

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This study investigates the expression of modality and evaluation of Hillary Clinton in a speech. Clinton is the sixty-seventh and current Secretary of States of the United States. She was sworn in on January 21st, 2009 and scheduled to end on January 20th, 2013.

According to Halliday (1985: 86), modality refers to the intermediate choices between *yes* and *no*. It is a significant technique in the expression of argument and opinion. By employing modality, people are free to express ideas that are not facts with various degrees of certainty.

Furthermore, Fairclough (2003: 164) proposes that modality deals with what speakers commit themselves to, concerning what is true and what is necessary. Meanwhile, evaluation deals with what speakers commit themselves to, concerning what is desirable or undesirable.

Modality means a speaker's judgment of the probabilities, or the obligation involved in what he is saying (Halliday, 1994). In harmony with Halliday, Fairclough (2003) sees that modality has to do with commitment which covers the speaker's judgment and attitude in presenting his ideas and messages in text. Therefore, modality choices in texts can be seen as part of the process of texturing self-identity. In addition, who you are is a matter of how you relate to the world and to other people.

Moreover, evaluation is the aspect of meaning in text which deals with values (Fairclough, 2003: 215). Evaluation has to do with the way in which speakers commit themselves to values and concern the speaker's commitment to desirability. Through evaluation, how the authors use words in his speech related to value can be analyzed.

Speech has a significant role in shaping and setting issues in the society, it limits the topic of what and how it is talked about (Henry and Tator, 2002). As Secretary of States of the United States, Clinton has an authority to make some policies and to convey her thought to the public. Through speech, she is able to deliver her idea about some matters.

As it was reported by BBC news on December 7th, 2011, Clinton delivered her speech in front of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. She declared that gay rights are human rights. It was the anniversary of the passage of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which provided the opportunity for Clinton to challenge other governments by defending lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

In *Remarks in Recognition of International Human Rights Day*, Clinton used certain kinds of language features in her speech in order to make her words more noticeable. Clinton outlined the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how they are applied by people in seeking for their dignity. She stated that gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights. She said that it is violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because

of their sexual orientation. She also argued that it is violation of human rights when governments declare it illegal to be gay.

Who you are is a matter of how you speak, how you write, as well as how you look, how you hold yourself, or how you move (Fairclough, 2003). Additionally, when people act or do some activities, they also act out the social structure, declaring their own status, and creating the shared system of value and knowledge (Halliday, 1978). Through the speech, Clinton expressed her attitude toward some matters in human rights, specifically human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. Fairclough (2003) believes what speakers commit themselves to in texts is a significant part of what they are.

Therefore, the above phenomenon leads the researcher to investigate the expression of modality and evaluation of Hillary Clinton in her speech which relates to her commitment toward human rights, especially human rights of LGBT people. The study examines an analysis of modality and evaluation which would be limited by using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic as the tool of analysis.

There are some speeches delivered by Clinton. However, there is just one speech taken, which is related to the LGBT issue as the focus of this study. The study represents a speech delivered by Hillary Clinton on December 6th, 2011.

1.2 Statement of Problem

1. What are the expressions of modality and evaluation released in Clinton's speech?

1.3 Aims of the Study

In accordance with the research question above, the present study has two aims, which are:

1. To discover type of modality and evaluation are used in the speech.
2. To reveal Clinton's commitment towards human rights of LGBT people.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The following are some significances of the present study:

1. The study will enrich the concept of modality and evaluation analysis.
2. The study will be significant in raising people's awareness toward some issues of modality and evaluation in a discourse.
3. The study will be beneficial and helpful for the future researchers as their guide, to conduct research on similar topic.

1.5 Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I presents the introduction, which discusses the background of the study, statement of problem, aims of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the paper. Chapter II describes the theories of reference relevant to the present study. Chapter III reviews the methodology of the research, including formulation of the problem, research design, text analyze including description of the object, research

procedure and clarification of terms. Chapter IV elaborates findings and discussion. Chapter V concludes the study and offer suggestions.

