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A stylistic analysis of the language of crisis (Covid-19): A transitivity and modality-based study

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Abstract

Speech, simply, is a kind of communication used to convey a speaker's intentions and ideas. The purpose of this study is to evaluate and interpret transitivity and modality as well as their use in Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' Speeches on COVID-19. The data consists of transcripts of two speeches presented at the COVID-19 media briefings on March 11, 2020, and April 1, 2021, which are published on the (World Health Organization website) (www.who.int). The transcripts are reviewed and examined in terms of Halliday's (1994) 'Transitivity theory, as well as Lock's (1996) 'Modality theory'. The findings show that the speeches employed rational, material, mental, behavioral, and linguistic transitivity processes, as well as obligation, potentiality, ability, inclination, usuality, and probability modality. The usage of transitivity and modality, with reference to the context of speeches, reveals different interpretations of meaning. Furthermore, this study contributes and adds efficient methods and good practices to health socialization throughout the pandemic, which has a significant impact on the public's understanding of how to correctly handle COVID-19.

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1. Introduction

Text is inextricably linked to language and cannot be separated since the text has a semantic system that is influenced by the environment, viewpoint, and ideology that give rise to it (Qian & Pan, 2019) ^[25]. According to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), language meaning is divided into three parts: ideational, interpersonal, and textual (Thompson, 2014) ^[27]. An individual's experience is defined as ideational meaning. Interpersonal meaning is the interaction between speech participants. The last part which is 'the textual meaning' integrates language experience into an integrated unit.

Speech is one type of texts that have meaning. In a speech, the speakers employ powerful language to communicate their objectives and thoughts to the audience or listeners (Hidayat *et al.*, 2019) ^[15]. Speech is a sort of communication that should be efficiently and successfully delivered, emphasizing oral language abilities and the use of diverse persuasion strategies (AbuAlhuda & Alshboul, 2022) ^[1]. Consequently, it is critical to understand that a speech delivered by an expert in his field may serve as a reference in issue solving because it is convincing (Jannatussolihah & Triyono, 2020) ^[16].

The current study employs the SFL framework to examine the texts derived from Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Dr. Tedros), the Director-General of the World Health Organization, addressing COVID-19. The importance of this study is intimately tied to the need for accurate information about the COVID-19 pandemic and its management procedure, as numerous hoaxes and misinformation come up alongside the increasingly widespread news about COVID-19 in the mass media. A survey found 1,600 instances of fake news and misinformation regarding the virus between January 2020 and June 2021 (unicef.org, 2021). Both contribute to the unwillingness of individual's health regulations or hesitate to seek medical treatment or participate in vaccination.

(Re-write it. Unclear) For example, some people refuse to be vaccinated after hearing that the COVID-19 vaccine causes death within three years after administration.

Concerning the crisis, the news about efficient COVID-19 response techniques should be credible to be circulated so that the epidemic of this dangerous virus can be ended. Appropriately, it is critical to deliver information through reliable media that may be utilized as a resource for dealing with the infection. The material is provided in Dr. Tedros' speeches through the use of transitivity and modality, which convey the speaker's views, experiences, and attitudes in dealing with the infection.

The current study has the potential to considerably advance the management of COVID-19, which is included in the meaning and structure of Dr. Tedros' speeches or comments. Given the severity of the epidemic, the findings of the study are expected to be made public. The purpose of this study is to investigate the different types of transitivity and modality in Dr. Tedros' speeches and analyze their meanings by asking the following research questions:

1. What kind of transitivity does Dr. Tedros use in his speeches on COVID-19?
2. What modality does Dr. Tedros employ in his presentations on COVID-19?
3. How are the concepts of transitivity and modality perceived and interpreted in Dr. Tedros' speeches on

COVID-19?

2. Literature Review

SFL theory is used as an analytical framework, with an emphasis on two language Meta functions: ideational and interpersonal. Dr. Tedros' ideas and experiences dealing with COVID-19 are realized in the ideational Meta function through transitivity processes. The interpersonal Meta function is manifested by modality reflecting Dr. Tedros' communication with the audience. So, the information included in Dr. Tedros' speeches is represented through the use of transitive and modal verbs that convey the speaker's attitude in the speaker-audience interaction.

2.1. Transitivity

Transitivity is a subset of the ideational Meta function that focuses on the sentence level with the clause serving as an interpretation of how various processes express human experience in actuality. The process might represent what is actually happening, experiencing, or being in reality (Eggs, 2004) [9]. Halliday (1994) [11] categorized processes into six categories: mental, material, verbal, behavioural, existential, and relational. Furthermore, Wang (2010) [28] provided an overview of the process types as shown in Table 1 below. Wang's (2010) [28] process types are employed in the current study as the analytical framework for transitivity processes in Dr. Tedros' speeches.

Table 1: Overview of Wang's (2010) [28] Process Types

No.	Type of Process	Core Meaning	Participant
1.	Mental	Sensing	Senser, process, phenomenon
2.	Material	Doing (Transitive)	Actor, process, goal
		Happening (intransitive)	Actor, process
		Passive	Goal, process, actor
		Dispositive recipient	Actor, process, recipient, goal
		Dispositive clients	Actor, process, client, goal
		With range	Actor, process, range
3.	Verbal	Saying	Sayer, verbiage, receiver
4.	Behavioral	Behaving-verbal	Behaver, receiver, verbiage
		Behaving-mental	Behaver, phenomenon
5.	Existential	Existing	Process, existent, circumstance
6.	Relational	Being	Carrier, attribute
		Process	Token, process, value

2.2. Modality

Several linguists proposed the theory of modality. Modality is an approach for conveying the speaker's judgment and attitudes using modal verbs (Wang, 2010) [28]. Likewise, Downing (2015) [6] contends that a statement without a modal verb is straightforward in terms of meaning. In fact, people sometimes speak without knowing if their judgment is positive or unfavorable. People judge commitment frequency, certainty, and other concepts differently through the use of modality. Briefly, the modal verb can express a range of judging severity that goes beyond "Yes" and "No".

Furthermore, Halliday (1994) [11] claims that modality is a metric that demonstrates the significance of the "Yes" or "No" decision. The sentence's modalities, such as usuality, inclination, obligation, and probability are used to represent numerous factors. Lock (1996) [19] introduces a new criterion which is called potentiality/ability. Usuality is a measure of a person's frequency of performing an action. Meanwhile, inclination expresses the speaker's need to act. The categories of modality inherited from Lock's (1996) [19] theory will be implied in this study as an analytical framework for analyzing the modality in Dr. Tedros' speeches, as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Lock's (1996) [19] Types of Modality

No.	Modality	Level	Example
1.	Usuality	High	He must be there at 7 a.m.
		Mid	He'll walk past you without even saying goodbye.
		Low	...but a long journey like that <i>can</i> be very uncomfortable.
2.	Inclination	High	I <i>will</i> go and you can't stop me.
		Mid	Now, I <i>will</i> tell you right now what my activity is.
		Low	I'll take some of the scripts so long as you're not expecting anything in before next week.

3.	Obligation	High	You <i>must</i> do that.
		Mid	You <i>should</i> do that.
		Low	You <i>can</i> do that.
4.	Probability	High	That <i>must</i> be John
		Mid	That <i>will</i> be John
		Low	That <i>may</i> be John.
5.	Potentiality/ability	-	I am someone who can make friends easily ...this situation can and will be changed.

3. Methodology

The current study is a kind of qualitative and quantitative investigation- the data is in the form of sentences that are descriptively assessed in accordance with the research objectives (Ary *et al.*, 2010) [2]. The sample of the study consists of two speeches presented by Dr. Tedros at a COVID-19 media briefing, which are available for download from the WHO's official website. The first speech of Dr. Tedros was spoken on March 11, 2020, and can be found at <https://www.who.int/news>, and the second was presented on April 1, 2021, and can be found at <https://www.who.int/news-room/speeches/item/who-director-general>.

The two speeches were chosen because they both addressed the topic of COVID-19 and how it was handled at the beginning and end of the epidemic. Furthermore, the data contained several examples of linguistic expressions that might be used for research objectives. These linguistic expressions which include transitivity and modality need to be deeply investigated as they represent Dr. Tedros' attitudes and ideas on the best practices for dealing with COVID-19, so that, the audience and the general public can follow the practices to combat the virus.

The researchers conduct a qualitative and quantitative data

analysis focusing on sentences with transitivity and modality. After collecting 99 statements for transitivity and 26 statements for modality, the next step is to classify the types of transitivity processes using Halliday's (1994) [11] theory and types of modality using Lock's (1996) [19] theory. Lastly, all transitivity and modality statements are analyzed using the SFL framework.

4. Findings and Discussion

This study aims to investigate research findings on the use of transitivity and modality in representing the speaker's thoughts, experiences, and attitudes about COVID-19. This section aims to answer three research questions: a: the various kinds of transitivity employed in Dr. Tedros' speeches, b: the forms of modality employed in Dr. Tedros' speeches, and c: the meanings derived from the adoption of transitivity and modality.

A. Types of Transitivity in Dr. Tedros' Speeches on Covid-19

The results revealed that the transitivity process was used in (99) sentences in both speeches. Speech 1 comprised (54) clauses, while Speech 2 had (45) clauses. Table 3 shows the details.

Table 3: Distribution of Transitivity Process

No.	Process	Speech 1	Speech 2	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Mental	7	8	15	15.15 %
2.	Material	25	15	40	40.4 %
3.	Verbal	4	1	5	5.05 %
4.	Behavioral	6	2	8	8.08 %
5.	Existential	2	2	4	4.04 %
6.	Relational	10	17	27	27.27 %
Total		54	45	99	100 %

Table 3 shows the six types of transitivity processes employed in Dr. Tedros' speeches. Based on the frequency of occurrence, the material process ranks first in the transitivity hierarchy at 40.4%, then followed by the relational process at 27.27%, the mental process at 15.15%, the behavioral process at 8.08%, the verbal process at 5.05%, and the existential process at 4.04%.

According to these findings, Dr. Tedros exploited all transitivity mechanisms in his presentations on COVID-19. This is consistent with the regular function of transitivity processes as an experiential meaning in that it is concerned with how people see, experience, and perceive the world (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) [12]. In this point, the findings prove how Dr. Tedros's experiences, ideas, and perspectives on efforts to manage COVID-19 from the early days to the late days of the pandemic are manifested through several kinds of transitivity processes. By incorporating the full transitivity processes within the narration of the speech, it is believed that the messages behind the speech will be easily and fully received and well understood by listeners and

obeyed in handling the pandemic.

The findings likewise revealed that Dr. Tedros's most commonly employed process was the material process. The same result was observed in the research findings of Wang (2010) [28], and Chalimah and Sumarlam (2017) [3]. What was highlighted was the closeness in the meaning of the messages given in the speeches of two leaders in those studies, Barack Obama of the United States (Wang, 2010) [28] and Joko Widodo of Indonesia (Chalimah & Sumarlam, 2017) [3]. The prevailing use of the material process is the appropriate choice for the speakers to describe what has been achieved and accomplished, what is currently being carried out, and what is going to be achieved by them as state leaders. Thus, the explanation allows the public to grasp the progress of the government's successes and what the public can benefit from the work of management.

Below is an example of data that expresses the material process employed by Dr. Tedros in his speech about COVID-19.

1. We (actor) made (material process) the assessment

(goal) that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic

The preceding example demonstrates that the (material process) is achieved by the transitive verb (*made*). The verb (*made*) expresses an action involving two participants: (the actor) in terms of (*We*) and (the goal) which is manifested in the phrase (*the assessment*). Thus, using the verb (*made*) suggests a process of doing, which is a feature of the material process (Eggins, 2004) ^[9]. The dominance of the (material process) indicates that Dr. Tedros, as WHO leader, clarified the efforts to overcome COVID-19 as well as the achievements of dealing with the virus through the period of the pandemic, in addition to the steps to take in the future if a similar virus spreads.

B. Types of Modality in Dr. Tedros' Speeches on COVID-19

The analysis of the modality revealed 26 clauses involving modal verbs. Table 4 shows that speech 1 contained 14 modals, while speech 2 contained 12 modal verbs.

Table 4: Distribution of Modality Process

No.	Modality	Speech 1	Speech 2	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Usuality	2	2	4	15.3 %
2.	Inclination	1	2	3	11.5 %
3.	Obligation	4	4	8	30.7 %
4.	Probability	1	1	2	7.6 %
5.	Potentiality/ability	6	3	9	34.6 %
	Total	14	12	26	100 %

Table 4.2 presents the results of the modality distribution used in Dr. Tedros' speeches on COVID-19. Table 4.2 demonstrates that two forms of modality are most commonly used: potentiality/ability (34.6%) and obligation (30.7%). The frequency of modality is then ordered by usuality (15.3%), inclination (11.5%), and probability (7.6%).

These findings show that the speaker used all modality categories. This highlights the function of modality as an interpersonal meaning. The interpersonal meaning is about how speakers express their attitude toward the context or event depicted by a sentence (Lock, 1996) ^[19]. So that, the findings demonstrate how Dr. Tedros' attitude and judgment toward the attempts to fight COVID-19 from the very beginning to the last days of the pandemic were accomplished through multiple channels. It is predicted that by engaging all modality types, the personal interaction between the speaker and listeners will be adequately established, allowing listeners to receive Dr. Tedros' messages on COVID-19 effectively.

The results additionally show that the most common type of modality observed is potentiality/ability. This is consistent with the findings of the study of Pionery and Istianah (2017) ^[23], who argued that the speaker directs the potentiality/ability modality toward shaping the human ability to deal with unfavorable settings and situations. In the current study, Dr. Tedros used the potentiality/ability modality to inspire the audience to use their potential in managing pandemic outbreaks by following health procedures, beginning with themselves and progressing to society. The following data contains potentiality/ability sentences used in Dr. Tedros' speech on COVID-19.

2. Communicate with your people about the risks and how they can protect themselves

Example (2) shows that the modality can be determined by the transitive word '*protect*', which follows the modal verb '*can*'. '*Can*' refers to a person's ability to act (Wang, 2010) ^[28]. The word '*They*' refers back to '*your people*'. The statement implies that by informing the community about the risks of COVID-19, they may be able to avoid early exposure to the virus.

C. Interpreted Meanings from the Transitivity Use

a. Mental Process

One technique to show the mental process is to ask, "What do you think of X?" Halliday (1994) ^[11] divides the process into three categories: cognition, affection, and perception. The participants and their number are another factor which distinguishes the mental from the material processes. The mental process should involve two parties. Both participants (speaker and listener) must be human, with one referred to as a sender and the other as the phenomena. Here are some instances of mental processes.

3. We (sender) have never seen before (mental process) a pandemic (phenomenon) sparked by a coronavirus.
4. We (sender) know (mental process) that even before the pandemic (phenomenon), there was a shortfall of at least 18 million health workers.
5. I (sender) thank (mental process) you (phenomenon) for those inspiring words, Carl!

The mental process is indicated in data (3-5) by cognitive action verbs '*see*', '*know*', and '*thank*' with pronouns '*We*' and '*I*' that describe Dr. Tedros as (sender), with cognitive objects designated as *pandemic* and '*you*' as phenomena (Wang, 2010) ^[28]. A variety of mental processes demonstrate the speaker's cognition, perception, and affection for the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his hopes for rectifying its negative effects.

b. Material Process

Physical activities carried out by verbs indicating events or actions define the material process (Eggins, 2004) ^[9]. There are two participants: the actor and the goal. Meanwhile, there are actors in the intransitive verb sentences, there are no goals in the same kind of sentences. Here are a few examples of the material process.

6. All countries (actor) can still change (material process) the course of the pandemic (goal).
7. COVAX (actor) has already delivered (material process) 35 million doses (goal) to more than 78 countries.
8. More than 25 leaders from G20, G7, and from every region (actor) united (prose material) behind the idea of a pandemic treaty (circumstance).
9. Health and care workers (actor) must come (material process) first (circumstance).

The material process is realized by the transitive verbs '*change*' (6) and '*delivered*' (7), which define action activities that include two participants: an actor and a goal. Furthermore, intransitive verbs like '*united*' (8) and '*come*' (9) express events involving 'actors' and 'circumstances'.

The dominance of this material process as one of the transitivity types mentioned in the speeches shows that Dr. Tedros, as Director-General of WHO, is taking further steps to achieve the goal of dealing with COVID-19 on a global scale. The use of verbs indicating activities is meant to

encourage the international community to join the fight against COVID-19 (Luo, 2020) ^[20].

c. Verbal Process

The goal of the verbal process is to publicly proclaim something (Eggins, 2004) ^[9]. This interaction often includes a *sayer*, a *receiver*, and *verbiage*. 'Sayer' is an active participant who utilizes verbiage 'vocabulary' addressed to the receiver throughout a verbal procedure. Examples of verbal processes are shown below.

10. 81 countries (sayer) have not reported (verbal process) any cases (verbiage).
11. We (sayer) cannot say (verbal process) this (verbiage) loudly enough, or clearly enough, or often enough.
12. I (sayer) have said (verbal process) from the beginning that countries must take a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize the impact (verbiage).

According to the preceding examples, the verb '*reported*' in (10) refers to a verbal process, with (81 countries) acting as a non-personal 'sayer' and 'any cases' as 'verbiage'. The verbs '*say*' (11) and '*said*' (12) refer to the verbal flow of information about COVID-19 treatment between the sayer, 'Dr. Tedros', and the receiver, 'the audience'.

d. Behavioral Process

Behavioral process refers to a combination of physical and mental processes (Eggins 2004) ^[9]. As a consequence, the derived meaning combines both. The behavior, who represents the majority of this process, is the only participant. Examples of behavioral processes are as follows:

13. Thousands more (behavior) are fighting (behavioral process) for their lives (circumstance) in hospitals.
14. We (behavior) are working (behavioral process) with many partners (circumstance) across all sectors to mitigate the social and economic consequences of this pandemic.
15. The clock (behavior) is still ticking (behavioral process) on vaccine equity (circumstance).

The statements in instances 13-15 cannot be transposed onto other constructions. This is characteristic of the behavioral process. Another aspect that encourages the employment of behavioral processes is the existence of one person engaged in intense activity using (-ing) forms and having circumstances that point to a cause or technique (Chalimah and Sumarlam, 2017) ^[3]. Dr. Tedros uses a behavioral technique to emphasize the importance of teamwork in stopping the development of COVID-19 and reversing its consequences that have resulted in multiple victims.

e. Existential Process

The presence of words of existence demonstrates that a thing is real or a thing exists (Eggins, 2004) ^[9]. Consider the following instances.

16. There are (existential process) now more than 118.000 cases (existent) in 114 countries (circumstance).
17. There will always be (existential process) new pathogens (existent) with pandemic potential (circumstance)

In the preceding cases, the copula verbs 'are' (16), and 'be' (17) are organized before the participants '*existent*' which

finishes the existential process by the situation of location. In this context, the speaker aims to use the existential process to highlight the presence of the increasing number of cases in several nations and many countries, as well as the new infections caused by the virus outbreak. With this information, it is expected that people, in general, will become more aware about emerging virus varieties and avoiding exposure to such kinds of viruses.

According to the data, the transitivity employed in Dr. Tedros' speeches on COVID-19 encompasses mental, material, relational, verbal, and existential processes. Dr. Tedros used all of these procedures in his two speeches. This shows that Dr. Tedros' primary concentration as WHO Director-General is on the process of dealing with COVID-19, with his thoughts and experiences dealing with COVID-19 as experiential meaning being realized in all forms of transitivity processes. This is congruent with the findings of Chalimah and Sumarlam (2017) ^[3] and Helena *et al.* (2021) ^[13]. They believe that the process represents a person's ideas and experiences when observing events or actions in the outside world.

In terms of transitivity, the predominance of material processes with action verbs reflects Dr Tedros' goal of engaging in genuine activities with all aspects of society to overcome COVID-19. This conclusion confirms Hajar's (2021) ^[10] claim that the use of material processes emphasizes real physical acts and depictions of actual events. Furthermore, by presuming that material processes are used to understand human experience in events that occur in life, Ariyanti and Hemas (2016) ^[14], Laksana and Kusumawardani (2020) ^[17] reaffirm the current study findings. Meanwhile, the relational process reveals Dr. Tedros' point of view on how to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his strong belief and desire to maintain positive ties and relationships with corporate and business partners for coordinated efforts to tackle COVID-19. The relational process focuses on how the speaker ties his experience to other things. As a result, it can be argued that this relational process reflects the speaker's feelings about a real-life situation (Sugianto, 2020) ^[26].

f. Relational Process

A relational process depicts the links between distinct elements. In the words of Eggins (2004) ^[9], the relational process could be classified as either identifying or attributive. The following examples will make it clear:

18. We (carrier) have (relational process-possessive) nine days (attribute) left until we reach the hundredth day of the year.
19. We (carrier) are (relational process-attributive) grateful (attribute) for measures being taken in Iran, Italy, and the Republic of Korea.
20. WHO's mandate (token) is (relational process-identifying) public health (value).

A relationship, referred to as an 'ownership relationship', may exist between a person and the property, as shown in (18). The type may come in the form of an identification relationship that serves as a link between two entities (19), or an attributive relationship which represents a connection between two entities (20). The goal of this relational process aims to communicate the depth and scope of the speaker's relationships with his multiple partners in business in order to invite them to work together to fight the pandemic (Hemas

& Ariyanti, 2016) ^[14].

D. Interpreted Meanings from the Modality Use

a. Usuality

Both speeches had the modal verbs 'can', 'will', and 'would' which represented usuality. In the opinion of Lock (1996) ^[19], the modality of usuality is the quality or state of being typical. The sentences mentioned below provides examples.

21. Even those countries with community transmission or large clusters can turn the tide on this virus.
22. There will always be new pathogens with pandemic potential.

The modal verb 'can' immediately preceding the verb 'turn' in sentence (21) is a type of usuality that signifies 'rarity'. The subject 'Even those countries' relates to four countries having major COVID-19 cases. The example implies that even countries with a high number of COVID-19 cases struggle to control the virus's rapid spread. Sentence (22) offers a unique justification from sentence (21). As stated by Pionery and Istianah (2017) ^[23], the modal verbs will suggest 'usually meaning' which means at a medium level of usuality.

b. Inclination

An inclination is a desire to complete a task. Each speech has roughly the same amount of inclinations. According to the findings, the levels used in both utterances are 'high intention', 'mid intention', and 'low intention', as represented by the modal verbs 'will' and 'would'. The following is a list of various clauses with inclination meanings.

23. The challenge for many countries who are now dealing with large clusters or community transmission is not whether they can do the same-it's whether they will.
24. Carl will help the collective advocacy for the ACT-Accelerator.
25. I would like to turn to Health Minister of Turkey, Dr Fahrettin Koca.

Because it demonstrates many countries' considerable readiness to deal with COVID-19, the modal verb 'will' in (23) is deemed to have a high level of inclination. Dr. Tedros urges on a global commitment to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because it suggests intention, the modal verb 'will' in (24) is classified as having a mid-level inclination. In this context, Dr. Tedros claims that Carl will spearhead the group's advocacy for the ACT accelerator to battle COVID-19. Furthermore, the modal verb used in (25) demonstrates a low level of inclination because it reflects Dr. Tedros' willingness to provide Dr. Fahrettin Koca, Turkey's health minister, the opportunity to make his statement.

c. Obligation

Obligation was identified as the second most prevalent modality form. It occurs when a speaker expects something from the listener and then makes ideas and suggestions (Eggsin, 2004) ^[9]. The following sentences include obligation.

26. One key aspect that should be enshrined in the treaty, is to a stronger health workforce, which is the very essence of health system resilience.
27. We must collectively do better in future outbreaks.

The modal verb 'should' in (26) is followed by the passive verb 'be enshrined', indicating an obligation to do something. The example suggests that health professionals, who are the foundation of the healthcare system's resilience to COVID-

19, must be considered one of the most essential components in this situation. In (27), the modal verb 'must' as a high degree of obligation implies a non-negotiable subject. The verb 'do' with the comparative word 'better' come after the modal. This means that people must be able to more effectively prevent the outbreak of COVID-19 in the future. This is not negotiable due to the imperative necessity to prepare for similar scenarios in the future. The use of this modality is intended to indicate a leader's clear invitation to the global community to work together to address challenges (Darong, 2021) ^[5].

d. Probability

The findings suggest that the speeches contain only two sentences about probability. Halliday (1994) ^[11] defines probability as a setting or condition in which something could potentially occur. Here are a few sentence samples.

28. This is not just a public health crisis, it is a crisis that will touch every sector – so every sector and every individual must be involved in the fight.
29. The extra 10 million doses would be an urgent stop-gap measure so that 20 countries could begin before the hundredth day -10 April.

The modal verb 'will' in (28) is expressed by mid-level probability, implying that something is most likely to occur. According to Dr. Tedros, this tragedy will have an impact on every aspect of life. He may be concerned not only with human health but also about all aspects of human life in the coming years. He still believes that everybody must work together to solve and deal with the problem.

In addition, the modal verb 'would' appears to be the mid-level of probability (29). Using such a method, Dr. Tedros anticipates the future and demonstrates the necessity for an extra 10 million doses to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Tedros was still unaware of what would happen in the next days, therefore the statement might still be referred to as a forecast. This finding implies that there is a probability case - an indicator of future predictions - in the language of a leader's speech.

e. Potentiality/Ability

The evidence revealed that Dr. Tedros' speeches regularly took advantage of the modality of potentiality/ability. This modality indicates the ability or knowledge to perform a task (Darong, 2021) ^[5]. As in the example below,

30. We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.

According to example (30), potentiality is explained by two things: human capacity and other non-human characteristics. The passive verb 'be characterized' in front of the modal verb 'can' indicates that COVID-19 has the potential to create a pandemic or a global disease outbreak.

In terms of modality, the dominant position of potentiality/ability and obligation indicates that COVID-19 could trigger a pandemic, and Dr. Tedros supports and warns the public regarding the pandemic's risk. Everyone should be ready to defend himself against the virus attack. This finding is consistent with Pionery and Istianah's (2017) ^[23] claim that, in the case of potentiality/ability, focusing on the meaning of the clause supports human ability or capacity to do better. Furthermore, Dr. Tedros' point of view is considered supportive of the essential efforts to combat the spread of

COVID-19. Dr. Tedros points out the significance of taking action in this situation because there are no other options (Darong, 2021) ^[5].

5. Conclusions

The current study explored the various kinds of transitivity and modality employed in Dr. Tedros' speeches on COVID-19, as well as their interpretations using the SFL approach. The interpersonal and ideational meta-functions are discussed, with emphasis on the transitivity and modality process. The study found that Dr. Tedros employed all types of transitivity in his speeches, including, relational, existential, mental, material, and behavioral transitivity. Furthermore, all sorts of modality (usuality, inclination, obligation, probability, and potential/ability) were used. The findings emphasize the significance of early and quick action, the collaborative connections in the defense against COVID-19, the possibility and hope for self-defense toward the COVID-19 attack, and the requirement for a collective effort to mitigate the pandemic's harmful impacts in the long run.

This work contributes to the body and richness of linguistic research on COVID-19 concerns and helps to disseminate the best healthcare practices and medical procedures throughout a pandemic. The study's sample size limits the ability to generalize the findings about the content of all of Dr. Tedros' speeches on COVID-19. Other researchers are expected to get advantage of this work as a reference for comparable studies with a wider data corpus in order to reach a comprehensive outcome. To enlarge the study and make it more comprehensive, it is recommended that textual meaning be included throughout the SFL analysis. The study's findings have significance for enhancing public knowledge of the danger and risk caused by COVID-19, so that individuals can take action to avoid the deadly virus.

6. References

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