



**REGISTER REALIZATION ON BARRACK OBAMA  
VICTORY SPEECH**

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# REGISTER REALIZATION ON BARRACK OBAMA VICTORY SPEECH

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## **Abstract**

*This thesis entitled Register in Barack Obama Victory Speech. This research covers three objectives of the study and those are aimed at describing the contextual description of mode, tenor and field.*

*In conducting this research, the researcher employed some steps in collecting the data. Those are Searching the data in the internet, choosing the data, downloading the video and its transcript. Then in conducting the analysis, the researcher employs some steps and those are reading the transcript, Segmenting the data in the form of clause, The clauses were analyzed in term of transitivity system, After the clauses were analyzed in term of transitivity, the second step was were analyzed in term of mood, The last step is analyzing in term of theme and rheme, Next, classifying register variables of every clause found in the speech transcript and discussing the contextual description of each variables using the theories of Systemic Functional Linguistics provided by David Butt and the last is interpreting the data.*

*The result of this research shows that relational attributive process is the most dominant type of processes produced by the president Barack Obama in his victory speech. In this case, Barack Obama gives information to the people who come to his speech. Barack Obama tells the audience that Americans should not be worry because he will bring democracy to America. Meanwhile, Barack Obama also produced declarative mood type in his speech. Barack Obama stated that he convince his people that they do not need to be worry about the democracy in their country because he will change it into a better country as what Americans want.*

*Keyword: Field, Mode, Register, Speech and Tenor*

Thesis ini berjudul *Register in Barack Obama Victory Speech*. Penelitian ini meliputi tiga tujuan penelitian yang ditujukan untuk menggambarkan kontekstual mode, tenor dan field.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, peneliti melakukan beberapa langkah dalam mengumpulkan data. Dengan mencari data di internet, memilih data, mendownload video dan transkrip tersebut. Kemudian dalam melakukan analisis, peneliti melakukan beberapa langkah, membaca transkrip dan kemudian segmentasi data dalam bentuk klausa. Klausa dianalisis dalam hal sistem transitivitas. Setelah klausa dianalisis dalam system transitivitas, langkah kedua dianalisis dalam system mood. Langkah terakhir adalah menganalisis dalam system theme dan rheme. Selanjutnya, mengelompokkan variabel register setiap klausa yang ditemukan di transkrip pidato dan membahas deskripsi kontekstual masing-masing variabel menggunakan teori Systemic Functional Linguistics oleh David Butt dan terakhir adalah menafsirkan data.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa proses relational attributive adalah jenis proses yang paling dominan yang dihasilkan oleh Presiden Barack Obama dalam pidato kemenangannya. Dalam kasus ini, Barack Obama memberikan informasi kepada orang-orang yang datang ke pidatonya. Barack Obama mengatakan kepada penonton bahwa Amerika seharusnya tidak khawatir karena ia akan membawa demokrasi ke Amerika. Sementara itu, Barack Obama juga memproduksi declarative mood dalam sambutannya. Barack Obama menyatakan bahwa dia meyakinkan rakyatnya bahwa mereka tidak perlu khawatir tentang demokrasi di negara mereka karena dia akan merubah Amerika menjadi negara yang lebih baik seperti apa yang warga Amerika inginkan.

***Kata kunci:*** *Field, Mode, Register, Speech and Tenor*

## **Introduction**

Language is something that people used in their daily lives as a media of communication. In communicating, this language has its own rule. A rule in a language is called grammar. Grammar is a theory of language of how language is put together and how it works. Gerot and Wignell (1994: 4) state that "There are three grammars which have had a major influence on schools in this century". Those are traditional grammar, formal grammar, and functional grammar. The unit of analysis of traditional grammar and formal grammar is the sentence. While, the unit of analysis of functional grammar is the whole texts. Language is something people do, not something people know. This grammar attempts to describe language in actual use and it focuses on text and its context. They concern not only with the structures but also how those structures construct

meaning. Systemic Functional grammar is a multifunctional view of language in which each metafunction assigns a structure to the clause. It is one of several functional theories in the current discipline of linguistics which conceives of text as social interaction.

Language refers to two kinds of language, written and spoken language. Everyday human communicate using language both spoken and written language. Spoken language sometimes called oral language. It is produced in spontaneous form, as opposed to written language. In spoken language, much of the meaning is determined by the context. There are two kinds of context : context of situation and context of culture.

Context of situation can be specified through register. Halliday (1978: 10) points out, “The context of situation is a theoretical construct for explaining how a text relates to the social processes within which it is located”. It means that register is a variation of language that occurs in society. The function of register in speech is to determine the variation of an existing language in a speech. Since register has three variables: field, mode and tenor.

Furthermore, register has three variables that are usually called as field, tenor and mode. Field refers to “what is going on”, tenor refers to “who is taking part”, and mode refers to “how language is being used”. It can be concluded that through field, mode, and tenor people are able know with whom people are talking to, what topic people are talking about, and what channel or kind of language people use when people are talking to.

The researcher chooses speech as the data to be analyzed because speech is one of spoken language that usually produced in a situational context. Speech is an activity of speaking in public or giving speeches to express their opinions, or give an idea about something. Speeches are sometimes held in public places or are broadcast on TV, radio and on the Internet. It requires some basic skills, namely: able to express thoughts verbally smoothly, mastering a language is good and right, as well as a self confidence to present in public.

The speech that the researcher is going to analyze is “Barrack Obama Victory Speech”. The researcher chooses this speech because it has various utterances originally from the native speaker from the United States of America which use English as their mother tongue. It is very interesting to analyze the utterances the President produced through Systemic Functional Grammar on register. The other interesting reasons why the researcher chooses this data since the speech contains about winning someone who managed to become a leader in a country called as a superpower country. He loves his citizen and trying to advance his country. Thus, this topic is the interest choice to be analyzed. The researcher is interested to analyze the register on speech because she wants to know how the speech is realized through the language especially connected to the register in order to get deep understanding of how the speaker’s language realization. As a result, the researcher chooses “Register Realization on Barrack Obama Victory Speech” as the title of this research. This research as three questions and those are:

1. How is the field of discourse of Barack Obama Victory Speech?
2. How is the tenor of discourse of Barack Obama Victory Speech?
3. How is the mode of discourse of Barack Obama Victory Speech?

The theories used in this thesis is the introduction of language as the first part, spoken and written language, Systemic Functional Grammar, relation of text and context, and metafunctions.

### **Systemic Functional Linguistics**

Systemic functional linguistics, often called systemic functional grammar or systemic grammar (the *functional* is often omitted), is a grammar model developed by Michael Halliday (1985) with his *Introduction to Functional Grammar* based on the model of language as social semiotics. According to Eggins (1994: 2) systemic functional linguistics is an approach to language which is centered on how people use language with each other in accomplishing everyday social life. In this approach there are four main theoretical claims about language: that language used is functional; that its function is to make meaning; that these meanings are influenced by social and cultural context in which they are exchanged; and that the process of using language is semiotic process, a process of making meanings by choosing. These four points, that language is functional, semantic, contextual, and semiotic, can be summarized by describing the systemic functional linguistics is interested in the authentic speech and writing of people interacting in naturally occurring social context.

According to Halliday (1994: xiii) language is structured to make three kinds of meanings, or metafunctions, simultaneously: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. Eggins (1994: 12) defines ideational or experiential meanings as ones about how we represent experience in language. Whatever use we put language to, we are always talking about something or someone doing something. For example, utterance *I suggest we attack the reds* makes meaning about “bottles of wine” and what we should do with them. It makes meanings that focus on the actions *we*, as human agents, should carry out, and the entities our actions will effect (*the reds*)

Simultaneously, we use language to make interpersonal meanings: meanings about our role relationships with other people and our attitudes to each other. Whatever use we put language to we are always expressing an attitude and taking up a role. For example, utterance *I suggest we attack the reds* makes meaning of friendly suggestion, non – coercive, open to negotiation; the kind of meaning we might make with friends, whose opinions we are interested in and whose behavior we do not seek to dominate.

Finally, in any linguistic event we are always making textual meanings: meanings about how what we are saying hangs together and relates to what was said before and to the context around us. Whatever use we put language to we are always organizing our information. For example, the sentence *I suggest we attack the reds* takes as its points of departure the speaker’s intention (only to suggest, not to impose) and the interactants (*we*). It is a possible answer to *What should we do now?*

## Spoken and Written Language

Spoken language is not the same as written one. They have different characteristic features. Since this study focuses on the students' talk that is spoken language, it is important to know the differences between spoken and written language. Gerot and Wignell (1994:158) say that spoken and written language differ in a number of ways. Written language is not simply speech written down. Speaking and writing are manifestations of the same linguistic system but in general they encode meaning in different ways because they have evolved to serve different purposes.

The term "written language" does not only refer to language which is written down. Likewise the term "spoken language" does not only refer to language which is said aloud. For example if someone reads an academic paper aloud, the features of the language are more like those of written language than spoken language. Similarly if we transcribe language, the written down version has more in common with spoken language than it does with written. What is at issue here is not just the medium through which language is transmitted but, more importantly, the way meanings are encoded. The key register here is the mode and the key difference between spoken and written language is the relationship between language in the context of speaking (or writing).

### Context of Situation

All use of language has a context. The 'textual' features enable the discourse to cohere not only with itself but also with its context of situation. Context of situation can be specified through use of the register variables. Halliday and Hassan (1985: 44) argue that they have analyzed the context of situation into three components, corresponding to the three metafunctions. The relationship between text and context of situation implies in term of the notions of the field (what is going on), the tenor (the social relationship between those talking part), and the mode (how language is being used). Those relationships can be visually realized in the following Figure 2.1

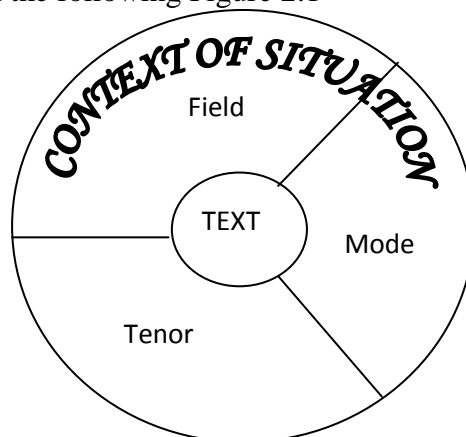


Figure 1: Parameters of context of situation  
Source: Butt (1995: 4)

Those three variables above refer to certain aspects of our social situation that always influence the language as it is being used. We also need contextual configuration for talking about the text structure. A contextual configuration is a specific set of values that realizes field, tenor, and mode. They are usually used in our social activity. Metalanguage can explore the relation between text and context. Here, such as Butt, et. al (2000: 182-183) says that context of situations motivates the meaning of text in three main areas. Those areas can be seen in the following description.

- (1) Field of discourse means the field of human experience encompassed by the text and its purpose in encompassing it.
- (2) Tenor of discourse means the social relationship between the speaker or writer and the addressee.
- (3) Mode of discourse means the nature of the text itself and the role that language plays in it.

The field, tenor, and mode of discourse summarize the 'motivational relevancies' which drive the text and make up the context of situation. The context of situation, as defined in these terms, is the immediate environment in which a text is actually functioning. These following things is the contextual description of field, tenor, and mode proposed by Butt (2000: 192-193).

The contextual description of field of discourse in the text can be realized by identifying:

- (1) Experiential domain is what the text is all about the processes, participants and circumstances.
- (2) Short-term goal refers to the immediate purpose of the text's production.
- (3) Long term goal refers to the text's place in the larger scheme of things.

The contextual descriptions of tenor of discourse in the text can be realized by identifying:

- (1) Agentive or societal roles.

They are roles between the speaker/writer and the addressees/reader. For example: mother/child, doctor/patient, teacher/pupil, or vendor/customer.

- (2) Status

The form of status can be equal or hierarchic.

- (3) Social distance

It measures how well the participants know each other, whether they speak familiarly or distantly. The two end-points of which may be referred to as *maximal* (for speaker who have never met before) and *minimal* (for those who interact on a familiar and frequent basis).

Meanwhile, the contextual description of mode of discourse in the text can be realized by identifying:

- (1) Role of language

It can be either constitutive or ancillary. If language is ancillary to the text, it helps some other activities.

- (2) Type of interaction refers to whether the text is all spoken by one person (monologic) or by other participant (dialogic).

- (3) Medium is whether the text was originally spoken, written or even signed.

- (4) Channel is how the text was originally received, either phonic or graphic or, in the case of signed text, visual.
- (5) Rhetorical mode refers to the overall feeling of the text.

### **Register**

Register is defined by Halliday and Hasan (1985: 41) as ‘variation according to use’. Alongside genre, the main construct used by functional linguist to model context is known as register. In Systemic Functional Linguistics, register analysis is organized by metafunction into field, tenor and mode. The dimension concerned with relationships between interactions is known as tenor; that concerned with their social activity is known as field; and that concerned with the role of language is known as mode (Martin and Rose, 2003: 242-243). Halliday and Hasan (1985: 12) have characterized these three dimensions of a situation as follows:

- (1) Field refers to what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place: what it is that the participants are engaged in, in which language figures as some essential components.
- (2) Tenor refers to who is taking part, to the nature of the participants, their statuses and roles: what kinds of role relationships obtain, including permanent and temporary relationships of one kind or another, both the types of speech roles they are taking on the dialogue and the whole cluster of socially significant relationships in which they are involved.
- (3) Mode refers to what part language is playing, what it is that the participants are expecting language to do for them in the situation: the symbolic organization of the text, the status that it has, and its function in the context.

### **Method**

This study is descriptive research that is intended to describe Register in speech of *Barack Obama Victory Speech*. As Isaac and Michael (1981:42) state “Descriptive method has purpose to describe systematically a situation of area of interest factually and accurately”.

This qualitative research is a procedure of research, in which the collected data are not is statistic procedure. In this research, the collected data is soft data. It usually reacts in people description that is also not easy done by statistic procedure. So this research is not only limited in collecting and arranging the data orderly, but also analysing the meaning of data.

### **Result and Discussion**

In this research, there was only one data which is analyzed and it was taken from Barack Obama victory speech. After the data were divided into clauses, there were found 156 clauses. The analysis of each register variable of the clauses in Barack Obama victory speech lexicogrammatically can be seen in the appendix.

Transitivity analysis focuses on the distribution of process types, the participants and circumstances. The process is always realized by a verb phrase. Meanwhile, the participant is realized by a noun phrase. Besides, the circumstance is typically realized by an adverbial phrase or prepositional phrase. There are 7 process types according to Halliday. They are material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, existential and meteorological.



The following table covers the process types of Barack Obama victory speech with total 156 clauses analyzed and followed by more detailed comment for each process type. It can be seen in table 4.1 below:

<b>Process Types</b>	$\Sigma$
Material	20
Mental	
Cognitives	2
Affectives	1
Perception	1
Relational	
Attributive	51
Identifying	37
Verbal	5
Behavioral	2
Existential	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

The following table focuses on the distribution of mood types. Firstly, the overall distribution of mood types is introduced, followed by discussion of the occurrence of mood type. The mood type configurations of each clause are shown in the appendix. The table 4.2 below shows the findings of mood analysis.

<b>Mood Types</b>	$\Sigma$
Declaratives	36
Imperatives	2
Interogative	1
Exclamatives	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

The following table 4.3 focuses on theme – rheme analysis. The following discussion covers the theme types with total 156 clauses analyzed, followed by more detailed comments on theme types. The analysis of theme in all ranking clauses is shown in the appendix. Table 4.3 summarized the findings of theme analysis. The theme types and participants configuration of each clause are shown in the appendix

<b>Category</b>	$\Sigma$
Topical theme	58
Textual theme	31
Interpersonal theme	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>

As the table 4.1 shows that material processes was the second most produced by Barack Obama in his speech. The occurrence of material processes in

Barack Obama victory speech is 20 processes. Here is the example of material processes.

Excerpt 1

*that stretched around schools and churches in numbers*

The excerpt 1 above shows that the verb **stretched** shows the material process. It shows the material process because it indicates the process of doing. The process of doing above is realized by conducting an action stretch around. The researcher notices that the bold verb expresses the notion that an entity physically does something, so that verb has a process of doing. The entity refers to the listeners (people who attend Barack Obama victory speech) as the actor of the clause.

Meanwhile, it can be seen in the excerpt 1 above that mood of that clause is declarative. The excerpt above shows that Barack Obama told to the people who attend his speech not to worry because he, Barack Obama, will build some schools and churches where people can get knowledge and to pray.

Then, it can be seen that the textual pattern in the excerpt 1 above is topical. The word “that” is treated as the topical since it refers to the people who attend the president speech. The word “that” here is relative adjective and described that Barack Obama has some plans after he had been elected as the new President in the United States of America.

The following example below also describes another register found in Barack Obama victory speech. It can be seen in the excerpt below:

Excerpt 2

*who waited three hours and four hours, many for the first time in their lives,*

It can be seen in the excerpt 2 above that the verb “waited” is treated as the material process in that clause. It indicates that there is a process of doing. Based on the clause, it is found that the verb “waited” refers to the people of the United States of America who wait for the glory of their country. The researcher notices that the verb “waited” expresses the notion that an entity physically does something, so that verb has a process of doing. The entity refers to the people who attend Barack Obama victory speech and the word “who” is treated as the actor of the clause.

Then, it can be seen in the excerpt 2 above that mood of that clause is declarative. The excerpt above shows that Barack Obama told to his people who attend his speech that they will not wait any longer since he becomes their president and he will help his people by making their dreams come true.

Thus, it can be seen that the textual pattern in the excerpt 2 above is topical. The word “who” is treated as the topical theme since it refers to the people who attend the president speech and have waited for along time to feel the glory of the new era. The word “who” here describes that Barack Obama has declared that he convinces his people he, as the new president, will decrease the poverty and make people’s live better.

The following excerpt 3 below is another example of register produced by the President of Barack Obama in his victory speech.

Excerpt 3

*who (is) still doubts*

According to the excerpt 3 above, it can be seen that there is relational-attributive processes produced by Barack Obama in his victory speech in the clause above. It indicates that Barack Obama as the United States president was giving an identification about what is being talked by him. The finite *is* could be categorized as relational attributive process because it indicates the processes of being to assign a quality to something. In the excerpt above, the relational attributive processes were giving an identification about what is being talked by the United States President Barack Obama. In this case, Barack Obama talks to his people that they should not be doubt anymore because he will overcome all the problems. That is why he, Barack Obama, needs trust from the people and not be doubt of him.

Then, it can be seen in the excerpt 3 above that mood of that clause is declarative. The excerpt above shows that Barack Obama told to his people not to worry and doubt about everything because he stated that he will overcome the problems faced by the American People now. It is proved by the subject “who” which refers to the people of America.

Thus, it can be seen that the textual pattern in the excerpt 3 above is topical theme. The word “who” is treated as the topical theme since it refers to the people who attend the president speech and in this case, the president Barack Obama gives a value information to his people that he emphasizes more on the people that he will not let his people down after his election.

A similar example of register produced by the American president Barack Obama can be seen in the following excerpt 4 below.

Excerpt 4

*that America is a place*

According to the excerpt 3 above, it can be seen that there is relational-attributive processes produced by Barack Obama in his victory speech in the clause above. It indicates that Barack Obama as the United States president was giving an identification about what is being talked by him. The finite *is* could be categorized as relational attributive process because it indicates the processes of being to assign a quality to something. In the excerpt above, the relational attributive processes were giving an identification about what is being talked by the United States President Barack Obama. In this case, Barack Obama talks to his people that America is the best and safe place to live in. They do not need to worry and afraid of living in America. He also convinces his people that America is a place where they can earn for a living and all things are possible to achieve in America.

Then, it can be seen in the excerpt 4 above that mood of that clause is declarative. The excerpt above shows that Barack Obama told to his people not to worry and doubt about everything because he stated that he will overcome the problems faced by the American People now. It is proved by the subject “who” which refers to the people of America.

Thus, it can be seen that the textual pattern in the excerpt 4 above is Continuative and topical theme. The phrase “that America” is treated as the theme of the clause in the excerpt 4 above because it refers to the people who attend the

president speech and in this case, the president Barack Obama gives his people information that living in America is safe and they can live without any trouble. The president also states that all people can reach their dream by living in America because all things are possible in America.

The following example below is another register found in the President of Barack Obama victory speech. The description of the register can be found below.

Excerpt 5

*Who (is) still wonders*

Based on the excerpt 5 above, it can be seen that there is relational-attributive processes produced in Barack Obama's victory speech. In the clause above, it indicates that Barack Obama as the United States president was giving an identification about what is being talked by him. The finite *is* could be categorized as relational attributive process because it indicates the processes of being to assign a quality to something. In the excerpt 5 above, the relational attributive processes were giving an identification about what is being talked by the United States President Barack Obama. In this case, Barack Obama tells to his people that they do not feel worry and wonder about all things happening in their country at the moment because he, Barack Obama, will overcome all the matters faced his country.

### **Conclusion and Sugestion**

After the researcher had done with the analysis in chapter 4, then, the researcher comes with the conclusion. The conclusion can be drawn as follows:

The **The experiential domain** of Barack Obama victory speech is America democracy. It is based on his victory speech that there is still democracy in America. Then, the **short term** goal of Barack Obama victory speech is to tell audience about democracy in America. It can be seen in the excerpt above that Barack Obama is telling all the American that he will bring out the democracy to America.

Meanwhile, **the long term** goal of Barack Obama victory speech is giving information to all Americans about the existing of democracy. It is clearly stated in the lexicogrammatical that there are many relational – attributive produced by Barack Obama is his victory speech such as the use of to be *is*, and *are*. In this case, Barack Obama told the audience about his plans after he was elected to be the president that he will bring democracy in his country, America.

Then, the contextual description of tenor of discourse covers agentives or societal roles, status, and social distance.

**The agentive or societal role** of Barack Obama victory speech is he himself. In this case, Barack Obama becomes the center of the speaker. He gave the speech to his victory after the America presidential election. Meanwhile, the **status** of the speaker is here is unequal because he, Barack Obama, is the dominant speaker as it is a speech. The last is the social distance is minimal because Barack Obama is the United States of America president.

The last is the role of language in this speech is ancillary because it helps the speaker of this speech to convey his message or information to the people

who attend the president speech. Then, the type of the interaction is monologic because it is a speech and the medium of this speech is spoken. As it can be seen that the speech is an oral communication. Next, the channel of this speech is phonic because the data of this research is spoken data and the rhetorical thrust of this talk is report because Barack Obama as the President of the United States of America gave information to all Americans about his new plans after he was elected as the president of America.

### **Suggestion**

From the analysis about the Register realization in Barack Obama Victory speech and the researcher has some suggestions as follows:

1. The writer expected that by reading this thesis, the students, therefore, have such activities form an integral part of the learning about register used in speech, especially in formal language such as in speech.
2. Considering the significance of the study, this research is expected to give a reference for further study. Because of the limitation of this research, the further study can analyze register in the natural daily life or in the formal situation

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