

## Interpersonal Meaning in The Gettysburg Address (Systemic Functional Analysis)

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### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to uncover the types of mood and modality used in the Gettysburg Address and how Abraham Lincoln uses them to give dedication and emphasize the struggle to achieve union and equality. This study employed descriptive qualitative research design in analyzing the data. The data were collected from the text of the Gettysburg Address. After the data were collected, they were categorized into their proper interpersonal meaning elements classification. Then, the writer determined whether the data are in declarative mood, imperative mood, or interrogative mood, and revealed the type, orientation, and value of the modalities. Finally, the writer explained the mood and modality used by the speaker to give dedication and emphasize the struggle to achieve union and equality. The result shows that declarative mood occurs the most compared to the imperative mood. By using declarative mood, the speaker explains that they are struggling to win the war, they are going to give dedication for the fallen soldiers, and they are continuing their unfinished work to achieve union and equality. Meanwhile, the speaker uses imperative mood to command the listener that they must dedicate a portion of the aftermath field for their fallen soldiers who struggled to achieve union and equality. In using modality, the speaker positions their messages in the degree of Probability, Obligation, Inclination, and usuality. Most of them are in a high value and the rest are in median and low value.*

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### ARTICLE LICENCE

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### 1. Introduction

There have been so many records of public speaking throughout the history of mankind. Some of them are considered influential, controversial, or beneficial. Yet, only a certain few remembered. However, these certain few are able to change the history of a certain nation. Therefore, we should take a further look on these memorable speeches. Memorable speeches not only survived on the record, but also survived in the minds of those who directly encounter when it was orated (Rahman & Weda, 2019). Furthermore, some scholar may view these speeches as a resource to conduct research based on their perspective study. In speech analysis, context plays a significant role. Factors like communication situation highly affect how the speech is interpreted by the audience (Bachriani et al., 2018; Syamsurrijal et al., 2019). For example, speeches orated by a public figure. To successfully analyze the speech, researcher must pay attention to these factors: what is the speaker's social or educational background, what kind of audience present, what is the current situation when the speech addressed, what is the topic of the speech, what kind of language does the speaker use, and what is the purpose of the speech. Based on the explanation above, the object of the research is the Gettysburg address by Abraham Lincoln. The speech was orated in the times of American civil war and it is one of the greatest and most influential speech in the history of America. Therefore, it would be very interesting if the research is conducted using Systemic Functional approach.

### 2. Literature Review

Studies analyzing interpersonal meaning have been conducted previously by many researchers. Kuang ping, and Liu Lingling are one of them. They analyze Hillary's and Trump's election speeches from the perspective of mood, modality, personal pronoun, and tense system. The research was published in December 30 2017 and can be found in Advances in Language and Literary Studies Journal.

Another research is done by Wang Huabin. His research addresses code switching under systemic functional grammar to analyze interpersonal meaning of code-switching found on TV series. The research aims to evaluate

emotions which are embedded in code-switching and revealing the roles and relationships between different participants. Readers may find his research on Australian Journal of Applied Linguistics and it was published in 1 April 2018.

Innocent Sourou Koutchadé's research aims to stress how the protagonists in A play of Giants interact with one another and in order to do that he focuses on mood, modality, and adjunct. From the latter, he then decodes the tenor realized in the play. The research can be found in Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences published on September 2016.

Next, research conducted by Emine Gül Çelebi İlhan and Ayhan Kürşat Erbaş. Their research uses interpersonal meaning to understand discrepancy between teacher knowing and practice. Their main research focus are speech functions (questions, statements, and commands), grammatical forms (interrogative, declarative, and imperative), and the congruency as the alignment between the grammatical form and its speech function at the teacher's discourse. Their research can be found in Eurasia Journal of Mathematics, Science & Technology Education and was published in 2016.

Lastly, research conducted by Nur Resmi Yuni Ashari, a linguistic student of Hasanuddin University intends to reveal the context of situation in Zakir Naik's lecture using context of situation (field, tenor, mode) and three metafunctions. The latter includes, experiential meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning. On interpersonal meaning, she focuses on mood, modality, and personal pronoun system. The research acts as a thesis and was published in 2018.

On the other hand, this research will try to find interpersonal meaning in the Gettysburg address by focusing on the elements of interpersonal meaning, mood, and modality. This research also intends to find the mood and modality used in the speech to give dedication and to emphasize the struggle to achieve union and equality.

### 3. Method

This research used descriptive qualitative method. In this method, the data findings were described thoroughly to identify the mood and modality. The data were also collected and noted in details. So, this research attempted to explain interpersonal meaning in the form of mood and modality used in the speech. The text of the Gettysburg Address acts as the source of the data. Through the text, the research found the clauses that were analyzed to reveal the mood and modality used by the speaker. The data were analyzed by following these steps:

- a. Dividing the text of the speech into clauses.
- b. Classifying each word into their proper interpersonal meaning elements classification.
- c. Determining whether the mood of a clause is imperative, declarative, or interrogative.
- d. Revealing the type, orientation, and value realized in the speech.
- e. Displaying the types of mood and modality the speaker uses to emphasize the struggle for union and equality
- f. Making Conclusion of the analyzed data.

### 4. Result and Discussion

After dividing the text into clauses, each of them is divided for a second time based on their proper interpersonal meaning elements. The writer found the total of 36 clauses and only 27 of them are qualified to be analyzed because the rest either does not possess a mood element, subject, or finite. The clauses are below:

**Table 1.** Clauses found

Clauses from the text
<p><i>[Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty]<sup>1</sup>, [and dedicated to the proposition]<sup>2</sup> [that all men are created equal]<sup>3</sup>. [Now we are engaged in a great civil war]<sup>4</sup>, [testing whether]<sup>5</sup> [that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure]<sup>6</sup>. [We are met on a great battle-field of that war]<sup>7</sup>. [We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those]<sup>8</sup> [who here gave their lives]<sup>9</sup> [that that nation might live]<sup>10</sup>. [It is altogether fitting and proper]<sup>11</sup> [that we should do this]<sup>12</sup>. [But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate]<sup>13</sup>—[we can not consecrate]<sup>14</sup>—[we can not hallow—this ground]<sup>15</sup>. [The brave men, living and dead]<sup>16</sup>, [who struggled here]<sup>17</sup>, [have consecrated it,</i></p>

*far above our poor power to add or detract]<sup>18</sup>. [The world will little note, nor long remember]<sup>19</sup> [what we say here]<sup>20</sup>, [but it can never forget]<sup>21</sup> [what they did here]<sup>22</sup>. [It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work]<sup>23</sup> [which they]<sup>24</sup> [who fought here]<sup>25</sup> [have thus far so nobly advanced]<sup>26</sup>. [It is rather for us to be here]<sup>27</sup> [dedicated to the great task]<sup>28</sup> [remaining before us—]<sup>29</sup> [that from these honored dead]<sup>30</sup> [we take increased devotion to that cause]<sup>31</sup> [for which they gave the last full measure of devotion]<sup>32</sup>—[that we here highly resolve]<sup>33</sup> [that these dead shall not have died in vain]<sup>34</sup>—[that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom]<sup>35</sup>—[and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth]<sup>36</sup>.*

#### 4.1. Mood Analysis

Mainly the mood found in the text are declarative. It means that the speaker mostly gives information about what they are doing, what the others had done, and what will they do next. According to the theory, declarative mood is where a subject comes first then a finite. Therefore, in this text, the speaker interacts with language 41 mostly in the form of giving information. The table below are the example of declarative mood from the text of the speech:

**Table 2.** Mood analysis of Clause No. 3 and 9

That	all men	are	created	equal	
	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	
	Mood		Residue		
Who	here	gave		their lives	
ect	Subj	Adjunct	Finite (Past)	Predicator	Complement
	Mo-	Resi-	-od	-due	

In some cases, modal operators such as will and shall indicates that the speaker is offering to do something (shall I carry your bags?) or requesting the listener to do something (will you open the door?) thus it is an exchange of goods and service. However, if the speaker were to say I will go or new members shall have a new shoe, we can not simply be certain that it is an exchange of goods and service. Rather, it is a form of giving information. The examples are below:

**Table 3.** Mood analysis of Clause No. 19 and 34.

	The world	will	little note nor long remember		
9	Subject	Finite (Future/Modal)	Predicator		
	Mood		Residue		
	That	these dead	shall not have died in vain		
4		Subject	Finite – Negative polarity (Modal)	Predicator	Complement
	Mood		Residue		

An imperative mood or the exchange of goods and service is the use of language to get things done either by commanding others or offering to do them by ourselves. Even if it is not mandatory to accomplish a command, if one's goal is to achieve something then the command should be obeyed. An imperative mood is not necessarily a clause without subject but it can also be in the form of declarative (I need to see your passport) or interrogative (can I see your passport?) depending on the context. In those cases, the clause follows the structure of a declarative mood (subject goes first then finite) and interrogative mood (finite goes first then subject). In the text of the speech, the writer found an imperative mood of such case, the examples are shown below:

**Table 4.** Mood analysis of Clause No. 12 and 13.

	That	we	should	do	this
2		Subject	Finite (Modal)	Predicator	Complement
			Mood		Residue
3	But	in a larger sense	we	can not	dedicate
		Adjunct	Subject	Finite - Negative polarity (Modal)	Predicator
			Resi-	Mood	-due

#### 4.2. Modality Analysis

The speaker used a diversified degree of modality in the speech. Firstly, the speaker uses the degree of low probability with the modals might to give dedication for the soldiers whose struggle managed to give their nation a chance to live.

*[We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those]<sup>8</sup> [who here gave their lives]<sup>9</sup> [that that nation might live]<sup>10</sup>*

Secondly, the use of low value obligation allowed and high value usuality to express that their struggle can never be forgotten can be found in clause 21 in the form of modals can and mood adjunct never. Moreover, it is supported by high value probability will in clause 21

*[The world will little note, nor long remember]<sup>19</sup> [what we say here]<sup>20</sup>, [but it can never forget]<sup>21</sup> [what they did here]<sup>22</sup>*

Thirdly, clause 13, 14, 15 is used by the speaker to give dedication for their fallen soldiers in high value obligation. Meanwhile, clause 12 is a command with the degree of supposed which is a recommendation from the speaker to give dedication.

*[that we should do this]<sup>12</sup>. [But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate]<sup>13</sup>— [we can not consecrate]<sup>14</sup>—[we can not hallow—this ground]<sup>15</sup>. [The brave men, living and dead]<sup>16</sup>, [who struggled here]<sup>17</sup>, [have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract]<sup>18</sup>*

Next, is the use of low obligation allowed which acts as a statement of struggle. It is realized by clause 6 which uses the modality can

*[testing whether]<sup>5</sup> [that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure]<sup>6</sup>*

Finally, the speaker uses clause 34, 35, 36 as a statement of struggle. here, the speaker is determined to continue their remaining task that has been passed on by the dead soldiers for them and to make sure that the dead did not die in vain, their ideal nation have a new birth of freedom, and their government does not perish from the earth. All of the clause uses a high value of inclination.

*[that we here highly resolve]<sup>33</sup> [that these dead shall not have died in vain]<sup>34</sup> [that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom]<sup>35</sup> [and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth]<sup>36</sup>*

#### 5. Conclusion

After dividing the text into clauses, the writer managed to find 36 clauses and only 27 of them are qualified for further analysis because the rest does not contain proper mood elements (subject and finite) which is required to discover the way the speaker interacts with the language and takes position in their messages. the conclusions of the analyzed data are as follows:

- a. In this speech, declarative mood occurs the most compared to the imperative mood

- b. The speaker used declarative mood to explain that they are struggling to win the war, they are going to give dedication for the fallen soldiers, and they are continuing their unfinished work to achieve union and equality.
- c. The speaker used imperative mood to command the listener that they must dedicate a portion of the aftermath field for their fallen soldiers who struggled to achieve union and equality.
- d. In using modality, the speaker positions their messages in the degree of Probability, Obligation, and Inclination with varied value. Most of them are in a high value. It means that high value of probability expresses certainty, while high value of obligation expresses requirements, and high value of inclination expresses determination. Additionally, a high value of negative usuality can also be found, it is expressed in the form of never. Through these modalities, the readers can observe how the speaker positioned his messages.
- e. Low value of probability, medium and low value of obligation are also present in this text. A probability with a low value expresses something that is possible to happen. Whereas, medium value of obligation expresses something that is supposed to be done, and low value expresses something that is allowed to be done.

This research can be used for the readers to understand more about interpersonal meanings, how it is classified, how a speaker can interact with language by giving and demanding information, and exchanging goods and services, and how a speaker positioned their messages using modal finites, and mood adjuncts. Additionally, this research can also be used to encourage readers to perform research using the systemic functional analysis. The writer suggests that this research is treated as a reference for future researcher in finding interpersonal meanings in any given form. This research displays some variety of mood and modality categorizations thus it can act as an example if by chance they encounter mood and modalities with the same case as this research have found.

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