

An Analysis of Modality used by The Second-Year Students of Methodist 7 Medan in Speaking

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Abstract

Modality is an important aspect in the functional grammar system, which is used to express the speaker's attitude towards what he say. In the holiday approach, modality describes various degrees of certainty, desire, permission, or need that the speaker shows in a sentence. researchers focus on analyzing student speech. In this study, the researcher used descriptive and qualitative research methods. Based on the results of the analysis applied, researcher found 44 data points from both types, namely Modalization and Modulation. Modalization has a percentage of 25%, while Modulation data has a percentage of 19%. From the research results, the most dominant thing students say when speaking is the type of modalization. the researcher can understand the extent to which students master the use of modality in speaking English, as well as how they choose modal verbs to adjust tone and meaning in various communication situations. It can also provide insight into areas where students may need more training.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis, Modality, Teaching

1. Introduction

Speaking is one of the main aspects of human communication that plays an important role in a variety of life contexts, whether personal, academic, or professional. In the increasingly connected era of globalization, the ability to communicate effectively in spoken language is a highly valued skill. Speaking not only serves as a means to express ideas, opinions, and feelings but also as a tool to influence, convince, and build relationships with others.

In the academic environment, good speaking skills are indispensable for delivering presentations, discussing in groups, and participating in debates or seminars. These skills are not only essential for academic achievement but also for developing critical, analytical, and creative thinking skills. In a professional context, speaking becomes a key component in various situations such as meetings, negotiations, job interviews, and communication with clients or business partners. The ability to communicate clearly, precisely, and persuasively can determine one's success in a career.

However, many individuals face challenges in developing effective speaking skills. Factors such as lack of self-confidence, limited vocabulary, poor command of grammar, and

difficulties in pronunciation and intonation can hinder one's ability to communicate well. In addition, cultural and language differences can also add complexity to the communication process, especially in a multicultural environment.

Given the importance of speaking in various aspects of life, this study aims to explore the factors that influence speaking ability, as well as strategies that can be applied to improve this skill. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this study can make a meaningful contribution to the development of effective teaching and learning methods to improve speaking skills, both in formal and non-formal education settings.

Communication and modality have an integral relationship that affects the way messages are conveyed and received in various contexts. Modality in communication refers to the use of linguistic expressions that indicate the speaker's attitude towards a proposition, such as degree of certainty, likelihood, ability, obligation, or permission. This relationship is important for understanding the dynamics of communication in professional, academic, and social settings. Proper use of modality can help convey information more clearly and precisely.

Modality is defined as semantic information related to attitudes or opinions about what is said (Palmer, 2003:14). This shows that modality is related to the factual status of propositions. The types of modality consist of two types, namely modalization and modulation. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:176) Modalization is a linguistic concept related to expressing the speaker's attitude or point of view towards the information being communicated. While Modulation refers to how speakers express their assessment or attitude towards actions and events. According to (Egins, 2004:334) modulation is about how we express requests, give directions, or show willingness to make someone do something.

In S Tampubolon's research entitled "Critical Discourse Analysis on Medan Local Newspapers' Editorial", critical discourse analysis is a form of discourse analysis research which primarily focuses on how abuse of social power, domination and inequality occurs, is reproduced and confronted through texts and conversations. in a social and political context. Critical discourse analysis focuses on the analysis of texts and conversations in the public domain, including advertisements, newspapers, political propaganda, official documents, laws and regulations, and various other types of public speech. Modality in discourse analysis is related to how speakers express attitudes, beliefs, or certainty regarding the information they convey. In discourse analysis, we can analyze how modality is expressed through word choice, sentence structure, and overall language style. In discourse analysis, modality plays an important role because it can reveal the extent to which the speaker associates himself with the information conveyed. Modality is not only a way to express interpersonal functions, but also the social roles of speaker and listener (Halliday, 1970).

Modality is defined as semantic information related to a person's attitude or opinion towards what is conveyed. SMA Methodist 7 Medan was chosen as the research location because the school has a good reputation in teaching English and has students with diverse backgrounds so that they can provide rich and varied data. year second students were chosen because at this level they already have a strong foundation in speaking and relatively better English skills compared to previous levels. The problems found by the researcher through the students through the observation of that are:

Student1: Limited Vocabulary and Grammar Mastery

In speaking, the use of modal verbs such as “can”, “must”, “may”, and “should” depends heavily on vocabulary and grammar. Students who do not have enough vocabulary will find it difficult to express certainty, possibility, or necessity appropriately. For example, if students don't know when to use “may” to express a possibility, they could get their point wrong, making the conversation ineffective.

Student 2: Lack of Confidence in Speaking; Uncertainty in the use of modality worsens students' confidence. They are afraid of making a mistake in choosing the right modality word, so they tend to hesitate or even remain silent when speaking. Modality often requires choosing the right words to indicate a level of certainty or suggestiveness, and if students don't feel confident in their choices, they will have difficulty speaking fluently and clearly.

By analyzing this primary data, the researcher can understand the extent to which students master the use of modality in English speaking, as well as how they choose modal verbs to adjust tone and meaning in various communication situations. It can also provide insight into areas where students may need more training.

Halliday & Matthiessen (2014: 69) explain that modality is a concept related to the realm of meaning that lies between two poles, namely yes and no. Modality functions as a bridge that mediates between positive and negative polarities in communication. In other words, it creates space to express attitudes and responses that are not always definitive. In this sense, modality not only signifies agreement or rejection but also provides a more complex nuance in communication. Halliday & Matthiessen also added that modality reflects different ways of interpreting the semantic space that exists between the positive and negative poles. This means that modality can create various meanings depending on the context and how it is used. Modality can be divided into two main classifications, namely modalization and modulation. Within the modalization category, there are several subcategories related to probability and frequency. Probability refers to the extent to which a statement is considered possible or not, while frequency relates to how often an event occurs. On the other hand, modulation focuses on categories related to needs and tendencies, including terms such as ‘must’ which indicates necessity or obligation, and ‘tendency’ which describes preference or possibility.

Research has been conducted by scholars in the field of linguistics, Nadya Inda Syartanti et al. The data used comes from President Joko Widodo's national speech at the 2021 MPR/DPR plenary meeting. The analysis method used is AntConc, which is a corpus data processing tool to focus text analysis to find modality dominance. This research was conducted by Gunawati Gho and Arsen Nahum Pasaribu (2021). By using a method based on Halliday's modality theory (2014:69) in Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study aims to analyze the contents of Paul Tough's book "How Children Succeed" to determine the types and levels of modality use. The book "How Children Succeed" by Paul Tough, published by Random House Books in 2013, contains chapters one to five without any similarities between this study and previous studies, namely both using Halliday & Matthiessen's theory which uses the Systemic Functional Linguistics approach. The difference is, the research of Nadya Inda Syartanti et al. using AntConc as a corpus data processing tool. The purpose of this study is also different from previous studies. This study analyzes the types and levels of modality that will be spoken by students. In analyzing students' speaking modality, we can identify the emotional nuances, certainty, or belief that students want to convey, and the object of previous research is speech while the data source of this study is student speech. Based on the information provided previously, the researcher will

conduct a study entitled "Analysis of Modality Used by Second-Year Methodist 7 Students in Speaking".

2. Method

In this study, the researcher used descriptive and qualitative research methods. Creswell (2013: 67) said that descriptive qualitative research emphasizes the collection and analysis of data in depth to provide a complete picture of a context or event. The researcher used descriptive and qualitative research methods. The data of this study are the modality found in speaking by students in the second year of SMA Methodist 7 Medan speaking by students. The data contained in the study entitled "Analysis of Modality Used by Second Year Students of SMA Methodist 7 Medan in Speaking" is the modality of expression. In qualitative research, researchers used research instruments observations as a tool to collect and analyze data related to the research subject. For this study, in this study the researcher analyzed the modality in speaking of second-year high school students majoring in social studies at SMA Methodist 7 Medan. A structured data collection approach is needed. To analyze the modality in speaking spoken by second-year students of SMA Methodist 7 Medan, there are several data collection techniques are used. These techniques ensure comprehensive and accurate data collection. To collect data, the researcher did the following:

1. Determining the topic to be spoken by the student
2. Asking students to talk about the topic that has been determined
3. Recording the student's voice when talking about the topic that has been determined
4. Collecting audio recordings
5. Writing down the discourse from the audio recording
6. Translating the discourse to English the translated text
7. Selecting discourse that contains modality from the translated text.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Result

For the first problem in this study, the researcher found that modality has 2 types, namely Modalization and Modulation. Modalization has 2 criteria, namely Probability, Usuality and Modulation has 2 criteria, namely Obligation, Inclination. Modality has values, namely Probability High, Usuality High, Median Probability, Low Probability, Usuality High, Usuality Median, Usuality Low. The researcher found 44 data points in students' speaking that contain Modalization and Modulation types. On Modulation, there are 25 data points analyzed, high probability is 5, median probability is 7, and low probability is 2. And usually high is 9, usually median is 2, usually low is 0. on Modulation, there are 19 data analyzed, high obligation is 8, median obligation is 4, low obligation is 1. on Modulation, there are 19 data analyzed, high Obligation is 7, median obligation is 4, low obligation is 1 and high inlcination is 4, median inclination 1, low inclination 1.

To answer the second problem, the researcher calculates that the most dominant type of modality in this study is the modalization type. modality by analyzing number and percentage of

the research results of research results, namely modalization 25 data and a percentage of 57%, speech styles influenced by teachers or learning environments can also make students use modalization more often. If the classroom environment encourages open discussion and critical thinking, students may feel more comfortable expressing opinions with varying degrees of certainty.

This section displays the results of the data analysis of Modality. The researcher found 44 data in the students' speaking containing Modalization and Modulation types of modality. In Modalization, 25 data analyzed, high probability is 5, median probability 7, low probability is 2. and usually high is 9, usually median is 2, usually low is 0. In Modulation, there are 19 data points analyzed, high obligation is 8, median obligation is 4, low obligation is 1. After using the formula, the researcher found 57% Modalization and 43% Modulation.

3.2 Discussion

Modality is a concept in linguistics that refers to the way a speaker expresses his/her attitude, opinion, or desire towards a statement or action. Modality plays an important role in showing how a statement is stated: whether it is a fact, possibility, necessity, or simply a desire, as stated by Halliday's theory (2004), which contains the types studied by researchers, namely the types of modality, Modalization, and Modulation. In this study, the researcher found previous differences with the researcher's research.

1. Previous research, this study discuss the types of modality used in the text of the grand campaign speeches of presidential candidates in the 2024 Indonesian Presidential General Election. The purpose of this study is to analyze and categorize the modality used in the text of the grand campaign speeches of the 2024 presidential candidates and explain the realization of the type of modality, whether Modalization or Modulation, used in the text of the grand campaign speeches of the 2024 presidential candidates. It was found that obligation modulation at the medium modality level was the most widely used in the grand campaign. This modulation was the most dominant feature found among the three candidates, namely Prabowo Subianto, Anies Baswedan, and followed by Ganjar Pranowo. This means that the candidates convinced the voters that they had obligations to the voters by using obligation-type modulation in their grand campaign speeches. While the difference between previous research and this research is in the object of research and research objectives, where the object of previous research discusses the types of modality used in the text of the grand campaign speeches of presidential candidates in the 2024 Indonesian Presidential General Election. while this research analyzes the types of modalities of speaking by second-year students of SMA Methodist 7 Medan, the object of this research is second-year students of SMA Methodist 7 Medan.

The research conducted by Siahaan Hiace Vega Fernando & Purba Baharuddin aims to describe the use of modality in Jokowi's speech at the commemoration of the anniversary of political parties in Indonesia, using the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach developed by Halliday and Matthiessen. Differences with the Current Research Modality Analysis in Students'

Speaking The main difference between the previous research by Siahaan Hiace Vega Fernando & Purba Baharuddin and research that focuses on the analysis of modality in students' speaking lies in the purpose, context, and subject of the research The previous research aimed to describe the use of modality in the official speech of a political figure, namely President Jokowi.

The focus was to understand how Jokowi uses modality to convey his hopes and political views in the context of a formal speech. The context of the research is an official speech at a political event, where the use of modality functions to convey political beliefs and government strategies. Current Research In the context of students' speaking, modality is used in interpersonal communication or in educational situations. The focus is more on how students adjust the use of modality according to different social situations, for example when discussing with friends or when expressing opinions in class. The subject is a speech by a political figure who is already proficient in the use of formal and strategic language. Current Research The subjects are students who are still in the process of learning the language. They may not have fully mastered the use of the right modality, so this analysis can provide insight into the development of their language skills.

In this study, the researcher used Haliday's theory (2004:199) which states that modality have 2 types, namely Modalization and Modulation. Modalization has 2 criteria, namely Probability, usuality and Modulation has 2 criteria, namely Obligation, Inclination. Modality has 3 values, namely High, Median, Low. Modalization is a linguistic concept that discusses the expression of the speaker's attitude or point of view regarding the information being communicated. Modalization also explains that when people communicate to share or give through statements or questions, the meaning of the clause is considered a proposition. Propositions include two types, namely the type of possibility between probability and habit. Probability refers to the speaker's assessment of the possibility or certainty of something happening. The researcher found 44 in student speaking containing the types of Modality Modalization and Modulation. In Modalization, there are 25 data analyzed, high probability is 5, median probability is 7, low probability is 2. and The criteria usually high is 9, usually median is 2, usually low is 0. In Modulation, there are 19 data points analyzed, including high obligation is 8, median obligation is 4, and low obligation is 1. After using the formula, the researcher found 57% Modalization and 43% Modulation.

2. Domain types based on the researcher's research found 44 data of student speaking that had been transcribed through recordings, while the types of data obtained included modalization, modulation, probability, usuality, necessity, and tendency. The researcher found modalization of 57 % and Modulation of 43 %, so that the most dominant in student conversations was Modalization, with a total of 25 data points with a percentage of 57%.

4. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis that has been done, in this chapter, the researcher presents the conclusions of the research results, which include answers to the problems, that is: The findings that the researcher obtained in the analysis were that there were 44 speaking data of second-grade social studies students at SMA Methodist 7 Medan. Modalization as many as 25 are divided into several parts or criteria, namely there are 5 Probability High, 7 Probability Median, Probability low 2 and usuality criteria 19 data there are criteria namely Usuality high 9, usuality median 2, usuality low 0 then Modulation as many as 19 are divided into several criteria in obligation high 8, obligation median 4, obligation low 1 and inclination high 3, inclination median 1, inclination low 1; 2. Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that the most dominant modality used by students in speaking is the Modalization type, as much as 25 data. The use of this strategy shows that students refer to the assessment of the possibility or certainty of something happening.

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