

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the research

Language is not just a way to distribute information, but it is a way for leaders to frame events to support their targets. For example, when leaders pick definite words to describe something, they can spark clear emotions in the public. Calling a group "terrorists" instead of "rebels," for instance, can create scare and urgency, making people more likely to support severe actions. These word choices can also boost particular views and stereotypes, influencing how the public sees the event and those involved.

The stories told through language also help make complicated issues simple to grasp. Leaders often use simple comparisons or metaphors to associate with their audience, which can make their points more straightforward but may also reduce the truth. This simplification can lead to a misinterpreted view of events, where people concentrate more on emotions than on facts. In the end, the language leaders use not only tells the public but also frames their beliefs and attitudes, showing just how impressive words can be in politics.

The speech by Rishi Sunak, the former Prime Minister of the U.K., in response to a new terrorist attack in Israel-Palestine is interesting to examine. As the leader of a significant worldwide jurisdiction, Sunak's speeches expose how language can be used to clarify complex worldwide issues like terrorism. In his

speeches, he discusses terrorism and uses specific word choices to influence how the public views this issue.

For example, Sunak said, "Now is not a time for equivocation, and I am unequivocal: Hamas and the people who support Hamas are fully responsible for this appalling act of terror." This statement displays how a leader uses language to create a strong and direct message about terrorism. Using words like "unequivocal" and "fully responsible," Sunak explains his position, criticizing one group for that situation. These words harm the actions and shape public opinion about who the offender and victims are and what the correct response should be. This proves that political speeches are about distributing messages and framing the public's thoughts about global issues like terrorism.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex and long-running conflict centered on both land and identity. It began in the early 1900s when Jewish and Arab peoples, who both saw the land as their own, clashed as the Ottoman Empire weakened. In 1948, the establishment of Israel as a state led to the first major war between Israel and its Arab neighbors, disturbing many Palestinian Arabs and deepening divisions. Since then, ongoing clashes, wars, and efforts for peace have shaped the conflict (Leawat & Dinshak, 2021).

The main issues affect deciding borders, the status of Jerusalem, the law for Palestinian refugees to return, and security concerns. The conflict sees rhythms of violence, with groups like Hamas starting attacks on Israel and Israel responding with military action. While the United Nations and countries like the United States have tried to help mediate peace, no lasting reconciliation has been reached. Over

time, the conflict has come to represent not only a local struggle but also broader global debates about rights, terrorism, and national identity (Mahwati & Nanda, 2022).

Speeches are essential not only politically but also linguistically. Politicians like Sunak can arrange narratives that support global policies like the "war on terror." This term, first popularized by President George W. Bush after the 9/11 attacks, has become a critical narrative for many leaders to describe terrorism as a global threat that needs a strong response. According to Sawirman (2007), terrorism affects many countries and is a worldwide issue that requires international cooperation. As follows, Sunak's speech, which frames Hamas as the leading Actor in terrorism, reflects a global understanding of terrorism built over the last two decades, where it is viewed as a common enemy that the international community must fight (Sawirman, 2007).

The "War on Terror," or Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), started after the September 11, 2001, attacks when President George W. Bush launched a global military operation to fight terrorism. The vital Goal was to stop terrorist groups from operating and to prevent future attacks, mainly targeting parties like al-Qaeda. This campaign concerned military actions in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, and it also included new laws and policies to raise security. The War on Terror had a significant influence on global politics, security, and people's daily lives, especially in conditions of travel and privacy.

This research will analyze transitivity to explore how Sunak frames terrorism in his speeches. Transitivity analysis helps us see how actions, people,

and objects are represented in the terrorism narrative. With this analysis, we can understand how Sunak's language not only identifies who the lawbreakers and victims are but also how these roles are linguistically constructed to influence public understanding of terrorism. For example, by saying that Hamas is "fully responsible," Sunak places the whole blame on one group, shaping how the public and the world view them.

The research above differs from another research because the researcher will analyze three speeches by Rishi Sunak on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The researcher will discover the transitivity structure proposed by Halliday, which consists of Processes, Participants, and Circumstances of each speech. Then, the researcher will find out the functions of the transitivity structure to convey the intentions of Rishi Sunak's speeches in the form of patterns of the distribution of the transitivity structure from the three speeches, which then conclusions can be drawn regarding the patterns of the three speeches delivered during the Israel-Palestine conflict. This approach gives a new way to examine political speeches, especially regarding how language can help people better understand terrorism and the "War on Terror". This research contributes to an improved understanding of how political language acts to frame global issues like terrorism.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The main focus of this research is to find out the transitivity structure and what interpretation can be drawn from the findings in the transitivity depicts Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's response toward terrorism. Related to the topic that I would like to discuss in this research, I have formulated two research questions as follows:

1. What are transitivity structure of Rishi Sunak use in his speeches?
2. What interpretations can be drawn from the findings on these transitivity structures regarding Rishi Sunak's response to terrorism?

Based on this research question, the researcher find out the transitivity framework throughout Rishi Sunak's speeches on the "War on Terror". This analysis intended to discover the elemental linguistic patterns that showed the former Prime Minister's language communication picks. The study examined how Sunak's speeches shapes particular narratives by analyzing the different Process types, Participants, and Circumstances. This approach supplied insights into how language shapes the complicated issue in the speech.

### **1.3 The Objective of the Research**

The research objective was related to the research questions of the analysis. So, the aims of the research were:

1. To find out the transitivity structure used in Rishi Sunak's speech.
2. To interpret the findings to understand how these transitivity structures reflect Rishi Sunak's response to terrorism, particularly in the context of his speeches on the issue.

### **1.4 Focus of the Research**

The research was managed using the Systemic Functional Linguistic framework, focused on transitivity analysis. In this analysis, the researcher would like to find out the transitivity structure, including Process type, Participant function, and circumstantial element, and also what interpretation can be drawn

from the findings considering these transitivity structure displays Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's speeches toward the act of terror in Palestine.

### **1.5 Method of the research**

This research employed a qualitative research method, specifically library research, as it relies on data and materials sourced from books, dictionaries, journals, articles, documents, and other written resources. Additionally, this study is classified as descriptive qualitative research because it focuses on collecting and analyzing data in the form of words and descriptions rather than numerical data. The primary goal is to identify, analyze, and describe the transitivity structure used by Rishi Sunak in his speeches regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict and terrorism. This methodology is divided into two main steps: data collection and data analysis.

#### **1.5.1 Data Collection**

The data for this research was sourced from three YouTube videos featuring Rishi Sunak's statements, all of which focused on political rhetoric surrounding international security issues, particularly regarding terrorism, especially the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

1. First Video: Uploaded by SkyNews on October 8, 2023, this video was 2 minutes and 25 seconds long and has received 43,000 views. In this brief speech, Sunak expressed his support for Israel's actions, framing them as part of a broader defense against terrorism. The first video contained 368 words and 14 sentences, providing a concise overview of Sunak's support for Israel. The setting was likely a formal press conference or public address, where Sunak responded to urgent international concerns. The backdrop may include



flags or symbols representing the UK and Israel, emphasizing the diplomatic nature of the speech. The atmosphere was serious, reflecting the gravity of the situation as Sunak articulated his support for Israel's actions against terrorism. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOi4NCTNCjAandpp=ygUXcmlzaGkgc3VuYWtzIHBybyBpc3JhZWw%3D>)

2. **Second Video:** This video was uploaded by The Telegraph on October 19, 2023, and ran for 5 minutes and 51 seconds, accumulating 27,000 views. In this segment, Sunak modified his stance on Israel's actions, emphasizing the importance of countering terrorism within the context of international security. The second video comprised 376 words and 15 sentences, where Sunak discussed counter-terrorism in a broader security context. The setting may be a follow-up press briefing or an interview format, allowing for a more in-depth discussion. The environment was likely more intimate, focusing on a dialogue about international security. The tone here was reflective, as Sunak emphasized the complexities of counter-terrorism efforts and the need for a balanced approach. ([https://www.youtube.com/live/TJhgoyjR0tg?si=8Si\\_v1PC3wrekDRd](https://www.youtube.com/live/TJhgoyjR0tg?si=8Si_v1PC3wrekDRd))

3. **Third Video:** Also uploaded by SkyNews on October 10, 2023, this video lasts 5 minutes and 17 seconds and has garnered significant public attention with 194,000 views. In it, Sunak further elaborated on his support for Israel, continuing the theme of terrorism defense. The third video features 496 words and 21 sentences, where Sunak elaborated further on his stance regarding Israel and the ongoing conflict. This speech likely occurred in a formal setting

similar to the first video, but with a more extensive audience due to its higher view count. The atmosphere was charged with emotion as Sunak addressed the humanitarian aspects of the conflict while reiterating the UK's commitment to Israel's right to defend itself. (<https://youtu.be/lmKMmfoi4Jw?si=Q8u005y3So41pup3>)

It is crucial to note that these three videos were distinct from one another and do not contain the same content or speeches. Additionally, no written transcripts of these speeches have been found, making the analysis reliant on the spoken language captured in the videos.

These videos were selected because they provide valuable insights into Rishi Sunak's political statements about terrorism and genocide. The high view counts and their presence on prominent platforms like SkyNews and The Telegraph indicate a strong public interest in Sunak's rhetoric, particularly regarding terrorism in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

These three speeches can be arranged as *War on Terror* speeches because they argue terrorism as a major threat, justify government actions to encounter terrorism, and emphasize security measures to defend people. In his speeches, Sunak talks about the menaces of terrorism, the need for strong action, and the act of the UK in supporting its allies. He also encloses terrorists as enemies in a larger conflict, which is a frequent feature of *War on Terror* speeches (McMahan, 2006).

It is necessary to explain that the data for this study concerned solely the speeches given in these videos, not the videos as such. Studying the language applied in these political messages would help in exploring the views of the



community more effectively and improving relations between countries. In analyzing these elements used the variables of the total number of words and the total number of complex clauses in the speeches, one got a clear picture of how deep and intensive Sunak's discourse on these issues was.

This paper's data collection Process applied several vital implements, all valuable and relevant to the research aims. The primary source of data collection was YouTube, which involves only videos of speeches or discussions made publicly. YouTube was chosen as it has a broader range of videos related to this study.

The researcher used a "Document" application to help download and store the videos. Videos were required to be downloaded to avoid the sudden loss of videos or videos taken down from the relevant YouTube channel. This app was important for downloading videos from YouTube and ensuring the data could be saved in a format suitable for further analysis. The app made it easy to download and organize video files, which helped manage a large amount of data.

After using the Document app, the researcher used Microsoft Word to work with the transcribed data. Microsoft Word offered helpful features such as text formatting, data organization, and advanced search functions. These features made it easier to structure and prepare the data for deeper analysis. The software was easy to use, and powerful tools made it a great choice for managing and organizing the written content, ensuring that the data was well-prepared and accessible for the next stages of analysis.

The data collection procedures involved many steps to ensure a comprehensive and accurate information collection. The primary source of data was YouTube, which provided access to videos of speeches, including those by Rishi Sunak. The specific focus was on videos that featured speeches related to the study's topic, such as confessions or investigations, that were available on the platform and could be seen by the public.

The first step in data collection was downloading the relevant videos from YouTube. The "Document" application was used to facilitate this Process. This application allowed the researchers to save the videos in a format that could be easily accessed and processed. Since the videos were in English, the next task was to manually transcribed the spoken content into written text. This includes listened to the video recordings and accurately converted the spoken words into a textual format.

All the text data was compiled into a single digital file if transcription was complete. This consolidation was crucial for maintaining organized datasets. Following the preparation, the researchers undertook a systemic examination of the data. After being sure, the speeches were separated into complex clauses and in the form of clauses. The clauses were categorized into tables that were analyzed to see the Process, Participant, and Circumstance. They categorized the text based on Process types, Participant functions, and circumstantial elements. This step was important for breaking down the content into manageable parts for analysis.

In examined the speeches of Rishi Sunak, each clause was methodically broken down and coded using the identifier SRS (Speech of Rishi Sunak),

accompanied by a number to show the specific speech and clause. For example, SRS1/001 refers to the first clause in the first speech, while SRS2/003 would refer to the third clause in the second speech. This coding system granted for a precise and organized analysis of the transitivity structure within each clause.

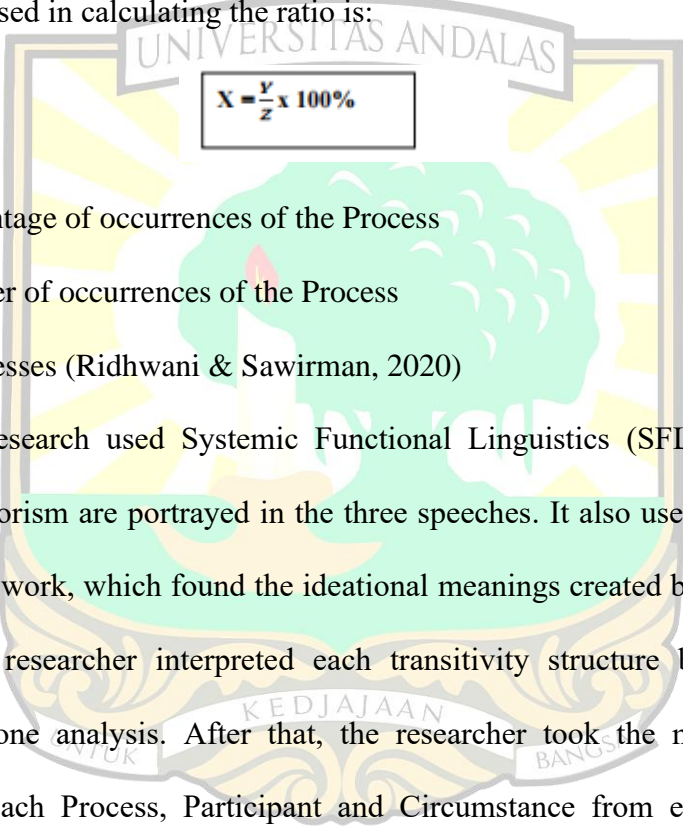
After the data had been categorized, the text of Rishi Sunak's speech was reviewed and finalized. This finalization confirmed that the text was accurate and properly organized, prepared it for the subsequent analysis phase. Each step in this process was designed to confirm that the data collected was comprehensive, well-organized, and prepared for detail with the research objectives.

### **1.5.2 Data Analysis**

Written data analyzed after getting sources and collected data. The method used to analyze the data was based on the theory of transitivity by Halliday (2014). After the written data was broken down into clauses, this clause was analyzed to identify data categories that match the research questions. The description was done using transitivity analysis of the speech. This includes the Process, Participant, and Circumstance proposed by Halliday. The data was selected and grouped based on their transitivity structure to determine what Process, Participant, and Circumstance dominate the three speeches. While the analysis mainly operates at the clause level, certain Participants, such as Phenomenon and Verbiage, are analyzed at the sentence level. This is because Phenomenon and Verbiage often enhance beyond a single clause, involving broader semantic units that cannot be competently captured when divided. By analyzing these Participants (Phenomenon and Verbiage) at the

sentence level, the researcher assures a more accurate and extensive understanding of their portrayals and meanings within the speeches. After that, the percentage of the data was calculated. The researcher presented the distribution of functional elements in descriptive statistics to help identify common patterns in the data more efficiently. These statistics did not aim to be analyzed quantitatively but served as a supplement to help us draw conclusions and understand the study's implications.

The formula used in calculating the ratio is:


$$X = \frac{Y}{Z} \times 100\%$$

X = the percentage of occurrences of the Process

Y = the number of occurrences of the Process

Z = total Processes (Ridhwani & Sawirman, 2020)

This research used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to see how images of terrorism are portrayed in the three speeches. It also used a transitivity analysis framework, which found the ideational meanings created by grammatical choices. The researcher interpreted each transitivity structure by giving 1-2 examples in one analysis. After that, the researcher took the most dominant elements of each Process, Participant and Circumstance from each speech to interpret Rishi Sunak's message. The analyzed data was described to get the results and conclusions

## 1.6 Definition of Key terms

**1. Sytemic Functional Linguistic,** It is a way to look at language as a tool for making meaning. SFL highlights that language is a set of choices where speakers and writers pick words and structures to express specific meanings based on their communication Goals (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

**2. Transitivity Structure,** Each type of Process in the transitivity structure corresponds to a specific way of representing experience, allowing language users to effectively convey different aspects of human experience. Transitivity is a fundamental concept that forms the basis for any analysis in the SFL framework. There are six Processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. According to Halliday (1994), each type of situation consists of three parts: the Process, the Participants, and the Circumstances.

**3. War on Terror,** The "War on Terror," or Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), started after the September 11, 2001, attacks when President George W. Bush launched a global military operation to fight terrorism. The vital Goal was to stop terrorist groups from operating and to prevent future attacks, mainly targeting parties like al-Qaeda. This campaign concerned military actions in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, and it also included new laws and policies to raise security.