ELT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: THE BOUNDARIES AND BEYOND

Graduation in COVID-19 Virtual Press Conference by WHO from the Perspective Appraisal Theory

Salsabila Annisa Putri [a] [1] , Setyo Prasiyanto Cahyono [b] [2]

a Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia
b Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

Abstract

The study of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) focuses on the functionality of language in social contexts. Appraisal is a recent theoretical framework that clarifies the interpersonal dialogistic semantics dimension of Systemic Functional Linguistics (Martin, 2005). This study aimed at investigating and analyzing one of the Appraisal subsystems, specifically in Graduation system. The data of this study were obtained through a qualitative method by downloading a virtual press conference transcript from the World Health Organization (WHO) purposively. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data, the researchers apply appraisal subsystem of graduation consisting of force and focus proposed by Martin and White (2005). The result of this study reveals that focus is the most dominant found in the data followed by force. Focus tends to give sharpness or softness of the speakers' utterances so it can be well received by the audience or hearers.

Keywords: Appraisal Theory, Graduation System, Press Conference, COVID-19.

Introduction

Every individual needs an instrument known as language to communicate with one another and to be emotionally linked with their surroundings. Language plays a significant role in human life; it is a communication tool that humans may use to communicate with one another. Language is a combination of meaningful, arbitrary, and customary symbols Fromkin et. al., 1990:3). It is used as a means of communication for an individual or a group of individuals to express their emotions and ideas. As social beings, humans are required to grasp the purpose of language in order to establish positive relationships with one another. Language is also used to communicate ideas, provide something, and express sentiments to other human beings (Wardhaugh, 1972:3). According to (Rido, 2020), he stated that language is a very strong way to communicate between one another and language can also be used to convey ideas and desires. Human and language are two things that can't be separated. Language is exceptionally expressive, when people use verbal communication, they have a tendency to persuade, inform, or deliver the messages for some specific purposes. It can be expressed in so many ways such like expressing thoughts through the speech, expressing feelings and our

---

[1] Salsabila Annisa Putri.
 E-mail address: 311201801916@mhs.dinus.ac.id

emotions through a written text, communicate something to help us get things done or even stating wants and support by expressing needs.

There are so many ways to communicate something, one of them is happened often in the dialogue or conversation between two or more persons in forum discussion group, interview session or even a virtual press conference program. At this moment in time, the situations required everyone to stay at home, so that all activities and processes of obtaining information were carried out using online platform. Virtual discussion forums are the solution to meet and talking by using the digital platforms, it happens when somebody is not being able to get together personally then the discussions is done in asynchronous. During the coronavirus outbreak, the situations required everyone to stay at home, so that all activities and processes for obtaining information were carried out using online platform, so does the press conferences program that transformed into Virtual Press Conference. A virtual press conference is a news conference that is held using internet tools to interact an institution's newsmakers and working journalists with video and audio for real-time interaction without the need for them being in the same location. In all forms, dimensions and styles, from small media briefings to big formal product presentations, virtual press conferences provide several advantages that can benefit both the hosting organization and the media. Currently, there are so many online news media platforms that held a virtual press conference and in this research, the researcher use the COVID-19 Virtual Press conference transcript by World Health Organization (WHO) on 18 August 2021. This research particularly analyzes the issue of coronavirus outbreak that happens on a global scale viewed from Graduation of Appraisal analysis of Martin (2003). This research utilised appraisal theory developed by Martin and Rose (2003) in which the linguistic theory in Systemic Functional Grammar that is enlarged by (Halliday 1994) in interpersonal contexts. The advancement of the appraisal can be viewed from previous researchers. Using the appraisal theory Meli Fauziah, Warsono and Widhiyanto 2019) conducted a study to analyze the comparison of appraisal resources in argumentative essays written by students with different proficiency levels. Then from another research, Suswanto and Qomariyah (2018) that used the appraisal graduation to analyze the issue of LGBT in the News Magazine. Another research was conducted by Vivi and Iskhak (2018) that analyzed the realization of attitude on narrative texts. Nani Hidayati (2017) also conducted a study to find out conveyed messages in the movie from the realization of the appraisal and narrative structure as well as to describe the use of the Appraisal System to express attitude, engagement and graduation in writers movie. In the form of thesis, Suprihatin (2016) conduct a study to explore the appraisal devices in Joko Widodo and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's controversial speeches. It can be seen from the previous studies that the appraisal system help the researchers to get to know more about the purpose of the speakers in a speech.

Systematics-Functional Linguistics (SFL)

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), SFL is a broad term that encompasses a variety of analyses, including expression analyses (phonetics and phonology), content analyses (lexicogrammar and semantics), and context analyses. Context is an important consideration because it contributes significantly to the process of meaning formation. One does not speak or write in isolated sentences, but rather in meaningful units known as texts, which are created and influenced by contexts. When analyzing a text, one should first consider its context and type (register and genre). These aspects are closely related to three contextual variables: field (the topic being discussed), tenor (the relationship of participants), and mode (the channel of communication). These variables help to explain how an individual's use of language is primarily determined by functions. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) emphasize within the language itself a dimension known as metafunctions which are ideational, interpersonal and textual elements. The first concerns the ability of language to construct human experience into (experiential) categories and further organize it in complicated patterns (logical). This function deals mostly with the use of transitivity, with three key elements: processes, participants and circumstances. The ability of speech to negotiate social roles and attitudes is part of an interpersonal meta-function. It can be examined through the use of mood, mood and so-called speech and interpersonal metaphors. Last, but not least, a linguistic function is the ability of speech, involving themes and rhemes, and the employment of lexical and grammatical coherent devices.

Appraisal

The interpersonal meaning has grown into the evaluation of usage of languages called the theory of appraisal in the scope of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The appraisal theory refers to the construction of a social interaction among the writer and the reader, according to Martin and Rose (2003). The meaning of lexical words employed by the writers is well explained by this approach. As a result, it is concerned with the use of evaluative language. According to Martin and White (2005), appraisal theory is classified into three major domains: attitude, engagement, and graduation. Then, each of the three appraisal domains is made up of its own set of subsystems. Attitude is concerned with the interpretation of a speaker's or writer's feelings, emotional reactions, judgments of another's behavior, and evaluation of things. It is made up of affect, judgment, and appreciation. While engagement is concerned with sourcing attitudes and the interplay of voices in discourse. It then includes the phrases disclaim, proclaim, entertain, and attribute. Graduation also deals with grading phenomena, whether feelings are amplified or categories are blurred. It is made up of force and focus items.
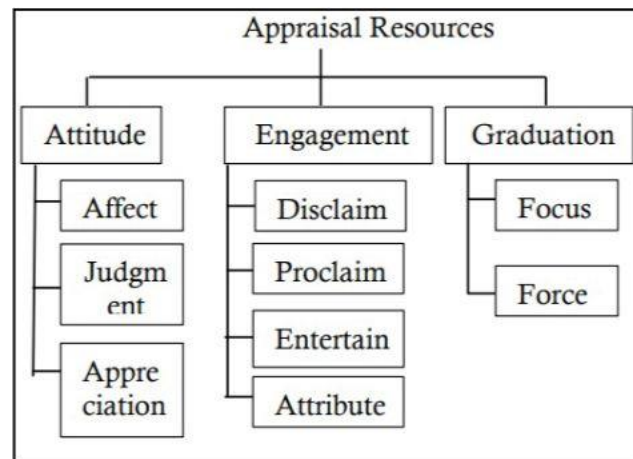
Figure 1. Illustration of Appraisal Resources

Appraisal theory is an additional development of the Halliday Framework to better understand how complex we are to express our personal opinions and to respond to others' opinions. This is an area of study that the existing systems do not fully understand (Mood-Residue, Transitivity, Theme-Rheme, and Clause-Complexing). That is why it was developed for us kindly by someone. And that's why this web page is also available.

Graduation

White (2001) highlights that "graduation" concerns value, which acts as a value relationship in terms of either the precision or sharpness of the focus. These two dimensions are labeled Force and focus. These two dimensions are variously designations. The graduation value is related to the significance system. Martin and White (2005: 137) claim that the grading system works in two ways: the intensity or strength system grading and the prototype grading system and the accuracy with which class limits are drawn (focus). Two categories are used to strengthen and quantify the force system, while sharpening and softening are the focus. Force contains labeling, intensification, downtones, boosters, emphasizers, emphatics etc. Perhaps the most obvious mode of expression in this category is through intensification adverbs - slightly, a little, rather, truly, very, very, totally etc. This scaling principle also applies, in somewhat more problematic terms, to those values which measure amount, scope and time and space proximity - small, large; a few, many; near, far etc. Force can also be expressed via lexical elements in which an intellectual meaning fuses with a scaling value (usually a high intensity value). It should also be pointed out that this principle of force grading operates on the basis that each particular meaning of the attitudinal position represents a specific point on the scale of low to high intensity. For example, liking represents a lesser strength range, to love greater scaling and to love higher scaling -

equally competently/knowingly/brilliantly etc. for the judgment values she is representing. Focus contains meanings typically analyzed elsewhere under headings "hedging" and "vague language." The typical values are, type'v has admitted it; indeed he has admitted it, as good as admitted, etc. According to the evaluation's theory, values that sharpen the focus rather than blur – a real friend, a pure folly for instance, literally drank his friend under the table. The scaling/graduation principle is here, perhaps, slightly more problematic than it is in the force context. As we saw, scaling works in the context of gradable categories - values that admit to a certain core meaning of different degrees. In contrast, scaling operates under focus in contexts that cannot be graded in this sense or when the communication goal is not to be graded in this sense. In 'a clean break,' for example, the state of having made a 'break' with someone or something is usually not understood as gradable. In 'a true friend' and 'pure madness,' this is a similar case.

Methodology

This study's source was taken from the digital platform YouTube or more precisely in World Health Organization YouTube channel. The data is the transcript of the Virtual Press Conference about Covid-19 that released on 18 August 2021. The data of this research spoke and linked to the secondary data. The reason is that the data received from the discussion that could be accessed through zoom connection then turned in to be uploaded on WHO social media platforms. The transcript involves appraisal graduation in the form of force and focus as the source of data. The researchers analyzed the source of data using descriptive and analytical analyses to find out the types of appraisal graduation which are commonly applied in discussion transcript about the coronavirus outbreak that happens in a global scale. In analyzing the data, the researchers apply appraisal subsystem of graduation consisting of force and focus proposed by Martin and White (2005) that is found in transcript discussion. The first stage, the researcher collected the data by looking the video recording from the digital platform, specifically in YouTube and choose the video of World Health Organization that discuss about the coronavirus outbreak that happens in a global scale. After the data has been chosen, the researcher transforms the conversation from the video into the form of transcript text as the main data to be analyzed. Then the researcher is dividing the data into clauses. By using Martin and White theory, the researcher categorize the clause into the types of appraisal graduation. The researcher describe the realization of graduation types function in Discussion Transcript of World Health Organization that discuss about the coronavirus outbreak that happens in a global scale.

Findings and Discussion

In this section, the data were used to answer the research problem stated. As a result, this section was divided into two parts. The first point was to answer the problem of what common appraisal graduation devices types are frequently used in COVID-19 Virtual Press conference transcript by World Health Organization (WHO). Each device was classified into its own category and was

represented in percentage terms within that division. The second purpose was to respond what sorts of appraisal graduation device requirements are discovered in a transcription recorded virtual press conference. This section presented the requirements for several types of appraisal graduation devices.

Table 1. The Frequency of the Graduation

TYPES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
FORCE	12	46,2%
FOCUS	14	53,8%
TOTAL	26	100%

Force

Force contains labeling, intensification, downtones, boosters, emphasizers, emphatics etc. Perhaps the most obvious mode of expression in this category is through intensification adverbs - slightly, a little, rather, truly, very, very, totally etc.

Excerpt 1

In Haiti so far we know that the earthquake has killed **more than 1,900 people**, **left thousands more** injured and homeless and impacted **more than two million people.**

In the data 1, It can be seen that there are several phrases which indicate the force type of sentence, they are "more than 1,900 people", "left thousands more", "more than two million people". "more than 1,900 people" indicates the type force of intensity scale number because, words of "more than" followed by the number represents some amounts which refer to the number of people that was killed by earthquakes. "left thousands more" indicates the type force of intensity scale number because it represents some amounts which refer to the number of injured and homeless people. "more than two million people" indicates the type force of intensity scale number because, words of "more than" followed by the number represents some amounts which refer to the number of people who got impacted by the disaster.

Excerpt 2

When G20 health ministers meet **on 5th and 6th September** in Rome I will call on them to consider the fragility of this historic moment and make a clear, defining commitment to solidarity, from identifying the origins to sharing vaccines fairly to building resilient societies that are prepared for climatic shocks and future disease outbreak.

In the data 2, it can be seen that there is a phrase which indicates type of intensity scale force of time, on this data marked a time "on 5th and 6th September" meaningful when the time when G20 health ministers meet in Rome.

Excerpt 3

There are some pieces of information that have come out which I think have been **very widely** discussed already in the press.

In the data 3, it can be seen that phrase indicates the focus type of sentence as intensifiers including subjuncts, where the intensity is either scaled up. In this case, word "very widely" is used to clarify that there are some pieces of information that have been discussed in the press extensively.

Focus

Focus contains meanings typically analyzed elsewhere under headings "hedging" and "vague language." It concerns class membership and it indicate how strong or weak the sentence is. By focusing, we make X more accurate or less accurate.

Excerpt 4

In the US that after eight months people who have had the first two doses of Pfizer and **other vaccines will be exactly** like the people who have not been vaccinated.

It is based on the data 4 that there is a statement "other vaccines will be exactly" it includes the focus of soften why is that because, of "will be" the emphasis of the word is not too sharp. In this case, it clarify he argument that other vaccines will be exactly like the people who have not been vaccinated.

Excerpt 5

We're really working hard to ensure that everyone understands that the purpose here is to identify the origin of the virus.

It is based on the data 5 that there is a statement "we're really working hard" it includes the focus of sharp why is that because, of "really" the emphasis of the word is sharp and strong the context. In this case, it clarify that they are really working so hard to ensure that everyone understands that the purpose here is to identify the origin of the virus.

Excerpt 6

I think what's happened in all of this is that the politics **have really contaminated** the environment and changed the atmosphere.

It is based on the data 6 that there is a statement "have really contaminated" it includes the focus of sharp why is that because, of "really" the emphasis of the word is sharp and strong the context. In this case, it clarify that the politics have really contaminated the environment and changed the atmosphere.

Conclusion

After examining the data, two forms of appraisal graduation were discovered: force and focus. The research shows the type of graduation used in issue of coronavirus outbreak in COVID-19 Virtual Press conference transcript by World Health Organization (WHO) on 18 August 2021 consist of force 12 expression 46,2% and focus 14 expression 53,8%. It can be noted that focus is is the most dominant found in the data followed by force. In reference to the preceding results, the following suggestions were made: (1) Can empower students to gain more in-depth understanding of appraisal graduation. (2) For lecturers, this study may be used as a reference to increase understanding of appraisal graduation, and the script can be used to select appropriate media for their students who are closely connected appraisal graduation in the script. (3) For the researcher, the researcher suggests to other researchers that they do relevant study on a different object and with more in-depth, farther, and better approaches.

References

Alwi, H. d. (2003). *Tata Bahasa Baku Bahasa Indonesia.* Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.

Blakemore, D. (2001). *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis.* Malden: Blackwell Publishers Inc.

Campbell, L. (2003). *The history of linguistics. In M. Aronoff and J. Rees-Miller (Eds). The Handbook of Linguistics.* Blackwell Publishing.

Cook, G. (1989). *Discourse.* New York : Oxford University Press.

Crystal, D. (2008). *A Dictionary of Linguisticsand Phonetics (6th ed.).* USA: Oxford Basil Blackwell.

Ekowati, A. R. (2019). Gramatical Cohesion and Lectical Cohesion. *Journal of Education, Teaching, and Learning*, 169-173.

Erwin. (2017). Teaching Grammar by Using TEAM Games Tournament at The Second Grade. *English Education Department Tarbiyah and Teaching, Science Faculty Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar*.

Fontaine, L. (2013). *Analysing English grammar: A systemic functional introduction.* Cambridge University Press.

Fromkin, V. e. (1990). *An Introduction to Language.* Sydney: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Halliday, M. &. (2009). *Continuum Companion to systemic Functional Linguistic.* London: Continum International Publishing Group.

Halliday, M. A. (n.d.). *Cohesion in English.* London: Longman.

Harmer, J. (2004). *How to teach writing.* London: Longman.

Kreidler, C. W. (2019). *Introducing English Semantics.* London: Routledge.

Martin, J. (2000). . *Beyond exchange: Appraisal systems in English. In S. Hunston & G. Thompson (Eds.), Evaluation in text: Authorial stance and the construction of discourse (pp. .* Oxford: Oxford University Press. .

Martin, J. R. (2003). *Working with Discourse: Meaning beyond the Clause.* London and New York: Continuum. .

Martin, J. R. (2005). *Language of evaluation: Appraisal in English.* London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Matthiessen, C. (2004). *An introduction to functional grammar. .* New York: Oxford University Press Inc. .

Mulyana. (2005). Kajian Wacana: Teori, Metode dan Aplikasi Prinsip-Prinsip Analisis Wacana. *Yogyakarta: Tiara Wacana.*

Paltridge, B. (2000). *Making Sense of Discourse Analysis.* Queensland: AEE Publishing.

Puspita, G. S. (2019). Lexical Cohesion In News Article On The Jakarta Post Entitled "Why Full Day School Will Not Work In Indonesia?". *Professional Journal of English Education, II, 507-513.*

Renkema, J. (n.d.). *Discourse Studies : An Introductory textbook.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Co.

RIDO, A. (2020). Why They Act The Way They Do?Pedagogical Practices of Experienced Vocational English Language Teachers in Indonesia. *International Journal of Language Education.*

Sagala, R. W. (2019). PARTS OF SPEECH ANALYSIS APPEARED ON HEADLINES NEWSPAPER. *Serunai: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan,*, 5(2), 155-158.

Van Valin Jr., R. D. (2003). *Functional linguistics. In M. Aronoff and J. Rees-Miller (Eds). The Handbook of Linguistics. .* Blackwell Publishing.

Wardhaugh, R. (1972). *Introduction to Linguistics.* New York: McGraw Hill Book.