

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Every human being delivers a message to others through speeches, articles, conversations, news articles, and many more, whether it contains negative or positive things. We cannot escape from that reality. This is the life that we live by every day.

Sometimes, it is very hard to understand the real message that the speakers or the writers want to tell us. Sometimes, we interpret the message of the writers or the speakers wrongly and without any considerations about anything else. Moreover, sometimes we do not care about anything that speakers or writers want to talk about. Thus, we lose touch with what the speakers or writers want to say. Some factors can affect the meaning of the message.

One of the ways that we use to critically understand a message is by doing a text analysis. Text analysis is part of discourse analysis, which "concerns itself with the use of language in a running discourse...and involving the interaction

of speakers (or writer) and hearers (or reader) in a specific situational context, and within a framework of social and cultural conventions" (Abrams and Harpham).

Discourse analysis itself is not about the method but it is about how the language is used in particular contexts. I choose to do a discourse analysis because I want to understand thoroughly what the speakers or the writers want to convey through their texts or speeches.

I choose a speech as my data source for my thesis. Speech is "a formal talk that a person gives to an audience." ("Speech," def. 1). In my opinion, a speech has power to change people's mind. They will believe that something is good or bad because the purpose of a speech is to persuade others to agree with the statements that have been delivered. Sometimes it is easier to make propaganda or to speak about the truth by using a speech than other media such as written texts. For example, Hitler's speech encouraged German invasion throughout Europe ("Hitler Comes to Power"). Besides, Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech led the African-Americans nowadays to have the same rights as the white in the United States ("Martin Luther King, Jr: Fighting for Equal Rights in America").

The reason why I choose *Self-Representation of "George Bush's Address on the Start of War"* as my thesis topic is because I find it interesting to discover how a person who declares war will represent him/herself in the speech, whether he/she represents him/herself positively or negatively. I choose George Bush's speech because I am interested in his straight-to-the-point style. Hence, it is clear what he stands up for and what he is against.

The approach that I will use in doing the text analysis is Systemic Functional Grammar proposed by Michael Halliday, who “views language as a resource for making meaning. These grammar attempts to describe language in actual use and so focus on texts and their contexts...how those structures construct meaning” (Gerot and Wignell 6).

Functional Grammar was first developed by Michael Halliday, who is a British linguist (Princeton). He published his first work in the Systemic Functional Grammar model in 1961. I choose this theory because it focuses on the meaning in the text or the message in the text, so this theory fits my analysis.

Sometimes people’s speeches can be so deceitful and have many layers of meanings that are uttered very subtly. As a result, sometimes the hearer is provoked easily. They just believe what the speakers say without any second thought or fully understanding the speakers’ intention. Sometimes they get a wrong idea about how a speaker or writer represents him/herself in the text.

By doing Systemic Functional Grammar analysis, the reader of my thesis can be more analytical and critical in understanding texts or speeches. Besides, it is expected that they cannot be easily provoked. Moreover, by doing this analysis the readers would understand how the speakers or writers represent themselves positively or negatively in order to give positive or negative influence.

(661 words)

Statement of the Problem

I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. Based on the ideational meaning, what is the representation of the self in the text?
2. Based on the interpersonal meaning, what is the representation of the self in the text?
3. Based on the textual meaning, what is the representation of the self in the text?

Purpose of the Study

These are the purposes of this study:

1. To know self-representation through the ideational meaning of the text.
2. To know self-representation through the interpersonal meaning of the text.
3. To know self-representation through the textual meaning of the text.

Method of Research

First, I read the text that I am going to analyze. Second, I searched for the background of the text in order to understand the text better. Third, I searched for the sources that could help me to understand the theory more. Fourth, I analyzed the text. Fifth, I wrote the research report.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide this thesis into four chapters. Chapter One consists of Background of the Study, Statement of Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two deals with the theoretical framework that I use for my thesis. Chapter Three deals with the analysis of the self-representation whether he/she is positive or negative. The last chapter is Conclusion, in which I put my personal opinion of the findings. At the end, I put Bibliography and Appendices that contain George Bush's speech that I used as the data source, tables of clauses, tables of ideational meaning, textual meaning, and interpersonal meaning.

