### LANGUAGE FUNCTION FOUND IN MICHELLE OBAMA'S FINAL SPEECH AS THE FIRST LADY OF THE USA AT THE 2017 SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

### **UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

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Last but not least, the researcher hopes this research is useful and give contributions for the readers especially the students of Study Program of English.

Malang,

The researcher



### **ABSTRACT**

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Keywords: Discourse analysis, Language functions, Michelle Obama's speech, 2017 School Counselor of the Year

Communication deals with the act of delivering and transferring the message. It can be done by everyone through any medium. As a social creature, people need to communicate or interact with others to fulfill their basic needs. In communication, the function of language can be created as well. The researcher conducts a study about language functions that are used by Michelle Obama in her final speech as the First Lady of the USA by using Jakobson (1980) theory. There are two problems of the study: 1. what are the elements of communication contained in Michelle Obama's speech, 2. what are the language functions used by Michelle Obama in her speech.

This study uses qualitative approach in document analysis to investigate the language function used by Michelle Obama in her speech. The data are transcribed utterances produced by Michelle Obama in her final speech video which is uploaded on YouTube website.

This study discovers that six elements of communication are found in Michelle Obama's speech namely addresser, addressee, channel, message form, code, and setting. This study also reveals five out six functions of language used by Michelle Obama namely emotive function, directive function, phatic function, poetic function, and referential function. Emotive function is the most frequently used function since the speech was Michelle's last remarks as the First Lady of the U.S before she is replaced by the elected President Donald Trump's wife Melania Trump. She used that function because she often expressed her emotion since it was her last speech and she wanted to make it remarkable. Furthermore, the combination of two functions or more are also existed in this study.

The writer hopes that this study provides contributions for further research and for the reader to get a better understanding about language function. The writer suggests the next researcher to find a different object and apply different theories from different experts who may have developed the language function theory.



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### **ABSTRAK**

Sakti, Siti Harini. 2018. **Fungsi Bahasa yang Ditemukan pada Michelle Obama di Pidato Terakhirnya sebagai First Lady di USA pada 2017 School Counselor of the Year.** Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: Istiqomah Wulandari, M.Ed.

Kata Kunci: Analisa wacana, fungsi Bahasa, pidato Michelle Obama, 2017 School Counselor of the Year

Komunikasi berhubungan dengan mengirim dan menyampaikan sebuah pesan. Komunikasi dapat dilakukan oleh semua orang melalui berbagai media. Sebagai makhluk sosial, manusia perlu berkomunikasi atau berinteraksi dengan yang lain untuk memenuhi kebutuhan dasar mereka. Dari komunikasi, fungsi bahasa dapat dibentuk. Peneliti melakukan penelitian tentang fungsi Bahasa yang digunakan oleh Michelle Obama di pidato terakhirnya sebagai First Lady di USA menggunakan teori Jakobson (1980). Ada dua masalah pada penelitian ini yaitu: 1. apa sajakah elemen komuikasi yang terdapat di pidato Michelle Obama, 2. fungsi bahasa apakah yang digunakan oleh Michelle Obama pada pidatonya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif pada analisa dokumen untuk menginvestigasi fungsi bahasa yang digunakan oleh Michelle Obama di pidatonya. Data penelitian ini adalah transkrip dari video pidato Michelle Obama yang diunggah di YouTube.

Penelitian ini menemukan adanya enam elemen komunikasi pada pidato Michelle Obama yaitu pembicara, pendengar, saluran, bentuk pesan, kode, dan pengaturan. Penelitian ini juga menemukan lima dari enam fungsi bahasa yang digunakan oleh Michelle Obama yaitu fungsi emotif, fungsi direktif, fungsi patik, fungsi puitis, dan fungsi referensial. Fungsi emotif merupakan fungsi bahasa yang paling sering digunakan oleh Michelle Obama karena pidato tersebut merupakan pidato terakhirnya sebagai First Lady di U.S sebelum digantikan oleh istri dari presiden terpilih Donald Trump yaitu Melania Trump. Michelle menggunakan fungsi tersebut karena dia sering mengungkapkan perasaannya dan karena itu merupakan pidato terakhirnya, Michelle ingin membuat pidatonya berkesan. Selain itu, kombinasi dari dua fungsi atau lebih juga ditemukan di penelitian ini.

Peneliti berharap penelitian ini dapat memberikan kontribusi untuk penelitian selanjutnya dan untuk para pembaca agar mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai fungsi bahasa. Peneliti menyarankan penelitian selanjutnya untuk mencari objek yang berbeda dan menggunakan teori yang berbeda dari para ahli yang mungkin sudah mengembangkan teori fungsi bahasa yang terbaru.

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### **CHAPTER I**

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the study, problems and the objectives of the study, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Communication deals with the act of delivering and transferring the message from one place to another. It can be done by everyone through any mediums. According to Fiske (1990), the most characteristic of communication is its diversity which ranges from the mass media and popular culture, through language to individual and social behavior. As the social creature, human needs to communicate or interact with others on daily basis because through communication human can do so many things such as having a conversation, delivering a speech, exchanging aspirations or arguments, etc. but without language, all sorts of activities would not function well. So the existence of language is inevitably important in order to support the activities of people in the community.

Language varies in many ways including its usages. It might have a great impact on others, especially when it comes to political business. Politicians often express their According to www.schoolcounselor.org, School Counselor of the Year is an annual event held by American School Counselor Association (ASCA) at the White House to honor the best school counselors who are running comprehensive school counseling program either at the elementary, middle or high school level. It is one of Michelle's Reach Higher initiative to promote post-secondary education. She was honoring the award winner Terri Tchorzynki at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year for her excellent work in counseling students and helping them figure their life path. She took Terri's dedication to work as an example of why people need to be committed to their work and never stop trying in order to achieve their dreams. She also talked about how young people should get a better education to improve themselves.

Michelle has delivered a remarkable empowering final speech, however, to get a deeper understanding of the message she carried in the speech the researcher wants to



analyze them by using language function theory proposed by Jakobson (1980). The researcher believes that there are language functions contained in the speech and the reason why the researcher wants to analyze them is that by knowing the language functions contained in the speech it can reveal the meaning of the utterances and also it helps to figure out the speaker's intention. The researcher chooses Michelle Obama's final speech as the First Lady because she is an influential person and known for her outstanding speech and also this speech is the most anticipated ones since it is her last remarks as the First Lady. The video itself has been watched over 537,000 views on YouTube. By all means, the speech was chosen because it contains many elements as the data of this research that can be related to language function theory.

Even though the study about language function is already existed, but to get a better understanding the researcher chooses different object to be identified. The study was done by Endy (2015) entitled "Language Function Found in Mizone Fres' in Television Commercial" she analyzed the television commercial using Hymes and Gumper's (1962) theory of language function.

At last, the significance of this study hopefully will give some benefits for the researcher herself in getting a broader understanding of discourse analysis and also for the student of English Literature as a source to learn more about discourse analysis especially the language function. The findings of this study are expected to give a contribution to the discourse analysis of language function as a reference of how to analyze the language function contained in utterances.

### 1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the researcher conducts this research to find the answer of the following questions:

- 1. What are the elements of communication contained in Michelle Obama's speech at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year?
- 2. What are the language function used in Michelle Obama's Speech at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the research problem, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1. To find the elements of communication contained in Michelle Obama's speech.
- 2. To investigate the language function that is used by Michelle Obama in the speech.

### 1.4 Definition of Key Terms

The key terms of this study are explained as follows:

- 1. **Discourse Analysis:** the study of the ways sentences and utterances are put together to make text and interactions fit into our social world. (Jones, 2012)
- 2. **Language Function:** deals with how language is used and the meaning behind the message between the addresser and the addressee. (Cook, 1989)
- 3. **Speech:** a formal address or discourse delivered to an audience. (Oxford Dictionary)



4. **2017 School Counselor of the Year:** an annual event held by American School Counselor Association (ASCA) at the White House to honor the best school counselors who are running comprehensive school counseling program either at the elementary, middle or high school level. (www.schoolcounselor.org)



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### **CHAPTER II**

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter consists of an explanation of the theories related to the study and previous studies used by the researcher to support this study.

### 2.1 Discourse Analysis

Renkema (1993) says that discourse studies are the discipline devoted to the investigation of the relationship between form and function in verbal communication. The term *text* is restricted to written language, while *discourse* is restricted to spoken language. Alba-Juez (2009) asserts that discourse analysis has always been given to give more importance to the external factors, for they are believed to play an essential role in communication.

Moreover, Jones (2012) states that discourse analysis is the study of the ways sentences and utterances are put together to make texts and interactions and how those texts and interactions fit into our social world.

In conclusion, discourse analysis is a study of written and spoken language in a certain social context. It is also can be used to discover the meaning beyond the sentences or utterances. Additionally, discourse analysis studies about the relation between language and the context whether it is in a written or spoken form. It is related to the language used for communication and also related to the addresser's meaning and the addressee interpretation. As a matter of fact, Cook (1989) asserts that discourse analysis examines how stretches of language, considered in their full textual, social, and psychological context, become meaningful and unified for their users.

### 2.2 Language Function

According to Cook (1989), language function deals with the use of language and the meaning of the messages between the addresser and the addressee that contain the function of language. Moreover, Jakobson (1980) states that language must be investigated in all the variety of its function. Thus, language function is concerned with how language is used in a certain context. Cook (1989) asserts that we need to firstly examine the range of possible functions of language and secondly to try to understand how people correctly interpret them.

Table 2.2 Jakobson's theory of Language Function (1980)

No.	Target Factor	Source Factor	Function
1.	Context	Message	Referential
2.	Addresser	Message	Emotive
3.	Addressee	Message	Conative
4.	Contact	Message	Phatic
5.	Code	Message	Metalingual
6.	Message	Message	Poetic

1. **Emotive Function:** a language that functions to communicate the inner states and emotions of the addresser, it aims to a direct expression of the speaker's attitude toward what he is speaking about.

Example: 'Oh no!', 'Fantastic!', 'Ugh!', 'Wow!' (Cook, 1989, p. 26)

**2. Directive Function:** seeking to affect the behavior of the addressee, it also aims to direct the addressee to do something.

Example: 'Please help me!', 'Shut up!', 'I'm warning you!' (Cook, 1989, p. 26)

**3. Phatic Function:** serves to establish, prolong, or discontinue communication, opening the channel or checking that it is working, either for social reasons or for practical ones.

Example: 'Hello' 'Lovely weather!' 'Can you hear me?' 'Are you still there?' (Cook, 1989, p. 26)

**4. Poetic Function:** in which the particular form chosen is the essence of the message. Focuses on the message for its own sake –the code itself and how it is used– and is the operative function in poetry as well as slogans.

Example: the advertising slogan 'BEANZ MEANZ HEINZ' would lose its point if it were paraphrased as 'If you are buying beans, you will naturally buy Heinz.' (Cook, 1989, p. 26)

5. Referential Function: a language that functions to carry an information, it is the leading task of numerous message, the accessory participation of other functions in such messages must be taken into account by the observant linguist. This type of language is used to convey information in an objective way. It is one of the most obvious language functions in the majority of texts.

Example: 'Water boils at 100 degrees' (Jakobson, 1980)

**6. Metalinguistic Function:** focusing attention upon the code itself, to clarify or renegotiate it. This is used to talk about language itself. Definitions of words or clarifications regarding language are an example.

Example: 'I don't follow you — what do you mean?' asks the addressee. And the addresser in anticipation of such recapturing questions inquires: 'Do you know what I mean?' Then, by replacing the questionable sign with another sign or a whole group of signs from the same or another linguistic code, the encoder of the message seeks to make it more accessible to the decoder. (Jakobson, 1980, p. 86)

### 2.3 Elements of Communication

According to Cook (1989) there have been attempts to classify the main function of language or the macro function, but the clearest ones are the one proposed by Jakobson which states that any act of verbal communication is composed of elements, or factor (the terms of the model).

**1. Addresser:** the person who originates the message. This is usually the same as the person who is sending the message, but not always, as in the case of the messengers, spokespeople, and town criers.

Example: news anchor, radio announcer, a politician giving a speech, etc.

**2. Addressee:** the person to whom the message is addressed. This is usually the person who receives the message, but not necessarily so, as in the case of intercepted letters, bugged telephone calls, and eavesdropping.

Example: audience, television viewer, listeners, etc.

**3. Channel:** the medium through which the message travels: sound waves, marks on paper, telephone wires, word processor screens.

Example: television, radio, newspaper, etc.

- 4. Message form: the particular grammatical and lexical choices of the message.
- **5. Code:** the language or dialect that is used to deliver the message, for example, Swedish, Yorkshire English, Semaphore, British Sign Language, Japanese.
- **6. Setting:** the social and physical context, it can be defined as where and when the communication takes place.

As explained by Jakobson (1980, p. 81), the process of communication begins when:

The addresser sends a message to the addressee. To be operative the message requires a context referred to the referent, a code that is common to the

addresser and the addressee, and a contact or a physical channel and psychological connection between the addresser and addressee, enabling both of them to enter and stay in communication. Each of this factors determines a different function of language.

The process of communication always involves those seven elements, as we know it requires the addresser or the speaker and the addressee or the hearer so that the message can be delivered. The code used to carry the message is also important to ensure that both addresser and addressee are using the same code so the communication will work well. Psychological connection between the addresser and addressee also affects the communication and that's why it is needed to check the contact between them.

### 2.4 Previous Studies

There are some previous studies regarding discourse analysis on language function. The researcher uses two previous studies to compare and develop this study. First, a study was done by Supriyono (2015) entitled "Language Function Found in Mizone Fres'in Television Commercial". In her study, she analyzed language function by using Hymes and Gumperz (1964) theory. This study discovered eight components of communication are presented in Mizone Fres'in television commercial namely addresser, addressee, channel, code, setting, message-form, topic, and event. There are

also found three out of eight language functions. Those are directive function, phatic function, and referential function.

Another study about language function was conducted by Hidayat (2014) entitled "Language Function Used by Mario Teguh in Mario Teguh Golden Ways Show". This study analyzed language function by using Jakobson (1960) theory. This study also revealed seven elements of communication are found in Mario Teguh Golden Ways show entitled Mengatasi Rasa Takut Gagal namely addresser, addressee, channel, message form, topic, code, and setting. There is six out of seven language function used by Mario Teguh which are emotive function, directive function, phatic function, poetic function, referential function, and metalinguistic function.

In this recent study, the researcher conducts similar research like presented above. However, this study share similarity with the second previous study entitled "Language Function Used by Mario Teguh in Mario Teguh Golden Ways Show" both of the studies use Jakobson (1960) theory of language function. Yet the data source for the study is different, the existing ones used talk show while the present study uses speech as the data source. However, there are differences with the first previous study which is the theory used to conduct the study is different, the present study uses Jakobson (1980) theory while the existing ones used Hymes and Gumperz (1964) theory also the object of the study is also different, Supriyono (2015) used TV commercial as the object while this study uses speech. The significance of this study is to reveal the components of communication and the language function behind utterances, the intention of the speaker is also can be discovered after analyzing the

language function. Regardless both of the studies will help the researcher to support this study and also as a reference to conduct the research so it will stay on track.



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### **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter consists of the methods that are applied in this study. There are four sub-chapters namely research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

### 3.1 Research Design

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative approach in which according to Creswell (2009) "qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem." (p. 37) on the other hand, Ary et al (2010) stated that qualitative method is a method to understand a phenomenon to find a depth understanding. Hence qualitative is a method used to understand a deeper meaning in a social range. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting.

The researcher used the qualitative method in document analysis since the data will be taken from the transcript of Michelle Obama's speech. In fact, according to Ary et al (2010, p. 457):

Content or document analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials for the purpose of identifying specified characteristics of the material. The materials analyzed can be textbooks, newspapers, web pages, speeches, television programs, advertisements, musical compositions, or any of a host of other types of documents."

Furthermore, document analysis is appropriate to be applied to this research because the material for the data source is speech.

### 3.2 Data Source

Michelle Obama's speech at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year event was chosen by the researcher as the data source of the study. The data of this study is the utterances from Michelle Obama's speech and the researcher will take the data from the transcription of the speech.

### 3.3 Data Collection

Data collection is a method that is used to show how the researcher collected the data and results. According to Ary et al (2010, p. 431)

The most common data collection methods used in qualitative research are (1) observation, (2) interviewing, and (3) document or artifact analysis. Artifacts may include audio and video recordings, photographs, games, artwork, or other items that provide insight related to the context or participants.

The steps of collecting the data are as follows:

- Watching the video of Michelle Obama's speech at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year event.
- 2. Reading the transcription of the speech thoroughly.
- 3. Collecting utterances that contain language function.

### 3.4 Data Analysis

Ary et al (2010, p. 481) stated: "all qualitative analysis involves attempts to comprehend the phenomenon under study, synthesize information and explain relationships, theorize about how and why the relationships appear as they do, and reconnect the new knowledge with what is already known." The researcher analyzed the data through some steps below:

- 1. Identifying the components of communication found in the speech by searching some information about the speech such as who was delivering the speech, where and when the speech took place.
- 2. Classifying the language function found in the speech by using Jakobson (1980) theory by looking at the utterances and match it to Jakobson's type of language function.
- 3. Interpreting the data based on the function, the researcher explained the findings according to Jakobson's type of language function.

4. Putting Michelle's utterances that contains language function into the table shown below to sort the data orderly and to make the analysis easier.



Table 3.4 Language Function Used by Michelle Obama

No.	Utterances	Language funct				n		
		Em	Di	Ph	Po	Re	Met	

Index:

Em: Emotive Ph: Phatic Re: Referential

**Di**: Directive **Po**: Poetic **Met**: Metalingual

5. Analyzing the language function from the table using Jakobson (1980) theory.

6. Drawing conclusion based on the result of the data analysis to answer the research problems.





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### **CHAPTER IV**

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher presents findings of the study and discussion. The first part is the research findings which answers the problem of the study and the second part the researcher discusses the result with the theory that applied to the study.

### 4.1 Findings

The researcher presents the answer for the problem of the study which stated in the first chapter. There are elements of the communications and language function that are used in the speech. First, the researcher analyzes the element of communications contained in the speech and then continued by identifying the language function.

### **4.1.1 Elements of Communication**

After analyzing the speech, the researcher found the element of communication contains in the speech. There are six elements of communication namely addresser, addressee, channel, message form, code, and setting.

The person who delivered the message was Michelle Obama, therefore she is the addresser in this case. There were some messages and information contained in the speech that she delivered during the 2017 School Counselor of the Year Event.

There are many addressees that Michelle personally acknowledged during the speech, there are Secretary of Education, John King as well as the former Education

Secretary, Arne Duncan and it can be seen in Datum no. 6 "First, our outstanding Secretary of Education, John King. (Applause) As well as our former Education Secretary, Arne Duncan." Where she personally addressed her message and thanked them. There are Michelle's special guests Ted Allen, La La Anthony, Connie Britton, Andy Cohen, Carla Hall, Coach Jim Harbaugh, Lana Parilla, Jay Pharoah, Kelly Rowland, and Usher. There are also Deputy Director Stephany Sprow, Senior Advisor Greg Dardnieder. This can be seen in Datum no. 8 where she introduced them to the audience. The 2017 School Counselor of the Year Terri Tchorzynski. The audience at the event as well as the TV viewer are also considered as the addressee since Michelle addressed some messages and information to them.

Michelle Obama's speech was shown in one of U.S television station called CNN TV and also uploaded on the YouTube site. Thus, the CNN TV and YouTube site are the channel of this communication.

The grammatical choices that in Michelle's speech was active voice since she was delivering a direct speech. She used active voice because she was giving the message directly to the people at the event. For the lexical choices, adjective words are often used by Michelle in delivering her speech. For example, in Datum no. 7 "We couldn't do this without the support of the Department of Education under both of your leadership. So I'm grateful to you personally, and very proud of all that you've done for this country." She repeatedly using adjective words, there are two adjectives words contained in one sentence which are grateful and proud. It is also can be found in Datum no. 8 "I also want to acknowledge a few other special guests we have in the

audience. We've got a pretty awesome crew. As one of my staff said, 'You roll pretty deep.'" Michelle used pretty awesome to describe the people that she acknowledged from the audience.

Michelle Obama only used English to deliver her speech to the audience. She specifically used American English. Michelle delivered her final speech in the White House since she stated it in Datum no. 2 where she opened her speech and welcomed the audience "Hello, everyone. And may I say for the last time officially, welcome to the White House." The speech was taken a place at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year event that was held on January 2017.

### 4.1.1 Language Function

After identifying the components of communication, the researcher analyzed the transcript of Michelle Obama's speech to find the functions of language used in the speech. The researcher found 37 utterances that contained language functions, however the researcher only found five out of six types of language functions which were emotive function, directive function, poetic function, phatic function and referential function. The frequency of the language functions used by Michelle were stated in the table below.

Table 4.1.2 Frequency of Language Function Used by Michelle Obama

	Frequency	
	Emotive Function	14
no	Directive Function	5
Single Function	Poetic Function	5
Single	Phatic Function	1
	Referential Function	8
tions	Emotive Referential Function	2
Double Functions	Directive Phatic Function	1
Doub	Poetic Referential Function	1
Triple Functions	Emotive Directive Phatic Function	<b>P</b> ı
	Total	37

From the Table 4.1.2 above, there were 34 total of single function which were 14 emotive functions, 5 directive functions, 5 poetic functions, and 8 referential function. For the double function there were 2 total namely emotive referential functions and directive phatic functions. The last is triple function which only occurred once there was emotive, directive, and phatic function. The analysis was divided into three parts, single function, double functions, and triple functions. The explanation of each functions are described as follows.

### **4.1.1.2** Single Function

Single function meant an utterance that contains only one language function. The researcher found 34 utterances that contained single function, the researcher only shown some examples of the findings, for the completed ones can be found in the Appendix 2. Here are the examples of single function found in the speech.

### 4.1.1.2.1 Emotive Function

A language that functions to communicate the inner states or the emotions of the speaker can be defined as emotive. This usually dealt with the speaker's expression toward something. It can be in the form of moods variant such as happiness, sadness, etc. The researcher found 14 emotive functions in the speech, however the researcher only shown some of the examples from the findings since there are some of the findings that have similar results so it is better to only show one of them. For the completed ones can be seen on Appendix 2. Below are some of the examples of emotive functions:

### Datum no. 3

Yes! (Applause) Well, we are beyond thrilled to have you all here to celebrate the 2017 National School Counselor of the Year.

This utterance was categorized as emotive function because Michelle expressed her feeling which she was very happy to have the audience who participated at the event. Michelle expressed it by saying that she was 'beyond thrilled' which means that she was extremely happy to see the audience.

### Datum no. 4

And *I want to start by thanking Terri* for that wonderful introduction and her-right-on-the-spot remarks.

From the utterance above, 'I want to star by thanking Terri' defined as emotive function because Michelle was thanking Terri for the opening of the speech, she was telling her how she started off the speech wonderfully.

### Datum no. 5

I'm going to say a lot more about Terri in a few minutes, but first *I want to take a moment to acknowledge* a few people who are here.

The utterance 'I want to take a moment to acknowledge a few people who are here' considered as emotive function because Michelle wanted to show her gratefulness toward some people, she wanted to thank a few people personally.

### Datum no. 6

First, our outstanding Secretary of Education, John King. (Applause) As well as our former Education Secretary, Arne Duncan. (Applause) I want to take this time to thank you both publicly for your dedication and leadership and friendship.

This utterance was classified as emotive because Michelle expressed her gratitude towards the people she mentioned above. She felt grateful for their dedication they put into their work and also their cooperation both as leaders and partners of hers that can be seen in the utterance 'I want to take this time to thank you both publicly for your dedication and leadership and friendship.'

### Datum no. 7

We couldn't do this without the support of the Department of Education under both of your leadership. So I'm grateful to you personally, and very proud of all that you've done for this country.



This utterance was classified as emotive because Michelle expressed her gratitude and pride for the support she got from the Department of Education as can be seen in the utterance 'So I'm grateful to you personally'. She felt proud of all the hard work everyone has been done during the past years of her position as the First Lady, she stated 'very proud of all that you've done for this country' to show how she felt about everyone in the Department of Education.

## Datum no. 11

And all these folks are here because they're using their star power to inspire our young people. And I'm so grateful to all of you for stepping in so many ways on so many occasions.

From the utterance above, it can be seen that Michelle was showing her gratitude toward some guests at the event for their work to inspire young people.

#### Datum no. 12

So thank you all so much. It really means the world to this initiative to have such powerful, respected and admired individuals speaking on behalf of this issue. So congratulations on the work that you've done, and we're going to keep working.

The utterance above shows that Michelle thanked and congratulated everyone who has been working on her initiative, it is considered as emotive since she was showing her gratitude toward the staffs for their hard work on making the initiative worked well.

#### Datum no. 13

And today, *I especially want to recognize all these – extraordinary leadership team* that was behind Reach Higher from day one.



The utterance above considered as emotive function because Michelle wanted to give the leadership team a special thank you since they have been helping her since day one.

## Datum no. 15

I want to recognize our Deputy Director, Stephanie Sprow. Stephanie. (Applause.) And he's really not going to like this because he tries to pretend like he doesn't exist at all, but our Senior Advisor, Greg Darnieder. (Applause.) There you go. Greg has been a leader in education his entire life. I've known him since I was a little organizer person. And it's just been just a joy to work with you all.

The utterance 'I want to recognize' above shows that Michelle wanted to thank the Deputy Director and Senior Advisor. 'And it's just been just a joy to work with you all' also considered as emotive function since Michelle told that she is really happy to work with Deputy Director, Stephanie Sprow and Senior Advisor, Greg Darnieder.

# Datum no. 20

We are also very proud of all that this administration has done to make higher education more affordable.

The utterance above shows that Michelle felt proud of the administration's work to make higher education affordable. She wanted to thank them by showing her pride towards their work.

#### Datum no. 32

So the young people here and the young people out there: *Do not ever let anyone make* you feel like you don't matter, or like you don't have a place in our American story – because you do.

The utterance 'do not ever let anyone make you feel like you don't matter' shows that Michelle was trying to encourage the people in America that they don't



have to be afraid to feel like they don't belong there. She encouraged people to believe that they belong in America.

## Datum no. 36

And that is true I know for every person who are here — is here today, and for educators and advocates all across this nation who get up every day and work their hearts out to lift up our young people. *And I am so grateful to all of you* for your passion and your dedication and all the hard work on behalf of our generation.

The utterance above shows that Michelle thanked the educator and advocates all across the nation for their work to help young people. She felt grateful for their dedication and work to help making the generation better.

# Datum no. 37

So I want to close today by simply saying thank you. Thank you for everything you do for our kids and for our country. Being your First Lady has been the greatest honor of my life, and I hope I've made you proud.

From the utterance above it is shown than Michelle thanked everyone for everything they did for the kids and the country. She felt really honored to be the First Lady and she hoped that she made everyone proud for her work during her days as the First Lady. This is considered as emotive function because Michelle expressed her feelings by thanking everyone and also she showed that she was honored to be given the title the First Lady.

## **4.1.1.2.2** Directive Function

Directive function aimed to direct addressee to do something. A command or question can be defined as directive function, so it can be in the form of imperative and interrogative sentences, the researcher found five utterances containing directive function. Here are the examples of directive function found in the speech.

## Datum no. 10

*Keep it down.* (Laughter) *Keep it together, ladies.* Wale is here. And of course, Allison Williams and her mom are here.

This utterance was classified as directive because Michelle told the female audience to keep calm as can be seen she said "keep it down" "keep it together, ladies" she jokingly told the audience to not freak out because Wale was at the event.

## Datum no. 28

If your family doesn't have much money, *I want you to remember* that in this country, plenty of folks, including me and my husband – we started out with very little.

This utterance was classified as directive because Michelle wanted everyone to remember her words whenever they feel down or in doubt. Through the word 'I want you to remember' Michelle implicitly told American citizen to never lose hope because Michelle and Barack both got through ups and downs before they got successful, this can be seen by the next utterance 'including me and my husband – we both started out with very little'. She wanted the American citizen to remember her words to never give up before trying because she was also struggling before she got into her place.

## Datum no. 31

And whether you are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh — these religions are teaching our young people about justice, and compassion, and honesty. *So I want our young people to continue to learn and practice those values with pride.* You see, our glorious diversity — our diversities of faiths and colors and creeds — that is not a threat to who we are, it makes us who we are.



From the utterance above Michelle wanted the young people to keep learning and practicing the values that their religions taught them. Michelle wanted them to see that diversity is not a threat, instead it makes them who they are, just like their religions taught about justice and compassion towards other people.

#### Datum no. 33

Right now, you need to be preparing yourself to add your voice to our national conversation. You need to prepare yourself to be informed and engaged as citizen, to serve and to lead, to stand up for our proud American values and to honor them in daily lives.

Michelle wanted the young people to prepare themselves to start participating in national conversation. Michelle also wanted them to prepare themselves to be good citizens, to stand up for the American values and practice them in daily lives.

#### Datum no. 34

When you are struggling and you start thinking about giving up, *I want you to remember* something that my husband and I have talked about since we first started this journey nearly a decade ago ... the belief that something better is always possible if you're willing to work got it and fight for it.

Michelle wanted people who are struggling and wanting to give up to remember her words that she and her husband were also struggling before they got into their place, she wanted people to believe that everything is possible if they are willing to work really hard and fight for it.

## 4.1.1.2.3 Poetic Function

Poetic function is focused on the message itself, it usually used figures of speech. It can be found in quotes or literary texts. Below is the poetic function found in the speech.

#### Datum no. 16

We wanted to change the conversation around what it means and what it takes to be a success in this country. Because let's be honest, if we're always *shining the spotlight* on professional athletes or recording artists or Hollywood celebrities, if those are the only achievements we celebrate, then why would we ever think kids would see college as a priority? So we decided to *flip the script and shine a big, bright spotlight* on all things educational.

This utterance classified as poetic function because she used 'shining the spotlight' to describe that everyone often focusing on professional athletes or Hollywood celebrities rather than higher education. Michelle wanted to tell that everyone also needs to focus on the importance of education and how it would help people to be successful in the country. It also implied that people tend to think that being a professional athletes or Hollywood celebrities are the only way to be successful. The utterance 'flip the script' means that Michelle tried to change the topic around the people, she wanted them to start changing into educational matters, 'shine a big, bright spotlight on all things educational' means that she tried to bring up the topic about education as clear as possible and tried to make everyone to be more focused on it too.

## Datum no. 23

So when students at Terri's school reported feeling unprepared to apply for higher education, *Terri sprang into action* to create a school-wide, top-to-bottom college-readiness effort.

The utterance 'sprang into action' was used by Michelle as a way to describe that Terri immediately helped students at her school who were feeling unprepared to apply for college. It was considered as poetic function because Michelle said 'sprang into action' to describe Terri's fast action to the problem she faced at school.

#### Datum no. 24

So our school counselors are truly among *the heroes of the Reach Higher story*. And that's why we created this event two years ago, because we thought that they should finally get some recognition. (Applause.)

Michelle described school counselors as 'the heroes of the Reach Higher story' because they have helped so many students who were struggling and need some help to apply for higher education. It was considered as poetic function because Michelle called them who have helped students as heroes in which it is known that heroes are willing to help everyone.

## Datum no. 29

But with a lot of hard work and a good education, *anything is possible* – even becoming President. That's what the American Dream is all about. (Applause)

The utterance 'anything is possible' is considered as poetic because it is a way of saying that everything you dream of can be true if you work hard and fight for it. Michelle said that to encourage the young people that with a good education and hard work they can achieve anything, even to become a president.

## 4.1.1.2.4 Phatic Function



Phatic function is used to start, stop, or end a conversation. It also can be used to check the contact between the sender and receiver. It can be in the form of greeting and saying goodbye. Here is the example of phatic function used by Michelle Obama.

# Datum no. 2

Hello, everyone. And may I say for the last time officially, welcome to the White House.

This utterance classified as phatic function because Michelle was saying hello as a way to open up a contact between her and the audience also it is used to greet the audience. She then said 'welcome to the White House' as a way to welcoming them to the event.

# 4.1.1.2.5 Referential Function

Referential function is used to carry an information. Utterances that can be defined as referential is usually in the form of declarative. Here are the examples of referential function used by Michelle Obama.

## Datum no. 8

We have with us today Ted Allen, La La Anthony, Connie Britton, Andy Cohen – yeah, Andy Cohen is here – (laughter) – Carla Hall, Coach Jim Harbaugh and his beautiful wife who's a lot better looking than him — (laughter) — Lana Parrilla, my buddy Jay Pharoah, Kelly Rowland, Usher.

The utterance above was considered as referential function because Michelle gave an information about some of the guests who were attending the event there are Ted Allen, La La Anthony, Connie Britton, etc.

#### Datum no. 20

Next, we launched Better Make Room. It's a social media campaign to give young people the support and inspiration they need to actually complete higher education

This utterance was classified as referential function because it carried an information about Better Make Room. Michelle informed that she launched Better Make Room to promote higher education to young people, through the campaign young people could get the support and inspiration to pursue a higher education.

#### Datum no. 23

In fact, a recent study showed that students who met with a school counselor to talk about financial aid or college were three times more likely to attend college, and they were nearly seven times more likely to apply for financial aid.

As can be seen above, the utterance 'in fact, a recent study showed that students who met with a school counselor were three times more likely to attend college' carried an information about the fact that school counselor successfully helped the students who wanted to attend college since the one who met with school counselor were having a higher rate up until three times higher to attend college than those who didn't. School counselor also helped the students who wanted to apply for financial aid and it worked since they were seven times more likely to apply than the one who didn't meet the school counselor.

## Datum no. 21

Altogether, we made in this administration the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill (Applause) *And today, the high school graduation rate is at a record high*, and more young people than ever before are going to college.

The utterance above shows that Michelle gave some information about the high school graduation rate that is at record high. She mentioned it because since the administration became the largest investment in higher education, the rate is going high and ever since there are more young people that going to college.

# Datum no. 25

They helped plan a special college week. And they organized a Military Day, hosting recruiters from all branches of our armed forces. And because of these efforts, *today*, 75% of Calhoun's seniors now complete key college application steps, and Terri's school has won state and national recognition.

Michelle addressed some information about Terri and her team who have held a special college week and Military Day to give some insight to the students about higher education. Michelle stated that 75% of Calhoun's seniors are already completing the college application steps because of Terri and her team efforts to make information about higher education more accessible.

## Datum no. 27

So for all the young people in this room and those who are watching, *know that this country belongs to you* – to all of you, from every background and walk of life.

Michelle made a statement for the young people at the event and also to those who were watching the speech from television that America belongs to them no matter

what their background is and their walk of life. She told them that they belong in the country and the country also belongs to them.

## Datum no. 30

If you are a person of faith, know that *religious diversity is a great American tradition, too*. In fact, that's why people first came to this country – to worship freely.

Michelle stated a fact that religious diversity is American tradition too so the people don't need to be afraid to worship what they believe. She wanted to tell people that they can worship freely.

## Datum no. 35

I want our young people to know *that they matter*, *that they belong*. So don't be afraid – you hear me, young people? Don't be afraid. Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered.

Michelle made a statement for young people to not be afraid because they matter, they belong in America. She wanted the young people in America to believe that they belong in the country so there is no need to be afraid instead she told them to be focused and empowered.

# **4.1.1.3 Double Functions**

From Michelle Obama's speech, the researcher found that double functions can occur in an utterance. Double functions meant a combination of two functions of language existed in one utterance. The findings are described as follows:

## **4.1.1.3.1** Emotive and Referential Functions



Emotive function occurred when the speaker expressed their emotions or inner states. Referential function means when an utterance carried some information. Below are the examples of the double functions emotive and referential functions occurred in Michelle Obama's speech.

#### Datum no. 26

These men and women show them that those kids matter; they have something to offer; that no matter where they're from or how much money their parents have, no matter what they look like or who they love or how they worship or what language they speak at home, they have place in this country.

The utterance above was identified as double functions of emotive and referential functions. Michelle encouraged the people of America as can be seen in this utterance 'no matter what they look like or who they love or how they worship or what language they speak at home', she encouraged American especially the young ones that they are matter regardless of race, wealth, etc. this can be defined as emotive function since she gave her empathy to the young generation of America. Utterance 'they have place in this country' was considered as referential function because Michelle made a statement that everyone has a place in America so there was no need to feel doubt that they didn't belong there.

# Datum no. 20

We are also very proud of all that this administration has done to make higher education more affordable. We doubled investments in Pell grants and college tax credits. We expanded income-based loan repayment options for tens of millions of students. We made it easier to apply for financial aid.



The utterance 'we are also very proud' was classified as emotive function because Michelle expressed her pride towards the administration that has made education less expensive. 'We doubled investments in Pell grants and college tax credits' was considered as referential function because Michelle gave an information of how the administration could made education more affordable and easier access for students to apply financial aid.

# 4.1.1.3.2 Directive and Phatic Function

Directive function occurs when the addresser wishes the addressee to do something thus the function is often a command or a question. Phatic function is used to start, stop, or end a conversation and also to check the contact between the addresser and the addressee, it can be in the form of greetings or saying goodbye. Below is the example of double function directive and phatic function.

#### Datum no. 1

Hey! (Applause) What's going on? (Applause) Thank you so much. You guys, that's a command – rest yourselves.

The utterance above has two different functions which were directive and phatic functions. The word 'What's going on?' described as phatic function because Michelle used that word to greet the audience by asking what is happening. Then Michelle used imperative words 'rest yourselves' this described as directive function because she told the audience to sit down before she continued her speech.

#### **4.1.1.3.3** Poetic Referential Function



Poetic function used to focus on the message itself, it usually used figure of speech and can be found in everyday texts, such as in sayings or quotes. Referential function used to convey information in an objective way. The researcher only found one utterance containing this combination of function, the explanation is as follows.

## Datum no. 17

So we decided to *flip the script and shine a big, bright spotlight* on all things educational. For example, *we made College Signing Day* a national event. We wanted to mimic all the drama and excitement traditionally reserved for those few amazing football and basketball players choosing their college and university teams. We wanted to focus that same level of energy and attention on kids going to college because of their academic achievements.

The utterance 'flip the script and shine a big, bright spotlight' was considered as poetic function because Michelle used a figurative language as a way to say that she did something to make educational things getting more recognized. 'We made College Signing Day' was identified as referential function because Michelle gave an information of what she did to make people turned their head into educational things in which she made a national event for people to experience a college life so that people will be more interested in getting higher education.

# **4.1.1.4 Triple Functions**

Triple function can also be found in Michelle Obama's speech. It is when an utterance contains more than two language functions. The researcher only found one triple function in the speech. Below is the explanation of the finding.

## 4.1.1.4.1 Emotive, Directive, and Phatic Functions



Emotive function is a language to express feelings, emotions, moods, etc. it is directly linked to the subjectivity of the speaker. Directive function usually aims to direct the addressee to do something, so it can be in the form of imperatives and interrogatives. Phatic function is used to start, stop or end a conversation, as well as to check for contact between the addresser and the addressee. Here is the example.

## Datum no. 14

I want to take time to personally acknowledge a couple of people. Executive Director Eric Waldo (Applause) Where is Eric? He's in the – you've got to step out.

The first one, 'personally acknowledge' described as emotive function because Michelle did an act of thanking several people personally, it was considered as emotive since she expressed her gratefulness toward some people. She then looked for the person she mentioned, 'where is Eric?' was considered as phatic because she checked the contact between her and Eric, she tried to find him in the crowd and to made sure that he was there and heard her. 'You've got to step out' was classified as directive because Michelle told Eric to come out from his position which can be assumed that he was still sitting while Michelle called her, it was considered as directive since Michelle told Eric to get up from his position.

## 4.2 Discussion

After analyzing all the data, the researcher discussed the findings based on the theory of language function proposed by Jakobson (1980). This discussion is used to answer the research problem that are stated on the first chapter.

From the analysis, the researcher found all the elements of communication there are 6 elements of communications contained in the speech namely addresser, addressee, channel, message form, code, and setting. Michelle Obama as the addresser delivered her last speech as the U.S First Lady in front of the audience at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year as the addressee. The channel that is used when she delivered her speech is television and internet as the medium to deliver the speech. She mainly talked about the importance of higher education and school counselor, so the message form is about higher education and how to pursue it by using the help of the school counselor. Michelle only used English to deliver her message since the speech was in America. The setting took place in the White House during the 2017 School Counselor of the Year event. In other words, the element of communication is related one to another. It helps the viewer or the reader to know such information about the speech

In relation to the theory of language function by Jakobson (1980) he stated that there are six elements of communication before identifying the language function. The researcher found all the elements of communication used by Michelle Obama namely addresser, addressee, channel, message form, code, and setting. After identifying the elements of communication, the researcher is aware of the context and the situation

when the speech is delivered so then the analysis of language function can be done in the next step.

There were only five out of six language function found in the speech, they were emotive function, directive function, poetic function, and referential function. Emotive function was the most function used by Michelle Obama then followed by referential function. It implied that emotive function is the most effective ones to deliver the speech since Michelle used this function quite a lot because looking at the situation, it was her last speech as the First Lady before the elected President Donald Trump is officially inaugurated. She wanted to make sure that she delivered her messages and gave the most meaningful final remarks. Thus she often expressed her emotion when delivering the speech, it is proven by the way she expressed her gratefulness and praised everyone who has been working with her which can be identified as emotive function since she directly showed her emotions toward what she was talking about. The second most used language function is referential function. This function is often used by Michelle because in her speech she was not only giving her last memorial speech, but she was also giving the audience some information about her initiative program that she built which is Reach Higher, she also gave some information about the work she has done and the presidential staffs that has been helping her during her years as the First Lady.

By all means, emotive function and referential function are the most effective function to deliver the speech. The two functions supported Michelle's speech as it was her last speech as First Lady so she tends to be more emotional thus she often expressed



her emotion by using emotive function. She also wanted the audience to get some information about what she has been doing as the First Lady thus referential function became the second most frequent used function since she gave some information to the audience.

The researcher found that an utterance can also carry more than one language function. The utterance that carried two functions is called double function and three functions called triple functions. There are two double functions that were found in the speech namely emotive referential function and directive phatic function. For triple functions, the researcher only found one function which is emotive directive phatic function. These combination functions occured when Michelle delivered various message to the audience.

There are differences between the current study with the two previous studies from Supriyono (2015) entitled "Language Function Found in Mizone Fres'in Television Commercial" and the second is from Hidayat (2014) entitled "Language Function Used by Mario Teguh in Mario Teguh Golden Ways". In terms of the result, from the current study it was found that the most dominant language function is emotive function, while from Supriyono (2015) was directive function and from Hidayat (2014) was referential function. The researcher believed that the situation when the speech was delivered might affect why emotive function often used. As stated before, the speech was made to mark the last and final speech from Michelle Obama before the elected President Donald Trump inauguration. Michelle wanted to give the remarkable final speech and wanted to make sure that she thanked everyone that has

been supporting and helping her thus the act of thanking often used by Michelle and it was considered as emotive because she expressed her emotion toward something. The result is different than the two previous study because looking at the first one by Supriyono (2015) she chose a TV commercial as the object of the study which resulting the directive function became the most dominant ones, in this case directive function might be effective to promote the product for TV commercial and it was also effective to persuade the people to buy the product. For the second study by Hidayat (2014), he chose a talk show for the object of the study which resulting referential function became the most dominant ones, in this case referential function often used because during the talk show, the speaker usually gave some information or told some stories to the audience.

This study also revealed that a certain context or situation affected the frequent use of language function as can be seen from the two previous studies, the first one was about TV commercial which resulting the referential function became the most frequent ones since commercial usually gave an information about a certain product and the second one was about talk show which also resulting referential function became the most frequent ones since during talk show the speaker often gave some information about some topics or maybe tell the audience about some stories. Meanwhile this study resulted emotive function as the frequent ones since looking at the context and situation when the speech took place it was convincing that the emotive function often used because Michelle was trying to left some memorable messages for the American through her speech thus she often showed how she felt towards the

audience and also the topic she was talking about. Moreover, it was her final speech and she might not get the chance do it again in the future so it might also affect her to use such language function. Therefore, it can be concluded that the situation or the context might affect the use of language function.

In terms of the relation between the elements of communication and language function, the researcher found that the elements of communication gave some insight of the context of the speech. After analyzing the elements of communication and the elements are all revealed, it helped the researcher to identify the language function. The elements of communication helped the researcher to know how was the situation during the speech such as who was the audience, what was the topic of the speech, and where did the speech take place, etc. thus the language function can be identified.

From the findings and the discussion, the researcher makes some conclusions. Firstly, there was a correlation between the elements of communication and language function. By analyzing the elements of communication, the researcher could understand and got some insights about the situation, the condition, and the context of the speech. When the elements of communication change, it could affect the use language function. For example, when the addressee changed the use of language function could probably change too.

Secondly, the speaker's intention might affect the frequently used language function. When the addresser repeatedly used a certain language function there must be something they wanted to achieve, by looking at the language function that was often used by the speaker, the reader or the viewer could interpret the speaker's intention. The context and the situation where the utterance was produced also might affect a certain language function became the most used ones.







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## **CHAPTER V**

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

This chapter presents the conclusion of the research and suggestion from the researcher to the reader and the next researcher who wants to conduct a study of language function. There are also some suggestions for further research.

# 5.1 Conclusion

From the analysis that the researcher has been done in the previous chapter, it has been proven that there are language functions contained in Michelle Obama's speech. Before doing the language function analysis, the researcher firstly identified the elements of communication.

This study focused on finding the elements of communication used by Michelle Obama in her speech then followed by investigating the language functions. The elements of communication that were found are addresser, addressee, channel, message form, code, and setting. Those elements were used to identify the language functions in Michelle Obama's speech.

Michelle Obama as the addresser delivered her speech to the audience of the event and the TV viewer as the addressee. Michelle used some channels through television and internet as a medium to broadcast her speech. She delivered her speech using English as the code. She chose the importance of higher education and how to

pursue it by using the help of the school counselor as the message form. The setting was taken a place at the White House during the 2017 School Counselor of the Year.

As a matter of fact, the researcher found five out of six language functions from 37 utterances produced by Michelle Obama. They are emotive function, directive function, poetic function, phatic function, and referential function. The researcher found that emotive function is the most frequently used function in Michelle Obama's speech. Thus, it can be said that emotive function is used to express Michelle's emotion towards the audience and the topic she was talking about.

In this study, the researcher also found that utterances containing more than one language function is also existed. The researcher found double function, an utterance contained two language functions, can occurred in the utterance. There is double function found in Michelle's speech namely emotive referential function and directive phatic function. The researcher also found triple functions which was an utterance contained three language functions namely emotive directive phatic function. Those combinations of language function occurred when Michelle delivered various information.

Altogether, the elements of communication and language function are related on one and another. Before investigating language function, the elements of communication must be identified first. By knowing all the elements of communication, the researcher could get some insights about the context of the object. After that, the researcher could identify the language function. Therefore, the existence of language functions depends on the elements of communication.

# 4.1 Suggestion

The researcher realized that this study is far from perfect and did not cover all aspect of discourse analysis study. This study only limited on the use of language function used by a public figure when they are delivering a speech to the community, however the researcher has done her best to give a detailed explanation for this research.

There are still some aspects that can be conducted from this research. The next researchers can analyze the correlation between the language function and the utterances that are produced. They can find the hierarchy between the real functions and the thematized ones. The further researchers are also expected to conduct a study about language functions from other object such as movies, books, advertisement. The researcher also suggests the next researchers to apply different theories from different experts who may have developed the theory of language functions. The next researchers could also conduct a study on a different field of discourse analysis since there are still many things that this study did not cover.

The researcher hopes that this study could give some contributions to the society and English Literature students as a reference for them to get a better understanding on discourse analysis especially language function.

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