A SYISTEMIC FUNGTIONAL LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF METAFUNGTIONS IN TRANSCRIPT OF *"THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE BETWEEN BARACK OBAMA AND JOHN MCCAIN"*

A Thesis

*Submitted in Partial Fulfilment to the
Requirement for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

BY:

WIDYA AGUSTINA
06985028

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT-FACULTY OF LETTERS
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY
PADANG
2011

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas sistem metafungsi bahasa yang terdapat dalam transkrip debat kepresidenan sesi pertama antara senator Barack Obama dan McCain. Tujuan penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk mengetahui sistem metafungsi (*ideational, interpersonal,* dan *textual*) yang bekerja dalam transkrip debat tersebut dan mengetahui bagaimana cara para kandidat presiden mempengaruhi pendengar.

Analisis debat kepresidenan tersebut menggunakan teori *Systemic Functional Linguistics* yang dikemukakan oleh M. Halliday (1985). Penulis memperoleh data dari transkrip debat kepresidenan A.S (September, 2008) yang bersumber dari internet. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode padan referensial (*referential identity method*). Teknik yang digunakan adalah teknik catat. Penulis mengaplikasikan konteks situasi sebagai gambaran situasi dari keseluruhan data berdasarkan dua subjek/topik pembicaraan yang berbeda dan menitikberatkan analisis tiga metafungsi bahasa untuk mengetahui bagaimana karakteristik komunikasi dalam debat tersebut.

Dari hasil analisis, ditemukan adanya hubungan antara teks dan konteks situasi melalui metafungsi bahasa yang saling berkaitan. Fungsi ideasional dalam transkrip debat ini merefleksikan topik yang dibicarakan di dalamnya (*field*). Fungsi ini cenderung dipengaruhi oleh proses *material* dan partisipan-partisipan yang terlibat di dalamnya. Sedangkan, fungsi tekstual dalam debat ini merefleksikan sarana (*mode*) yang didominasi oleh *topical* dan *textual theme*. Secara keseluruhan, kemunculan *topical theme* berperan dalam mengetahui topik yang dibicarakan. Konjungsi yang dominan muncul dalam *textual theme* menciptakan teks menjadi kohesif dan koheren dan menunjukkan bahwa para kandidat presiden berusaha memperkuat dan mempertahankan argument-argumen mereka. Sementara itu, fungsi interpersonal merefleksikan *tenor* yang cenderung menunjukkan interaksi antar kandidat yang saling bersaing dalam menyampaikan ide dan opini kepada pendengar. Cara para kandidat mempengaruhi pendengar tercermin dalam fungsi tersebut. Proses persuasif ini direfleksikan melalui aplikasi *declarative mood, imperative mood, personal pronoun* "I" dan "we", dan *modal finites* (*obligation*).

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.   Background of the Study

Communication in a political activity represents the forwarding of the messages that has political feature by politicians to other party. This activity has the character of empiric because it is conducted manifestly in social life. Political communication is an effort to persuade people to be in agreement. Therefore, the aim and process of political communications have much closed relation to persuasive things.

Language has a very important role in political world. The process of politics is a practice of communication of how to use language efficiently as a means of communication which reaches all of social class. "Language is power", as Barnes (2004) said that politics is an activity to add and get the power. Thereby, the politicians have to master their language for important reason because anybody who masters language will hold the power. Politicians need to know how to build a relationship with people. In 'language and power', there is a case study about language in the field of politics. They know that language is important appliance to build solidarity among social class which later it will side to one party (Fairclough, 2003: 201).

Political communication can be realized in the form of a political speech or political debate. A debate is a way to submit an idea logically in the form of argument accompanied by some evidences supporting case of each party who

involved in the debate. In this case, a presidential debate is an interesting topic to be analyzed in this study because this study will give knowledge for us to measure the ability of good communications. This study describes how the candidates of president describe their idea to the audiences. In this research, the writer chooses the object of the study from the US presidential debate in 2008. The debate is aimed to give description clearly for American people about the candidates of American leader to sit as a president of America of 2008 during their tenure. In a debate, of course all candidates use the language pattern as a means to send their aspiration and message to influence the audiences or people so that they are in agreement with the candidates' idea.

Actually there are four presidential debates between Obama and McCain that is carried out in 2008, but for this research, the writer takes only one debate transcript as the source of data, that is the transcript of the first presidential debate at Mississipi Unversity. The 2008 presidential debate in United State was carried out on September 26, 2008 on the campus of the University of Mississippi Friday night. The moderator for the debate was Jim Lehrer of the NewsHour on PBS. This debate involved two president candidates of U.S.A., they are Senator John McCain from the Republican nominee of Arizona, and Senator Barack Obama from the Democratic nominee of Illinois. The topic of this first presidential debate is about the foreign policy and national security, which, by definition, includes the global financial crisis.

The writer is interested in choosing the source of data from a presidential debate because the debate can give her a knowledge about political policies

described by president candidate, which it can be a contribution in improving the condition of a country from the difficulties exited. Besides, from the debate the writer can know how the president candidate uses a language pattern in expressing their ideas in order to persuade the audiences. The language pattern that used by the president candidate can be analysed through the concept of metafunctions including ideational, interpersonal, and textual, and relate it to context of situation encompassing text of dialogue that can appear the difference when the politicians express their argument. This concept is one of the concepts in theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday. The theory of SFL is the one theory analyzing the relationship between text and context of situation through the language function. Therefore, the writer uses this theory as a means to analyze the data.

The Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) view of language to which Halliday (1961, 1965, 1966, 1981 and 1985) has given its present shape was originated from John Rupert Firth. The SFL is defined as "a theory about language as social process and an analytical methodology which permits the detailed and systematic description of language patterns" (Eggins, 2004:20). Further, systemic linguistics is a theory of language centred on the notion of language function. Systemic looks at how language acts upon and is constrained by the social context in which it functions. Firth has developed a model to relate language function and context. Halliday's ideas in SFL are influenced partly by the work of the anthropologist, Brosnilaw Malinowski. His influence can be observed in particular by considering SFL's use of Context of Situation (COS). The concept of COS is used to show that any piece of language or discourse is

more meaningful in the context in which it functions. Systemic functional linguistic theory views language as a resource people use to accomplish their purposes by expressing meaning in context. In the aspects of situational context, there are implied three main functions of language that is what we called metafunctions, they are: ideational function (express what going on in the text), interpersonal function (social relationship between participants), and textual function (how language is being used).

In the first presidential debate of 2008, the dialogue of the candidates have expressed a wide variety of attitudes using different linguistic choices and making this type of discourse highly interesting for research, especially within the framework of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. Through this approach, the writer try to see how the language is exploited by politicians to sent a message to others so that it can influence the audiences. Thereby, in this research the writer decided topic of the study is *A Systemic Functional Linguistics of Metafunctions in the "Transcript of the First Presidential Debate between Barack Obama dan John McCain"*.

1.2   Identification of the Problem

In order to conduct this research, the writer identifies the problem by dealing with research questions as follows:

1.   What are the systems of metafunctions in the transcript of the first presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain?

2.   How do the president candidates influence the audiences?

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis and discussions, the writer can conclude that the system of three metafunctions (ideational, interpersonal, and textual) proceeding in communication of the presidential debate reflected the situational context (field, tenor, and mode) that can generate the persuasive pattern between participants involved in the debate. The persuasive pattern that presented in the debate can be seen in how the candidate seems compete to each other to express their idea and try to persuade the audiences. This pattern reflects the way of the candidates influence the audiences with a hope that they can win extensive supporters and advocates.

Standing from the result of analysis in 10 data, the writer found the characteristics of three metafunctions proceeding in the debate transcript. The first is the system of ideational function proceeding to reflect the field of the text. This function is most frequently influenced by the material processes. By statistic, 232 material processes are presented in the candidate presidents' speech. These processes indicates the role of the president candidates' existence in the debate in term of nominating as the next president, and it indicate the actions reflecting the candidates' policies in overcoming the problems in the country. The existence of participants (actor, goal, carrier, and attribute) which frequently exist in the debate bring us closer to sense of what is going on in the debate. Thereby, the material processes with the participants following them make the writer easy to know what

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