

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter consists of the rationale, research questions, research objectives, scope of the research, and significance of the research.

1.1 Rationale

Language is used by people to communicate between one to another person. Language exists in two forms: verbal and non-verbal. Verbal communication involves the use of the mouth and voice, and it creates some words. Meanwhile, non-verbal communication uses a written form to create a text. People have to learn about language because language is a very important thing in daily life. According to Mwakapina (2021), the ability to think, speak, and communicate through language is one of the characteristics that sets humans apart from other living things. Language can be used to share information, ideas, emotions, expressions, and feelings of someone by using words. Every part of the world has at least one language spoken by its people. Today, almost everyone around the world can be used and speak English.

English is an international language. English was originally spoken in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, but it is widely used by people today. English is used by people for different purposes, such as for everyday communication, business, politics, and education. There are four skills to learn English, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The receptive skills are listening and reading, while the productive skills are speaking and writing. Currently, the use of English is increasingly widespread in society with various variations. There are many ways to learn English, one of which is learning through text. Based on Supadmi, Sudipa, Budiarsa & Laksana (2020), the text provides guidance on what human must do in life through nonverbal language. Learning English by reading texts can broaden horizons and be a great critical higher-order thinker.

In this case, text is considered as a grammatical structure that has a function in it. One term for this is Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially in language contexts. Magfiroh, Herdiawan & Rofi'i (2021) said that using language's form and function in interactions is defined by systemic functional linguistics, or SFL. Therefore, writing that has grammar in it also has a function written by the author to inform, invite, and convey their views on something.

Functions in language are used to clarify and provide meaningful understanding, called metafunction. Based on Darong (2022), there are three main functions, or metafunctions of language: ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction, and textual metafunction. Interpersonal metafunction is related to social relationships where genre, register, and context are considered. In the case of sentences as interactions, the interpersonal metafunction is focused on the context of society, including the interaction between the speaker and the hearer (Hidayah, Wihadi & Rahmatunisa 2023). It can also be the writer and the reader if the sentence is in written form.

In this interpersonal metafunction, there is a term called 'Appraisal', which means evaluation. According to Engelbrecht (2020), interpersonal meaning construction is the focus of appraisal. Appraisal or evaluation theory is a theory that discusses the assessment of a writing that contains the author's opinion. Appraisal theory has 3 types, including attitude (*affect, judgement, and appreciation*); engagement (*monogloss and heterogloss*); and *graduation (force and focus)*. One of the written media in which there are opinions and views of a writer is an article. Articles are usually written by writers to express their opinions about an event or phenomenon. The news media have an important part in sharing information and influencing public opinion, which has a significant effect on society (Lestari, Tallapessy & Murti (2023). Therefore, news articles can provide different views between the writer and the reader.

The analysis of this topic, engagement, has been conducted by several researchers. One of the research studies on engagement conducted by Cahyono & Pribady (2020) concludes that in teaching the students, the teacher uses different

kinds of engagement systems of heterogloss (contract and expand) to take a particular stance to mediate the students with teaching materials. Ziliwu, Nurlela, and Perangin-angin (2020) found there were *monogloss* 45 (18.90%) and heterogloss 193 (81.10%), which shows that heterogloss is more often found in this study. The other one has been researched by Haryati, Lukmana, and Gunawan (2021), which shows two things those are (1) Realization of *heterogloss* engagement is more than *monogloss*, which means that the counsellor refers to other voice resources in conveying the valuation, and (2) The counsellor shows alignment and solidarity with the student/counselee by choosing certain sources of heterogloss voice.

In this research, the researcher wants to look into the sub-categories of engagement in opinion articles, especially on the “EducationWeek” homepage. There are two reasons for conducting this research. The first reason is that many previous studies have focused on engagement as one of the three domains in appraisal theory. The other reason is that the researcher loves reading an article, especially an opinion article. An opinion article is a media that gives a different perspective, which the writers or authors give. This research tries to discuss the subcategories and their functions of engagement found in the articles entitled “*Should Cellphones Be Permitted in Classrooms? Teachers Offer These Strategies*”, “*Cellphones in Schools: Addiction, Distraction, or Teaching Tool?*”, and “*The Hidden Benefits of Distraction in the Classroom*”. The articles not only give the author's views on this phenomenon but also the views of others who have an opinion on this matter.

SFL provides a theoretical foundation and analytical tools for studying engagement resources. It explores how writers/speakers use language to negotiate meaning and position themselves concerning other voices and potential responses. The opinion article is one of the texts with the writer's arguments and views. Therefore, any research on engagement is inherently based on systemic functional linguistics. From those phenomena, the researcher wants to conduct research on the engagement found in three opinion articles. The function of each of the

subcategories of engagement is also explained in this study. Here, the researcher carries out the research entitled “*Engagement Resources in Online Opinion Articles: An Appraisal Analysis of EducationWeek.*”

1.2 Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated based on the background of the study:

1. What sub-categories of engagement are found in opinion articles on the "EducationWeek" homepage?
2. What are the functions of sub-categories of engagement found in opinion articles on the "EducationWeek" homepage?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, there are some research objectives:

1. To find out the sub-categories of engagement found in opinion articles on the "EducationWeek" homepage.
2. To find out the functions of sub-categories of engagement found in opinion articles on the "EducationWeek" homepage.

1.4 Scope of the Research

There are many aspects that can be analyzed in the articles. Many things can be analyzed, but it does not allow for analyzing all aspects. The researcher limits this research by analyzing the Engagement from one of the three Domains of Appraisal Theory. This study focuses on analyzing sub-categories of engagement and their function in opinion articles on the "EducationWeek" Homepage.

1.5 Significance of Research

The importance of research can be theoretical and practical:

1. Theoretical

The advancement of systemic functional linguistics is expected as a result of this study, especially the syntactic analysis of engagement as one of the three domains in appraisal theory.

2. Practical

This study can add references in the field of systemic functional linguistics. As well as providing some information about the sub-categories of engagement for readers and future researchers. This study will give the next researcher some ideas to improve research on appraisal theory, especially the engagement category.