

# A Systemic Functional Analysis on the Generic Structure in The King's Speech Movie Script

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## Abstrak

The King's Speech : yang disutradarai Tom Hooper dan ditulis oleh David Seidler adalah film yang menampilkan kisah nyata seorang raja Kerajaan Inggris yang berkuasa pada tahun 1895, King George VI. Sang Raja memiliki Kegagapan dalam berbicara sehingga membuatnya merasa tak pantas memerintah negara sebesar dan sekuat Inggris Raya beserta seluruh negara kolonialnya. Baginya situasi kerajaan Inggris yang saat itu dalam keadaan memanas dengan negara German Nazi membutuhkan sosok raja yang mampu memerintah dengan suara yang lantang dan tidak gagap seperti halnya. Akan tetapi sang Istri tercinta terus mencari solusi untuk sang suami hingga ia menemukan ahli terapi gagap, Lionel Logue. Dari sinilah kisah persahabatan terjalin. Setiap kata yang digunakan di film ini mencerminkan kekuatan dan kekomplekan dari kisah kehidupan kerajaan sehingga layak untuk didiskusikan bagaimana sebuah kata itu tercipta, adakah sebuah konteks yang begitu mempengaruhi dibelakangnya. Tujuan dari penelitian kualitatif ini adalah untuk mengetahui proses relasi antara teks dan konteks dengan menggunakan teori M.A.K. Halliday, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) guna membedah rangkaian teks di dalam film ini.

**Kata Kunci:** Kerajaan, membedah rangkaian teks, persahabatan, relasi teks dan konteks.

## Abstract

*The King's Speech* which is directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler is a real story movie about King George VI, a king of United Kingdom in 1895. He is a stammer thus makes him feel not deserve to rule the great and powerful United Kingdom and all the commonwealths. For him the British Empire requires a capable figure of commanding with a loud voice and does not stutter when the situation in the state heats up with Nazi Germany. But the beloved wife continuous to seek solutions for her husband until she finds the stuttering therapist, Lionel Logue. This is where the story of friendship intertwined. Every word used in this movie reflects the strength and complexity of the royal life story that deserves to be discussed how a word was created, is there a context influenced it behind. The purpose of this qualitative research is to determine the relationship between text and context by using the theory of M.A.K. Halliday, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to reveal the text in this movie.

**Keywords:** Friendship, kingdom, revealing text, text and context relation.

## Introduction

*The King's Speech*: a 2010 British movie directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler. This movie claimed as the successful one around 2010. *The King's Speech* won seven BAFTAs, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Firth), Best Supporting Actor (Rush), and Best Supporting Actress (Bonham Carter). The movie also won four Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director (Hooper), Best Actor (Firth), and Best Original Screenplay (Seidler). The specific objects of this study is the resolution text, taken from the Generic Structure of Eggins and Shade (1997: 233-234).

The text is analyzed by using linguistic approach. The purpose is to gain what is kept in the literary text that could reveal a better comprehension of it and also could enhance the appreciation of aspects of different system of language organization. According to Eggins (1994:309), systemic analysis aims to uncover and state how a text means.

This study is concerned to apply systemic functional analysis. It discusses the relationship between lexicogrammar level, discourse semantic level and the meanings that arise within the context of situations. In fact, these analyses are focused to reveal how the Halliday's theory works in *The King's Speech* movie script. The study is conducted to show that text and context are complementary. Context is the environment where the text is produced.

## Research Methodology

The type of this research is qualitative research. The type of data in this research is qualitative data. McMillan (1992:9) adds that qualitative data based on a research that focuses on understanding and meaning through verbal narratives and observations rather than through number. The data analyzed in this study are in the form of one selected text taken from *The King's Speech* Movie Script. The text is the resolution text of the Generic Structure. More detail, in

this study, the text analyzed through each clause provided is focused on the dialogue text without bringing the narrative text together.

The data of this study will be analyzed through the descriptive method. Descriptive method is applied as a method to make description, illustration or depiction accurately and systematically (Djajasudarma, 1993:8). In this study descriptive method is used to apply systemic functional linguistics proposed by Halliday on the three selected texts of generic structure in *The King's Speech* movie Script.

## Result

At the basis of Halliday's work is about the concept of context of situation and cultural context. Halliday developed an analysis of context in terms of the field of the resolution text. These components offer a system which help illustrating any socio-linguistic occurrence. From the analysis of the data, the context plays a big role in a text revealed by each actor in this movie script. It proves that every word expresses is always connected with the situation of the users of the words. Systemic functional analysis applied in this study explores how a text means.

Based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study analyzes a generic texts: *Resolution text* of *The King's Speech* movie script. The analyzes prove that the lexicogrammatical patterns (Transitivity, Mood and Theme) realize semantic components. Then, semantic components realize situational dimensions.

## Discussion

### Semantic Components in the *Resolution Text*

#### 1. Experiential Meaning

Experiential meaning functions as a resource for presenting experience (Halliday, 1994: 36 and Matthiensen, 1995: 16). Experiential meaning describes a process type (Processes) and a circumstance type (Circumstances). In fact, this resolution text is realized by 53 clauses. The analysis of Transitivity is summarized in table 1.

**Table 1 Transitivity Analysis on the *Resolution Text***

Process Type	Clause Number	Total
Material	2,5,12,14,17,23,27,29,32,33,35,39,42,43,46,51,53	17
Relational	1,7,16,18,19,24,25,26,28,30,36,44,48,49	14
Verbal	4,6,9,10,13,15,21,31,34,52	10
Mental	3,8,38,40,41,47,50	7
Behavioral	11,20,22,45	4
Existential	37	1
Overall Total		53

**Table 2 Circumstance Analysis on the *Resolution Text***

Circumstance Type	Clause Number	Total
Location : time	12,16,17,18,31,35	6
Location : place	12,16,24,31,45	5
Manner : means	13,15	2
Role : product	17,2	2
Role : guise	10	1
Accompaniment : comitative	21,43	2
Contingency condition	19	1
Cause : reason	27	1
Overall Total		20

Patterns of lexicogrammatical system (Transitivity, Mood, and Theme) offer a description of components of semantic system (Experiential, Interpersonal, and Textual Meanings) and in turn, the meanings reveal how text means. First, table 1 shows that the text is generally encoded by material process through 17 material texts revealed in it, while the relational process is in the second place with 14 clauses, 10 clauses of verbal process, 7 clauses of mental process, 4 clauses of behavioral process and one clause of existential process. This indicates that the text is concerned with actions and events and the participants who carry them out (Eggs, 1994: 317).

Secondly, the circumstance analysis is shown in table 2. Circumstances function to increase the Experiential Meaning of the text as they add the information given (Eggs, 1994: 318). This resolution text is realized by 20 circumstances consisting of 6 items of circumstance of location: time, 5 items of circumstance of location: place, 2 items of circumstance of manner: means, 2 items of circumstance of accompaniment: comitative, one item of circumstance of role: guise, one item of circumstance of role: product and one more item of circumstance of contingency: condition and one more item of circumstance of cause: reason. Thus, this text is realized frequently by circumstance of location: time. This frequent use is intended to describe the time in the King's speech.

#### 2. Interpersonal Meaning

Interpersonal Meaning functions as a resource for enacting relationship (Halliday, 1994: 36 and Matthiensen, 1995: 16). Interpersonal Meaning discusses a Mood type including a modality type. This Resolution text is realized by 53 clauses and expressed by 43 clauses of declarative, 4 clauses of imperative and one clause of interrogative. In fact, Interpersonal Meaning is expressed by Mood and the analysis of Mood is summarized in Table 3 while the analysis of Modality is in Table 4.

**Table 3 Mood Analysis on the Resolution Text**

Mood Type	Clause Number	Total
Declarative	1,2,3,4,5,7,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,36,37,38,39,40,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,4,51,52,53	43
Imperative	8,10,11,50	4
Interrogative	6	1
Overall Total		48

**Table 4 Modality Analysis on the Resolution Text**

Modality	Clause Number	Total
Possibility : <i>can</i>	38,39	2
Certainty : <i>surely</i>	25	1
Obligation : <i>should, had to</i>	31,46	2
Probability : <i>maybe</i>	37	1
Probability : <i>would</i>	6,24	2
Probability : <i>will (shall)</i>	33,36,43,51	4
Overall Total		12

Table 3 indicates that the text is frequently realized by declaratives. All declaratives in the text realize Interpersonal Meaning. The Interpersonal Meaning expresses the relationship of participants and their attitudes toward the subject matter (Egins, 1994: 12). The relationship reveals that the King gives some statement through his speech for his nation and his people around the world.

Furthermore, patterns of modality provide evidence to support the claim that there is a difference between the types of information being offered in the text (Egins, 1994: 314). Thus this text has 12 items of modality consisting of 2 items of possibility: *can*, two item of obligation: *should, had to*, one item of certainty: *surely*, one item of possibility: *maybe*, 2 items of probability: *would* and 4 items of probability: *will (shall)*.

### 3. Textual Meaning

Textual Meaning explains that a text functions as a resource for creating message (Halliday, 1994: 36 and Matthiessen, 1995: 16). Textual Meaning discusses a Theme type. In fact, Textual Theme occurs in 18 clauses; Interpersonal Theme takes place in 7 clauses; Experiential (Topical) Theme occurs in 47 clauses. Of course the three types of Theme conflate with one another. Actually, Textual Meaning is encoded by Theme and the analysis of Textual Theme is mapped out in table 5.

**Table 5 Textual Theme Analysis on the Resolution Text**

Textual Theme	Clause Number	Total
Coordinator : <i>and</i>	18,38	2
Coordinator : <i>but</i>	19,39	2
Coordinator : <i>so</i>	47	1
Coordinator : <i>then</i>	43	1
Subordinator : <i>which</i>	24	1
Subordinator : <i>if</i>	25,42	2
Subordinator : <i>as if</i>	14	1
Subordinator : <i>how</i>	4	1
Subordinator : <i>for what</i>	5	1
Subordinator : <i>as</i>	40	1
Subordinator : <i>that</i>	29,31	2
Conjunctive Adjunct : <i>however</i>	2	1
Overall Total		18

In the textual Theme, coordinator *and* in clause 18 and 38 explains extending clauses of addition, coordinator *but* in clause 19 and 39 explain extending clauses of adversative addition, coordinator *so* in clause 47 shows enhancing clauses of result and coordinator *then* in clause 43 shows enhancing clause of next condition. Then, subordinator *which* in clause 24 indicates enhancing clauses of choice, subordinator *if* in clause 25 and 42 suggests enhancing clauses of condition, subordinator *as if* in clause 14 concerns with clause of conditional, subordinator *as* in clause 40 deals with projected clause of idea in clause 39, subordinator *that* in clause 29 and 31 deals with projected clause of idea in the previous clause, subordinator *how* in clause 4 concerns with clause of way, subordinator *who* in clause 18 and 32 concern with clause of participant or the subject and subordinator *for what* in clause 5 concerns with clause of condition . At last, conjunctive adjunct *however* in clause 2 shows enhancing clauses of condition. Furthermore, the other types of Theme are tabulated in table 6 and 7.

**Table 6 Interpersonal Theme Analysis on the Resolution Text**

Interpersonal Theme	Clause	Total
Wh – word : <i>who</i>	18,33	2



Finite : would	6,24	2
Mood Adjunct : surely	25	1
Mood Adjunct : maybe	37	1
Vocative : with God's help	43	1
Overall Total		7

**Table 7 Experiential (Topical) Theme Analysis on the Resolution Text**

Experiential Theme	Clause	Total
Participant : <i>the King (Bertie)</i>	1,3,6,7,8,10,11,14,31,34,45,46,48,51,52	15
Participant : <i>it (thing)</i>	2,13,23,25,26,28,30,36,37,38,42,43,44,49,53	15
Participant : <i>we</i>	20,21,29,39,40	5
Participant : <i>Lionel</i>	50	1
Wh – word : <i>how</i>	4	1
Wh – word : <i>what</i>	5	1
Wh – word : <i>who</i>	18,33	2
Wh – word : <i>which</i>	24	1
Circumstance	12,16,17,27	4
Other Participant : <i>people</i>	32,47	2
Overall Total		47

Table 6 indicates that Wh-word *who and would* (in clause 24) appear as subordinator, and finite *would* in clause 6 appears as questioning. Then, mood adjunct: *surely* and *may be* appear as probability and vocative *with God's help* appears as accompaniment. In terms of Experiential Theme in Table 7, topical *Bertie (the King)* refers to 15 clauses, topical *it (thing)* refers to 15 clauses, topical *how* refers to one clause, topical *what* refers to one clause, topical *who* refers to 2 clauses, topical *which* refers to one clause, topical circumstance refers to 4 clauses, topical of other participants (people) refers to 2 clauses, topical *we* refers to 5 clauses, and topical *Lionel* refers to one clause.

### Situational Dimensions of Resolution Text Field

Transitivity pattern realizes experiential Meaning. In other words, Experiential Meaning expresses Field. In fact, Field is the focus of the activity (Eggins, 1994: 67). In section 1 Experiential Meaning shows that this Resolution Text is commonly realized by material process through 18 clauses. It means this resolution text is concerned with actions, specially we can focus on every material clause in the Bertie's speech. They are from clause 12 until 43 where Bertie invites his people around the world to do some

actions. Furthermore, the text is normally realized by circumstantial location of place as shown in table 2. In short, the Field is about inviting people around the world to face the war.

### Tenor

Tenor is the basic for the actual relationship of interactants, their social roles, personal attitudes, statuses, and intentions (Haynes, 1992: 14). Tenor is realized by Interpersonal Meaning and in turn the Interpersonal Meaning is encoded by Mood. As a matter of fact, this resolution text is frequently encoded by declaratives. In section 2 Interpersonal Meaning reveals that 45 declaratives and they are pointed to his (*Bertie as a King*) people around the world. It indicates that the solidarity is an unequal power, the familiarity is an indirect contact, the affect is high intimacy and the situation is formal. In brief, the Tenor of the Resolution text is the interaction between a King and his all people around the world.

### Mode

Mode is defined as the role that language is playing in the interaction (Eggins, 1994: 52). Mode is constructed by Textual Meaning; in turn Textual Meaning is respectively expressed by Theme. In section 3 Textual Meaning discloses that the text is expressed by 40 clauses of unmarked Theme and 8 clauses of Marked Theme. In this case, it is obvious that the King Bertie invites his people around the world to facing the war ahead through his speech. In conclusion, Mode of the evaluation text is a descriptive text through a speech.

## Conclusion and Suggestion

Patterns of lexicogrammatical system (Transitivity, Mood, and Theme) offer a description of components of semantic system (Experiential, Interpersonal, and Textual Meanings) and in turn, the meanings reveal how text means. First, the table shows that the text is generally encoded by material process through 17 material texts revealed in it, while the relational process is in the second place with 14 clauses, 10 clauses of verbal process, 7 clauses of mental process, 4 clauses of behavioral process and one clause of existential process. This indicates that the text is concerned with actions and events and the participants who carry them out (Eggins, 1994: 317).

Conclusively, after the the analysis, it turns to the result of this study. It is expected to give contribution to better understanding of the relation of text and context in every literary works. I hope this study is useful for others as the reference of their study in SFL which exposes context of situation in *The King's Speech* movie script or other texts and also can support the further analysis in the same study.

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