CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter covers the research method which is applied in the present study. It contains of formulation of problem, research design, text analyze include description of the object, research procedure, and clarification of terms.

3.1 Formulation of Problem

Modality and evaluation analysis are performed in this study in order to reveal Hillary Clinton’s commitment toward human rights of LGBT people in her speech. The research problem is framed into one research question:

What are expression of modality and evaluation released in Clinton’s speech?

3.2 Research Design

Qualitative design is conducted in order to answer the research question in this study. Specifically, textual analysis is performed with the aim of analyzing the expression of modality and evaluation in a speech. By applying qualitative design, one can preserve chronological flow, see which events led to which consequences clearly, and also get fruitful explanations (Miles and Huberman, 1994).
Furthermore, qualitative study as it is described by Maxwell (2005: 2) refers to:

The activities of collecting and analyzing data, developing and modifying theory, elaborating or refocusing the research questions, and identifying and eliminating validity threats are usually all going on more or less simultaneously, each influencing all of the others.

Qualitative study is also descriptive (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982 in Tesch 1990). Additionally, Travers (2001: 2) proposes that one of the methods employed by qualitative study is textual analysis. According to Miles and Huberman (1994: 1), the data is usually in the form of words rather than numbers.

The previous explanation leads the writer into a conclusion that qualitative design especially text analysis is the most appropriate method of this study. In addition, the analysis of modality and evaluation would be limited by using Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistic as the tool of analysis.

3.3 Text Analyze

The data which is employed in the research is the transcript of a speech that was delivered by Secretary of States of the United States, Hillary Clinton. The speech is the one which concern with LGBT rights which was delivered on December 6th, 2011 in front of United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The transcript of the speech is gained from the official website of the US government: www.state.gov.
3.3.1 Description of the Object

The speech entitled “Remarks in Recognition of International Human Rights Day”. The transcript of this speech consists of 37 paragraphs with 3746 words. In this speech, Clinton outlined the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She believes that universal human rights include freedom of expression and freedom of belief. She also made clear that rights are not conferred by government; they are the birthright of all people. Therefore governments are bound to protect them.

Clinton stated that gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights. Moreover she promoted and protected the human rights of LGBT people. It is explained in the speech that is a violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave. She also cited that is a violation of human rights when governments declare it illegal to be gay.

Clinton discussed five issues in this speech. The first one is that gay rights and human rights are separate and distinct; but, in fact, they are one and the same. The second issue is that being gay is not a Western invention; it is a human reality. And protecting the human rights of all people, gay or straight, is not something that only Western governments do. The third issue is that that human rights are universal and cut across religions and cultures. The fourth issue deals with progression of rights for all related to the changes in laws. And the last one
deals with participation to embrace human rights for all people including LGBT people. Through the speech, Clinton showed her commitment and attitude toward LGBT rights issues.

3.4 Research Procedure

This study is a textual analysis of Hillary Clinton’s speech. The study analyzes the speech transcript to answer the research question. Qualitative descriptive method is employed in this study. The study examines the expression of modality and evaluation in Clinton’s speech by analyzing the occurrence of modality and evaluation in every clause of the speech.

The first step of the analysis is reading closely and repeatedly the transcript of Hillary Clinton’s speech. The second step is analyzing clauses in the speech. In this step, Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistic is performed.

The third step is identifying the object of the research. In this step, the expression of modality and evaluation is identified. And the last step is interpreting the object of the research that has been identified in the previous step. And the conclusion is drawing from it.

3.5 Clarification of the terms

There are some important terms which are frequently used in this study. It is necessary to look at their definitions in order to avoid ambiguity.

- LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.
Lesbian: woman who is sexually attracted to the other women (Oxford, 2000).

Gay: men sexually attracted to men (http://geneq.berkeley.edu)

Bisexual: a person who is sexually attracted to both men and women (Oxford, 2000).

Transgender: people are those whose psychological self (‘gender identity’) differs from social expectations for the physical sex they were born with (http://geneq.berkeley.edu).

Modality (of a clause or sentence): the intermediate choices between yes and no (Halliday, 1985).

Evaluation is the aspect of meaning in text which deals with values (Fairclough, 2003).

Speech: formal talk that a person gives to an audience (Oxford, 2000).