

THE CONGRUENCY REALIZATIONS OF MOOD AND SPEECH FUNCTION IN ANGELINA JOLIE'S SPEECHES ON GENDER EQUALITY

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Abstract

This study analyzes mood and speech function in three speeches delivered by Angelina Jolie on gender equality and human rights using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. The research aims to identify mood types, speech functions, and their congruent and incongruent uses. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, with 227 clauses analyzed at the clause level. The findings show that declarative mood is dominant (225), while interrogative and imperative appear only once. Statements are the most frequent speech function (179), followed by commands (37), offers (10), and questions (1). A total of 181 clauses are congruent and 46 incongruent. The study concludes that declarative forms are used strategically to convey messages in a direct, persuasive, and diplomatic manner.

Keywords: Mood, Speech Function, Congruency Realization, Angelina jolie, Systemic Functional Linguistics

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis mood dan fungsi ujaran dalam tiga pidato Angelina Jolie tentang kesetaraan gender dan hak asasi manusia menggunakan teori Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik Halliday. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi jenis mood, fungsi ujaran, serta penggunaan kongruen dan inkongruen. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan data berupa 227 klausa yang dianalisis pada tingkat klausa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mood deklaratif paling dominan (225), sedangkan interogatif dan imperatif masing-masing hanya satu. Fungsi ujaran yang paling dominan adalah pernyataan (179), diikuti perintah (37), penawaran (10), dan pertanyaan (1). Sebanyak 181 klausa bersifat kongruen dan 46 inkongruen. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa bentuk deklaratif digunakan secara strategis untuk menyampaikan pesan secara langsung, persuasif, dan diplomatis.

Kata kunci: Mood, Fungsi ujaran, Realisasi kongruensi, Angelina Jolie, Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik

1. INTRODUCTION

Language plays a fundamental role in human life as the primary medium for communication, through which people express ideas, emotions, and intentions, and construct social relationships. It functions not only in everyday interaction but also in education, research, and public communication (Sopha, 2022). While Chomsky views language as a natural and biological component of the human mind (Chomsky, 2002:1) as cited in (Ambarita et al., 2022), language can also be understood as a social system used to negotiate meaning within context. The scientific study of language is known as linguistics, which examines both the structure and function of language. According to (Allan, 2016), linguistics focuses on the human ability to produce and interpret language and the relationships among its components. Beyond grammatical structure, linguistics also explores how language is used to perform social actions and maintain interpersonal relationships. One influential approach that emphasizes the functional use of language is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), developed by Halliday. SFL views language as a social semiotic system and a resource for meaning-making in context. Halliday proposes that language simultaneously realizes three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual (Halliday, 1994; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) as cited in (Cheng, 2024). Among these, the interpersonal function focuses on interaction, where language operates as an exchange between speaker and listener (Darong, 2022), reflecting social relationships and positioning. Interpersonal meaning is primarily realized through mood and speech function. The mood system refers to clause types such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative (Luthfiyati et al., 2024), while speech function includes statement, question, command, and offer. These functions are based on the roles of giving and demanding, involving either information or goods and services (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Rahayu et al., 2021), as cited in (Azkia et al., 2024), and are expressed through grammatical choices (Li, 2023). In practice, declarative clauses typically provide information, interrogatives request information, and imperatives express commands. However, the relationship between mood and speech function is not always direct. It can be realized either congruently or incongruently. Congruent realizations occur when grammatical forms align with their typical functions, while incongruent realizations occur when forms are used indirectly, allowing speakers to soften commands, express evaluation implicitly, and manage interpersonal relations strategically (Saragih, 2006) as cited in (Yusuf, 2024). Previous studies have examined interpersonal meaning in various contexts. (Syamsidar et al., 2019) show that mood and modality are used to express authority and persuasion in political speeches, while (Siregar, 2021) finds that speech functions in classroom interaction may

not always correspond directly to their grammatical forms. However, these studies mainly focus on mood or speech function separately and pay limited attention to their congruency, particularly in advocacy discourse.

Speeches by Angelina Jolie on gender equality and human rights provide relevant data for such analysis. As a humanitarian advocate, she employs language strategically to express solidarity, construct moral responsibility, and persuade audiences. The realization of mood and speech function, whether congruent or incongruent, plays an important role in shaping these meanings. However, studies focusing on congruent and incongruent realizations in humanitarian advocacy discourse remain limited. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the types of mood, the types of speech function, and their congruent and incongruent realizations in three speeches by Angelina Jolie. The findings are expected to contribute to a better understanding of how grammatical choices support meaning-making and persuasion in advocacy discourse.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Qualitative research is applied because the study aims to interpret meaning in language rather than measure it statistically (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). The research is designed as discourse analysis to examine how linguistic choices are used to construct meaning in formal speeches. The data are taken from three official speeches delivered by Angelina Jolie: (*Angelina Jolie – UNHCR Special Envoy Speech at UN Peacekeeping Ministerial*, 2019), (*Angelina Jolie - UNHCR Special Envoy (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)*, 2018), and (*Angelina Jolie Full Speech at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment*, 2017). The data consist of clauses extracted from official transcripts available on verified YouTube channels. The analysis is limited to mood types, speech functions, and congruency patterns, excluding non-linguistic elements such as gesture and intonation. Data were collected through several steps: accessing and verifying transcripts, reading and reviewing the speeches, identifying relevant clauses, and classifying them into mood types (declarative, interrogative, imperative), speech functions (statement, question, command, offer), and examining the relationship between mood and speech function to identify congruent and incongruent realizations.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this study are presented in this section and are subsequently followed by a detailed discussion to provide deeper interpretation. The three selected speeches are analyzed by applying the mood type theory proposed by (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014),

which focuses on how interpersonal meaning is constructed through language. Based on the results of the data analysis, a total of 227 clauses were identified across the three speeches. These clauses were carefully examined and systematically classified to ensure accuracy and consistency in the analysis. Furthermore, the findings are organized into three main aspects, namely the types of mood, the types of speech function, and the relationship between them in terms of congruent and incongruent realizations. This categorization aims to provide a clearer understanding of how each speech conveys meaning and interactional purpose through its linguistic features.

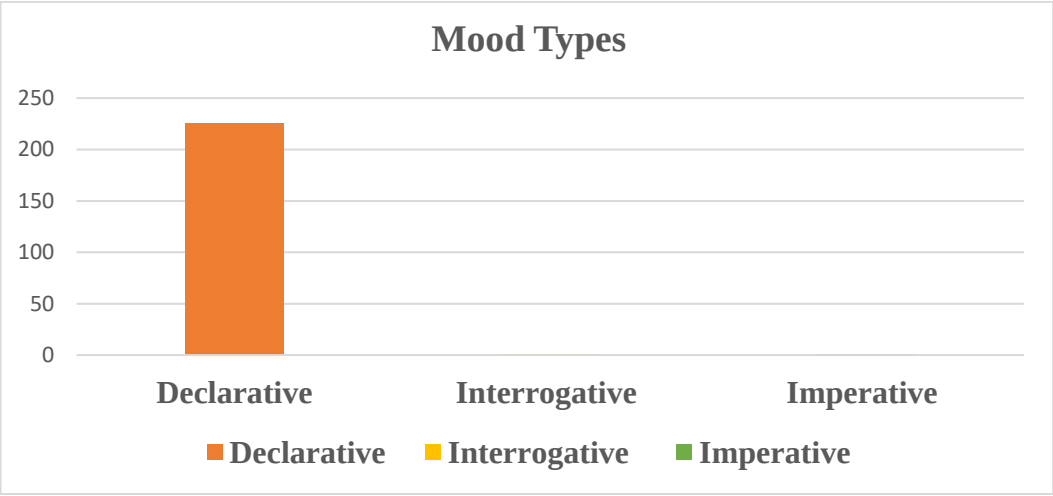


Figure 1. Mood Types

Based on Figure 1, declarative mood is the most dominant type with 225 occurrences out of 227 clauses. Interrogative and imperative moods appear only once each, indicating their very limited use. The dominance of declarative mood suggests that the discourse primarily functions to deliver information and statements rather than to ask questions or give direct commands.

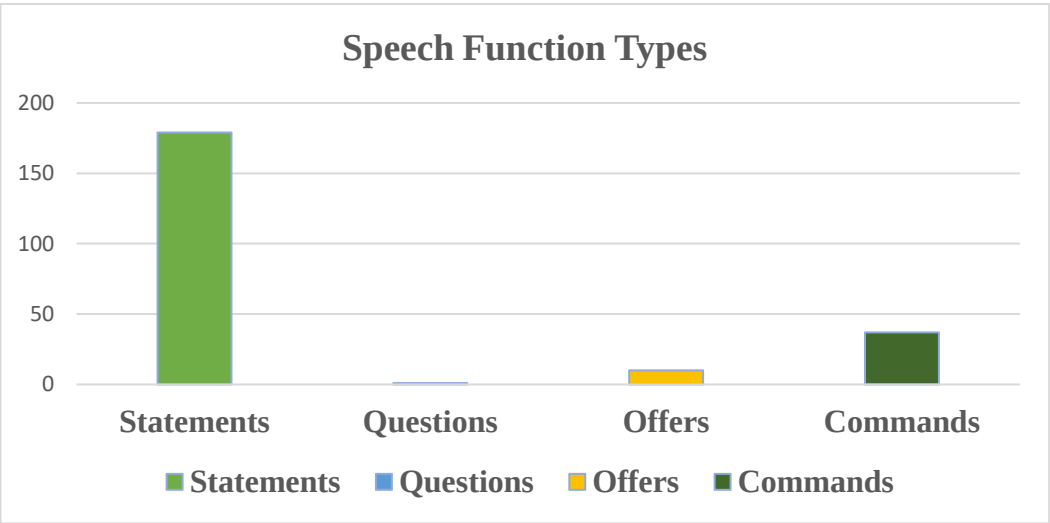


Figure 2. Speech Functions Types

The diagram shows the distribution of speech functions in the data. The findings indicate that statements are the most dominant speech function, with 179 occurrences out of 227 clauses. Commands appear 37, followed by offers with 10 occurrences, while questions occur only once. The dominance of statements suggests that the discourse primarily functions to provide information and express ideas. Commands and offers are used in smaller proportions to encourage action and engagement, whereas the minimal use of questions indicates that the speaker tends to maintain control over the discourse rather than inviting interaction.

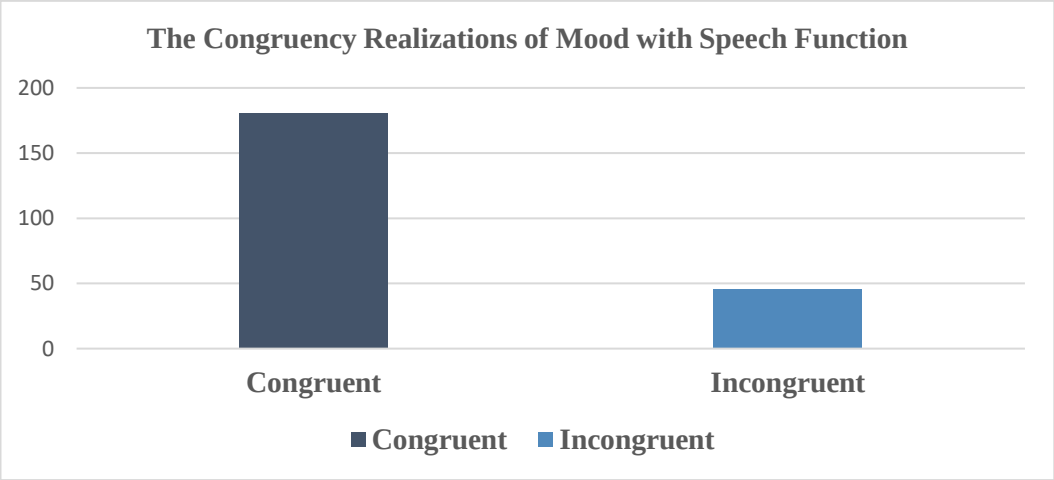


Figure 3. The Congruency Realizations of Mood with Speech Function

The diagram presents the distribution of congruent and incongruent realizations between mood and speech function. The findings reveal that congruent realizations are more dominant, with 181 occurrences out of 227 clauses, while incongruent realizations account for 46 clauses. This indicates that most clauses follow the typical alignment between grammatical form and communicative function, particularly declarative clauses functioning as statements. However, the presence of incongruent forms shows that the speaker also employs indirect strategies, such as using declarative clauses to express commands. This variation reflects a deliberate communicative strategy to maintain politeness, reduce directness, and enhance persuasive impact in a formal speech context.

Mood

Declarative clauses dominate the data, reflecting their function in presenting information clearly and directly. In Halliday’s framework, declarative mood is characterized by the Subject preceding the Finite, which creates a statement-like structure. For example, “More countries are experiencing some form of violent conflict today than any time in the last thirty years.” places “More countries” as the Subject and “are” as the Finite, presenting the issue as an undeniable fact. This strengthens the seriousness of the message and positions

the speaker as authoritative. Interrogative mood appears only once, indicating minimal reliance on questioning. For instance, “Why don’t you just go like that?” shows a typical interrogative structure with WH-element and Finite preceding the Subject. However, it functions rhetorically rather than seeking information, encouraging reflection instead of interaction. Its limited use suggests that the speaker maintains control over the discourse. Imperative mood is also rare. The clause “Think how much more we could achieve with women’s equal participation in all aspects of society.” illustrates an imperative form with an implied Subject. However, the use of “could” softens the command, making it sound like an invitation rather than an order. This reflects a strategy to engage the audience without imposing authority directly.

Speech Function

Statements are the most dominant speech function (179 of 227 clauses), indicating that the discourse primarily serves to deliver information. For example, “why I feel it's important to be with other women and talk about those women and women in art.” functions as a statement despite beginning with “why,” as it expresses personal perspective rather than asking a question. Commands (37) are used to encourage action, though often indirectly. For instance, “to help find a way to make sure their voices are heard, to show solidarity with them, to champion them, to help them tell their stories.” implies a directive meaning, even without an imperative structure. Offers (10) appear less frequently and are typically realized through expressions of appreciation, such as “and I congratulate everyone being acknowledged, particularly everyone involved in the scholarship program and the girls.” which contributes to a supportive tone. Questions are extremely limited, reinforcing the speaker’s control over the discourse and minimizing direct interaction. Overall, the dominance of statements, supported by limited commands and offers, reflects a communicative strategy focused on clarity, persuasion, and authority.

Congruency

The analysis shows that congruent realizations are dominant (181 clauses), indicating that most clauses follow the typical alignment between mood and speech function. For example, “The UN was set up for that purpose as a way of resolving differences peacefully, supporting each other’s prosperity, and extending universal rights and freedoms.” is a declarative clause functioning as a statement, demonstrating congruency. However, 46 clauses are incongruent, showing strategic variation. For instance, “So it's hard to celebrate our progress while this is still the case.” is declarative in form but implies a directive meaning as a command, discouraging certain actions. Such incongruent realizations allow the speaker to convey commands indirectly, maintain politeness, and enhance persuasive

effect. Overall, the combination of congruent and incongruent forms demonstrates how grammatical choices are used strategically to construct interpersonal meaning and influence the audience in advocacy discourse.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that mood and speech function play a significant role in constructing interpersonal meaning in Angelina Jolie's speeches on gender equality and human rights. Based on Systemic Functional Linguistics, the analysis shows that declarative mood is the most dominant type, indicating that the speeches primarily focus on delivering information, explaining issues, and presenting arguments in a clear and structured manner. The study also reveals that statements are the most dominant speech function, followed by commands, offers, and questions. This pattern demonstrates that the speeches are mainly used to convey ideas and viewpoints rather than to create direct interaction. Commands are often expressed indirectly, while offers contribute to a supportive and inclusive tone, allowing the speaker to engage the audience in a subtle way. Furthermore, the findings show that congruent realizations are more frequent than incongruent ones, indicating that most clauses follow the typical alignment between grammatical form and communicative function. However, the presence of incongruent realizations reflects a strategic use of indirectness, particularly in expressing commands through declarative forms. This suggests that grammatical choices are used not only for clarity but also to enhance persuasion, maintain politeness, and strengthen the speaker's influence in advocacy discourse.

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