

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

People communicate with each other as the nature of human being in terms of doing interaction in their life, in order to share information or even goods and services. In communication, language is used as medium to convey messages, either in the form of spoken or written. One form of spoken language is a speech.

One of the most popular speeches is delivered by Michelle Obama in her final speech as the First Lady of United States of America held on January 6, 2017 in the White House. This speech is delivered in front of the representatives of School Counselors of USA (Reilly, 2017).

There are some characteristics of Michelle Obama's speech. As stated by Breen (2017), her speech is said to be a powerful speech. Michelle Obama uses a well-organized language in delivering her speech. He argues that Michelle Obama's speech is powerful by "virtue of its pacing, personalization and placement of words." He also adds that the speech is "built from carefully chosen language such as a concise verbs and abstract nouns."

Gallo (2016) stated that Michelle Obama's speech is an emotional speech. He mentioned that there are several characteristics of her speech; first, the speech is short with the common range within 15-to 20- minutes. Second, the speech is easy to deliver because the sentences are short and the words are simple. Third, the speech is personalized with stories. She commonly tells several personal stories about her family. Fourth, the speech has time-tested rhetorical devices. She uses repetition for several times. Finally, the speech is delivered passionately.

A speech is closely related with the ways in which a person uses language. In a speech language is not only used to establish and maintain the relations between the speaker and audience, but also as means to influence their behavior, to express opinion and judgment about the world around us. Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the interpersonal metafunction of Michelle Obama's final speech in order to see how language is used to maintain and establish the social relations also to see how she uses language to express her opinion towards certain thing.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Having considered the background, the writer tries to answer three research questions:

1. What are the functional elements of interpersonal meaning found in the Michelle Obama's speech?
2. What is the dominant functional element of interpersonal meaning found in the Michelle Obama's speech?
3. What are the interpretative meaning of personal view and interaction created from Michelle Obama's speech?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are:

1. To identify the functional elements of interpersonal meaning used in the Michelle Obama's speech.
2. To identify the dominant element of interpersonal meaning in the Michelle Obama's speech.

3. To describe the interpretative meaning of personal view and interaction created from Michelle Obama's speech.

1.4 Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing interpersonal metafunction of Michelle Obama's speech. In interpersonal metafunction, there are three parts of analysis; the analysis of Mood, Modality, and Polarity. Furthermore, there are three kinds of Mood types; declarative, interrogative and imperative.

1.5 Method of the Research

This research is analyzing the interpersonal meaning of clauses which is realized by Mood, Modality and Polarity analysis of Michelle Obama's final speech. There are some steps in doing this research; firstly collecting the data, secondly analyzing the data and lastly presenting the result of analysis. This research is mainly qualitative approach ". . . qualitative approaches are particularly valuable in providing in-depth, rich data (Littosseliti, 2010, p.33).

1.5.1 Collecting Data

In the process of collecting the data, firstly the writer searched the video of Michelle Obama's final speech in the internet. The writer downloaded the video from YouTube with the duration of 21 minutes and 5 seconds. Secondly, the writer watched the video several times to comprehend the topic that is discussed in it.

The writer also provided the video with its transcript. It was taken from TIME magazine in order to help the writer to facilitate the analysis. The transcript was retrieved from *www.time.com*.

1.5.2 Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the writer firstly watched the video and read the transcript carefully in order to get the better understanding of it. Secondly, after reading the transcript the writer segmented the speech into clauses. Then the writer analyzed each clause by identifying it into its elements; starting by distributing it into Mood and Residue. The writer used the table in doing the analysis.

In the segment of Mood, the writer identified it into mood element; as a subject and finite. Subject is usually realized by a nominal group and finite is the part of verbal group that has function to express the tense. In the Residue, the writer identified predicator, complement and adjunct. After doing the Mood element analysis, the writer classified it into the types of Mood using the theory proposed by Halliday. The next step, the writer described the interpretation of the clause by referring to the Mood types.

Then the writer analyzed Modality of the clause. This is generally expressed by modal verbs (e.g. *can, should, must*) and modal adjuncts (e.g. *by all means*) in the clause. After that the writer identified the Polarity of the clause. There are two types of Polarity; positive and negative polarity. Positive polarity is the unmarked polarity, while negative polarity is always marked and it is expressed by the morpheme *not*.

1.5.3 Presenting the result of Analysis

The result of analysis is presented in the form of tables and explanations. The tables show the distribution of functional elements of interpersonal meaning and the interpretation will be given descriptively.