found in the object are 'can', 'can't', 'will', 'would', and 'might' (Pranoto et al., 2020).

The second previous research that applied Interpersonal Metafunction is titled *Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of Selected Song Lyrics from Queen's Greatest Hits Album*. This research was done by Medina and Noorman. This research focused on analyzing mood types and modality in selected songs by Queen. It is found that declarative mood is the most mood type found in five selected songs. In the first song, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, declarative mood is dominant with 43 clauses from 58 clauses. In *Somebody to Love*, the declarative mood is dominating the mood with 36 clauses of 54 clauses. Besides, a song with 34 declarative clauses from 50 clauses makes *Don't Stop Me Now* dominated by declarative clauses. In *We Are The Champions*, all clauses are declarative mood as 34 of 34 clauses are declarative mood. As well as in *You're My Best Friend*, 36 of 36 clauses are declarative mood. Furthermore, the value of modality is also analyzed. From the three categories, it is found that can't is categorized as high value. Modality, 'will' is in median value. While can and sometimes is included in low-value (Medina & Noorman, 2020).

The speech function is also analyzed in certain objects in this previous research. The fourth is the analysis titled *Speech Function in Onang-onang by Efrina, Gurning, and Husein*. Onang-onang is a kind of song that exists in North Padang lawas. The research analyzed two research question, the first is the use of speech function in Onang-onang and the second is what the dominant kinds of speech function. First, the research found that there are three speech functions in Onang-onang, they are statement, offer, and command. Second, the most dominant speech function is the statement which is followed by command and offer. The statement function is used to convey some information about the occasions. The command is used to give order to the addressee. And the offer is used to invite the audience to follow to the occasion (Nasution et al., 2018).

The fourth is an analysis by Layyinah et al who analyzed speech function in Miley Cyrus' songs. The research titled *An Analysis of Speech Function in Miley Cyrus' Selected Songs Lyrics: Systemic Functional Linguistics*. The research found that Miley Cyrus' fifteen selected songs contain four primary speech

functions; statement, offer, command, and question. The analysis found that the songs dominated by statement speech function with 82% percentage. The command percentage is 10,69%. The question percentage is 6,50%. And the offer is only 0,72% percentage. The domination of declarative indicates that the singer reveals her expressions, feelings, and ideas through the songs (Laiyinah, 2022).

The fifth previous research is entitled *Mood System on Supporter Chant in English Premier League: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Study*. This research is written by Fatoni et al and discusses about mocking and supporting chants in the English Premier League. The mood system is applied to examine clauses in the data using lexicogrammatical analysis. It is found that there are 52 mocking clauses and 49 supporting clauses. 52 mocking clauses consist of 42 major clauses and 10 minor clauses. In supporting chants, there are 35 major clauses and 14 minor clauses. The majority of major clauses are indicative that declarative is more dominant than interrogative. Besides, both mocking and supporting chants are interpreted through lexicogrammar analysis. It is found that supporters want to send messages through chants either to praise or mock addressee (Fatoni et al., 2020).

Based on the previous researches, they show that song has become an object that has been examined through Interpersonal Metafunction including the last previous research that focused on mood systems in chants. Since the last previous research object is chant, that is the closest research to this research. Regardless of the relatively same object selection, analyzing chants, this research is focused on a particular football club, Manchester United. Besides, this research examines Interpersonal Metafunction which focuses on the analysis of mood types and speech functions on how supporters communicate through chants in Manchester United chants. Manchester United chants are chosen to be the object of the research due to the uniqueness of chants and the team has a big fanbase around the world.

1.2 Statement of Problem

There are many ways to express feelings, for instance through direct utterance, or literary work such as poem or song. In football, supporters express their feelings by singing chants pointing to players, managers, the team, or the rival. However, the chant is different from the common dialogue since it tends to express feelings and ideas rather than receive them. Besides, football context is necessary to understand the chant. The phenomenon is the focus of this research that discusses Interpersonal Metafunction in Manchester United chants.

Based on the statement above, the problem of the study is described in the following questions:

1. What mood types appear in Manchester United Chants?
2. What speech functions appear in Manchester United Chants?

1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the statement problem above, this research aims to

1. To identify what mood types appear in Manchester United Chants
2. To find out what speech functions appear in Manchester United chants

1.4 Research Significances

Based on the explanation of the background, research problem, and research objective, this research is expected to provide more understanding in Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially Interpersonal Metafunction. The benefits of the research are as follows.

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to provide benefits concerning on mood types and speech function in Interpersonal Metafunction. This research concerns Systemic Functional Linguistics regarding Interpersonal Metafunction by Halliday. Furthermore, the analysis of interpersonal metafunction can be applied to another selective object to improve the research.

2. Practically, this research aims to provide understanding and findings for further research of the topic to students who are interested in Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially Interpersonal Metafunction materials. By studying Interpersonal Metafunction, the reader is expected to maintain good communication in daily life and be able to express as well as understand what an utterance intends.

1.5 Clarification of key terms

To avoid misunderstanding of specific terms used in this research research, the definition of key terms are as follows:

1. Systemic Functional Linguistics: Systemic Functional Linguistics also well known as Systemic Functional Grammar is a study that focuses on the function of language. This study concerns about three metafunctions, they are experiential, Interpersonal, and Textual. These three metafunctions have their own system Halliday summarized that Experiential Metafunction is the use of language in describing experience and idea. Interpersonal Metafunction is the use of language in interaction. Textual Metafunction is the use of language in organizing message (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).
2. Interpersonal metafunction: Interpersonal Metafunction is the metafunction that concerns the use of language to maintain relations in communication. Interpersonal Metafunction focuses on the language as action. It indicates that this study concentrates in analyzing language as a communicative exchange between speaker and listener or writer and reader (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014)
3. Chant: According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2024), Chant (N) is a word or phrase that is repeated. Chant in football is the song that is sung by the supporters to support or mock a particular addressee. The supporters may sing chants to express their feelings toward the current situation and

condition of a match (retrieved from Cambridge Online, 18 march 2024, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/chant>).

4. Manchester United: Manchester United is a football club from Manchester, England. The team was initially built as Newton Heath LYR Football Club in 1878. Newton Heath LYR Football Club changed into Manchester United Football Club in 1902 after John Henry Davies saved the club from financial problems. The failure and success have become part of Manchester United's history. The peak success was in Sir Matt Busby's era around the 1960s and Sir Alex at the end of the 20th century until his retirement in 2013 (retrieved from Manchester United website: <https://www.manutd.com/en/history/history-by-decade>). The team has won many major trophies such as local, European, and world scale. The success of the club brings them to be one of the biggest football clubs with many supporters is indicated by the followers of Manchester United's social media account that rank third above Real Madrid and Barcelona based on Jobs in Football (retrieved from Jobs In Football website: <https://jobsinfootball.com/blog/most-supported-football-clubs-in-the-world/>).

