

**A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC INVESTIGATION
OF INTERPERSONAL MEANINGS IN MALAY HELP-
SEEKING AND HELP-PROVIDING TEXTS**

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
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TEXTS**

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ABSTRACT

The current study is about a Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis of interpersonal meanings in Malay advice columns. Helper-helpee relationships, judgments and attitudes are identified by looking at the system of Mood and Modality in the advice columns. Many studies investigating English advice column has been found (McCabe, 2005; Asera, Bagarukayo, Shuey & Barton, 1997; Locher, 2006; Kistnasamy, 2006; Jackson, 2005; Gies, 2004; Liao & Liao, 2009; Shaidatul, 2012) but the ones grounded in SFL are still few (Wong, 2009; Zeng, 2009) whereas the study of advice column in Malay language using SFL has not been found. This shows that studying interpersonal meanings in advice columns in Malay from the perspective of SFL is relatively new and deserves studies on its own. Therefore, the current study intends to fill the gap by exploring the Mood and Modality system in Malay advice columns which function as help-seeking and help-providing texts. The current study is a qualitative study (Creswell, 2009) with qualitative and quantitative findings (Silverman, 2006) following the tradition of research in SFL. The data consist of 10 help-seeking texts and 10 help-providing texts which are taken from 10 sets of letters featured in the advice columns of a Malay health magazine, 'Rapi'. The study was carried out by integrating Halliday's Mood and Modality theoretical framework (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) with Asmah's (2008) model for Modus and Kata Kerja Modalitas. The findings show that both texts are highly declarative while interrogative and imperative mood are used minimally. Help-seekers use mainly the declarative mood to provide background to their problems while help-providers use mainly the declarative mood to be approachable and to create provocation. As for modality, help-providers use more features of modality than help-seekers to compensate for the lack of authoritativeness caused by indirectness when giving advice.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini merupakan kajian Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional (SFL) terhadap maksud interpersonal dalam ruangan nasihat berbahasa Melayu. Hubungan, tanggapan dan sikap antara pembantu dan yang dibantu adalah dikenalpasti melalui sistem Modus dan Modalitas bagi ruangan nasihat ini. Terdapat sejumlah besar penyelidikan telah dijalankan terhadap ruangan nasihat berbahasa Inggeris (McCabe, 2005; Asera, Bagarukayo, Shuey & Barton, 1997; Locher, 2006; Kistnasamy, 2006; Jackson, 2005; Gies, 2004; Liao & Liao, 2009; Shaidatul, 2012) tetapi hanya beberapa penyelidikan sama dilakukan berpaksikan SFL (Wong, 2009; Zeng, 2009) dan tiada kajian SFL dijalankan terhadap ruangan nasihat berbahasa Melayu. Ini menunjukkan penyelidikan terhadap maksud interpersonal dalam ruangan nasihat berbahasa Melayu dari perspektif SFL masih baru dan perlu. Oleh itu, kajian ini berhasrat merapatkan jurang penyelidikan dengan cara mendalami sistem Modus dan Modalitas dalam ruangan nasihat berbahasa Melayu yang juga berfungsi sebagai teks meminta nasihat dan pemberi nasihat. Kajian ini berbentuk kualitatif (Creswell, 2009) dengan dapatan kualitatif dan kuantitatif (Silverman, 2006) yang merupakan tradisi penyelidikan SFL. Data diambil dari 10 set ruangan nasihat daripada majalah kesihatan berbahasa Melayu, 'Rapi'. Kajian ini dijalankan dengan menggabungkan kerangka teori Mood dan Modality oleh Halliday dan Matthiessen (2004) serta huraian Modus dan Kata Kerja Modalitas oleh Asmah (2008). Dapatan menunjukkan kedua-dua teks cenderung kepada modus deklaratif manakala modus soal dan imperatif digunakan secara minimum. Peminta nasihat menggunakan modus deklaratif untuk memberi latar belakang masalah manakala pemberi nasihat menggunakan modus sama untuk menunjukkan kemesraan dan mecetus provokasi. Bagi modalitas, pemberi nasihat menggunakan lebih banyak unsur-unsur modalitas berbanding peminta nasihat bagi mengembalikan autoriti yang berkurangan disebabkan penggunaan bahasa kiasan semasa memberi nasihat.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

For example:

HS	:	Help-seeking
HP	:	Help-providing
C	:	Clause
^	:	Followed by
[]	:	Ellipsed Subject

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