

Theresa May's BBC Speech on Brexit Referendum: An Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis

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ABSTRACT: Interpersonal metafunction is one of three components of linguistic study within the Systemic Functional Linguistics framework (SFL). It is concerned with how language users express ideas in texts in order for their audience to perceive them. In regards to political discourse, this study aims to unravel what PM Theresa May tries to deliver to her audience. By examining the patterns of independent clauses in her BBC speech regarding Brexit referendum, it indicates the presence of declarative and/or statement sentences. There is clearly an exchange pattern between the speaker (Theresa May) and the targeted listener (British citizen). She planned the order of her speech, beginning with an explanation of the existing state of the United Kingdom and her new elevated position as Prime Minister, as a preamble to her theme speech, the Brexit referendum. By boosting her speech (using the finite 'will'), she explored her promise of a far better life for British citizens after leaving the EU, and in the final portion of her address, she maintained a strong demand (using the high modulation 'must') to realize her planned goal. This text analysis as a whole may provide extra insight into political speech language.

Keywords: independent clause, interpersonal metafunction, political speech

ABSTRAK: Metafungsi interpersonal adalah salah satu dari tiga komponen analisis linguistik dalam kerangka Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL). Hal ini berkaitan dengan bagaimana pengguna bahasa mengekspresikan ide-ide dalam teks agar mampu dipahami oleh pendengar. Berkaitan dengan wacana politik, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap apa yang coba disampaikan PM Theresa May kepada audiensnya. Dengan menelaah pola klausa independen dalam pidato BBC terkait referendum Brexit, hal ini menunjukkan adanya kalimat deklaratif dan/atau kalimat pernyataan. Jelas ada pola pertukaran antara pembicara (Theresa May) dan pendengar yang dituju (warga negara Inggris). Dia merencanakan urutan pidatonya, dimulai dengan penjelasan tentang keadaan Inggris saat ini dan posisinya yang baru diangkat sebagai Perdana Menteri, sebagai pembukaan pidato bertemakan referendum Brexit. Dengan meningkatkan pidatonya (menggunakan kata kerja modal 'will'), dia mengeksplorasi janjinya tentang kehidupan yang jauh lebih baik bagi warga negara Inggris setelah meninggalkan UE, dan di bagian akhir pidatonya, dia mempertahankan permintaan yang kuat (menggunakan modulasi tinggi 'must') untuk mewujudkan tujuan yang direncanakannya. Analisis teks ini secara keseluruhan dapat memberikan wawasan tambahan tentang bahasa pidato bertema politik.

Katakunci: klausa independen, metafungsi interpersonal, pidato politik.

INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal metafunction is one of the three strands of linguistics analysis under the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The theory of SFL, or it is termed interchangeably as Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) was first proposed by M.A.K. Halliday, a British linguistics professor, through his series of scholarly articles during the 60s and 70s, which was then published as a book

Introduction to Functional Grammar (1985). Halliday expands the approaches in analysing language from Noam Chomsky's theory of transformative generative (TG) grammar (1957). Halliday viewed Chomsky's TG grammar only analyses language in its syntactical and explicit form, thus making it isolated from going beyond its implicit form with particular contexts. He introduced the term 'systemic functional' of language, where language is considered as a system which carries its particular functions. The sole purpose of its function is to make meanings, and those meanings are chosen by the language users, depending on the contexts of situation and culture where the language exists.

Eggs (2004) made it simpler in definition by listing down four main components of linguistics analysis by SFL. She stated that: language use is functional; its function is to make meanings; these meanings are influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are exchanged; the process of using language is a semiotic process, a process of making meanings by choosing.

Here, the social and cultural context of meaning are technically termed as register and genre. In linguistics analysis the texts (either in written or spoken form) are the resource, genre is defined as a text type, 'a sum of all the meanings it is possible to mean in that particular culture' (Butt et.al., 2000). Meanwhile, register is a social context or context of situation which 'to cover things going on in the world outside the text that make the text what it is' (pg.4).

This register context is elaborated into three metafunctional analysis in meaning making: field, tenor, and mode. Field deals with the main topic of the texts (ideational metafunction); tenor deals with how the language users convey the idea in the texts in order to be perceived by their audience (interpersonal metafunction); and mode deals with how the texts are structured in cohesive and coherence way to convey the meaning (textual metafunction). These metafunctions are identified and analysed through their lexicogrammatical forms in the clause level.

Register of the texts is analysed based on their lexicogrammatical features in a clause level. Lexicogrammatical features, as Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) defined, are how lexis (or words) and their grammatical form work together to create meanings. If ideational metafunction regards a clause as a representation of a person or people in describing what is going on around them, and textual metafunction analyses a clause as a message implied by the writer and/or the speaker, interpersonal metafunction regards a clause as an exchange between two sides of the interactants. It is either the exchange between the speaker and the hearer/the audiences or the exchange between the authors and the readers. Through this exchange we can identify what types of interaction (or speech forms: declarative, interrogative, and imperative) between the interactant and what is actually the writers/speakers' attitude, feeling, and judgment that are perceived by their readers/hearers. These types of interaction, as Thompson (2014) pointed out, can be used to exchange information and goods-and-services. It is either to demand as well as to provide information and goods-and-services between two interactants.

Theresa May is a British politician who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Conservative Party Leader from 2016 to 2019. May led the Brexit negotiations with the European Union, following to the Chequers Agreement, ultimately concluded in the Brexit withdrawal agreement. As a politician, May engages in political discourse, and indubitably use a wide variety of tools and strategies of speech to appeal her audience. Hence the way she aspires her political leaning and policy, and what is behind her truly intention garnered attention among linguistic scholars.

Studies on political discourse by politicians, notably of Theresa May has resulted in a number of publications, such as Muliza's (2018) evaluation using appraisal theory which reveals that PM May tends to be extremely cautious when addressing her speech in order to minimize any extra complications. Svitach's (2018) study on ideational metafunction analysis of May's speech about terrorism indicates majority of material processes expressed by her, to remind the unfavorable circumstances, what the police and government are doing now and what will be done in the future to ensure people's safety and security. Another study on ideational metafunction, Herrero (2020) found that May's speeches rely on mental processes when addressing the post-Brexit outcome, indicating that she seems to attach special value as the communicator. In addition, Puteri et al. (2020) analysis of illocutionary acts provide different angle, to reflect on May's partial and impartial to Britain.

METHODS

In interpersonal analysis, independent clauses are mainly investigated, while dependent clauses 'simply fill in as the details' (Thompson, 2014: 50). The structure of independent clause is elaborated down into five elements: Subject, Finite, Predicator, Complement, and Adjunct (SFPCA).

For example:

(notice that there are differences between the Finite and Subject position between declarative/statement and interrogative and imperative sentences)

I am eating cereal at home

I	am	Eating	cereal	at home
S	F	P	C	A
Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction : declarative				

Did you eat cereal this morning?

Did	you	Eat	cereal	this morning?
F	S	P	C	A
Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction : interrogative				

Eat this cereal now!

Eat	this	Cereal	now!
F	S	P	A
Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: imperative			

Subject is essentially the same term as the definition of Subject in Noam Chomsky's grammar (later be called traditional grammar), meanwhile the rest of the elements are different. In traditional grammar, Finite and Predicator are called Verb, Complement was basically an Object, and Adverb is the Adjunct. SFG's Adjunct categorises adverbial clauses and prepositional phrases.

Of the five elements of interpersonal analysis, Subject and Finite make up a component of a clause that is called Mood Block. The rest of the elements are categorised as the residues. The Mood Block is where we can analyse the writer/author's intention of what they are going to say. It could indicate three things:

To indicate time (tenses: present, past, future, etc.)

In some case Finite and Predicator can be fused together or called conflated. This occurs in Present and Past tenses

For example:

I	Like		Cereal
S	F +	P	C
Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement/declarative			

To indicate polarity (positive or negative)

For example:

I	don't	like	Cereal
S	F –	P	C
Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement/declarative			

To indicate modality: probability and usuality (modal verb: can, may, might, could, would, etc.).

For example:

I	might	visit	you	next year
S	F	P	C	A
Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement/declarative				

This is where the interpersonal analysis gets interesting as modality is to identify the writer/speaker's judgement, belief, and attitude towards someone and/or something. It is termed as the appraisal element in the texts (Martin & White, 2005).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Based on the analysis, I found 29 independent clauses across the Theresa May's speech. The text can be seen in the following excerpt:

Theresa May's speech on future UK-EU relations

I am here today to set out my vision for the future economic partnership between the United Kingdom and the European Union. There have been many different voices and views in the debate on what our new relationship with the EU should look like. I have listened carefully to them all. But as we chart our way forward with the EU, I want to take a moment to look back. Eighteen months ago I stood in Downing Street and addressed the nation for my first time as Prime Minister.

I made this pledge then, to the people that I serve: I know you're working around the clock, I know you're doing your best, and I know that sometimes life can be a struggle.

The government I lead will be driven not by the interests of the privileged few, but by yours. We will do everything we can to give you more control over your lives. When we take the big calls, we'll think not of the powerful, but you. When we pass new laws, we'll listen not to the mighty but to you. When it comes to taxes, we'll prioritise not the wealthy, but you. When it comes to opportunity, we won't entrench the advantages of the fortunate few. We will do everything we can to help anybody, whatever your background, to go as far as your talents will take you.

We are living through an important moment in our country's history. As we leave the European Union, we will forge a bold new positive role for ourselves in the world, and we will make Britain a country that works not for a privileged few, but for every one of us. That pledge, to the people of our United Kingdom is what guides me in our negotiations with the EU.

And for me that means five things: First, the agreement we reach with the EU must respect the referendum. Second, the new agreement we reach with the EU must endure. Third, it must protect people's jobs and security. People in the UK voted for our country to have a new and different relationship with Europe, but while the means may change our shared goals surely have not - to work together to grow our economies and keep our people safe. Fourth, it must be consistent with the kind of country we want to be as we leave: a modern, open, outward-looking, tolerant, European democracy. And fifth, in doing all of these things, it must strengthen our union of nations and our union of people.

We must bring our country back together, taking into account the views of everyone who cares about this issue, from both sides of the debate.

(from BBC News: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43256183>)

All of them are in the form of declarative/statement sentences. As it is common in declarative spoken discourse, the presence of adverbial clauses (or Adjunct in functional grammar) is densely spread across the speech and most commonly preceded the independent clauses. The SFPCA analysis as well as the Subject and Finite and Predicator markers I presented in four different tables in table 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

Table 1 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (a)

1.	I	Am		here	today	to set out my vision for the future economic partnership between the United Kingdom and the European Union.
	S	F + (present)	P	A	A	A
		conflated				
		Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement						

Table 2 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (b)

2.	There	have	been	many different voices and views	in the debate on what our new relationship with the EU should look like.
	S	F + (present perfect)	P	C	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 3 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (c)

3.	I	Have	listened	carefully	to them all
	S	F + (present perfect)	P	A	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 4 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (d)

4.	But	as we chart our way forward with the EU	I	want to take		a moment to look back
	A	A	S	F + (present)	P	C
				Conflated		

		(verbal complexes)	
		Mood block	
		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement			

Table 5 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (e)

Name: _____ Personal Metadata: _____ Analysis: (7)										
5.	Eighteen months ago	I	stood		in Downing Street	and	addressed		the nation	for my first time as Prime Minister
	A	S	F + (past)	P	A	A	F + (past)	P	C	A
			conflated		conflated					
		Mood block		Mood block (ellipsis)						
		Residue								
Type of interaction: statement										

Table 6 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (f)

6.	I	made	this pledge	then,	to the people that I serve:
	S	F + (past)	P	C	A
		conflated			
		Mood block	Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 7 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (g)

7.	I	know		you're working around the clock
	S	F + (present)	P	C
		conflated		
	Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement				

Table 8 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (h)

8.	I	know		you're doing your best,	and
	S	F + (present)	P	C	A
		conflated			
		Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 9 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (i)

9.	I	know		that sometimes life can be a struggle
	S	F + (present)	P	C
		conflated		
	Mood block		Residue	
Type of interaction: statement				

Table 10 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (j)

Table 10 Interpersonal Interaction Analysis (j)							
10.	The government I lead	will	be driven	not	by the interest of the privileged view,	but	by yours.
	S	F – (future)	P	F –	A	A	A
	Mood block		Residue				
Type of interaction: statement							

Table 11 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (k)

11.	We	will	do	everything we can	to give you more control over your lives.
	S	F + (future)	P	C	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 12 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (l)

12.	When we take the big calls,	we	'll	think	not	of the powerful	but	you
	A	S	F – (future)	P	F –	A	A	C
		Mood block						
	Residue							
Type of interaction: statement								

Table 13 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (m)

13.	When we pass new laws,	we	'll	listen	not	to the mighty	but	to you
	A	S	F – (future)	P	F –	A	A	A
		Mood block						
	Residue							
Type of interaction: statement								

Table 14 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (n)

Table 2: Interpersonal Metadiscourse Analysis (W)								
14.	When it comes to taxes,	we	'll	prioritise	not	the wealthy	but	you
	A	S	F – (future)	P	F –	C	A	C
		Mood block						
	Residue							
Type of interaction: statement								

Table 15 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (0)

Table 15 Interpersonal Metadiscourse Analysis (6)					
15.	When it comes to opportunity,	we	won't	entrench	the advantages of the unfortunate few.
	A	S	F – (future)	P	C
		Mood block			
	Residue				
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 16 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (p)

16.	We	will	do	everything we can	to help anybody, whatever your background, to go as far as your talents will take you
	S	F + (future)	P	C	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 17 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (q)

17.	We	Are	living	through an important moment	in our country's history
	S	F + (present continuous)	P	A	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 18 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (r)

18.	As we leave the European Union,	we	will	forge	a bold new positive role	for ourselves in the world	and
	A	S	F + (future)	P	C	A	A
		Mood block					

	Residue
Type of interaction: statement	

Table 19 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (s)

19.	we	will	make	Britain	a country that works not for a privileged few, but for every one of us.
	S	F + (future)	P	C	C
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 20 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (t)

Table 26 Inter-personal Metadiscourse Analysis (4)					
20.	That pledge	to the people of our United Kingdom	is		what guides me in our negotiations with the EU.
	S	A	F + (present)	P	C
			conflated		
	Mood block				
			Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 21 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (u)

21.	And	for me	that	means		five things:
	A	A	S	F + (present	P	C
				conflated		
			Mood block			
			Residue			
Type of interaction: statement						

Table 22 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (v)

22.	First,	the agreement we reach with the EU	must	respect	the referendum
	A	S	F + (modality)	P	C
		Mood block			
	Residue				
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 23 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (w)

23.	Second,	the new agreement we reach with the EU	must	endure
	A	S	F +	P

			(modality)	
		Mood block		
	Residue			
Type of interaction: statement				

Table 24 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (x)

24.	Third,	it	must	protect	people's job and security.
	A	S	F + (modality)	P	C
		Mood block			
	Residue				
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 25 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (y)

25.	People in the UK	voted		for our country to have a new and different relationship with Europe,	but
	S	F + (past)	P	A	A
		conflated			
	Mood block			Residue	
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 26 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (z)

26.	while the means may change	our shared goals	surely	have not –		to work together to grow our economies and keep our people safe
	A	S	A	F – (present)	P	A
				conflated		
		Mood block				
Residue						
Type of interaction: statement						

Table 27 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (aa)

27.	Fourth,	it	must	be	consistent	with the kind of country we want to be as we leave: a modern, open, outward-looking, tolerant, European democracy.
	A	S	F + (modality)	P	C	A
		Mood block				
	Residue					

Type of interaction: statement

Table 28 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (ab)

28.	And fifth, in doing all of these things,	it	must	strengthen	our union of nations and our union of people.
	A	S	F + (modality)	P	C
		Mood block			
	Residue				
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 28 Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis (ac)

29.	We	must	bring	our country	back together, taking into account the views of everyone who cares about this issue, from both sides of the debate.
	S	F + (modality)	P	C	A
	Mood block		Residue		
Type of interaction: statement					

Table 29 Grouping of the Interpersonal elements

	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
1.	I	[present]	am		here
					today
					to set out my vision for the future economic partnership between the United Kingdom and the European Union.
2.	There	have	been	many different voices and views	in the debate on what our new relationship with the EU should look like.
3.	I	have	listened		carefully
					to them all
4.	I	[present]	want to take	a moment to look back	But
					as we chart our way forward with the EU
5.	I	[past]	stood	the nation	Eighteen months ago
			addressed		in Downing Street

					and
					for my first time as Prime Minister.
6.	I	[past]	made	this pledge	then,
					to the people that I serve:
7.	I	[present]	know	you're working around the clock	
8.	I	[present]	know	you're doing your best,	and
9.	I	[present]	know	that sometimes life can be a struggle	
10.	The government I lead	will (not)	be driven		by the interest of the privileged view,
					but
					by yours
11.	We	will	do	everything we can	to give you more control over your lives.
12.	We	'll (not)	think		When we take the big calls,
					of the powerful
					but
					you
13.	We	'll (not)	listen		When we pass new laws,
					to the mighty
					but
					to you
14.	we	'll (not)	prioritise	the wealthy	When it comes to taxes,
				you	but
15.	We	won't	entrench	the advantages of the unfortunate few.	When it comes to opportunity,
16.	We	will	do	everything we can	to help anybody, whatever your background, to go as far as your talents will take you
17.	We	are	living		through an important moment
					in our country's history

18.	We	will	forge	a bold new positive role	As we leave the European Union,
					for ourselves in the world
					and
19.	We	will	make	Britain	
				a country that works not for a privileged few, but for every one of us.	
20.	That pledge to the people of our United Kingdom	[present]	is	what guides me in our negotiations with the EU	
21.	That	[present]	means	five things	And
					for me
22.	the agreement we reach with the EU	must	respect	the referendum	First,
23.	the new agreement we reach with the EU	must	endure		Second,
24.	It	must	protect	people's job and security.	Third,
25.	People in the UK	[past]	voted		for our country to have a new and different relationship with Europe,
					but
26.	our shared goals	[present]	have not –		while the means may change,
					to work together to grow our economies and keep our people safe
27.	It	must	be	consistent	Fourth,
					with the kind of country we want to be as we leave: a modern, open, outward-looking, tolerant, European democracy.

28.	It	must	strengthen	our union of nations and our union of people	And fifth, in doing all of these things,
29.	We	must	bring	our country	back together, taking into account the views of everyone who cares about this issue, from both sides of the debate.

Table 30 Total of Subjects

SUBJECT	Total
I	8
There	1
The government I lead	1
We/we	10
That pledge to the people of our United Kingdom	1
that	1
the agreement we reach with the EU	1
the new agreement we reach with the EU	1
It	3
People in the UK	1
our shared goals	1

Table 31 The Finite and Predicator

Finite	Predicator		Total
[conflated]	am	[present]	1
	is		1
	want to take		1
	know		3
	know		
	know		
	means		1
	have not –		1
	stood	[past]	1
	addressed		1
	made		1
	voted		1
have	been	[present perfect]	2

have	listened		
are	living	[present continuous]	1
will	do	[future]	4
will	do		
will	forge		
will	make		
will (not)	be driven	[future] –	5
will (not)	think		
will (not)	listen		
will (not)	prioritise		
won't	entrench		
must	respect	modality (obligation)	6
must	endure		
must	protect		
must	be		
must	strengthen		
must	bring		

Discussion

Subject

Based on the Subject analysis I grouped the occurrence of Subject in Theresa May's speech (see Appendix C). The table showed that the Subject 'I', 'we', and 'it' occurred eight, ten, and three times respectively. The subject 'I' clearly refers to Theresa May herself, 'we' refers to Theresa May and British citizen, but we can see that even though she said it in terms of collectively (as a fellow British citizen), there is a power relation between her as the government leader, and the British citizen, as the ones she leads. Meanwhile 'it' clearly refers to the new agreement (Brexit). Through the Subject analysis we can also see that as the speech progressed, the Subject changed from 'I' to 'we' and 'it', revealing how Theresa May tried to level down and align herself with the British citizen to convince them to vote for Brexit.

Another aspect to mention is the occurrence of 'embedded clause as subject and complement' (Bloor & Bloor, 2013: 172) as in complex political speech, it is quite common to provide more explanation of the Subject markers uttered by the speaker.

For example:

the government *I lead*.... (s.10)

the agreement *we reach with the EU*.... (s.22)

the new agreement *we reach with the EU*... (s.23)

Finite

Based on the Finite analysis I divided the Theresa May's speech into three parts of tense and modality markers (see Appendix D). I noticed that her speech was progressing from mood in the former part towards modality in the latter part

of her speech. Because this is a political speech, Subject + Finite occurred in the speech, such as '*I know*', '*we will*', '*we will (not)*', and '*... must*' are repetitively spoken, as a way of emphasising the speaker's agenda.

In the first third of her speech she used the positive polarity of Finite present, past, and perfect tense (which are mostly conflated), indicating that she was trying to build her arguments/reasons based on the past and present condition of Britain, thus providing them as her basis to define her intention in the latter part of her speech. Interestingly, the conflated finite *know* were uttered three times, making up the full sentences:

I know you're working around the clock (s.7)
I know you're doing your best (s.8)
I know that sometimes life can be a struggle (s.9)

The phrase '*I know*' is what in Appraisal system by Martin and White (2005) called the evidentiality and the alignment. As a current British Prime Minister, Theresa May wanted to emphasise her feeling of understanding the well-being of *you* (British citizen as a whole) by providing evidence that she *knows* and is fully aware (and thus aligned herself) of what is going on among the British citizen (in terms of their welfare).

In the second third of her speech she used the Finite future tense of positive polarity *will* and negative polarity *will (not)* repetitively. This indicated a promise as well as a compromise she made to the British citizen about the advantage of leaving the EU. Interestingly, she did not traditionally position the negative *not* not after the main Finite but after the Predicator, as in the sentence below:

When we take the calls, *we'll think not* of the powerful but you (s.12)

This, I presume, is because Theresa May wanted to stress her promise to the Adjunct '*of the powerful but you*'. Other similar patterns in the following sentences also pointed out the same stress. Furthermore, the Finite '*will*' is also categorised as 'a booster' (Hyland, 1998). He stated that boosters indicated collective intention brought about by the speakers/audience towards their audience. Boosters is predominantly occurred in political speech in a way as a strong force by the political leaders to stress their intention and steer public opinion.

In the last third of her speech, Theresa May, representing her cabinet, clearly defined and stressed her intention. She uttered six sentences which included Finite modality '*must*'. This type of modality is categorised by Thompson (2014) as a high modulation, which indicates that, in a world of goods-and-services exchange, Theresa May insisted the EU to realise and respect the commitment of British people to govern their own country. By saying those, the British Prime Minister also firmly try to convince that British people should be better off leaving the EU.

CONCLUSION

By looking into the interpersonal metafunction analysis of Theresa May's speech about the Brexit referendum, I could clearly see the fact that there is

obviously a pattern of exchanges between the speaker (Theresa May) and the intended audience (British citizen). She arranged the sequence of her speech starting from providing explanation on the current condition of United Kingdom and her new elevated job as a Prime Minister, as a precursor of her topic speech, Brexit referendum. The following part explored her promise of far better life for British citizen after leaving the EU by boosting her speech (using the finite 'will') and last part of her speech she maintained a strong insistence (using the high modulation 'must') to realise her intended agenda. This text analysis, as a whole, could provide additional insight into the language of political speech.

In line with the English Language Teaching (ELT) platform, the study of interpersonal metafunction could help the ELT students learn to analyse the different tenor of speech, particularly in political context. Butt et.al. (2000) mentioned that there was a quite difficulty in teaching interpersonal exchange as commonly the school textbooks did not provide adequate real-life interaction between the speakers and the hearers. Drawing on this problem, hopefully the ELT teachers could base this analysis to arrange teaching material about how real-life exchange between the speakers and their audience, the process of the positioning judgment, belief, and attitude could somehow help shape up the audience's perception towards the speakers.

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