

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Metadiscourse is a concept in applied linguistics and discourse analysis that examines how language is used to regulate discourse and manage interactions between readers. The concept was first introduced by Harris in 1959 as language about language and was later developed by scholars such as Kopple, Crismore, and Williams (Hyland, 2005, 2019). Within this framework, Hyland (2005, 2019) conceptualises metadiscourse as “a way of understanding the interaction between text producers and their texts, as well as between text producers and their audiences”. Collectively, these perspectives emphasise the interpersonal and textual functions of metadiscourse, particularly in guiding readers through texts, expressing evaluative attitudes, and facilitating engagement.

In terms of this study, these functions are related to the UN ARR analysis (Rizqy, 2022). Generally, metadiscourse markers serve as linguistic devices that help authors organise their ideas, guide readers through the text, express their attitudes towards the content, and establish a connection with the audience (Hyland, 2005, 2019). These functions contribute to the organisation of complex developmental information and the expression of institutional attitudes, while facilitating interaction between the text and its readers (Hyland & Jiang, 2020).

Cross-cultural studies show that the use of metadiscourse varies across language communities. Native speakers of American English tend to use more *hedges*, such as *could*, *may*, and *might*, as well as *self-mentions* such as *I* and *my* (Nugroho, 2019). Meanwhile,

native speakers of Turkish use *boosters* such as *definitely* and *clearly* more frequently, and *self-mentions* such as inclusive *we* instead of *I* (Akbas, 2012). Genre also influences its function, with media and political texts prioritising interaction, while corporate genres emphasise credibility and stakeholder engagement (Balog, 2022; Crismore & Abdollehzadeh, 2010)

The Annual Result Report (ARR) serves as the main reporting tool used by international organisations, including the United Nations, to convey development progress, challenges, and results in member countries such as Indonesia. In Indonesia, the ARR outlines the UN's contributions to social development, economic transformation, governance reform, and progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Socially, the report highlights initiatives in education, health, and social protection; economically, it emphasises efforts to promote sustainable industries, support MSME development, and encourage a green transition; and politically, it reflects a commitment to governance reform, accountability, and multilateral cooperation.

This study focuses specifically on the UN post-pandemic recovery report for Indonesia, published in 2022, a period marking the country's transition from post-pandemic recovery towards a sustainable development agenda. The 2022 report focuses on recovery in the health and social sectors and provides a focused set of data to analyse how the UN's communication strategies responded to the evolving social and political context at the time.

This study examines the 2022 UN ARR for Indonesia, as the report combines technical information on development with strategic communication practices that can be analysed using Hyland's (2005, 2019) metadiscourse framework. Various metadiscourse markers are

used throughout the report to organise information and facilitate communication with the reader.

Example 1:

“In addition, 1250 pre-embarkation health assessments were also provided by IOM to support the resettlement process”.(UN Indonesia, 2022, p. 84)

The *Transition marker*, such as *in addition* is used to introduce additional information and guide readers in understanding complex data, as seen in the following sentence from the UN ARR

Example 2:

“My second full year as Resident Coordinator in Indonesia coincided with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.” (UN Indonesia, 2022, p. 6)

The report also includes *self-mentions*, such as *my*, as in the sentence above. The use of these markers reflects the personal experience of the UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia, increasing credibility and helping to build a closer connection with the reader.

Example 3:

“Focusing on five aquaculture value chains, namely shrimp, seaweeds, catfish, milkfish and pangasius” (UN Indonesia, 2022, pp. 78)

In addition, *code glosses* can be found in the report, such as the marker *namely*. In that sentence, *namely* serves to clarify a general term by providing a more detailed explanation or a specific example, allowing the reader to understand the information more easily.

Research on metadiscourse remains limited within international organisations, with most existing studies concentrating on academic writing, business communication, or

political speeches (Darmawansyah, 2020; Sukma & Sujatna, 2014). This creates a gap in analysing institutional texts that blend technical reporting with diplomacy. This study employs Hyland's (2005, 2019) interpersonal model to examine the categories and functions of metadiscourse markers used in the Indonesian UN ARR to structure information, convey attitudes, and engage the public, as well as how these strategies enhance institutional.

1.2. Research Questions

This study is directed by the following questions, which are informed by the research context:

- a. What categories of interpersonal metadiscourse markers are used in the UN ARR Indonesia 2022?
- b. What are the functions of metadiscourse markers used in the UN ARR Indonesia 2022?

1.3. The Objective of the Research

This study examines interpersonal metadiscourse in the UN ARR for Indonesia published in 2022. It focuses on identifying categories of interpersonal metadiscourse markers found in this report and analysing their functions in shaping institutional positions and encouraging reader engagement during the research period.

1.4. Focus of the Research

According to Hyland (2005, 2019), metadiscourse is a form of reflective expression used by writers to structure texts, express attitudes and interact with readers, creating a coherent and easily understandable discourse. Metadiscourse is important because writing aims not only to convey information but also to establish a communicative relationship between the

writer and the reader, which impacts clarity and credibility, particularly in institutional contexts.

Metadiscourse involves two complementary categories of resources: interactive resources primarily serve to organise the flow of information and guide readers through the text (*transition markers, frame markers, endophoric markers, evidentials, and code glosses*). In contrast, Interactional resources are used to engage readers, express the author's stance, and reflect the author's perspective on the information presented (*hedges, boosters, attitude markers, self-mentions, and engagement markers*) (Hyland, 2005, 2019). In a document such as the UN ARR, interactive resources help to present factual information clearly and in a structured way, while interactional resources convey the organisation's stance and strengthen engagement with the audience.

This study examines the use of metadiscourse features in Indonesia's UN ARR for the period 2022, with a particular focus on how linguistic strategies contribute to the construction of institutions within the framework of development diplomacy. Using Hyland's (2005, 2019) interpersonal metadiscourse model, which distinguishes between interactive and interactional categories, this study investigates how the UN utilises language to organise information, guide readers, and build engagement with audiences to strengthen its credibility as a development partner in Indonesia.

This study aims to identify and classify interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers in the ARR, focusing on their structural and rhetorical patterns. It seeks to interpret how these markers shape narratives about the UN's role in promoting the SDGs, supporting post-pandemic recovery, and maintaining collaboration with the Indonesian government.

This study places metadiscourse within the framework of development communication and diplomacy. Additionally, it addresses a gap in applied linguistics by examining metadiscourse in non-academic, institutional texts, especially international organisation report, to better understand how linguistic choices serve as tools for credibility, diplomacy, and influence in global development communication (Hyland, 1998).

1.5 Method of the Research

This study employs a qualitative research design supported by descriptive statistical analysis to examine the use of metadiscourse markers in the 2022 UN ARR for Indonesia. The qualitative analysis explores how metadiscourse functions within the report, whilst the descriptive statistical analysis illustrates the frequency and percentage of the identified markers. Following Creswell (2014) qualitative research is used to interpret the meaning conveyed through communication, whilst descriptive statistics provide empirical support for the observed patterns. This analysis is based on Hyland's (2005, 2019) model of interpersonal metadiscourse, which classifies metadiscourse into interactive resources that organise the text and guide the reader, and interactional resources that express the author's attitudes and engage the reader. By combining qualitative interpretation with descriptive statistics, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of how the UN uses metadiscourse to organise information, build credibility and strengthen communication in its institutional reporting.

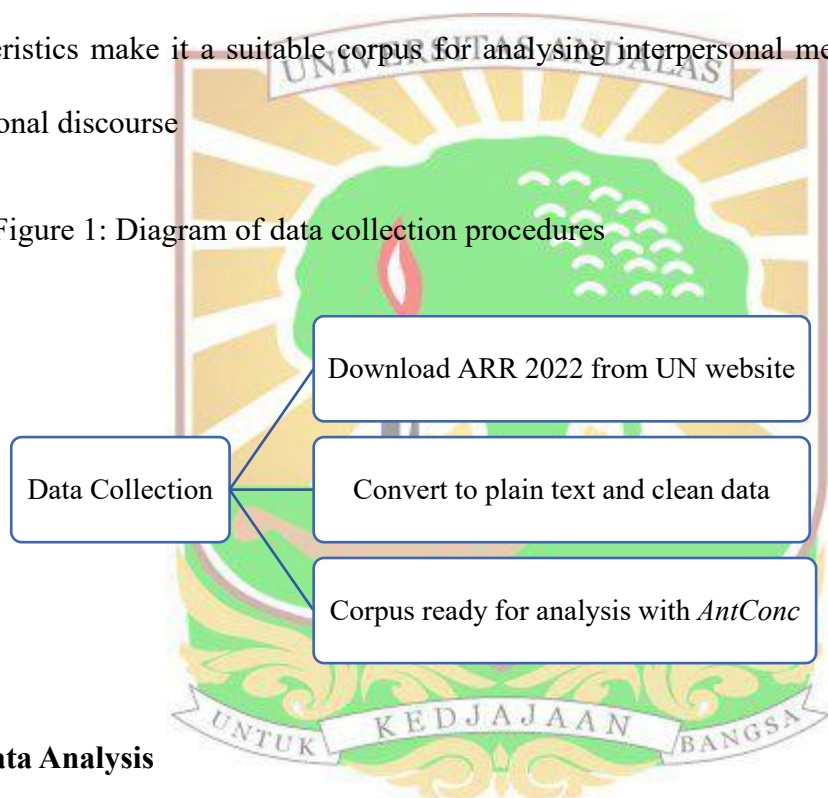
1.5.1 Data Collection

The data for this study consists of consecutive UN ARR Indonesia report from 2022, sourced from the official UN website in Indonesia as a publicly accessible digital document.

This corpus comprises approximately 56.447 words. The data preparation process involved downloading the report from the official website (<https://indonesia.un.org/en>) and converting it to plain-text format by removing non-linguistic content to enable linguistic analysis with *AntConc*.

The document was selected for its consistent institutional authorship, similar communicative purpose, and combination of factual reporting with discourse. These characteristics make it a suitable corpus for analysing interpersonal metadiscourse within institutional discourse

Figure 1: Diagram of data collection procedures



1.5.2 Data Analysis

To conduct a comprehensive analysis of text organisation and interpersonal meaning, data analysis employs Hyland's (2005, 2019) interpersonal metadiscourse model, which differentiates between interactive and interactional dimensions. This framework relates to the conceptualisation of metadiscourse, which examines the linguistic elements writers use to organise discourse, express attitudes, and engage with readers. Qualitative interpretations and statistical analysis were both incorporated into the analysis process. Hyland's (2005, 2019)

theoretical framework was used to identify and classify each metadiscourse based on the interpersonal model of metadiscourse.

The researchers used *AntConc* and Microsoft Excel as analytical instruments. The *AntConc* and Microsoft Excel software were used to facilitate categorisation and frequency calculations. *AntConc* (4.3.1) is the primary corpus analysis tool used in this study to identify metadiscourse markers in the UN ARR 2022 corpus. Developed by Laurence Anthony, *AntConc* is free corpus analysis software that helps researchers examine language patterns in a collection of texts by searching for specific words or phrases and displaying them in context (Anthony, 2024).

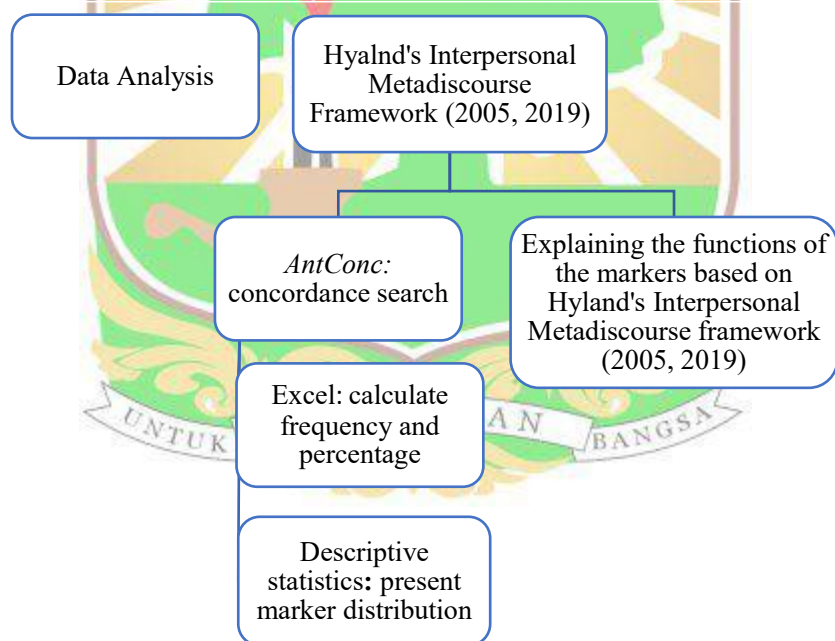
In this study, the Key Word in Context (KWIC) feature of the *AntConc* software was utilised to examine markers of interpersonal metadiscourse within the corpus. KWIC displays each searched item along with the words that appear immediately before and after it, enabling researchers to see how these markers are used in actual discourse. This makes it possible to observe the function of markers such as “however”, “we”, and “must” in different contexts and to determine whether these markers function as metadiscourse markers. Each occurrence was examined manually within its context and then classified into either the interactive or interactional category, based on Hyland’s framework (2005, 2019) of interpersonal metadiscourse, and only those markers that functioned as metadiscourse were included in the analysis.

The distribution of metadiscourse markers in the 2022 UN Annual Report for Indonesia was analysed by calculating the frequency and percentage of each type of marker. The percentage for each category was calculated using the following formula:

Percentage of Marker Type = (Frequency of Marker Type / Metadiscourse Markers) x 100.

This calculation converts raw frequencies into percentages, thereby facilitating comparisons of the distribution of metadiscourse categories (Brase & Brase, 2009). Frequency data were processed in Microsoft Excel, where the identified markers were tabulated and their percentages calculated. The quantitative results were then combined with qualitative interpretation to explain the function of metadiscourse markers within their context. This approach provides a systematic and transparent analysis of how the UN uses metadiscourse to organise information and communicate its institutional messages.

Figure 2: Diagram of data analysis procedures



1.6 Definition of Key Terms

a. Metadiscourse

“A concept that is widely recognised in contemporary discourse analysis and language education, the term refers to an interesting and relatively new approach to understanding the relationship between text producers and the texts they produce, as well as the interaction between text producers and readers or users” (Hyland, 2005, p. 1).

b. Interactive

“An interactive metadiscourse device that is used to structure propositional information in such a way that the intended audience can understand it as something coherent and persuasive” (Hyland, 2005, p. 49).

c. Interactional

Interactional metadiscourse, as conceptualised by Hyland (2005, p. 49), refers to “linguistic strategies that engage readers and create space for their involvement in the discourse by making them aware of the author’s attitude towards the propositional content and the audience itself”

d. Annual Report Result (ARR)

The ARR is defined as a “communication and evaluation tool that emphasises partnership, identifies challenges and presents development outcomes to support decision-making and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. (UN Indonesia, 2022)