CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

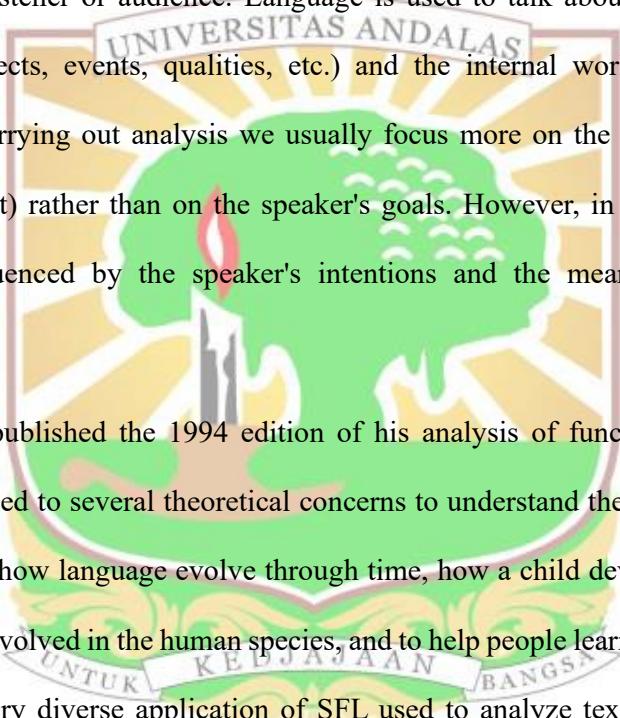## 1.1 Background of the Research

Political speech has an important role in conveying meaning and ideology, strengthening political positions, and influencing public opinion on a national or international issue or problem (Dedaic´, 2006). As a spoken medium of communication, political speeches are often designed to convey emotional, political messages, and also often used as a medium to express rejection of a political decision, both national and international, which usually delivered by political figures or their representatives who have great influence in the world of politics of a country's government. In national affairs, political speeches are typically delivered by government leaders to clarify, announce, or declare decisions made by the state of government for the security and prosperity of its people. In terms of international political issues, political speeches are typically delivered by political ambassadors who attend international forums to discuss various aspects of national life, from the economy and defense to the security of each country worldwide for initiate negotiations to identify issues and the possible solutions for prosperity of the global community.

In today's global context, political speeches play an increasingly important role, particularly when delivered in international forums such as the United Nations (UN). Various ongoing global conflicts, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, demonstrate that political speeches serve not only as a means of conveying diplomatic positions but also as a tool to influence international opinion and establish political legitimacy. Statements delivered by state representatives at the UN often have reaching a big impact, serving as a reference point for the global community in understanding a conflict and determining a shared political stance.

Political speeches delivered at UN meetings are crucial because this forum represents the interests and voices of the international community. Through these speeches, states attempt to frame events, explain their positions, and influence decisions and resolutions. Therefore, the language used in political speeches at the UN is not neutral, but rather inspire with specific interests, strategies, and ideologies. This makes political speeches at the UN relevant for linguistic study, particularly to examine how political realities, actors, and actions are constructed through language.

One prominent case that demonstrates international political problems, such as the conflict that has never ended to this day is the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The problem between Israel's desire to control the entire Palestinian territory and the Palestinian people who want to defend their homeland has given rise to various conflicts. There is continuous armed warfare carried out by Israel against Palestine. Israel is supported by full action from the United States and several European countries, which are large countries that have great influence in the world, while Palestine is only surviving in its homeland without the help of full action from other countries, even the Arab country itself. This happens because of the great influence of America in collaborating in the economic and security and any fields with Arab countries, which poses a threat to countries that openly support Palestine and could be subject to economic sanctions or diplomatic pressure from the US and its allies (Cafiero, 2024). Many countries prefer to be neutral or only provide humanitarian assistance, rather than directly confronting the US and Israel. One form of indirect support that can be given to Palestine through political diplomacy. There have been many debates and resolutions submitted by countries supporting Palestine through political speech in world diplomatic debates to end the conflict between the two countries. Political speech can be used as a tool to convey ideology, opinions and also forms of rejection of existing issues and conflicts.

One linguistic approach that can be used to analyze political speech (or any kind of texts for that matter) is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) developed by Michael Halliday. In SFL, there are three metafunctions, namely ideational, interpersonal and textual metafunctions. The ideational metafunction includes logical and experiential meanings. The latter helps to understand how the use of language represents the experiences and reality of the speaker, focusing on element like participants, process and circumstances. SFL shows that language is a system of meanings through the choices of words that speaker decided to convey the meaning and desire for the listener or audience. Language is used to talk about the world, both the external world (objects, events, qualities, etc.) and the internal world (thoughts, beliefs, feelings, etc.). In carrying out analysis we usually focus more on the information provided (proportional context) rather than on the speaker's goals. However, in reality, the choice of words used is influenced by the speaker's intentions and the meaning for the listener (Thompson, 2014).

Since Halliday published the 1994 edition of his analysis of functional grammar, SFL features can be applied to several theoretical concerns to understand the nature and functions of language such as how language evolve through time, how a child develops language, how language may have evolved in the human species, and to help people learn their mother tongue, foreign, etc. This very diverse application of SFL used to analyze texts results from social interactions by looking at the text in its cultural and social context such that it can be understood why the text has meaning and importance (Eggins, 2004). Recently, experiential meaning analysis has been applied in context like education, politics, media and literature. Research has shown that language choices can express ideologies, values, thoughts and opinions. In the educational field, experiential meaning can help to analyze experiences from the student and what they thought through their writing. In media it can help to show the personal opinion from the editor of some editorial media for the issues that arise. In literature, experiential meaning

helps to analyze characters and emotional experiences in narratives. This is because we can find the pattern or the system choices from the utterances that dominant used through transitivity analysis and discuss it in experiential meaning for general.

In political domain, experiential meaning using SFL by Halliday can be applied to many kinds of investigating, such as how the characters from the speaker and also how public speaker can express themselves into the action. Therefore, this research will focus on speaker's experiences or point of view and the use of language through political speech. Language is not just reflecting the reality of world but also participate in creation and construction of social reality (Halliday, 1978). It means the language does not just represent reality but it's a form to create behavior in social reality that influenced how to expressed norm and perception in social reality. It is related to the political case to look how public speaker can express themselves into their ideology or experiences of reality through the use of language that can affect to make a new perception public about them.

One of the political cases that attracts the attention is political speech from Gilad Erdan as an ambassador for Israeli representatives in United Nation. In his speech on May 10, 2024, he declares the disappointment for the voting results in which 143 out of 193 countries agree for Palestine as permanent member of United Nation through the resolution. Until in the end of his speech Erdan doing an expected action, he shredding the copy of United Nation's charter using manual shredder on podium in front of all of the United Nation Member. By doing this, of course it creates perceptions and also goes against ethical norms in giving a speech because this is a form of strong rejection of the results voting of the members, and this is certainly a form of violating norms. This mean that the environment or social reality that Gilad's have force him to talk and act emotional in reality and unconsciously influence the choice of his language to being active and produce emotional action because of the environment. It is not just focus on political speech but also to seeing and diving deeply the situation context from

speaker's point of view that being a reason why he can process thoughts in his mind and choose the language.

Based on explanation above, this research proposes to investigate experiential meaning that found in the transcription video of political speech from Gilad Erdan as Israeli Ambassador in United Nation in 2024 about the Palestinian Rights using SFL by Halliday as a framework of the research and experiential meaning as a tool to interpret the meaning based on transitivity analysis through the choices of process, participant and circumstances found in the speech. In great measure, the previous study analyzing political speech focuses on the interpersonal and textual functions to reveal behavior, evaluation, and focus on the relation or impact between speaker and listener, moreover, in analyzes experiential meaning by exploring how experiences are represented by political leaders in a national context. However, this study discusses how the speaker constructed a representation of experiential meanings using language as rhetorical tool to reveal the ideologies in a controversial international political problem. Through political speech by Israeli Ambassador (Gilad Erdan) in the United Nations Resolution on Palestinian Rights, this study reveals how language is used more than just to represent experiences but also to build narratives in framing the conflict, defending the state's position by twisting the story, and to control representation in international political discourse. The result of this study is to uncover the strategies of the speaker in conveying ideas through identifying the transitivity structure, which are important for the next critical linguist and discourse researcher in analyzing or understanding the reality of political speech, because political speech is not facts in full, but its construction of language, which has meanings behind as political communication tools. As Decaic (2006) stated, political speech is made to support the ideology of the speaker about controversial decisions or issues. Which means, the speaker will always try to construct reality through the choices of language in conveying political speech to support their action or decision about an issue.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on background of this study, this study aims to examine the experiential meanings of the political speech by the Israeli ambassador as representative in United Nation on the Palestinian Rights using SFL Framework. Two research questions will be asked, namely:

1. What are the transitivity analyses of the political speech by the Israeli ambassador as representative in United Nation on the Palestinian Right?

2. What are the possible experiential meanings of the selected speech?

1.3 The Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the research are to explain the distribution of transitivity structure analysis of political speech from the Israeli ambassador as a representative in the United Nation on the Palestinian Right and to discover the possibility of experiential meaning from the speech through the speaker's experiences using transitivity structure as a tool.

1.4 Focus of the Research

There are three metafunctions in SFL proposed by Halliday: ideational (experiential and logical meaning), interpersonal and textual meaning. This research focusses on experiential meaning of Political Speech from Gilad Erdan on May 10, 2024 using transitivity analysis as a tool and interpret the context of environment from the speaker using experiential meaning for general. The researcher will analyze the transitivity structure in political speech from Israeli ambassador as representative in United Nation on the Palestinian Right and to found the possibly experiential meaning in this political speech.

1.5 Methods of the Research

This study employed a qualitative method aiming to analyze the experiential meaning in political speech. According to Paltridge and Phakiti (2019), qualitative research in applied linguistics is usually to find the meaning of language and also to find out how learning or using language in social context and political issues related to language through the use of data that can be described or conceptualized in words and the data will be collected through interviews, observations, texts, or pictures and more like interpretations from the researchers, as well as Paltridge and Phakiti (2019) state that the type of the data could be description of behavior, such as what people doing or saying, one of which uses a discourse analysis approach is very relevant in applied linguistics to reveal ideological meaning in political communication. This is in accordance with the aim of this present study to identify how meaning is constructed, as well as to see how language represents certain ideologies or political positions. Therefore, this study use the SFL approach and qualitative methods to understand how the meaning of experience is constructed in political speeches.

In this study, the source data is the transcription of Gilad Erdan's political speech at the UN session delivered on May 10, 2024, which rejected the resolution on Palestinian voting rights. This data was collected through manual transcription and verified with meeting minutes by United Nation posted on their website to ensure accuracy. In general, this method appropriate for this present study which analyze the experiential meaning through the experiences of the reality and ideology of the speaker.

1.5.1 Data collection

There are several procedures applied in doing this research. The data source is a video found on the YouTube platform in the PBS NewsHour channel with the title *WATCH: Israeli ambassador objects to UN resolution giving more rights to Palestine*, published online on May

11, 2024. The duration of the speech video is 13 minutes and 23 seconds. The video was closely watched and listened to comprehend the speech, because the video does not come with official subtitles or captions. Afterwards, the researcher began to make the transcription of speeches manually. The transcriptions were checked repeatedly to ensure accuracy and conformity to the speaker's original speech and compare it with the meeting minutes found on the official UN website which records every statement by the participants in the meeting to make sure the citation utterances from speaker (Gilad Erdan) are the same as researcher's transcription.

The next stage was breaking the transcribed text into sentences to analyze the experiential meaning elements. The text contains 88 sentences with the total 1.478 words and presented in boxes per sentence. Therefore, to make it easier to show the data in the analysis, a code is given to each box, such as the first sentence is given the code Extract S1 for the first sentence, Extract S2 for the second sentence and so on. A total of 88 sentences has been classified, 74 sentences are complex sentences (having independent clause and dependent clause), and the other 14 sentences are compound sentences (have two or more independent clauses in the sentences).

An example of Compound Sentence in the Data

Extract S84	this	Is	your mirror,	So that	you	can see	exactly	what you ...

In presenting a long compound sentence, three dots are used to indicate that there is a subsequent clause to save space in analyzing the text, as well as by minimizing the use of letters such as the example below. After that, the transitivity analysis is applied to each sentence.

1.5.2 Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using the SFL framework as proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The analysis process was carried out by applying the transitivity theory in SFL, which involves identifying verbal Processes, Participants, and Circumstances in speech. This analysis aims to see how actors and actions are represented, and how word choices in

political speech form certain discourses. In the analysis, each box sentence is divided into three rows. The first row represents the original sentence, the second row shows the transitivity elements such as Participants, Processes, and Circumstances, and the third row presents the specific types of each transitivity elements. The example of analysis datum shows below.

Extract S7	In the 1940s,	the world	united	to destroy a murderous regime
	Circumstance	Participant	Process	Circumstance
	Location (Time)	Actor	Material	Cause (Purpose)

In addition, as in the example of the word "Colleagues" in the data below, which is not included in the transitivity structure because it does not play a role in representing experience (experiential meaning). The word functions as a greeting element used to build social relationships between speakers and listeners, namely an interpersonal metafunction, not an ideational metafunction, so it is not analysed as part of the transitivity role.

Extract S20	Colleagues,	Today's destructive vote	is not only opening	the United Nations door	to the terror-supporting Palestinian Authority.
		Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
		Actor	Material	Goal	Cause (Purpose)

The next stage presents the findings through descriptive statistics to answer research questions addressing the transitivity analysis and interpretation of experiential meaning. The results are displayed in the form of data tabulation to highlight the distribution tendencies,

followed by a descriptive qualitative analysis to interpret the experiential meanings based on the transitivity analysis.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

a) **Political Speech**   is a form of delivering a message that confirms a person's position in an established social hierarchy, by using a choice of words that allows a politician to gain and maintain the sympathy and approval of his audience (Borgstrom, 1982).

b) **Systemic Functional Linguistics**   is described a language approach as social semiotic, which considers language as a system of choices that is used to make meaning in social context (Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. et al., 2010).

c) **Transitivity Structure**   is a tool to reveal how the field of situations in constructs the experiential meaning, which can be seen to select for a process type : material, mental, behavioural, verbal, existential, relational (Eggins, 2004).

d) **Experiential Meaning**   is part of the Ideational Metafunction that helps reveal the meaning of experiences about the world through the use of language that represents experience as a construction of phenomena that shows what the processes are, who the participants are, and how the circumstances are.(Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. et al., 2010).