EXAMINING NON-FICTION TEXTS USING SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR: A STUDY OF LANGUAGE AND MEANING

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Abstract
Instead of considering it merely as a set of arbitrary rules and structures Halliday through his seminal work of Systemic Functional Grammar views language from a different approach. He puts forth that language is a system of meaning-making choices shaped by social contexts. Hence language is structured by means of various linguistic choices and devices in an organized and systematic manner for producing meaning in social or real life contexts. Based upon this model of language analysis, the present study used Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) framework to analyze a selected non-fiction text. The emphasis of this study was focusing on its three metafunctions named as ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction and textual metafunction. For exploring these metafunctions, the given text was analyzed from the perspectives of field which refers to subject matter and context, tenor which identifies (social roles and relationships, and mode that defines medium of communication. Results of the study revealed how language constructed meaning within non-fiction discourse and it further revealed insights into multipurpose aspect of communication i.e. communicative purpose, relational dynamics, and contextual features.

INTRODUCTION

Systemic Functional Linguistics framework or theoretical construct introduced by Michael Halliday defines language in terms of its relevance with social context and role in creating or constructing meaning. Halliday advocates that there is s a relationship between language and society as it creates meaning in social context and establishing interpersonal relations.He builds a framework to understand the relation between social contexts and language and that framework consists of three metafunctions: ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction and textual metafunction respectively. Such metafunctions are realized in and through Tenor, Mode and Field. This study seeks to evaluate and examine a non-fiction text using Systemic Functional

Grammar (SFG) Framework to explore Tenor, Mode and Field of the selected non-fictional text.

While examining the mode of communication the medium through which the message is conveyed either spoken, written, or nonverbal is given consideration. In terms of its influence, mode is capable of significantly affecting not only the tone and clarity but also the level of formality or informality of the message. Apart from this, the tenor of communication stands for the interpersonal relationship between the speakers in terms of their roles, power dynamics, and familiarity. This understanding the tenor supports in understanding of social hierarchies and cultural norms in our interactions. Lastly, the field of communication stands for the subject matter and context of the text. Filed perspective broadly relates to ideational metafunction of language in terms of SFG which shapes the expression of human experience and construing the world view through language use.

Literature Review

Systemic Functional Grammar is the name given to an approach or theoretical construct to understanding analyze language. Broadly and essentially associated with Michale Halliday this approach provides an altogether different view of language understanding. In Hallidyan paradigm language instead arrangement of morphological and syntactic structures of words and phrases and is a strategic resource to construct meaning, represent world experience and build interpersonal relations. The basis of this intellectual framework of language understanding is provided by his major publications for instance Language as Social Semiotic (1978), Language, Context and Text (1985), and Introduction to Functional Grammar (1985). The sum total of Halliday's perspective of language is manifested in three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual.

For a thorough understanding of Halliday's metafunctions of language it is important to examine language within the context of social and cultural settings. In this way it these metafunctions better illustrate how linguistic choices reflect the intentions of the speaker as well as the necessities of the context. Eggins (2004) and Thompson (2004) emphasized the importance of Systemic Functional Grammar in terms of analyzing texts and their grammatical structures.

Besides, Matthiessen (1995) came with a lexicogrammatical framework for English resources that supported to carry out an in-depth investigation of the formation of meaning through the use of systematic selections. It is imperative to note that applying Halliday's metafunctions for language understanding can be carried by utilization of context based variables known as field (the activity that is taking place), tenor (the participants that are involved), and mode (the structure and delivery of the text) respectively. Hasan (2009) and Martin, Matthiessen, and Painter (1997) attempted to take into account the perspective of dynamic relationship between these components and their impact on genre and discourse. In terms of studying linguistic characteristics, Biber (1999) came with empirical evidence and highlighted the distributions of these characteristics in both spoken and written modes to demonstrate the change or variation in register qualities vis-à-vis the physical, social and psychological contexts surrounding the communication reflected in text. In relation to nonfictional texts, the past two decades particularly witnessed a substantially growing research on their variety. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) framework, for instance, was used in the studies like by Derewianka (1990) and Nagao (2019) for conducting an analysis of classroom and instructional materials. The results of such studies revealed the notable impact of field and mode realizations or variable of SFG framework on classroom discourse. Nhung and Hoa (2022) while using SFG framework to analyze Rachel Carson's Silent Spring came up with evidence that ideational frameworks had an impact on environmental discourse and that interpersonal components contributed to the persuasiveness of arguments.

The evaluation of different types of writing, such as editorials and news articles, illustrates how linguistic choices can substantiate the authority of the author and encourage reader participation. In order to highlight the interaction between tone and literary metafunction, the choices that are made regarding modality, assessment, and topic progression are presented. Through the use of language, the ideational function encompasses the depiction of experiences, acts, entities, and events. The findings of a study that was carried out by Fang, McDonald, and Cheng (1995) on Chinese theme frameworks

demonstrate that ideational systems are similar in all languages. According to Montemurro and Zanette (2001), numerical analysis is utilised in order to investigate the distribution of content terms inside literary works. They illustrate the way in which the progression of the subject is reflected via the use of words.

There are three components that make up the interpersonal metafunction: mood, modality, and assessment systems. Several different approaches are utilised by writers in order to establish their position, authority, and rapport with their audience. An investigation into the application of evaluative lexis and modality in academic writing was carried out by Myhill and Jones (2024). The Rhetorical Structure Theory developed by Mann and Thompson in 1987 is integrated with Systemic Functional Grammar analysis. This is accomplished by establishing a connection between the decisions made by individuals and the coherence of a text as well as the organisation of an argument.

The detailed investigation of textual functionality that is provided by Martin et al. (1997) and Matthiessen's lexicogrammar mapping pertains to the structuring of phrases in order to communicate meaning. Improvements in discourse flow and reader understanding can be achieved through the use of techniques such as theme progression, information emphasis, and theme arrangement. A significant amount of SFG has been employed in genre-based pedagogy, particularly for the purpose of teaching writing in a second language. The research conducted by Nagao (2019) and Fauziah and Ramlan (2020) demonstrates that teaching students about a variety of genres significantly improves their ability to make metafunctional decisions. The findings of a study that was conducted by Fang and colleagues in 1995 provide evidence that cross-linguistic universals are present in the achievement of metafunctions. This improves our ability to comprehend language in circumstances that involve both bilingual and multilingual speakers. These fundamental theories, which include those proposed by Halliday, Matthiessen, and Eggins, offer substantial frameworks for metafunctional analysis. Furthermore, the application of these theories in the field of education has proved that they are effective in the classroom. However, there is a dearth of research that exhaustively investigates all three dimensions—ideational, interpersonal, and textual—in the context of independent nonfiction publications that are not associated with educational settings. Quite sometimes, research is conducted with the sole intention of concentrating on particular metafunctions or types of writing, such as the contexts of the classroom or the environment.

The purpose of this research is to fill that void by applying the entire metafunctional toolset of SFG to a self-selected non-fiction text (an editorial, memoir, or essay) in order to investigate the ways in which field, tenor, and mode factors, in addition to linguistic feature selections, work together to generate meaning within the context of the particular social setting.

Research Objectives

- To analyze the ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions in a selected non-fiction text using the Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) framework.
- To examine how field, tenor, and mode contribute to meaning-making within the social context of the non-fiction text.
- To explore the relationship between linguistic choices and communicative purpose in non-fiction discourse.

Research Questions

1. How the three metafunctions are (ideational, interpersonal, and textual) realized in the selected non-fiction text?
2. In what ways do field, tenor, and mode shape the construction of meaning in the text?
3. How do linguistic features in non-fiction reflect its communicative purpose and social context?

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research design using Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as the analytical framework. A non-fiction text is purposively selected as the data source. The analysis focuses on Halliday's three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual, operationalized through the dimensions of field, tenor, and mode. Data is examined through textual analysis, identifying linguistic features that contribute to meaning-making in the social context of

the text. The study uses descriptive analysis to interpret how language choices reflect communicative purposes and social relationships in non-fiction discourse.

Analysis
Tenor: The tenor refers to the participants involved in the communication and their social roles. The detailed analyzed is presented here has revealed that the given discourse or text contains participants which can be classified as Primary Participants and Secondary Participants and their social roles ass revealed in the discourse. The succeeding paragraph discusses those aspects.

Participants
Primary Participants and Secondary participants.
Tenor: Participants and their Social Roles
Primary Participants: Upon analyses the primary participants explored within the discourse are presented in the table given below:

TABLE 1

Taleb al-Abdulmohsen	A Saudi-German psychiatrist involved in the attack
Luigi Mangione	The young man who killed the CEO of United Healthcare
CEO of UnitedHealthcare	The victim of Mangione's attack
People/General public	These include people in different countries (Germany, US, Gaza, etc.) who are indirectly implicated in or affected by the events described.

TABLE 1: PRIMARY

PARTICIPANTS
Secondary Participants: Upon analysis the primary participants explored within the discourse are presented in the table given below

TABLE 2

German Authorities	Providing information about Abdulmohsen's background.
UN	Referenced in the context of reporting on the conflict in Gaza and global prison conditions.
Corporations/Healthcare Systems:	Particularly the health insurer United Healthcare and the associated healthcare issues.
Governments/Incumbents	In reference to countries experiencing political rage and economic shortfalls.
Prisoners	Represented as victims of overcrowded prison systems

TABLE 2: SECONDARY
PARTICIPANTS
Social Roles: Upon analyses of the given text following roles of various actor and participants are explored and presented in the table given below:

TABLE 3

The **author**	The **author** of the article plays the role of an **analyst/commentator**, discussing the implications of rage, violence, and societal frustrations.
Victims of violence	**Victims of violence** (e.g., people at the Christmas market, the CEO) are portrayed as innocent bystanders.
Social media users	**Social media users** (referred to in the context of celebrating the killing) occupy a role in shaping public opinion and sentiment

TABLE 3: SOCIAL ROLES OF VARIOUS ACTORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Upon analysis it is further revealed that the relationship between these participants is predominantly of power imbalance and social injustice where largely one of power imbalance and social injustice where figures of authority like governments and corporations are juxtaposed with marginalized groups such as prisoners and civilians in conflict zones.

Mode (Channel and Interaction)
The Mode refers to the channel of communication both in written as well as spoken that carries message for the audience or receivers. In this case the mode is an expository narrative in written form that attempts to inform and reflect on societal issues. Further, the authorial voice is authoritative, with a blend of factual reporting (e.g., referencing incidents such as the attack in Germany, and the killing of the CEO) and interpretation (e.g., discussing the growing anger worldwide). Moreover, in terms of interactivity the selected text appears monologic, directed at an audience who does not actively contribute to the discourse but is instead meant to receive and reflect on the information presented. There is a low level of direct interaction with readers (e.g., no immediate questioning or calls for direct response). As far as the Modality is concerned, it can be evidenced in phrases like "It is unclear" (expressing uncertainty) and "Apparently, these rooms are booked to capacity" (evidencing a degree of speculation or reporting).Thus, the Mode suggests the author's perspective is delivered through a formal, authoritative register aimed at provoking reflection on societal anger.
Additionally, the interpersonal function of the text is evident in the way the author appeals to the reader's sense of empathy and reflection. There is no direct engagement with the audience in terms of dialogue or questioning; however, the text implicitly encourages readers to consider the broader implications of the events described. The audience is encouraged to reflect on the moral and social consequences of the violence and to question the systemic issues that contribute to such outbursts of rage. In terms of register, the formality of the language and the academic tone of the analysis suggest that the text is intended for an audience that is capable of engaging with complex societal issues, possibly educated readers or those interested in political and social commentary. The mode of communication thus serves to position the text within a reflective discourse, rather than a purely journalistic or narrative account.

Field (Activity and Process)
The Field represents the activities and processes described in the text or in simply it reveals the text type or genre that can be identified. In this case the field encompasses global, national, and local dynamics ranging from individual acts of violence to mass societal frustrations about economic inequality, injustice, and the erosion of human rights. In the given text following activities and processes constructing the discourse field are evident :

     Activities Processes

Activities	Processes
Violence: Describing specific violent incidents such as the Christmas market attack and the murder of the CEO	**Material Processes** (actions/events) evident from using the structures or verbs like" *drove", "shot", "killed", "plan to introduce".*

Rage and Protest: Describing emotional reactions (rage, frustration, resentment) linked to political, economic, and social issues.	**Mental Processes** (perception/feelings) evident from using the structures like *"believed"*, *"resentment"*, *"feeling wronged"*.
Sociopolitical commentary: Analysis of global anger, violence, and the lack of justice.	**Verbal Processes** (communication) evident from using the structures like "described himself", "expressed their anger".
Global Conflict: The **Gaza conflict**, **Ukraine war**, and **Sudan violence** are contextualized within the global rage narrative.	**Relational Processes** (attribution) evident from using structures like "is unclear", "are full of pent-up anger".

Discourse Function of Activities and Processes

Primary activities in this field such as he attacks by Abdulmohsen and Mangione) not only involve acts of violence but are situated within a broader context of social unrest, rage, and frustration. The text as evident from the activities draws attention to various forms of violence and protest, ranging from the individual acts of violence mentioned at the outset, to the larger systemic violence manifested in geopolitical conflicts like the war in Gaza, the Ukraine crisis, and the ongoing situation in Sudan. Hence the text illustrates activities such as political and social unrest,violent acts, and global rage, all of which stem from complex interactions within society's economic and political systems.

The text also uses various processes for different discourse or narrative functions such as reporting and interpreting to highlight how rage and frustration often arise from societal structures that marginalize certain groups or individuals. For instance the material processes used in the text describe certain human actions such as driving into the market and shooting the CEO as manifestations of a deeper societal malaise. The verbal processes used in this text are also notable in the references to the expressions of anger and outrage on social media, where people vocalize their resentment toward institutions like the healthcare industry or political systems. The relational processes in the text, such as "it is unclear" and "are full of pent-up anger," serve to emphasize the indeterminate nature of the motivations and the emotional state of those involved, reinforcing the idea that these acts of violence are not isolated but part of a larger, ongoing pattern of social unrest.

Conclusion:

To conclude the present work through i.e. an integrated TENOR, MODE and FIELD analysis of the given text shows that the text or discourse as a monologic analysis of the increasing incidence of rage and violence in contemporary society reinforced by complex interpersonal relationships and systemic failures. The Tenor of the text is shaped by the roles of victims and perpetrators, with the participants reflecting a global spectrum of anger that is linked to social, economic, and political factors. The Mode of the text is formal and authoritative, aimed at encouraging the reader to reflect critically on the growing sense of frustration in both developed and developing economies. Finally, the Field of discourse highlights the global nature of the problem, with violence, social unrest, and anger being the results of structural inequalities and systemic oppression. By focusing on Tenor, Mode, and Field, we gain a deeper understanding of how the text functions to interpret global issues of anger and violence, encouraging the audience to consider the broader social and political dynamics that shape human behavior in an increasingly polarized world.

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