

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

The study of presidential political discourse is one of the rich sources of data in the field of linguistics. The major consideration is that politicians try to select their word carefully as they recognize their words are the ones that the public pays attention to. From this explanation, it can be stated that analyzing the presidential speeches would provide a reflection of their thoughts, ideas, and intentions. In view of political speeches, Van Dijk (1997, p. 18) explains that speech made by politicians define their intentions, purposes, goals, and functions.

Based on the concept of Systemic Functional Linguistics, a theory proposed by M.A.K. Halliday, when people are speaking they take into account the choice of the vocabulary and grammar that are principle and systematic lexical items. Therefore, these lexical items are chosen based on the underlying intentions of the speaker (Halliday & Hasan, 1976, pp. 26-30). In this process, language, in this case, speech has a crucial role for every political action, for both the politician and public. The speeches have a great influence on the public as the main purpose of politicians is to persuade to their audience of the validity of their arguments.

Donald John Trump is one of the politicians that has been the center of attention since he ran for a presidential candidate of United State of America in 2016. Donald John Trump has a unique way to deliver ideas in public compared to other presidential candidates in almost every way of his speech: the choice of words, the way he tells stories, and even the gestures while speaking in front of

public (Atkin, 2005). Some studies have been done by some linguists about Donald John Trump's ways of speaking especially in public. According to an article written by Katy Waldman in 2016, Trump's speeches are built from basic, readily understood elements, simplistic vocabulary, simple component parts, power signifiers and weaponized unintelligibility. "Trump's speak may be affective. Yet it is far from OK" (Waldman, 2016). Despite his extraordinary way of speaking in front of the public, Donald John Trump has been successful to attract the attention of the citizens of United States in Presidential Election 2016 and won the election.

Donald John Trump has been elected as the 45th President of United States of America for the next four years. Donald John Trump delivers his inaugural address in front of the citizens of the America during the inauguration day. The inaugural address is a speech given by a president during the inauguration moment when being sworn into the office of presidency. The inaugural address is fundamental because ideas need to be conveyed through his first speech as a president so that both president and his people can build a mutual trust in order to achieve the common goals of the country.

The current study seeks to explore one of three metafunctions of language that is ideational metafunction of the inaugural speech of Donald John Trump by using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and specifically the Systems of Transitivity. This research is accomplished by figuring how the ideational meaning in Donald John Trump's Inauguration speech can be realized through the process types, their associated participant's roles and the circumstantial element as central components in the structure of Transitivity in the

clause. Therefore, this research is entitled: *Ideational Metafunction Analysis of Donald John Trump's Presidential Inauguration Speech*.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

This research is conducted to investigate the construction of president Donald John Trump's Inauguration speech. It is an attempt to understand how the President conveys his first speech as a President of United States from the aspect of ideational meaning. Therefore, the following research question is formulated.

1. What is the dominant type of transitivity elements found in Donald John Trump presidential inauguration speech?
2. What are the ideational meanings realized through the dominant type of transitivity element found in Donald John Trump presidential inauguration speech of?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The objectives of this research are:

1. to identify the patterns of transitivity components in the speech,
2. to describe the ideational meanings pictured by the dominant transitivity components found in the speech.

## **1.4 Scope of the Research**

The focus of this research is to analyze language based on one out of three metafunctions of language. The research focused on analyzing the ideational metafunction of the speech. Transitivity system is used in order to capture the

ideational meaning of the speech which is represented in the grammar of the clause. In Systemic Functional Linguistics, the concept of transitivity is used to analyze certain lexico-grammatical choices made by the speaker, in this case, president Donald John Trump to deliver his speech during his inauguration day as the new president.

## **1.5 Methods of the Research**

This research is conducted under a qualitative research method. “...Qualitative approaches are particularly valuable in providing in-depth, rich data” Litosseliti (2010, p. 33). This research is supported by the statistic-descriptive method. Statistic descriptive is a method of analyzing data that deals with the presentation of numerical facts, or data, in either tables or graph forms without dealing with population and samples. The distribution of data analysis is described by using the statistic-descriptive method and compiling it into tables. The stages of the current study cover data collection, the steps required for conducting the analysis and the way of presenting the data. They are provided in the following subsections.

### **1.5.1 Collecting Data**

The transitivity patterns in President Donald John Trump inauguration speech were observed. The data of analysis is in the form of transcribed spoken texts which the president made to address some issues in the first term of his presidency. The inauguration speech was delivered in front of the citizens of America on January 20th, 2017 in Washington D.C. at the Capitol Building after

President Donald John Trump has officially sworn in. The analysis of the data focused on the identification and interpretation of transitivity pattern that characterizes the speaker of the speech. This was achieved by downloading the video from the official website of New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) and the transcript of the speech from an article in the official website of White House owned by the United States Government (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/inaugural-address>).

The data validation was intended to provide an accurate data of analysis. Therefore, besides read and checked the data intentionally, a native speaker of English was asked to check the congeniality of the transcript of the speech that has been taken from the internet with the video of the speech. The transcript of the speech was enclosed at the appendix in the form of full page screen capture of the article to avoid data dissatisfaction

### **1.5.2 Analyzing the Data**

The data were analyzed into several steps; firstly, the transcript of the speech was segmented into sentences and then clauses by using certain references and they were coded as (1, 2a, 2b, 5c...) and so on to make the process of analysis easier. Secondly, the extraction per clause was compiled in the form of tables and then each clause was identified and labelled based on its transitivity element. In order to avoid mistakes in analyzing the data, some probes were used to identify the functions of participating entities and conducted some tests such as movement test, verb drop test, phrasal verbs pose test, and passive voice construction test on some types of transitivity component.



After the clauses were isolated to determine their types of process, they were calculated based on the frequencies and percentages of each element of transitivity. The total of the presence of each transitivity element was divided in order to find the percentage of each type out of the total number of all clauses in the speech. The formula that was used in order to find the percentage is:

$$\text{Part} / \text{Whole} \times 100 = \%$$

The realization of the formula is exemplified in the illustration below.

$$\frac{\text{Number of each type of processes}}{\text{Total number of all Processes}} \times 100 = \%$$

$$\frac{\text{Material Process (116)}}{\text{All Processes (194)}} \times 100 = 59,79\%$$

Furthermore, the percentage of all each transitivity component was compared and it was continued by determining the most frequent transitivity component emerging in the text. The data of transitivity elements that have been analyzed in the previous stage were carried into the process of interpretation. After interpreting the data tabulation, the conclusion of the whole analysis was made.

### 1.5.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

The results of the analysis were compiled in the form of tables. The tables consist of the number of transitivity elements found in the speech. This research also involved interpreting the findings and the researcher provided the interpretations of the findings of data analysis in the form of paragraphs. The appendix was provided in order to see the whole data analysis.