THE MOOD TYPES ANALYSIS IN SCRIPT OF NELSON MANDELA'S SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

Blessing Kwaghdoo Shikaa

Department of English and Literary Studies,
Taraba State University Jalingo, Nigeria.

Email: bkshikaa@gmail.com; Tel.: +2347034624733

ABSTRACT: *Nelson Mandela's impactful speeches at the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid have drawn considerable attention due to his global influence and eloquence in English. This study examines the mood types present in Mandela's speeches, focusing on their role within the interpersonal metafunction. Utilising a qualitative descriptive method, the researcher analysed a speech delivered by Mandela, sourcing data from a public address archived on the American Rhetoric website. The analysis involved labelling clause elements, segmenting clauses into mood and residue, and classifying mood types. The findings revealed that the distribution of mood types in Mandela's speech was as follows: Declarative accounted for 62%, Imperative for 19%, and Interrogative for 19%. Results showed a predominance of Declarative mood, indicating Mandela's emphasis on providing information and asserting historical events. Imperative mood was utilised for calls to action, while Interrogative mood prompted audience engagement. This research sheds light on Mandela's rhetorical strategies and the significance of mood types in his speeches.*

KEYWORDS: Nelson Mandela, Speech analysis, Mood types, United Nations, Apartheid.

INTRODUCTION

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, born in 1918, was a prominent South African anti-apartheid activist and politician. He served as the first black president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, leading the country through a transition from apartheid to a fully representative democratic system. Mandela's presidency was marked by a commitment to racial reconciliation and the dismantling of apartheid's legacy. A Xhosa from the Thembu royal family, Mandela studied law and became involved in anti-colonial and nationalist politics, eventually joining the African National Congress (ANC). He rose to prominence through his activism, enduring arrests and imprisonment for his opposition to apartheid. Mandela spent 27 years in prison before his release in 1990, following negotiations led by President F. W. de Klerk. Upon his release, Mandela played a key role in the transition to democracy, leading the ANC to victory in the 1994 elections. As president, he focused on reconciliation and instituted measures to address economic inequality and expand healthcare. Mandela's international influence extended to mediation efforts and leadership roles in global organisations (Boehmer, 2023; Jacobs & Bank, 2019; Mandela, 2008; Meredith, 2010).

In his unwavering commitment to the struggle for human rights, liberation, and democracy in South Africa, Nelson Mandela addressed the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid in New York on June 22, 1990, delivering a powerful and impassioned speech. Mandela, a symbol of resistance against apartheid and a beacon of hope for millions, used this platform to highlight the atrocities and injustices inflicted upon the people of South Africa under the oppressive regime of apartheid. His speech not only called for international solidarity and support in the fight against apartheid but also emphasised the importance of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Language serves a vital role in communication, as asserted by Halliday, who views it as a tool for creating meaning. He identifies three main metafunctions of language: experiential, interpersonal, and textual. These metafunctions form a key aspect of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), a linguistic approach pioneered by M.A.K Michael Halliday, an Australian linguist. Several researchers suggest that SFL is an effective method for analysing language use in semiotic terms (Fontaine & McCabe, 2023; Pasaribu et al., 2020; Schleppegrell & Oteíza, 2023). Developed through discourse analysis, SFL examines language as a resource for conveying meaning. Also known as Systemic Functional Grammar, this theory of linguistics is integral to critical discourse analysis (Jabeen et al., 2022).

The Semantic Component Model of SFL is structured around three main metafunctions. These include the ideational metafunction, which concerns the external aspect of meaning. The textual metafunction, on the other hand, is responsible for shaping a piece of language into a coherent text. Lastly, the interpersonal metafunction is centred on the relationships between the speaker, the addressee(s), and the message itself (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). It serves to define the speaker's role within the speech context and their relationship with others (Almurashi, 2016). Interpersonal meaning comprises two key components for analysis: the mood element and the residue element of the clause. The mood element encompasses the subject, finite, and/or mood adjunct(Däbritz, 2022).

According to Liping (2017), mood denotes the manner in which instructions or directives are conveyed, whether orally or in writing, and is a crucial component for analysing the interpersonal metafunction. The Mood System is conceptualised as the system of clauses

functioning as interpersonal resources, viewing a clause as an exchange. It is constructed based on the relationship of mood structure between the Subject and Finite. Various types of mood structures exist: Firstly, the declarative mood, where the speaker or writer assumes the role of information provider and the addressee as the recipient. Declarative mood is the most commonly used form of providing information (Yu, 2017). Secondly, the imperative mood, where the speaker or writer requests something from the addressee or directs them to take action, with the expectation of compliance. The clause is considered imperative when there is no explicit subject, and the clause begins directly with a finite verb or predicate (Däbritz, 2022). Thirdly, the interrogative mood involves the speaker or writer seeking information from the addressee, who is expected to provide the required information. Interrogative mood is a type of indicative mood, as its mood structure includes the Finite and Subject (Depraetere & Reed, 2020; Li, 2023).

Due to Nelson Mandela's significant impact on the world and his adeptness in delivering speeches in English, as well as his ability to captivate global attention, the researcher is intrigued by the influence of Mandela's speeches at the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. In this research, the focus lies on analysing mood types, which constitute a crucial aspect of the interpersonal metafunction. Mood types encompass the subject and finite elements within clauses. Drawing from the aforementioned, this study examines the speeches of Nelson Mandela delivered at the United Nations, analysing the mood types utilised therein and interpreting their significance within the script.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher employed the qualitative descriptive method to analyse a speech delivered by Nelson Mandela. The focus was on examining the script extracted from Mandela's speech with the aim of identifying and interpreting the use of different mood types. The data for the study were sourced from a public address given by Mandela to the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. The data collection process involved several steps: firstly, accessing the transcript of the speech; secondly, reading and analysing the script; and finally, documenting the research findings in a report using appropriate analysis techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This result provides an examination of the mood structure in Nelson Mandela's speech, with data sourced from his address delivered at the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid in New York on June 22, 1990, archived at the website of American Rhetoric (https://www.americanrhetoric.com). The analysis in this section involves the labelling of the elements of clause and the segmentation of clause into mood and residue. It also includes the classification of mood types and the assigning of roles they perform. The pie chart in Figure 1 shows the distribution of declarative (16), interrogative (5), and imperative (5) mood systems of identified clauses.
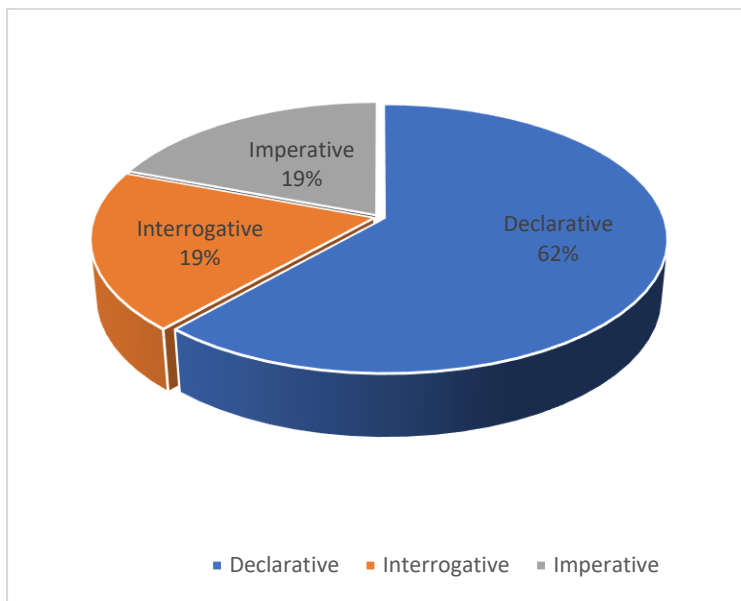
Figure 1: The result of mood structure

The following are the symbols used for the labelling of the elements of clause:

S   Subject

P   Predicator

P-   Predicator incomplete

-P   Predicator Complete

C^E Complement Extensive

C^I Complement Intensive

A   Adjunct

The examination of mood structure is detailed through the analysis of declarative, interrogative, and imperative moods within selected clauses of the speech presented in Tables 1 - 26.

Declarative

The tables below illustrate the declarative mood systems identified in the speech, ranging from Tables 1 to 16.

Table 1: Selected clause 1

S	P	CE	A
It	will remain	blight forever	on human history that the apartheid crime ever occurred.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 2: Selected clause 2

S	P	CI	A
United Nations	discussed	South African question	in 1946.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 3: Selected clause 3

S	P	CE	
We	hold	it	as an inviolable principle.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 4: Selected clause 4

S	P	A
Racism	must be opposed	by all the means.
Mood		**Residue**

Table 5: Selected clause 5

S	P	A CE
It	was correct	to characterise the apartheid system as a crime against humanity.
Mood		**Residue**

Table 6: Selected clause 6

S	P	CE	A
We	take	this opportunity	to salute the Special Committee against Apartheid.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 7: Selected clause 7

S	P	CE
We	look	forward to the report.
Mood		**Residue**

Table 8: Selected clause 8

S	P	A
The ANC	is determined	to do everything.
Mood		**Residue**

Table 9: Selected clause 9

S	A	P	CE	
We	also	salute	the frontline states of Southern Africa	
Mood			**Residue**	

Table 10: Selected clause 10

S	P	A
This	is	for us a moving moment
Mood		**Residue**

Table 11: Selected clause 11

S	P	A
We	are	among friends and people of conscience
Mood		**Residue**

Table 12: Selected clause 12

S	P	CI	A
We	will not	relent or falter	in the pursuit of that common vision.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 13: Selected clause 13

S	P	CE	A
We	thank	you	for your kind invitation.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 14: Selected clause 14

S	P	CE	A
Our	common	victory is assured	is assured.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 15: Selected clause 15

S	P	CE	A
We	pay	tribute	to this Organization and its member States.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 16: Selected clause 16

S	P	A
We	cannot afford	to underestimate the threat.
Mood		**Residue**

The speech notably includes expressions of appreciation, caution, assurance, resolve or determination, and anticipation or expectation. Under the declarative mood, 9 out of 17 identified clauses were used to state facts or assertions, affirming historical events and principles (Tables 1-5, 9-11, 15). He conveyed appreciation for the efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid, as he stated, "We take this opportunity to salute the Special Committee against Apartheid" (Table 6), and gratitude for the invitation extended, as evidenced by the phrase, "We thank you for your kind invitation" (Table 13). Amidst the acknowledgment of progress made, there was also a note of caution, emphasising the seriousness of the situation: "We cannot afford to underestimate the threat" (Table 16). However, there was assurance in the assertion that "Our common victory is assured" (Table 14), reflecting a steadfast belief in

the ultimate triumph over adversity. With resolve and determination, Mandela proclaimed, "The ANC is determined to do everything" (Table 8), and vowed, "We will not relent or falter in the pursuit of that common vision" (Table 12). Anticipation for future developments was expressed as Mandela stated, "We look forward to the report" (Table 7). Additionally, Mandela made factual assertions regarding the historical significance of apartheid and the actions taken against it, stating, "It will remain a blight forever on human history that the apartheid crime ever occurred" (Table 1), and "United Nations discussed South African question in 1946" (Table 2), among others. These statements collectively reflect Mandela's steadfast commitment to the cause of justice and equality, while also acknowledging the challenges and complexities involved in achieving it.

Interrogative

Here, we present identified clauses with interrogative mood systems from Table 17 to Table 21.

Table 17: Selected clause 17

S	P	A
How	much better	it would be?
Mood		**Residue**

Table 18: Selected clause 18

S	P	A
What error	was made	that this system established itself?
Mood		**Residue**

Table 19: Selected clause 19

S	P	CI	A
How	fast are	we progressing	towards liberation?
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 20: Selected clause 20

S	P	CI	A
How successful	Are	we in our efforts	to sustain that united resolve?
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 21: Selected clause 21

S	P	CE	CE A
What	has created	the need for this gathering that we must gather	in this historic meeting place?
Mood		**Residue**	

Nelson Mandela's speech at the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid was punctuated with probing questions, reflecting a deep contemplation of the prevailing circumstances and the path forward. Mandela's rhetorical questions evoked introspection and encouraged critical reflection. He queried, "How much better would it be?" (Table 17), suggesting a yearning for an alternative reality devoid of the injustices of apartheid.

Additionally, Mandela pondered, "What error was made that this system established itself?" (Table 18), highlighting the perplexity surrounding the establishment of oppressive systems despite international declarations of human rights. Furthermore, he questioned the pace of progress, asking, "How fast are we progressing towards liberation?" (Table 19), and assessed the efficacy of collective efforts, querying, "How successful are we in our efforts to sustain that united resolve?" (Table 20). These interrogative statements served to challenge the status quo, stimulate dialogue, and inspire action toward achieving justice and equality.

Imperative

Besides the interrogative mood, there are five clauses in Nelson Mandela's speech at the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid found as imperative mood. The selected clauses are presented in Tables 22-26.

Table 22: Selected clause 22

S	P	CE	P A
We	urge	that the United Nations	do everything in its power to maintain the unity it achieved when it adopted the Declaration on South Africa last December.
Mood			**Residue**

Table 23: Selected clause 23

S	A P	CE
We	also hope	that all member States will continue to act in concert so as not to create any situation in which those who are opposed to change in our country find encouragement to resist change.
Mood		**Residue**

Table 24: Selected clause 24

S	A P	CE	A
We	also take	this opportunity once more	to call on the countries of the European Community.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 25: Selected clause 25

S	A P	CE	A
We	also take	this opportunity	to extend warm greetings to all others who fight for their liberation and their human rights.
Mood		**Residue**	

Table 26: Selected clause 26

S	P	CI
Let us	travel	together.
Mood		**Residue**

Here, imperative moods were used to convey strong directives and calls to action. Mandela urged, "We urge that the United Nations do everything in its power to maintain the unity it achieved when it adopted the Declaration on South Africa last December" (Table 22), emphasising the importance of unity in the pursuit of justice. Additionally, he expressed hope

that all member states would continue to act in concert, stating, "We also hope that all member States will continue to act in concert so as not to create any situation in which those who are opposed to change in our country find encouragement to resist change" (Table 23). Mandela further called on the countries of the European Community, stating, "We also take this opportunity once more to call on the countries of the European Community" (Table 24), and extended warm greetings to those fighting for liberation and human rights, affirming, "We also take this opportunity to extend warm greetings to all others who fight for their liberation and their human rights" (Table 25). These imperative statements underscore Mandela's conviction and determination to mobilise collective action and solidarity in the fight against apartheid and for the advancement of human rights and freedom.

CONCLUSION

This research analysed the mood types present in Nelson Mandela's speech delivered to the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. The study utilised Mandela's speech as a sample to examine various mood structures. A total of 26 clauses were identified, categorised into three mood types: Declarative, Imperative, and Interrogative. The findings revealed that the distribution of mood types in Mandela's speech was as follows: Declarative accounted for 62%, Imperative for 19%, and Interrogative for 19%. The predominant mood type observed was Declarative, indicating that Mandela predominantly provided information and made assertions throughout his speech. Analysis of the context within the speech showed that Mandela primarily discussed historical events, advocated for justice and equality, and called for collective action against apartheid. The presence of Imperative mood reflected Mandela's calls to action and directives for the audience, while Interrogative mood was used, typically to engage the audience and prompt reflection on critical issues.

REFERENCES

Almurashi, W. A. (2016). An introduction to Halliday's systemic functional linguistics. *Journal for the Study of English Linguistics*, *4*(1), 70–80.

Boehmer, E. (2023). *Nelson Mandela: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.

Däbritz, C. L. (2022). Clausal Syntax—Simple Clauses. In *A Grammar of Dolgan* (pp. 347–398). Brill.

Depraetere, I., & Reed, S. (2020). Mood and modality in English. *The Handbook of English Linguistics*, 207–227.

Fontaine, L., & McCabe, A. (2023). Systemic functional linguistics. In *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics* (pp. 322–335). Routledge. https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003082644-27/systemic-functional-linguistics-lise-fontaine-anne-mccabe

Jabeen, T., Anwar, A., & Bukhari, N. H. (2022). Transitivity Analysis of The Last Address of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. *PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology*, *19*(3), 1873–1887.

Jacobs, N. J., & Bank, A. (2019). Biography in post-apartheid South Africa: A call for awkwardness. In *African Studies* (Vol. 78, Issue 2, pp. 165–182). Taylor & Francis.

Li, D. (2023). A Systemic Functional Typology of the Mood System. In *A Systemic Functional Typology of MOOD* (pp. 221–264). Springer.

Liping, C. (2017). Mood, modality and polarity analysis of winston s. Churchill's speech on hitler's invasion of the USSR. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, *4*(1).

Mandela, N. (2008). *Long walk to freedom: The autobiography of Nelson Mandela*. Hachette UK.

Meredith, M. (2010). *Mandela: A biography*. Simon and Schuster.

Pasaribu, A. N., Sinambela, E., & Manik, S. (2020). The contributions of Systemic Functional Linguistics to literary text analysis. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, *3*(9), 81–86.

Schleppegrell, M. J., & Oteíza, T. (2023). Systemic functional linguistics: Exploring meaning in language. In *The Routledge handbook of discourse analysis* (pp. 156–169). Routledge. https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003035244-13/systemic-functional-linguistics-mary-schleppegrell-teresa-ote%C3%ADza

Sharififar, M., & Rahimi, E. (2015). Critical discourse analysis of political speeches: A case study of Obama's and Rouhani's speeches at the UN. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *5*(2), 343.

Yu, H. (2017). Interpersonal meaning of mood and modality in English public service advertising texts. *7th International Conference on Education, Management, Information and Mechanical Engineering (EMIM 2017)*, 222–227.