

# Modality in President Joko Widodo's Speeches on Independence Day 2018:

## Syntactic and semantic studies

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**Abstract**—Modality as a phenomenon of language shows that each language has a lexical element that can be used to describe the attitude of the speaker to what is expressed in his/ her speech. The analysis of this research basically concerns with the Modality in President Joko Widodo's Speeches on Independence Day 2018. The method used in this research is the descriptive research method. The data taken from YouTube Channel on Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia. The result of the analysis shows that President Joko Widodo used epistemic and deontic modalities in his speeches on Independence Day in 17 August 2018.

**Keywords**—modality; Joko Widodo; independence day; syntactic; semantic

### I. INTRODUCTION

Language is an expression that has the intention to convey something to others. The main function of language is to communicate. Language is one of the sciences that must be researched and developed in line with the development of science, technology, politics and culture. In communicating, language users will be influenced by a form of language that refers to the attitude of the speaker. In Linguistic studies, it is known as modality. Modality is universal and is a functional semantic category. Bloomfield in Nugraha, Sobarna, Mahdi, and Darmayanti states that the semantic category is one of the phenomena of language [1].

Modalities according to Hasanuddin state that modalities are: (1) classification of propositions in terms of presenting or denying the possibility or necessity; (2) the way the speaker expresses his attitude towards the situation in an interpersonal communication; (3) the meaning of possibility, necessity, reality stated in the sentence [2]. Whereas according to Alwi dividing the types of modalities into four, there are intentional modalities, epistemic modalities, deontic modalities, and dynamic modalities [3]. The explanation, first Intentional modality is a modality that expresses the meaning of desire, hope, and invitation. Second, epistemic modalities are modalities that state possibilities, predictability, certainty and necessity [3]. Third, deontic modalities are modalities that state permits or orders, while the fourth is dynamic modalities, which are modalities that state capabilities [3].

This study discusses the modalities contained in Jokowi's State speech in the framework of the 73rd independence day of the Republic of Indonesia. In the history of Indonesia. Proclamation of Independence August 17, 1945 is a very important event for the Indonesian people, because with the proclamation of the Indonesian people declared their independence so it is in line with other nations in the world.

By proclaiming Indonesian independence, the Indonesian people have formally declared independence, both to the international community and to the Indonesian nation itself. From that time the Indonesian nation was independent. Freedom means that from then on the Indonesian people took an attitude of determining their destiny and the fate of their homeland in all fields [4].

On the other hand, the proclamation of independence was at the same time also a statement that the Indonesian nation was able to manage its own household and notify that it had established a national state that was independent and sovereign.

With the proclamation of the independence of the Indonesian nation, then from that moment on the Indonesian legal system only took place, replacing the colonial legal system. With the proclamation of independence, everything that was colonial had been replaced with something national. With this condition, the Indonesian nation has broken ties with the previous legal system, both the legal order of the Dutch East Indies and the legal order of the Japanese occupation [4]. That was the real purpose of the proclamation of the independence of the Indonesian people.

This is truly natural for an independent country. An independent country must have its own legal order, not follow or still use the colonial legal order. Proclamation thus becomes the legal basis for the implementation of the new legal order. Proclamation becomes the legal basis for the enactment of national law. Thus, all kinds of regulations, laws, and regulations that apply and will apply in Indonesia, the legal basis is the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence on 17 August 1945.

In connection with the background above, the formulation of the problem of this research is: what types of modalities are

used by President Joko Widodo in his speech on August 17, 2018?

## II. METHODOLOGY

The method is a way of approaching, observing, explaining, and analyzing a phenomenon or data [5]. In this study, the method used is descriptive research method. Descriptive methods are used to describe the data as it is and explain the symptoms that exist in the data. Thus, it can be seen a systematic, factual, and accurate picture of the data being studied. This is in accordance with what was stated by Djajasudarma, that the descriptive method is used to describe the characteristics and description of data through the sorting of data carried out at the stage of sorting data after the data is collected [6]. Thus researchers always refer to the data itself and do not hold that something is indeed the case. The study method or description of how data analyzed based on the particular approach used in this study are the two methods used, namely the distributional method. The equivalent method is used if the determinant is an element of language, such as a reference, speaker, language or other languages, participants speak or write. Distribution method is used if the determinant is an element contained in the language itself, namely the language being studied [6].

By using these methods, the data is analyzed by revealing both syntactic and semantic aspects. Based on the method used, in the study and interpretation of data this study used various techniques, namely deletion, substitution techniques, transfer techniques. The data was taken from YouTube Channel on Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmoe4TGWnf0>.

## III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### A. Syntax

Syntax is derived from Greek which consists of two words "sun" which means "with" and "tattein" which means "placing". Etymologically syntactic means putting together words into groups of words or sentences [7], while Miller argues that syntax has to do with how words are put together to build clauses, or bigger phrases, and with how clause are put together to build sentences [8], while O'Grady in Nugraha said that syntax is the system of rules and categories that underlies sentence formation in human language [9].

### B. Semantic

O'Grady states that semantics is the study of meaning in human language [10]. Saeed states that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language [11]. It can be concluded that semantics are generally defined as the study of the meaning communicated through language. The object of semantic study is the meaning. Quirk, et al. states that meaning is that which you are intended to understand by something spoken or written or expressed in other ways [12].

### C. Modality

Semantically, the meaning types of modalities that will be used in this study are based on the theory put forward by

Huddleston. Huddleston [13] uses the same term as Perkins [14] and Palmer [15] in classifying the types of meanings of modalities in English which consist of three categories, there are epistemic modalities, deontic modalities, and dynamic modalities.

Huddleston stated that "Epistemic" is derived from Greek for 'knowledge': this kind of modality involves qualifications concerning the speaker's knowledge", while "Deontic" is derived from Greek for 'binding' so that here it is a matter of improving obligation or prohibition, granting permission, and the like [13]. The person, authority, convention, or whatever from the obligation, etc., is understood to emanate we refer to as the deontic source".

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### A. Data 1

At the age of 73 this year, we continue to work, endeavor, strive to pursue the nation's achievements, because we must admit, there are several other countries that achieve progress faster than our country.

Semantically, based on the context of the sentence, the word 'must' is the mode of disclosure of necessity and is a logical conclusion. This sentence belongs to the epistemic modality that has subjective certainty. Disclosure of epistemic modalities is shown by the emergence of President Joko Widodo's certainty involving his knowledge or beliefs. In this case, it appears that President Joko Widodo has drawn a conclusion from things that have been known or observed before. This can be seen in the sentence that 'there are several other countries that have achieved progress faster than our country'.

### B. Data 2

Indonesia must catch up with other countries that are able to run faster in achieving progress. Indonesia must be a developed country that can stand in line with other developed countries in the world. Indonesia must be a sovereign, dignified and respected country in the world.

Semantically, based on the context of the sentence, the word 'must' is an expression of necessity that is based on an authority and belongs to a deontic modality that has a subjective command meaning. The source of deontics in the data above is a source of deontics based on social rules in the form of official authority. With social rules, a person's interpretation of something he faces is based on the provisions or regulations that apply to regulate human life.

### C. Data 3

We must strengthen the foundation and gather energy to make a leap of progress. We must dare to make a breakthrough to jump far ahead. We must be brave enough to make a policy that we don't enjoy the results right now, but make our steps forward faster.

Semantically, based on the context of the sentence, the word 'must' is a logical conclusion and belong to an epistemic modality that has subjective certainty. Disclosure of epistemic

modalities is shown by the emergence of President Joko Widodo's certainty involving his knowledge or beliefs. In this case, it appears that President Joko Widodo has drawn a conclusion from things that have been known or observed before.

#### D. Data 4

We must be able to talk about Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and various technological advances that almost every second always appears new.

Semantically, based on the context of the sentence, the word 'must' is the mode of disclosure of necessity and is a logical conclusion. This sentence belongs to the epistemic modality that has subjective certainty. Disclosure of epistemic modalities is shown by the emergence of President Joko Widodo's certainty involving his knowledge or beliefs. In this case, it appears that President Joko Widodo has drawn a conclusion from things that have been known or observed before.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

Semantically, the types of modalities are used by President Joko Widodo in his speech on August 17, 2018 are dynamic and deontic modalities. Dynamic modality is the attitude of the speaker towards the actualization of events based on circumstances, whereas deontic modalities are subjective because speakers are involved in an authority or attitude of the speaker to events based on social rules. The social rules can be either personal authority or official authority. Personal authority is caused by differences in age, position, or social status between someone and other people, while official authority comes from mutually agreed provisions or regulations to regulate the livelihoods of the community concerned.

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