

Conference Paper

Modality in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's Presidential Inauguration Speeches

Arjuna Peranginangin, Aldo Elias Alrisky Pasaribu, Alvin Zonatan Sagala, and ElviYosna Lubis

Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED), Medan, Indonesia

ORCID:

Arjuna Peranginangin: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6210-3748>

Abstract

This study examined the modality in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's Presidential Inauguration speeches in October 2009 and 2019. This study shows the similarities and differential modality values in the speeches. By employing modality, people are unengaged to express ideas that do not seem to be facts with various degrees of certainty. This research included the purposes of applying modality in the speeches. The research was conducted using qualitative descriptive methods, specifically through documentation observation. The results showed that there were three types of modality in both of the Presidential speeches out of the four types of modality stated by Holiday. There were no differences found in the values of the speeches. These values were the indication of how Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's intended to manage their programs in the second period of their leaderships as Indonesian president in 2009-2014 and 2019-2024.

Keywords: Modality, Type, value, Presidential, Inauguration Speech.

Corresponding Author:

Arjuna Peranginangin
 anginarjuna@gmail.com

Published: 11 March 2021

Publishing services provided by
Knowledge E

© Arjuna Peranginangin

et al. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use and redistribution provided that the original author and source are credited.

Selection and Peer-review under the responsibility of the AICLL Conference Committee.

1. Introduction

One of the language metafunctions is Interpersonal Function (Halliday, 2004). This talks about the social world, especially the connection between speaker and hearer, and is worried about the clause as exchanges. Taylor (2002) Interpersonal metafunction is fundamentally realized through the system of mood and modality. The primary refers to the types of clauses declarative, interrogative, imperative, while the second refers to the degree of commitment of the speaker/writer and hearer/reader towards the items he/she says. The modal verbs like a must, can and may depict different degrees of obligation. Modality refers to the intermediate choices between yes and no.

It is a big technique within the expression of argument and opinion. By employing modality, people are unengaged to express ideas that do not seem to be facts with

OPEN ACCESS

various degrees of certainty (Halliday1985). Furthermore, Fairclough (2003) proposes that modality deals with what speakers commit themselves to, concerning what is true and what is necessary. Kazeem and Olaniyan (2015: 10) the concept of modality is to use language to specific an attitude or express thought during an utterance during which the expression is often delivered in communication like in a debate, in speech, etc. Moreover, modality is because the speaker's judgment, or request of the judgment of the listener, on the status of what is being said (Halliday, 2004). The study is intended to check the meaning of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's speeches by using modality theory. By analyzing that it is often interpreted the meaning of modality utilized by both of them into the category of modalities. Therefore, the attitude or personal opinion found in their speeches can prove the meaning of modality supported by the category of modalities (Wang, 2010: 59). Through modality, the speaker can influence the listener of what is said. Hence, modality is additionally important to be analyzed.

The researchers will know the categories, values, and orientation of modalities. From modality it is obtainable to express of the speaker's attitude towards the case, condition, or others to detect the meaning for the listener to be utilized in the interpretation of the meanings of probability, usuality, supposition, and willingness. Mostly, the modality is employed in daily conversation unconsciously. So, modality is a vital part of clause exchanges to be analyzed to understand how modality impacts the meaning of language.

The reason why the researchers are interested in conducting this study is that the researchers are curious about the existence of modality in communication. This study is expected to be able to give significances to the reader, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the significance is to enrich the Modality studies through the speech; practically, it shows the realization of Modality in President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's speeches.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Modality

Modality refers to the intermediate choices between yes and no. It is a big technique within the expression of argument and opinion. By employing modality, people are liberated to express ideas that do not seem to be facts with various degrees of certainty (Halliday 1985). Furthermore, Fairclough (2003) proposes that modality deals with what

speakers commit themselves. Modality is that the speaker's judgment, or request of the listener, on the status of what is being said (Halliday, 2014). Fairclough (2003) sees that modality should do with commitment which covers the speaker's judgment and attitude in presenting his ideas and messages in text. Therefore, modality choices in texts are seen as a part of the method of texturing self-identity. Additionally, who you are maybe a matter of how you relate to the globe and others. The implication of modality use will depend upon some variables (Tchaparian, 2017: 27). Halliday proposes three variables: a system of type, orientation, and value (1994). These systems are applied to research the modality in President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Jokowi's speech as a framework of the study. There are four sorts of modality; usuality, probability, obligation, and inclination. In modularization, the speaker is making an announcement or question on information to the listener. Within the statement, the modality is an expression of the speaker's opinion, whereas within the question it is a missive of invitation for the listener's opinion (Halliday, 1994).

2.2. Orientation of Modality

The basic distinction determines how each style of modality is going to be realized. That is, the excellence between subjective and objective modality, and between the specific and implicit variants, discussed (with relevance probability) within the preceding section (Kazeem, .). The examples are given below:

(1a) Subjective, explicit \ as projecting mental clause + idea clause

||| **I guess** || we were a pretty pragmatic lot – including me. |||

||| Em, **I suppose** || that made your pain worse, did it? |||

|| No **I don't think** || it was superficial for him; || **I suppose** || he did feel it || but he he didn't think enough for me; || he he felt too much. |||

||| So I wrote a column back to the paper [[[in which I said, || "**I know** || I'm not going to get invited to the wedding || because the Grimaldis and the Buchwalds have been feuding for five hundred years!"]]] |||

(1b) Subjective, implicit \ clause, Mood as Finite: modal auxiliary

||| Tsai, << who **could** be on the front line in possible talks with Beijing, >> **may** have been tapped for her experience [[in helping to negotiate Taiwan's bid [[to join the World Trade Organization]]]. |||

||| Family background, fellow artists and friends may be glimpsed in amiable disguise. ||

(2a) Objective, implicit \ clause, Mood as mood Adjunct: modal adverb

Under the Montreal Protocol, the concentration of chlorine will certainly rise to at least 5 ppbv and possibly to as high as 8 or 9 ppbv.

Now I know Indian people better, and I know that the guy probably didn't speak English, or if he did, he was ashamed of it.

He felt they surely would understand when he talked like that!

(2b) Objective, explicit \ relational clause with factual Carrier: clause and modal Attribute: nominal group

It is certain [that he would never yield to the blackmail of the insubordinate generals].

It is probable [that the benefit is continuous], and so the indefinite use of aspirin is recommended.

In other words, even in those circumstances [where it is not possible [simply to bar the door to an inspection]], we have a range of tactics for struggle [which will subvert the of stead process and the very reasons for its existence.

2.3. Value of Modality

The third variable in modality is the value that is attached to the modal judgment: high, medium, or low. These values are summarized in Table 10-9, with „objective implicit’ forms as category labels. The medium value is clearly set apart from the two „outer’ values by the system of polarity: the medium is that in which the negative is freely transferable between the proposition and the modality:

	Direct Negative	Transferred Negative
(prob.)	it's likely Mary doesn't know	it isn't likely Mary knows
(usu.)	Fred usually doesn't stay	Fred doesn't usually stay
(obl.)	John's supposed not to go	John's not supposed to go
(incl.)	Jane's keen not to take part	Jane's not keen to take part

With the outer values, on the other hand, if the negative is transferred the value switches (either from high to low, or from low to high).

TABLE 1

Three Values' of Modality				
	Probability	Usuality	Obligation	Inclination
High	Certain	Always	Required	Determined
Medium	Probable	Usually	Supposed	Keen
Low	Possible	Sometimes	Allowed	Willing

TABLE 2: Finite Modal Operator (Halliday, 1994)

Finite Modal Operator			
Form	Low	Medium	High
Positive	Can, may, could, might (dare)	Will, would, should, is/was to	Must, ought to, Need, has/had to
Negative	Needn't, doesn't/ didn't + need to,	Won't, wouldn't, shouldn't, (isn't/ didn't + need to,	Mustn't, oughtn't To, can't, couldn't, (mayn't, mightn't,
	have to	wasn't to)	(mayn't, mightn't, hasn't, hadn't to)

Halliday (1994) elaborates four finite modal operators implying low value, they are: can, may, could, might. In the form of the negative, those expressions become high value finite modal operators. However, a finite modal operator must and ought to are high value finite modal operators whether they are positive or negative. In medium values, finite modal operators will, would, should are medium whether they are positive or negative. The four types of modal operators can occur in all four modality types. However, their use is more restricted in the inclination and usability (Halliday, 1994).

2.4. Conceptual Framework

This study was initially started by having some understanding of modality theory. This reveals a pre-input to analyze contrastively such types of modality in SBY and Joko Widodo's two-period speeches. The description of how this study conducted is represented in the following captures:

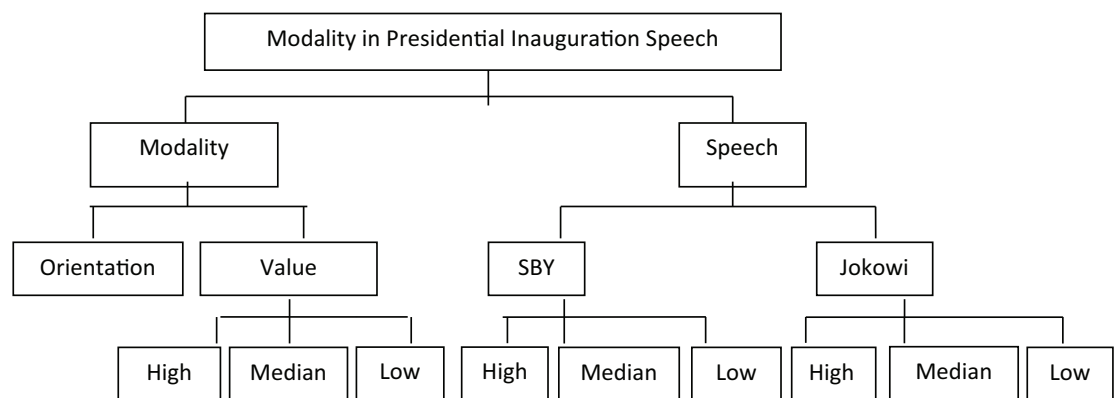


Figure 1: Modality in Presidential Inauguration Speech

3. Research Method

Method is required for this analysis to induce qualified research. During this research, the researchers use a qualitative method to conduct this study. The term refers to the kind of research question, design, and data analysis that may be applied to a given topic. It often uses visual aids like a table, chart, or diagram to assist the reader in understanding the info distribution.

This method emphasizes the method rather than the results of the research. In qualitative research, the researchers should use themselves as an instrument, following the cultural assumptions while following the info. A qualitative method refers to the research procedures which produce descriptive data like people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior (Bodgan and Taylor, 2002).

Related to data and Source of data, the data are modals and clauses (differences between two speeches in modality theory). The sources of data in the research are the transcripts of the speeches that were delivered by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo on Inauguration days. The transcripts of the speech are gained from the website. (Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia, 2020).

Techniques for collecting data are done by documentation observation and technique for analyzing data are as follows:

1. Downloading and copying the transcripts of presidential speeches from www.kompas.com for SBY's speech and www.stbalia-yk.ac.id for Jokowi's speech.
2. Translating from original (Bahasa Indonesia) into the target language (English).
3. Reading closely the transcripts of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo's speeches on inauguration days.
4. Analyze the presidential speeches based on modality theory.

4. Result and Discussion

Here are the analyses of two speeches namely:

4.1. Analysis of the text of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech

4.1.1. High Degree of Probability in SBY's Speeches

High value implies that the speaker has a high belief towards the President's speech. It means the speaker's speeches consist of positive or yes sense. The data are clauses in a high degree of probability. This analysis is displayed in the table as follows:

TABLE 3

Data	Clause	Value of Probability
Data 1	We already know	High

Based on table 3 above, there is 1 clause consisting of a high probability of modalities, it is *known*.

4.1.2. Medium Degree of Probability in SBY's Speeches

Medium value implies that positive or negative meaning is that the meaning of the speaker could be seen in the between yes or no sense. The data could be positive and also negative towards the topic of the speaker. The following analyses on modalities of medium degree of probability in SBY's speeches are displayed in the table below:

TABLE 4

	Clause	Value of Probability
Data 2	We will sail the ocean full of waves	Medium
Data 3	Indonesian people should be grateful	Medium
Data 4	I would like to express	Medium
Data 5	We will uphold	Medium
Data 6	We will continue to reduce	Medium
Data 7	I will also take part	Medium
Data 8	Indonesia will continue to fight for the world	Medium
Data 9	Indonesia will wage a cool	Medium
Data 10	Indonesia will cooperate	Medium
Data 11	Indonesia will continue to be at the forefront of efforts	Medium
Data 12	We will continue to be pioneers	Medium

Based on table 4 above, there are 11 clauses consisting of the medium probability of modalities: they are would and will and should.

4.1.3. Low Degree of Probability in SBY's Speeches

A low degree implies that the speaker has a low belief or the weak certainty in the statement of the speaker towards the topic. It contains negative or no sense. The analyses of the clauses above are displayed here.

TABLE 5

	Clause	Value of Probability
Data 13	Commodities are still fluctuating which can hit the Stability	Low
Data 14	But still, need to be improved	Low
Data 15	People's welfare need to be continued	Low
Data 16	We need to guide	Low
Data 17	We can maintain Indonesia's economic	Low
Data 18	We can have different opinions	Low
Data 19	Indonesia can now freely run	Low
Data 20	Where we can have a million friends and zero enemies	Low
Data 21	All of this can only be achieved	Low
Data 22	Can do spirit	Low

Based on table 5 above, there are 10 clauses consisting of low probability of modalities: they are *can and need*.

4.1.4. High Degree of Obligation in SBY's Speeches

High value of obligation implies a necessity of demand of someone to do something. It is represented by the variable in modality, as follows:

TABLE 6

	Clause	Value of Obligation
Data 22	We must not stop to continue	High
Data 23	Our economy must grow even higher	High
Data 24	We must never give up	High
Data 25	We must always kindle the spirit of being able to	High
Data 26	Must be able to continue	High
Data 27	We must maintain our identity	High
Data 28	We must guard	High
Data 29	We haveto divide	High

Based on table 6 above, there are 8 clauses consisting of low probability of modalities, they are *must and have to*.

4.1.5. Medium Degree of Inclination in SBY's Speeches

Medium degree of inclination occurs when it is more flexible than the first. It is represented by *want* and *will* that show desire. Below are the data analysis in text of SBY's speeches:

TABLE 7

	Clause	Value of Inclination
Data 30	We want to improve the welfare	Medium
Data 31	We also want to build	Medium
Data 32	We also want to create better justice	Medium
Data 33	I want to stress to the international world	Medium

Based on table 7 above, there are 4 clauses consisting of medium degree of inclination, all of them are *want*.

4.2. Analysis of the text of JokoWidodo Speech

4.2.1. Medium Degree of Probability in JokoWidodo's Speeches

Medium value implies that positive or negative meaning is the meaning of the speaker seen between yes or no sense. The data could be positive and also negative towards topic of speaker. The following analyses on modalities of medium degree of probability in Joko Widodo's speeches are displayed in the table below:

TABLE 8

Data	Clause	Value of Probability
Data 1	It will be a great opportunity	Medium
Data 2	We are able to build	Medium
Data 3	HR development will be our top priority	Medium
Data 4	We will continue to develop infrastructure	Medium
Data 5	The government will invite	Medium
Data 6	Each of these laws will become an omnibus law	Medium
Data 7	MSMEs will also be revised at once	Medium
Data 8	I will ask to be simplified to just 2 levels	Medium
Data 9	I will definitely uninstall	Medium
Data 10	I would also like to express	Medium

Based on table 8 above, there are 10 clauses consisting of medium probability of modalities, they are *would* and *will*.

4.2.2. Low Degree of Probability in Joko Widodo's Speeches

Low degree implies that the speaker has low belief or the weak certainty in statement of speaker towards the topic. It contains negative or no sense. The analyses of clauses above are displayed into some tables. They are as follows:

TABLE 9

Data	Clause	Value of Probability
Data 11	If we are not able to provide employment	Low
Data 12	We need a large endowment fund	Low
Data 13	So that they can run well	Low

Based on table 9 above, there are 3 clauses consist of low probability of modalities, they are *if, can, and need*.

4.2.3. High Degree of Obligation in JokoWidodo's Speeches

High value of obligation implies a necessity of demand of someone to do something. It is represented by the variable in modality, as follows:

TABLE 10

Data	Clause	Value of Obligation
Data 14	New ways must be developed	High
Data 15	We must simplify all forms	
Data 16	We must cut	High
Data 17	We must continue to carry out	High
Data 18	Investment in job creation must be prioritized	High
Data 19	Echelonization must be simplified to just 2 levels	High
Data 20	We must transform from dependence	High

Based on table 10 above, there are 7 clauses consisting of high obligation of modalities, all is *must*.

4.2.4. Medium Degree of Inclination in Joko Widodo's Speeches

Medium degree of inclination occurs when it is more flexible than the first. It is represented by *want* and *will* that show desire. Below are the data analysis in text of Joko Widodo's speeches:

Based on table 11 above, there are 1 clause consists of low obligation of modalities, it is *want*.

TABLE 11

	Clause	Value of Inclination
Data 21	The next five years we want to do	Medium

5. Conclusion

Based on the finding and discussion, there are four styles of modality namely usuality, probability, obligation, and inclination and there are three values of modality, high, medium, and low. In this study, there are only three kinds of modality namely probability, obligation, and inclination, and the medium probability is the most dominant in two presidential speeches.

It may be concluded that the contents of two presidential speeches delivered by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo mostly are carried out by medium probability which is begun by *will* and *would*. It implies that various agreements are delivered in an exceedingly presidential speeches uncertainly wishing to fulfill their appointment.

References

- [1] Bogdan, R. C. and Taylor, S. J. (2002). *Pengantar Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Suatu Pendekatan Fenomenologis terhadap Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*. Surabaya: Usaha Nasional.
- [2] Fairlough, N. (2003). *Analysis of Discourse. Textual Analysis for Social Research*. London: Routledge.
- [3] Halliday, M. (1985). *Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- [4] Halliday, M. (1994). *Introduction to Functional Grammar* (2nd ed.). London: Edward Arnold.
- [5] Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia. (2020). *Speech Transcript*. Retrieved from <https://setkab.go.id/en/category/speech-transcript/>
- [6] Kazeem, K. and Olaniyan, P. A. (2015). Modality in Statement of Objectives in Arts-Based Research. *British Journal of English Linguistics*, issue 10, pp. 42-51.
- [7] Halliday, M. A. K., et al. (2004). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (3rd ed.). London: Holder Education.
- [8] Tchapanian, V. (2017). Linguistic Analysis of the Two Speech Functions in President Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech. *Armenian Folia Anglistika*, issue 8, pp. 111-118.
- [9] Wang, J. (2010). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama's Speeches. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, issue 8, pp. 254-261.