

SPEECH FUNCTION ANALYSIS IN PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO' INTERVIEW WITH NAJWA SHIHAB

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the speech functions used by President Prabowo Subianto and Najwa Shihab, particularly how the president conveys information and influences public perception. This study uses qualitative descriptive research, namely documentation analysis. Data were taken from the transcript of an interview between President Prabowo Subianto and Najwa Shihab during the "President Answers" program on Najwa Shihab's YouTube account on April 6, 2025. The analysis focused on speech functions based on Haliday's (2014) theory: statement, command, question, and offer. The results showed that the most frequently occurring speech function was the statement, with 294 utterances (74.73%). The second most frequently occurring speech function was the question, with 52 utterances (18%). Next came the command speech function with 23 utterances (6.2%). Finally, the least frequently occurring speech function was the offer, with 2 utterances (0.5%). This research concludes that President Prabowo's use of speech function in the interview was strategic, namely, in addition to reporting information or facts, it also formed a narrative of President Prabowo's leadership image.

Keywords: Speech Function, Interview, President Prabowo

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis fungsi tuturan yang digunakan oleh Presiden Prabowo Subianto dan Najwa Shihab, khususnya bagaimana presiden menyampaikan informasi dan memengaruhi persepsi publik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, yaitu analisis dokumentasi. Data diambil dari transkrip wawancara Presiden Prabowo Subianto dan Najwa Shihab dalam acara "Presiden Menjawab" di akun YouTube Najwa Shihab pada 6 April 2025. Analisis difokuskan pada fungsi tutur berdasarkan teori Haliday (2014): pernyataan, perintah, pertanyaan, dan tawaran. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fungsi tutur yang paling sering muncul adalah pernyataan, dengan 294 tuturan (74,73%). Fungsi tutur kedua yang paling sering muncul adalah pertanyaan, dengan 52 tuturan (18%). Berikutnya adalah fungsi tutur perintah dengan 23 tuturan (6,2%). Terakhir, fungsi tutur yang paling jarang muncul adalah tawaran, dengan 2 tuturan (0,5%). Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa penggunaan fungsi tuturan Presiden

Prabowo dalam wawancara tersebut bersifat strategis, yakni selain menyampaikan informasi atau fakta, juga membentuk narasi citra kepemimpinan Presiden Prabowo.

Kata Kunci: Fungsi Pidato, Wawancara, Presiden Prabowo

A. Introduction

Speech function is a form of communicative action carried out by individuals through spoken or written language to exchange meaning with others. This concept in the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) developed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 29) stated that language functions to make sense of our experience and act out our social relationship. Talking about the function of speech, there are four basic categories of speech, namely statements, questions, offers, and commands. Speech function has different functions according to the context and the situation that is happening. Speech function is used by someone when they want to dig up information, order or give orders, make offers through communication carried out by two or more people. Speech function often occurs in our lives, for example in interview where an interviewer wants to dig up information from a source.

Interviews are often used as political communication not only to convey the content of a message, but also how that message is packaged and delivered to the public. In the context of national leadership, every statement made by a president is not only considered ordinary information, but also a representation of power, ideology, and diplomatic strategy. Therefore, a president's ability to manage verbal communication is an important indicator in assessing the effectiveness and competence of their leadership.

In Indonesia, interviews between political figures such as the president, ministers, or other state officials with well-known journalists like Najwa Shihab are common. Such interviews with political figures are essential and serve as important moments in revealing the quality of a leader's communication in conveying new ideas or concepts. According to (Romli, 2019), interviews in journalism are an effort by a journalist to obtain information directly so that it can be

presented in news, reports, or writing. Interviews with political figures like President Prabowo can be broadcast on YouTube or television, allowing the public to watch them live.

Political communication is integral to the democratic system that mediates between political actors and society through symbolic representation and discourse strategies. Within the framework of pragmatic and applied linguistics, political communication is understood not only as a process of conveying information but also as a social practice that shapes power relations, ideology, and public perception (Wodak, 2015). In the context of political communication, interviews with the president are essential for understanding the work plan in line with the vision and mission that have been established. One interview that caught the public's attention was the interview between President Prabowo Subianto and several journalists, including Najwa Shihab, which was broadcast on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel on April 7, 2025. The exclusive interview was conducted to discuss various important issues, including the revision of the Indonesia National

Army(TNI) Law, which had been in the public spotlight and triggered demonstrations in various regions, as well as the protectionist economic policies promoted by US President Donald Trump, which could have a significant impact on Indonesia's labor-intensive industrial sector.

President Prabowo often conducts interviews with journalists such as Najwa Shihab and others to convey his vision and mission for the future. Interviews conducted by President Prabowo are watched by many people, both on television and on social media such as YouTube. Sometimes, viewers only see interviews conducted by President Prabowo as ordinary interviews where the president answers questions from panelists, without realizing that every statement from both Najwa Shihab and President Prabowo has a deeper meaning. This is also because many only see Najwa's or other panelists' questioning style without understanding the actual content of the interview.

For example, Najwa Shihab's questioning style also shapes the direction of her answers. For example, her choice of "question directives,"

which are structured in a declarative or rhetorical manner, often leads President Prabowo to respond with lengthy, assertive, or argumentative narratives, without directly addressing the point.

Prabowo's habit of elongating his answers appears to be a deliberate rhetorical strategy. Instead of short and direct answers, he prefers to elaborate emotional and cultural narratives to strengthen his leadership image and shape the public's perception of him as a decisive and visionary figure, while also avoiding the pitfalls of critical questions by manipulating the discourse's framing. This can make viewers bored and reluctant to watch the entire interview.

Analyzing the speech functions in this interview is important for understanding how President Prabowo Subianto uses language to achieve his communication goals, such as convincing the public, building his image, and influencing public opinion on political issues. Additionally, this interview also highlights the dynamics of interaction between the president and senior journalists, which can provide insights into political communication practices

in Indonesia. Speech functions allow us to look beyond mere lexical and syntactic meaning, delving deeper into the speaker's pragmatic intent, whether it is to state facts, request information, give orders, or express commitment. This understanding is important for interpreting messages holistically and comprehensively.

Research on speech function has been widely conducted in various discourse contexts, such as in everyday conversation, films, political speeches, and classrooms. Many previous studies have examined speech functions in interpersonal interactions or in written texts to identify types of speech based on Halliday's theory, especially in the structure of statements, questions, commands, and offers. However, studies on speech functions in the context of political interviews in the media, especially in interviews involving public figures such as President Prabowo Subianto, are still very limited. Most previous studies have focused more on the content of political messages or discourse strategies, rather than how speech choices are used interpersonally to build power, maintain image, or avoid

confrontation in formal situations such as interviews. Therefore, this research is important to fill this gap by analyzing the types of speech functions that emerge, as well as the linguistic strategies used by both parties in forming interpersonal relationships and conveying communicative intentions in the context of public political interviews. By focusing on the analysis of speech functions, this research is expected to contribute to the development of studies on political language and interpersonal communication in the mass media.

Previous research on speech functions conducted by Tarigan (2018) entitled "SPEECH FUNCTION IN JOKOWI'S SPEECHES". The objectives of this study are to find out the types of Speech Function, the most dominant type of Speech Function used, and the meaning of the dominantly used. The research on this thesis was carried by using descriptive qualitative. He found 116 speech functions from 4 speeches of jokowi. The findings indicated that there are Statement 88 (75, 86%), Question 11 (9,48%), Command 17 (14,66%), and there is no Offer in Jokowi's Speeches (0%). Statement as the most dominant

type of speech function is used in Jokowi's speeches.

B. Research Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative methods, the data is collected to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. Phenomena can be perceptions, motivations, actions, and others holistically that can be described in words, language, or scientific contexts. Descriptive qualitative methods are used in this research to describe the types of speech functions contained in speeches in interviews between President Prabowo Subianto and several journalists including Najwa Shihab based on Haliday's theory. This research aims to facilitate research in order to conduct more complex analysis. By using data collection methods, it aims to obtain a rich picture and understanding of the speech functions used by President Prabowo Subianto with several other journalists.

C. Research Results and Discussion

To answer research problems 1 and 2 in chapter 1, it can be seen from the analysis data that has been done

by researchers on President Prabowo's interview with panelist Najwa Shihab on the President Answers program which was broadcast on Najwa Shihab's YouTube account on April 6, 2025. The first question is "What are the types of speech function used by President Prabowo Subianto in his interview with panelists Najwa Shihab in narrative?" Based on data that the types of speech functions that exist between President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab's interviews were found starting from statements, commands, questions and offers in the interview with different percentages. Furthermore, there are many types of speech, namely 370 utterances with the most statements, namely 294 utterances, followed by questions with 52 utterances, then commands with 23 utterances and finally offers with 2 utterances.

Next, regarding the question "What is the dominant type of speech functions used by Prabowo in his interview with panelists Najwa Shihab in the narrative?" Based on problem 1, it was found that the most dominant statement among the others. This can be seen from the number of statements that are highest among the

other types. For further discussion, see below.

1. Types of speech function

The researcher presents findings on the speech functions in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab on the "President Answers" program. Based on the analysis conducted by the researcher, the types of speech functions in the interview are explained below:

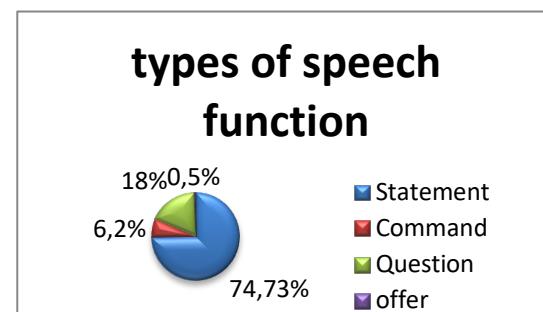


Chart 1. types of speech function

In chart 4.1, it can be seen that the most frequently occurring speech function is the statement, with a frequency reaching more than half of the total cases, namely 74.73%. Followed by questions as the second most frequently occurring speech function, namely 18% of the total cases. Meanwhile, the command function has a low frequency, namely 6.2%, and the offer function the lowest, namely 0.5%. explanation of each utterance in the presidential interview It can be seen from chart 4.1

that all types of speech acts are present in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab and have varying percentages.

Furthermore, in Table 4.1, we can see the distribution of speech function usage in President Prabowo Subianto's interview with Najwa Shihab. There were 372 utterances in the interview, and statements were the most frequent utterances with 297 utterances, followed by questions with 50 utterances, of which 22 were command-type utterances and at least 2 were offer-type utterances.

Table 1. Frequency of Initial Speech Function Produced by Each Speaker					
N	Spea ker	State ment	Com mand	Ques tion	Off er
1	Prab owo Subi anto	232	16	29	2
2	Najw a Shih ab	21	1	14	-
3	Valeri na Dani el	41	4	8	-
	Total	294	22	50	2

Next, in Table 4.2, we can see the distribution of speech function types for each speaker, starting from President Prabowo as the resource

person, Najwa Shihab as the questioner, and Valerina as the host in the interview program. After analyzing President Prabowo's interviews with several journalists, including Najwa Shihab, it was found that all types of initial speech functions appeared in the interview: statements, questions, commands, and offers. The following example of analysis results is divided based on the type of initial speech function produced in the interview with President Prabowo Subianto on the "President Answers" program.

a. Statement

The first type of speech function in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab in the "Prabowo Answers" program is a statement. A statement functions as an act of providing information, usually this type of speech function is expressed through a declarative atmosphere. Based on the results shown in the table above, this type of statement in this interview was the highest compared to other types of statements. Researchers found two hundred and seventy-eight (278) types of statements in the interview script. This number reached seventy-four thousand seventy-three percent (74.73%).

b. Command

The second type of speech function in the president's interview with Najwa Shihab on the "President Answers" program is the command. A command occurs when the speaker requests a good or service from the listener and invites the listener to accept that good or service. Researchers found twenty-five utterances (25) in the president's interview with Najwa Shihab on the "President Answers" program. These sentences comprised six point two percent (6.2%) of all utterances.

c. Question

The third type of speech function in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab in "The President Answers" is questions. These questions are used to request information and use interrogative sentences, and the listener responds to the information. In the interview between President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab in "The President Answers," researchers found sixty-seven (67) interrogative sentences. These questions account for eighteen percent (18%) of the total sentences. This is the second highest frequency of utterances.

d. Offer

The fourth type of utterance function in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab in "The President Answers" is an offer. This offer is used where the speaker gives something to the listener, whether information, assistance, or an object in the form of a polite invitation or offer. In the interview between President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab in "The President Answers", researchers found two (2) utterances. This offer covers zero point five (0.5%) of the total sentence. This is the lowest frequency of utterances among the four.

2. Dominant types of speech function

From Graph 4.1 and Table 4.2, it can be seen that statements were the most dominant speech function, accounting for 278 of the 372 utterances, representing 73.78% of 100%. President Prabowo, as the interviewee, delivered the most statements, with 217 utterances. Valerina Daniel, as the host, contributed 41 statements. Meanwhile, Najwa Shihab, as the interviewer, made the fewest statements, with 20. Several factors explain the dominant use of statements in the interview between

President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab:

1. The purpose of an informative interview focuses on conveying information to the audience.
2. Statements, as a form of providing information, imply that the speaker is inviting the audience to receive that information.
3. In this context, President Prabowo acts as the information provider, therefore explicitly conveying his opinions and ideas.
4. This was reflected when he delivered public information regarding his 150 days as President of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as through interactions involving questions from panelists, especially Najwa Shihab.

Discussion

In this section, the researcher will elaborate on the previously presented findings, namely regarding two main research questions: first, the types of initial utterance functions used in President Prabowo's interview with Najwa Shihab; and second, the most dominant utterance functions based

on Halliday's speech function theory. From the observations, it appears that all four types of initial utterance functions statement, question, command, and offer all appeared in the interview. However, the most prominent type was statement, followed by question with the second highest frequency, then command, and finally, offer with the lowest frequency.

According to Halliday (1994), speech functions are classified based on two dimensions: commodity and role. Based on this matrix, these roles are:

Statement = giving information
Question = demanding information
Offer = giving goods or services
Command = demanding goods or services

In the analyzed interviews, the dominance of statements indicates that President Prabowo's sources conveyed more information explicitly to the audience. This is understandable, as interviews in this context serve as a medium for conveying public information. Other researchers, such as Tarigan (2018), who analyzed the speeches of political figures, also found a similar pattern. For example, in Jokowi's speech,

statements accounted for approximately 75.86% of the speeches, while offers were completely absent. This reinforces the point that when the goal of communication is to convey information, statements do indeed account for the largest portion.

Research by Andi Nur Fadilla and Sunardi (2017) explored speech functions and mood patterns in an interview between Sarah Sechan (host) and Shane Filan (guest) on the Sarah Sechan Talk Show in October 2013. Analysis of the interview transcripts, consisting of 563 clauses, revealed that statements were the most dominant speech function, with a total of 382 clauses, 246 of which were uttered by Shane while conveying information as the main source. These findings are highly relevant in comparing the Sarah-Shane interview and the Prabowo-Najwa political interview. In both contexts, statements remain the primary function, emphasizing the source's role as a provider of information. However, in the talk show, offers and commands appear, albeit limited, with interpersonal nuances and warmth that promote guest comfort. This contrasts with formal political

interviews such as those involving Prabowo and Najwa, where the functions of offers and commands tend to be minimal or only serve as transitions, rather than casual interactions. This illustrates that the talk show context allows for a variety of speech function expressions to foster a more interpersonal and dynamic atmosphere.

Previous research by Ayu Isa Putri and Saibani Wiyanto (2024) examined speech functions in student conversations in English classes using Halliday's (1994) approach, similar to this study. Their analysis revealed that students used three types of speech functions: statements, commands, and questions, while offers were completely absent from the interactions. These results showed that statements the function of conveying information were used most frequently, followed by commands (requesting goods and services), and questions (requesting information). When compared to political interviews between President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab, both interviews ranked statements as the most dominant speech function, a finding that indicates that the role of statements as

information conveyors is indeed universal in formal situations.

However, the order of speech functions differed significantly. In the learning context, commands came second, reflecting that students were more active in directing or instructing something beyond simply conveying or requesting information. Meanwhile, in Prabowo and Najwa's interviews, questions came third after statements, indicating that interviewer Najwa Shihab focused on gathering information rather than giving instructions. The command function still appears, but more as a tool to keep the interview flowing smoothly, rather than as a literal direct instruction.

Furthermore, in a study conducted by Yolanda and Ena (2022), an analysis was conducted on the conversations of four speakers in the video "Indonesian Batik Innovation" from SEA Today News. The results showed that all types of speech functions, namely statements, questions, commands, and offers, appeared in the interaction. The most dominant function was the statement, with a total of 79 utterances, reflecting that the main purpose of the delivery was to provide information. When

compared to the interview between President Prabowo and Najwa Shihab, this SEA Today News study provides additional insights. The similarities are clear: statements are the most dominant speech function in both contexts, demonstrating the universal role of statements as an effective channel for conveying information in both formal and informative situations. Furthermore, it appears that the speakers gave each other positive responses, such as acknowledgement, answer, and action, so that misunderstandings between speakers occurred during the discussion. Similarly, in the interview between Prabowo and Najwa, there were positive responses such as acknowledgement, answer, compliment, and agreement.

Research by Vina Nafalia and Elysa Hartati (2023) highlighted the representation of interpersonal meaning in the conversation between Jimmy Fallon (host) and Martin Short (guest star) on The Tonight Show through an analysis of mood and speech function. The results showed that all three types of moods declarative, interrogative, and imperative were present in the conversation. Among the three,

declarative dominated with 308 clauses, followed by interrogative (11 clauses) and imperative (5 clauses). These findings emphasize that analyzing interpersonal communication is not enough to only look at grammatical aspects, but must also consider how language contributes to creating meaning and maintaining interpersonal relationships. Entertainment shows such as The Tonight Show allow for a warmer and more interactive atmosphere, evidenced by the alternating roles between host and guest in giving and demanding information, as well as responses such as acknowledgments and contradictions. In contrast, formal political interviews emphasize information delivery and flow structure, so interpersonal expressions such as offers or light commands are rare or irrelevant

E. Conclusion

This research aims to identify the types of speech functions that can be found in the President's interview with Najwa Shihab in the President Answers program on April 6, 2025. To prevent distortion in the research findings, the subject of this

interpersonal meaning analysis is limited to Prabowo's interaction answering questions from Najwa Shihab as a panelist and Valerina Daniel as the host in the event. This study, which is based on Halliday's theory (2014), was conducted to examine the types of speech functions in each utterance. Based on the results of the speech function analysis in President Prabowo Subianto's interview with Najwa Shihab, it can be concluded as follows:

First, there were 372 utterances in the interviews. Of these, all types of utterances functioned, such as statements, questions, offers, and commands, and were used to construct meaning and interaction. These utterances were classified into 278 types of statements, representing 74.73%. Furthermore, 25 utterances were commands, representing 6.2%. Third, 67 utterances were questions, representing 18%. Finally, two utterances were offers, representing 0.5%.

Second, in this study, it can be seen that statements are the most dominant speech function, covering 278 of the 372 utterances, representing 73.78% of 100%. The dominant use of statements indicates

the speaker's goal to provide information, explain issues, and convey views on political, social, and economic issues. Questions are also used strategically, both to emphasize certain points and to create interaction with the interviewer. Furthermore, the distribution of speech functions reflects the speaker's authority, interpersonal role, and the persuasive nature of political discourse. This indicates that language plays a crucial role, not only as a medium of communication but also as a tool to influence public perception.

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