CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Language is a device of communication. When someone says something, he uses words to communicate. The sentence itself consists of structure and meaning. By using language, someone can convey what he means to people. Speech is a form of device of communication and it is used to convey some issues to the audience and show the speaker's personal opinion. The speaker can also express both his thoughts and expressions in his speech and he can make positive and negative representation about something later. The speaker definitely has purpose and also reason behind his speech. Moreover, there is always a representation in a speech, either it is a positive representation or a negative representation or both of them.

There are a lot of ways in which society can be manipulated in language to give such positive or negative representation of political leaders; however, people expect the leaders to show a positive representation by using positive terms when they deliver speech (Charteris-Black 102). On the other hand, those who oppose

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the government can be represented as negative representation by mentioning the weaknesses and faults of the government. A political leader can make the audience support him and agree with him with what he says in his speech. As a part of government and as the President of the United States, obviously Barrack Obama tries to show positive representation in his speech. He expresses his thoughts and expressions toward the shooting tragedy in his speech on 14 December 2012 in delivering his condolences and encourage the families and friends of victims. Obama has purpose and reason in his speech; in addition, he focuses on the actions that will be taken toward the issue.

The source of data that I use is a speech entitled "Statement by the President on the School Shooting in Newtown, CT." The speech is taken from Barrack Obama's speech as a main issue in the United States on 14 December 2012 which claimed many lives from 27 people including 20 children at primary school ("Sandy Hook Shooting: What Happened?"). In this speech, he deliberately applies some positive terms which give a positive representation as he encourages the people, especially those who are grievous over the tragedy. I only focus on Obama who tries to position himself to get involved to feel the same towards the tragedy as the self; furthermore, there is no negative self in the speech. I am interested in the speech because it not only contains an immense issue but also includes the speaker's personal opinion about it, which is appealing for me to analyze.

The topic of my thesis is *"Text Analysis of the Positive Self Representation of Barrack Obama in His Speech by Using Systemic Functional Grammar"*. According to Halliday and Hasan, text is used in linguistics to refer to any

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passage, spoken or written, and also can create representation (Halliday and Hasan 1).

One of the texts that can be analyzed by using instrument of Discourse Analysis is speech. Therefore, I use a speech for my analysis in this thesis. A text may contain grammatical unit and semantic unit. When we perform textual analysis on a text, we can interpret that may be made of that text. (293)

I use Systemic Functional Grammar as the basic theory in conducting the textual analysis in order to help me to analyze the speech. This theory focuses on the study of language in use and its effect, which involves text and context. Systemic Functional Grammar also helps me to be more critical in studying the discourse and analyzing the representation. I also apply some particular linguistic features to decode meanings through textual meaning, ideational meaning and interpersonal meaning. Specifically, I apply the elements of Cohesion, Theme and Rheme, Transitivity, Mood and Modality to analyze the discourse. Those elements will be explained further in the next chapter.

My analysis is significant because the readers will be more critical in comprehending a message in the analyzed speech and to improve our critical way of thinking. Moreover, I believe that using Systemic Functional Grammar in a text analysis will help us to be more detailed in analyzing a discourse, especially to find out the representation. I do hope my analysis can give some contribution to the application of textual analysis of Systemic Functional Grammar.

(720 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

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Statements of the problem I am going to analyze in my thesis, I state them as the followings:

1. How is Barrack Obama represented in the text?

2. How is the Systemic Functional Grammar used to reveal the representation of Barrack Obama?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this analysis as follow:

1. To find out how Barrack Obama is represented as the self.

2. To find out how the linguistic instruments are used to reveal the self representation.

1.4 Method of Research

In the beginning, I browsed the Internet for some data about Barrack Obama's speeches and chose one that I was interested in. Then, I did research by finding and reading some books that are relevant to my analysis. I also read some theories and browsed some further explanations related to the topic in the Internet. Finally, I started doing the analysis and writing the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter contains Theoretical Framework in which I present some devices that I use to analyze the data. The third chapter is the analysis of the data. The last

chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis. In the end of the thesis I enclose

Bibliography and Appendices.

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