

Claused Used In Testimonials Duolingo Application: Systemic Functional Linguistics Analysis

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Article Info

Article history:

Submitted Jan 8, 2020
Revised Jan 20, 2020
Accepted Feb 15, 2020
Published Feb 28, 2020

Keywords:

Clause
Linguistic sistemik fungsional
Testimonial

ABSTRACT

The aims of this research are: (1) to find out the types of mood in testimonials Duolingo app, (2) to know the structure mood in testimonials Duolingo app, (3) to find out the types of topical theme in testimonials Duolingo app. In this research, the writer applies the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by M. K. Halliday. This research is qualitative research that focused on qualitative research by Creswell in and uses descriptive method by Denzin and Lincoln. The writer used documentation technique for collecting data. The writer used content analysis for technique of analysis. The writer found on the research that: First, there are three types of mood that found in testimonial Duolingo app, which are: Declarative Mood, Imperative Mood and Interrogative Mood. Second, the structure of Mood are the clause that found indicates as the form of Mood element and Residue Element. Third, the writer found two the types of topical theme in testimonial Duolingo app, which are: Unmarked Topical and Marked Topical, Marked topical theme is mostly appear in testimonial Duolingo app.

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1. Introduction

Human language, that unique characteristic of our species, has been of interest throughout history. The scientific study of human language is called linguistics. A linguist, then, is not someone who speaks many languages (although many linguists do); such individuals are polyglots.¹ A linguist is a scientist who investigates human language in all its facets, its structure, its use, its history, its place in society. Language is an organized communication tool in the form of units, like words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences expressed both verbally and in writing.² A language is a communication tool whose purpose is to guarantee social activities. It is very important for us to understand and explore the meaning and function of language. Language as a medium of communication which is done

¹Framkin, A. Victoria. 2000. *Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistic*. United States of America. p.3.

²Wiratno, Santosa. 2011. *Pengantar Linguistik Umum*. p. 1.

verbally and in writing can be implemented in a variety of expressing thoughts, feelings between one another in interaction.

Testimonial is a written declaration certifying to a person's character, conduct, or qualifications, or to the value, excellence, etc., of a thing; a letter or written statement of recommendation.³ In testimonials, the values and culture of a corporate entity are represented by individual employees, each with a story conveying experiences and qualities of the human beings who constitute the company. Testimonials therefore personalize organizations and serve strategic communicative functions — both the overt function of providing career information for recruitment, and the more covert function of managing image and countering negative publicity.

Testimonials are persuasive texts used to convey values, evaluations in them help reveal what is valued by the thinking, feeling individuals within the organization, indicating what matters enough for employees to tell about. Employees' stories have a point of departure in particular situations and people, they can matter to receivers in particular, personal ways. The author argues for the overall benefits of the systemic functional approach, in particular with respect to its role in the examination of literary texts, emphasizing the significance of pragmatic factors in SFL: "In contrast to formal linguistics, which tends to focus introspectively on the syntax of sentences in isolation and thus basically ignores the relationship between language and context, Systemic Functional Linguistics is largely context-oriented".⁴

In a systemic functional linguistic perspective (SFL) language is a system of meanings and systems expression to realize that meaning. This study is based on two fundamental concepts can distinguish SFL from other linguistic streams. Namely language is a social phenomenon existed as social and linguistic semiotics is a text that is contextualized social. A language is a resource for making meaning, and meaning resides in systemic patterns of choice.⁵ This theory is a language theory that studies the function of language in its use (context). The theory put language as the main element. As such, SFL is a linguistic that questions the choice of forms language in the context of using language as text. Systemic Functional Linguistics could assist us to produce analyse and understand various characters kinds of text.

2. Review of Literature

a. Types of Mood

Mood types in English depend on the position of the subject like the doer, and the finite which is used in the clause. The mood used to realize the meaning of linguistic experience exposure is in form clauses, because clauses are the most complete unit of linguistic experience because they have elements process, participant and circumstance. These mood types function differently to produce

³<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/testimonial> accessed on May, 24th 2020 on 10:11 AM

⁴Nørgaard Nona., 2003. *Systemic Functional Linguistics and Literary Theory: A Hallidayan Approach to Joyce/A Joycean Approach to Halliday*. Journal of Pragmatics. p.38.

⁵Halliday, M.A.K Revised by Matthiessen, C. 2014. *Introduction to Functional Grammar : Fouth Edition*. London and New York. P.23.

different meanings in particular situations. The types of mood majorly could be categorized into indicative and imperative. The indicative it self is categorized into declarative, and interrogative while exclamative is a part of interrogative mood. Those types of mood are applied to indicate the mood type of the testimonials Duolingo applications in the data.

According to Halliday,

'language itself defines the roles which people may take in situations in which they are communicating with one another; and every language incorporates options whereby the speaker can vary his (or her) own communication role, making assertions, asking questions, giving orders, expressing doubts and so on'.⁶

Indicative mood

Indicative mood is realized by the features Subject + Finite. Indicative mood can be subdivided into two kinds: Declarative Mood and Interrogative Mood. Interrogative mood is also subdivided into two kinds: Polar (yes/no question) and Wh-questions.

Declarative mood

Declarative mood is a statement that tells about something to express an idea from the speaker or listener. Meanwhile, it can be used as a statement that functions to provide information about something.

Example :

Clause: *we(s) can't(f) learn(p) English with English interface...(c)*

Interrogative Mood

Interrogative mood is the characteristic expression of a question. The declarative clause are realized by the subject precedes the finite structure, while interrogative clause are realize by finite precedes subject structure. WH-element is always linked to one or another of the three functions Subject, Complement, Adjunct.

Example:

Clause : *why(Wh) the app(s) very(p) slow and always available(cir)*

Imperative Mood

Imperative mood is used to exchange goods and services. In imperative the Mood element may consist of Subject + Finite, Subject only, Finite only, or they may have no Mood element. There will always be a Predicator. Imperative mood can be in the form of command or offer; however, there is no any grammatical rule restricted respectively. The imperative mood expresses direct commands, requests, and prohibitions. the principle is the same as with yes/no interrogatives

Example:

Clause : *Really(p) helpful(cir)*

b. Mood Structure

⁶ Fontaine, Lise. 2013. *Analysing English Grammar : A Systemic-Functional Introduction*. Cardiff University. p. 135

The mood structure consists of the mood and the residue. Mood is the constituent formed by Subject and Finite, and the main verb falls in the Residue. The mood structure of absolute clauses comprises the Subject and the Residue, there being no Finite. There is no mood in a clause without Subject and Finite, the Finite playing the decisive part. This is to say that absolute clauses are clauses without mood. Based on the clause as exchange, every clause has mood and residue.

Mood and residue are two main elements of the analysis.⁷ The Mood element comprises Subject and Finite sub-elements whereas Predicator, Complement and Adjunct are sub-elements of Residue. Subject (the nominal group) determines the Mood of the entire clause. Finite expresses tense and the view of the speaker or writer. The part of the verb that shows event is called Predicator.

Example :

Most of	The words	Doesn't	Have	Sound
C	S	F	P	C
Residue	Mood		Residue	

Mood Elements

In traditional terms, the Subject is the entity of which something is predicated in the rest of the clause.⁸ In this system, clauses are structured to enable us to exchange information. The mood element makes the clause 'negotiable'. Mood element, and it consists of two parts: (1) the Subject, which is a nominal group, and (2) the Finite operator, which is part of a verbal group.⁹

Example:

He	wasn't	a psychologist	Was	he?
Subject	Finite		Finite	Subject
Mood		Residue	Moodtag	

Residue Elements

The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. There can be only one Predicator, one or two Complements, and an indefinite number of Adjuncts up to, in principle, about seven.

1. Predicator

The Predicator is present in all major clauses, except those where it is displaced through ellipsis.¹⁰ Predicator is realized by a verbal group minus the

⁷ Noor, Mehwis, Moazzam Ali, Fakhrah Muhabat, Bahram Kazemian. 2015. Vol 3. *Systemic Functional Linguistics Mood Analysis of the Last Adress of the Holy Prophet*. International Journal of Language and Linguistics. p.1

⁸ Thompson, G. 2014. *Introducing Functional Grammar (3rd Ed)*: Newyork.Routledge. p. 54

⁹ Halliday,M. A. K.,& Matthiessen, C. 2014. *Halliday,s Introduction to Functional Grammar: Fourth Edition*. London and New York. p. 140

¹⁰ Halliday,M. A. K.,& Matthiessen, C. 2014. *Halliday,s Introduction to Functional Grammar:*

temporal or modal operator. It fills the role of specifying the actual event, action or process being discussed.

2. Complement

A second component of the residue is the complement. A complement is defined as non-essential participant in the clause. It can be identified as an element within the residue that has a potential of being Subject. It can be subject through the process of making the clause passive. The complement is typically a nominal group. It can also be a whole clause. There is a particular sub-class of complements which are called attributive complements, where the complement is realized by an adjectival element to describe the Subject. Attributive complements cannot become subject.

3. Modal Adjunct

The second group of Modal Adjuncts are a little more difficult to identify, because most of them appear to be modifying the verb and may thus look like circumstantial Adjuncts. However, they are in fact most closely related not to the Predicator in the verbal group but to the Finite: they express meanings associated with tense, polarity and modality. Because of this link with the meanings associated with the Mood, they are called Mood Adjuncts.¹¹ Generally, Mood Adjuncts feel intuitively more 'grammatical' than circumstantial Adjuncts, although in some cases it is, admittedly, difficult to see the difference. To take some clear examples, 'already' is related to tense, 'never' is related to polarity, and 'maybe' is related to modality. Examples where the link with Mood meanings is perhaps less obvious include 'regularly' (related to temporal meanings) and 'at all costs' (related to modal meanings of obligation).

A third component of the Residue is the Adjunct. It is a clause element which contributes some additional information to the clause. Adjuncts can be identified as elements which do not have the potential to become Subject. They are not nominal elements, but adverbial, or prepositional.

An Adjunct is an element that has not got the potential of being Subject; that is, it cannot be elevated to the interpersonal status of modal responsibility. This means that arguments cannot be constructed around those elements that serve as Adjuncts; in experiential terms, they cannot be constructed around circumstances, but they can be constructed around participants, either actually, as Subject, or potentially, as Complement. Adjuncts are divided into four types ; Mood Adjuncts, Circumstantial Adjuncts, Comment Adjuncts, and Conjunctive Adjuncts.

Example:

He	We	Lying	On his back
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood	Residue		

Conjunctive adjunct have the function of signaling how the clause as a whole fits in with the preceding text.

unfortunately	All too often	The amounts paid	Aren't	Reasonable
Comment adjunct	Mood adjunct	S	F	C
Mood				Residue

c. Theme

Theme is 'what the clause is about' – and indeed Halliday (1985a: 39) originally suggested that this was the meaning of Theme.¹² According Halliday, The Theme is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message. It is concerned with the organization of information within individual clauses. Theme can be identified as that element which comes in first position in the clause. The rest of the message where the clause moves after the point of departure is called Rheme. The clause as message is organized into Theme + Rheme.

Types of Theme

Based on its type, theme can be classified into topical, interpersonal, and textual, but in this research the writer will analyze topical theme. The explanation about theme is presented in following section:

The topical theme is an element occupying first position to which a transitivity function can be assigned. Every clause contains one and only one topical Theme, which in declarative clauses is typically realised in the subject.¹³ Theme is identified by default as the first functional element of the clause (e.g. Subject) and any other items which may occur before it. It is known that The subject is a grammatical function filled in by the noun category whose presence is related to the Predicator, whereas the Predicator is a function that is usually filled in by the verb category, which is reveal something about the subject.

Information in front of the subject may function as a theme Topical Bookmark or other themes. Said to be an unmarked Topical Theme, because the arrangement of such clauses is that arrangement as naturally as possible. The arrangement of the clause becomes special, if it is on In front of the subject there is other information. Such information is possible becomes more important than the subject. Information up front the subject becomes meaningful, and the resulting theme is called Topical Archive Themes.

3. Design of Research

In this research, the writer used qualitative research and descriptive method appropriate for this research. It means that the research is based on the characteristics of phenomena and the data were analyzed using the describe th numerical. Descriptive method is done by describing in the fact then follows with the further analysis. Research is a scientific work that must be done systematically,

¹² Thompson, G. 2014. *Introducing Functional Grammar (3rd Ed)*. Newyork:Routledge. p. 147

¹³ Martinez, A. Iliana. 2013. *Aspect of theme in the method and discussion sections of biology journal articles in English*. Journal of English for Academic Purposes. p. 106

regularly and in an orderly manner, both regarding the procedure and in the process of thinking about the material.¹⁴

This research will discuss elements of mood structure and type of mood. Because of richness of data and limitation of researcher's energy and time, the researcher will analyze 84 testimonials from 2015-2020. The data will be analyzed by using the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistic.

Technique of data analysis is a way to process into data information so that the characteristics of data are easy to understand and useful to find the answer the problem of research. According to Bogdan and Biklen, Data analysis is the process of systematically searching and organizing the results of records and materials collected and allowing presentations to be found.¹⁵ It means data analysis is the process of evaluating data check the data which have been collected. Then, they should be reviewed and analyzed, in order to be concluded and delivered to other people. The researcher analyse the data by using content analysis.

4. Discussion

In this section, writer analyses mood types , structure mood, and theme of clause were found in testimonials on Duolingo app. The study is based upon Halliday's (1985) SFL; they are: Declarative Mood, Imperative Mood, and Interrogative mood. They are 149 (one hundred forty nine) clauses indicated as Declarative Mood, 63 (sixty three) clauses indicated as Imperative Mood, and 4 (four) clauses indicated as Interrogative Mood. For the structure of mood, there were two structure mood in testimonial Duolingo app, such as mood and residue element. The mood structure consists of the following: subject followed by predicate, followed by complement followed by circumstance. And there were two types of topical theme in the testimonial Duolingo app, such as unmarked topical theme and marked topical theme. They are 137 (one hundred thirty seven) clauses indicated as Marked Topical Theme, and 79 (seventy nine) clauses indicated as Unmarked Topical Theme.

a. Types of Mood

Based on analysis of mood types in testimonial Duolingo app, there are three types of clausal Moods have been found, that are declarative, imperative and interrogative. Each of the type indicates different sort of interpersonal relationship among the participants. It can be seen in the explanation below:

Declarative mood

Declarative mood of the clause shows the expression conclusive, strong and factual. Mood indicative - declarative consisting of a subject followed by a finite or predicator. It can be seen in clause below:

Clause 13:

This app	is	likely	to be the best way to learn a language.
conjunctive C		F	Adjunct: circumstantial

¹⁴ Irina, Fristiana.2017. *Metode Penelitian Terapan*. Yogyakarta: Parama Ilmu. p.1.

¹⁵ Sudaryono.2006. *Metode Penelitian*. Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada. p.210

It's fun, interactive and most importantly super affective

C

Clause 14:

I can learn to read, speak, and write all at the the same time

S F P C

Clause 16:

It 's more affective than taking lessons

S P Adjunct: Circumstantial Adj:conjunctive Adjunct:
Circumstantial

Based on the four clauses above, the clauses can be identified declarative mood. Clause 13 shows that subject followed by finite followed by complement; clause 14 shows that subject followed by finite followed by predicator and complement; clause 15 shows that subject follow finite, complement, and conjunction. From four clauses above, can be formulated that declarative mood have structure obligatory element such as subject and finite. The other element is optional such as complement and adjunct.

Imperative Mood

The imperative has a different system of person from the indicative. Since the imperative is the mood for exchanging goods-&-services. Imperative Mood expresses authority. It can be seen below:

Clause 60:

This app great!

C

Clause 168:

Improve your English now!

C P(Ø)

Clause 208:

Please add Arabic too

C P(Ø)

Based on the three clauses above, the clause can be identified imperative mood. Clause 60 shows that predicator followed by subject and complement; clause 168 and 208 that predicator followed by complement. From the three clauses above, can be formulated that declarative mood have structure obligatory element is predicator. The other elements optional such as complement, subject, and adjunct.

Interrogative Mood

Interrogative Mood also reflects interpersonal relations of the participants with respect to their status and social roles. The interrogative mood is a distinct element in the interpersonal structure of the clause. Its function is to specify the entity that the questioner wishes to have supplied. Interrogative statements ask a question. They always end with a question mark, which is the easiest way to spot

them. A way to remember is to think of action movies, where criminal suspects are “interrogated” in an “interrogation Complement or Adjunct. If it is conflated with the Subject, it is part of the Mood element, and the order within the Mood element must therefore be Subject ^ Finite. It can be seen in the explanation below:

Clause 204:

Is	the any chance	you	develop	it into Japanese and mandarin as well
F	C	S	P	C

Based on the three clauses above, the clause can be identified interrogative mood. Clause 204 shows that finite followed by subject and complement; From the three clauses above, can be formulated that declarative mood have structure obligatory element is subject or finite. The other elements optional such as complement and adjunct.

b. Mood Structure

Mood structure consist of mood and residue. mood element, and it consists of two parts: (1) the Subject, which is a nominal group, and (2) the Finite operator, which is part of a verbal group. Than The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. Can be subject followed by finite or finite followed by subject. The general mood structure such as:¹⁶

S-1 = Subject^Finite^Predicator

S-2 = Subject^Finite/Predicator

S-3 = Subject^Finite^Complement

S-4 = Subject^Finite^Adjunct

There can be only one Predicator, one or two Complements, and an indefinite number of Adjuncts up to, in principle, about seven.it can be seen below:

Clause 185:

This	is	such	a great app
C	F	P	C
MOOD: declarative			RESIDUE

Clause 18:

I	'm	learning	german at the moment
S	F	P	Circumstantial
MOOD: declarative			RESIDUE

Clause 187:

I	tried	taking	classes	and
I	tried	using	audio books as well	
S	F	P	C	conjunctive
MOOD: declarative			RESIDUE	

Clause 188:

¹⁶ Wiratno Tri. 2018. *Pengantar Ringkas Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional*. Yogyakarta:Pustaka Belajar. p.57

Though	those	things	does	give you progress,
F	C	S	F	C
MOOD: declarative		RESIDUE		
but I think it's a bit slower (and harder) compare duolingo				
C	P(Ø)			
Clause 189:				
Duolingo	is	just fast, efficient, easy, and not to mention fun		
S	F	C		
MOOD: declarative		RESIDUE		
Clause 190:				
The progress	I	make	from months of classes	
C	S		F	P(Ø)
Circumstantial				
MOOD: declarative		RESIDUE		
and easily be achieved in just a few weeks with duolingo				
conjunctive			C	
Clause 191:				
To be fair,	eventually	after finishing the whole app,		
conjunctive	Circumstantial		P(Ø)	
C				
MOOD: dec		RESIDUE		
Clause 192:				
It	would	be	wise to take an advance class for the chosen language	
S	F	P	C	
MOOD: declarative		RESIDUE		
Clause 193:				
But	for beginners or those that just		wants	
conjunctive	C	P		
MOOD: dec		RESIDUE		
Marked topical theme				
to be ables to speak the language fluently (not for “academics”)				
C				

From the table above the clauses 185-193 shows that declarative mood, "I, Duolingo, beginners, and it" as subject. Then subject as mood element. From the table above, it can see structure of mood and residue consist of subject, finite, predicator, adjunct, and complement. The mood system belongs to the interpersonal metafunction of language. Here, we are interested in the clause as exchange; specifically, we are interested in the grammatical resource that realises different interactional moves in a discourse.

c. Types of Topical Theme

The ideational stage to the Theme, known as topical Theme, can be recognized as the first element in the clause that expresses some kind of 'representational' meaning. It is a function from the transitivity structure of the clause. There were two type of topical theme. It can be seen below:

Unmarked Topical Theme

The unmarked topical theme is the typical theme in English clauses that are usually started with subject. In a declarative clause, the typical pattern is Theme as Subject. If the first topical element of declarative clause is also the Subject of the clause, then the Theme choice is a neutral or 'unmarked' one, giving the Theme no special prominence. Halliday believes that each clause conveys a message that has two parts, i.e., what comes first or the theme, and what comes last or the rheme. It can be seen below:

Clause 2:	
I	got my IELTS score 7 because of this app teach me clearly and fast. Thank you
S Unmarked topical theme	Rheme
Clause 12:	
I	like this app I use for 3 years already
S Unmarked topical theme	Rheme
Clause 30:	
I	can learn any language on this app
S Unmarked topical theme	Rheme

According to Halliday, The English clause consists of a theme and a rheme. The theme of the clause is the element which, in English, is put in the first position. Simply put, the unmarked member of any pair is the most natural, the most frequent, the simplest, the more basic, the logically prior, the more universal, the first learned, the one implied by the marked member; the one understood, unstated, taken for granted, ordinary, usual, etc. . From the table above, it can be known the unmarked topical as subject "I" and others clause as rheme.

Marked Topical Theme

The marked topical theme is non-typical theme that is characterized by other than subject such as: complement, adjunct, or predicator. when the topical Theme of a declarative clause is not the Subject, it gains a greater textual prominence. Non-Subject Themes are 'marked' Themes. It can be seen below:

Clause 28:

Add	features chat with friends please, so we can have friends from around the world
F Marked topical theme	Rheme

Clause 69:

Since	the first time I used it, never one day passed that I don't open it to learn.
Conjunction Marked topical theme	Rheme

Clause 70:

So	encouraging, helpful and joyful
Conjunction Marked topical theme	Rheme

Clause 128:

Extremely	good app
adjunct Marked topical theme	Rheme

According to Halliday, a theme that is something other than the subject, in a declarative clause, we shall refer to as a marked theme. He adds the most usual form of marked theme is an adverbial clause, e.g. *today, suddenly, somewhat distractedly*, or prepositional phrase, e.g. *at night, in the corner, without much hope*, functioning as adjunct in the clause. If 'theme' is everything located at the beginning of the sentence, as a result of choice, then markedness of theme or use of special resource to put complements, objects and verbs in initial position betrays a deliberate choice. Based on the table above it can be seen that clause 28 "Add" as theme. That clause 69 and 70 conjunction as a theme. Last, adjunct as theme.

Conclusion

After analyzing the 216 clause used in testimonial Duolingo app. The writer takes conclusion, there are three types of mood which used in the testimonials Duolingo app. They are 149 Declarative Mood, 65 Imperative Mood, and 2 Interrogative Mood. Declarative mood is the dominant types of mood that found in testimonials Duolingo app. There finding mood structure clause used testimonial Duolingo app. The writer found mood and residue each clause used testimonial Duolingo app, because mood and residue has relation. The writer concluded mood elements is dominant in the structure mood. There are two types of topical themes which used in testimonial Duolingo app. They are: 79 Unmarked Topical Theme and Marked Topical Theme 137. Marked topical theme is dominant of clause used testimonials Duolingo app.

The significant of the research in this study, the writer hopes this research can give knowledge and information about what are Systemic Functional Linguistics especially about mood and theme of mood. The writer also gives references for further study and helps the readers to understand more about SFL analysis.

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