

## **EXPERIENTIAL FUNCTION IN NADIEM MAKARIM'S SPEECH ON NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY 2021**

**By:**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of research was to investigate the kinds of Process of Experiential Function in Nadiem Makarim's speech on National Education Day 2021. The objective was to describe the types and the dominant processes in the speech. This research used descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. It presented a qualitative design dealing with quantifiable (numeric) mode. The source of data was taken from Nadiem Makarim's speech as a Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia on National Education Day on 2 May 2021. The data was collected by applying documentary technique. The data analysis showed the findings indicating that there were 3 types of Process used in the speech, namely - Material Process, Relational Process and Mental Process. The dominant pattern of Process was Material, which occurs 29 times (69%). There were two types kind of Circumstance found from the speech, namely Location and Manner. The dominant type of Circumstance was location which occurs 6 times (67%) times.

**Keywords:** Experiential Function, Nadiem Makarim's speech

### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

Being able to communicate effectively in English does not only mean to be proficient in the various language skills involved in the communication progress, but it also means to be able to use it effectively. They expect to achieve by talking and writing, and by listening and reading. Being able to use language effectively is skill needed in communication. When someone is explaining something to other person, s/he will instinctively try to organize what s/he says in a way that will make the hearer or the reader understand easily. Thus, it needs

experiential function to express meanings.

Halliday & Jonathan (2014:9) use the term experiential to refer function of language which consists in expressing content – the function of being 'about' something. The use of this term may help to emphasized the fact that the reality which underlies this content includes mental as well as physical processes, abstract as well as concrete entities; and to suggest that it is the structure of collective and individual experience that provides the basis for the linguistic representatives.

Bell (2000:121) states that experiential function expresses

cognitive meaning; the fundamental ideas - conveying the function of language. This draws on the systems and networks of transitivity to create proportions, which convey the user's experience of the external world of the senses and inner world of the mind. It means that this function is related so Speech Function.

Halliday (1994:69) states that when exchanging and expressing ideas, human being perform two roles namely giving and demanding, for the commodity such as information and goods or services. In systemic functional linguistic (SFL), it is named speech function. Speech functions are used as the medium exchanging experiences in order to fulfill human's needs.

In this case, experiential function is very important to be discussed because it has a constituent structure that can be described functionally in terms of process, participant, and circumstance with process being the essential ingredient. It can be said that experiential function concerns with the clauses that have guises as the way of representing patterns of experience through the process of doing, process of being, process of existing, indicating perception, relational, activities of saying, commanding, asking, and etc.

National Education Day which is celebrated every year on May 2 is one of the historic day for Indonesia. National Education Day is not celebrated as a holiday but is set as a day to commemorate the birth of Ki Hajar Dewantara, the first minister of the National Education of Indonesia. Usually, National Education Day is commemorated by holding a flag ceremony

accompanied by an educational-themed speech.

Nadiem Makarim as the Minister of Education and Culture, Research and Technology of the Advanced Indonesian Cabinet for the Period of 2019-2024 gave speech in National Education Day on 2 May 2021.

The speech read by Nadiem Makarim can create meaning, inform, and invite people especially educators and students in Indonesia to agree and belief his thoughts about the breakthrough of freedom of learning in Indonesia education although still in the midst of the Covid19 pandemic. A good knowledge about information structure is required to comprehend the speech. The speech serves language development at best due to the Systemic Functional Linguistics especially experiential function.

## 1.2 Research Problem

The problems of this research are as follows:

1. What types of processes and circumstances in the Nadiem Makarim's speech on national education day 2021?
2. Which type of process and circumstance is the most dominant?

## 1.3 The Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to find out the types of processes and circumstance in the Nadiem Makarim's speech on national education day 2021.
2. to find out the dominant type of process.

#### **1.4 The Significance of the Research**

The findings of the study add up new horizons to theories of Systematic Functional

## **II. Review of Related Literature**

### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This research is to investigate Experiential Function in Nadiem Makarim's speech on National Education Day 2021. Then the concept of this research must be made clear from the start in order to prevent possible misunderstanding between the writer and the readers about the ideas conveyed.

#### **2.1.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics**

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is an approach to the study of language that was developed primarily by British Australian linguist Michael Halliday during the mid-1980. SFL is a descriptive and interpretive framework for viewing language as a strategic meaning making resource.

SFL explores both how people use language in different context and how language is structured as a semiotic system (Eggins, 2004). It is a theory about language as a social process as well as an analytical methodology which permits the detailed and systematic description of language patterns. SFL provides the tool for analyzing written and spoken texts with particular attention given to the context in which they are produced. It can also be part broadly applied can help us understand not only the nature and functions of language but also things like how language evolves over time, how children develop language as well as how people learn both their mother

Linguistics (SFL). In addition, the findings can be references for further studies.

tongue and foreign languages more specific to our concerns.

Language is seen as meaning making potential and it is called systemic because it seen as being composed of systems of choices. Communicator can call upon to make meaning with and it is called functional because the approach is largely meaning focused.

It is important to note that SFL is useful in many content areas as well as many different types of texts. Any written or spoken text is an occasion of language in use embodying its words and structures with particular selection from all various sets of opinions that constitute the language system. The focus is the meanings of language in use in textual processes of social life.

#### **2.1.2 Metafunction of Language**

Halliday (1978) states that language has three functions which are known as metafunction of language. Metafunction covers three main language functions, they are: to present, to exchange, and to organize experience. These three language functions show the level of complexity in language.

Halliday (1994) defines that metafunction has three functions of language with respect the language orientations. The orientations of the language are: presenting experience, means that human uses the language to expresses the idea or opinion from their mind. Exchanging experience means that human uses the language to change the idea from their mind to the listener. Organizing experience

means that human composes or organizes the idea to make it acceptable.

Function is intrinsic to language. It is integral component within the overall theory of language; that is to say, the entire architecture of language is arranged along functional lines. Language Metafunction further claims that both the 'emergence of grammar' and the 'particular forms that grammar take' should be explained in terms of the functions that language evolved to served. Metafunction of language consists of ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The three metafunctions are mapped onto the structure of the clause. For this reason, systemic linguists analyse a clause from three perspectives.

### **2.1.1 Ideational Function**

Halliday & Jonathan (2014:9) states the ideational, or 'content', function of language can be subdivided into two, experiential and logical function. The experiential refers to process, participant, and circumstance. The logical refers to some general organized relations expressed for instance by dependencies between elements in structure.

The experiential function is used to describe experience through Process, Participant, and Circumstance. While the logical function is used to realize the logical meaning which is concerned with the clause complex relations.

#### **2.1.1.1 Experiential Function**

Experiential function is a tool used to describe meaning. Clauses in experiential function have a constituent that can be described functionally in terms of Process,

Participant, and Circumstance, with Process being the essential ingredient. It concerns with the clauses that have guises as the way of representing patterns of experience. Bell (2000:121) states that experiential function expresses cognitive meaning: the fundamental idea conveying function of language. This draws on the systems and networks of transitivity to create proportions which convey the user's experience of the external world of the senses and inner world of mind.

Grammatically, the clauses are means of expressing experiences. They enable us to conceptualize and describe our experience, whether of the phenomenon of the external world or of the internal world of our thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. Semantically, a clause represents a pattern of experience, conceptualized as situation types of transitivity.

The situation types of transitivity consist of Process, Participant, and Circumstance. The Process is Participant and Circumstance. A Participant is someone or something involved in the process. Circumstance is the ways the process and participant are involved.

There are three semantic categories which explain the phenomena of the real world represented as linguistics structures, namely: 1) Circumstances (the Circumstance (s) by (an) adverbial group (s)) 2) Process (the Process is realized by a verbal group), and 3) Participants (the Participant (s) by (a) nominal group (s)).

Table 2.1 presents the typical function of group and phrase classes.

**Table 2.1**  
**Typical Function of Group and**  
**Phrase Classes**

Type of Element	Typically Realized
Process	Verbal Group
Participant	Nominal Group
Circumstance	Adverbial Group or Prepositional Phrase

It is functional labels (the labels indicate the role played by each element of the representation), it can be expressed through the content of clause in terms of Processes involving participants in a certain Circumstances. (See Table 2.2)

**Table 2.2**  
**Process, Participants, and**  
**Circumstances**

The children	will come	for tomorrow	birthday party
Actor	Process	Circumstances	Participant

Table 2.2 presents the experiential function which is divided into three functional constituents; they are: Material, Relational, Behavioral, Mental, Verbal and Existential. The Participant constituent can be further described in terms of various Participant roles such as Actor, Goal, Carrier, Sayer, and Verbiage.

### 2.1.1.2 The Components of Experiential Function

#### 2.1.1.2.1 Process

Process is the happening or state of affairs represented in a clause. It is typically expressed by the verbal group in the clause, and is the central component of the

message from the experiential perspective. Halliday (1994) states that processes are central to transitivity.

**Table 2.3 Process**

I	Caught	The last ball
Actor	Process: Material	Participant : Goal

He	Ask	them to come
Actor	Process: Material	Participant : Goal

Table 2.3 shows that a Process is an activity done which is equivalent to verb in traditional terminology. Participant is a person or things which are involved in Process. Halliday (2004) categorizes kinds of processes into Material, Mental, and Relational; and three subsidiary types of Process: Behavioral, Verbal and Existential.

#### 2.1.1.2.1.1 Material Process

Material Process is known as a process of doing or expressing the notion that some entity physically does something which may be done to some other entities. The common examples of verbs used in the process are kick, run, paint, dig, write, etc. Semantically, Material Processes indicate activities or events, which happen in the outside world. One of the most salient types of Processes are those involving physical actions, such as jump, throw, scratch, cook, and sit down.

**Table 2.4 Material Process**

He	Asked	them to come
Actor	Process: Material	Participant : Goal

#### 2.1.1.2.1.2 Mental Process

Mental process refers to verbs indicating perception, cognition, and affection which deals with perception (see, hear, smell, taste, feel). Semantically, a Mental Process

involves sense, which is inside the human or conscious being. Other verbs which refer to these Mental Processes are think, imagine, like, want, see, know, feel, desire, perceive, and heard.

**Table 2.5 Mental Process**

The child	Liked	The gift
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon

#### 2.1.1.2.1.3 Relational Process

Relational Process is known as process of being, and the term 'Relational' is not 'being' in the sense of existing. Syntactically the Process belongs to the copula construction. The common verbs belonging to this type are BE (is, am, are, was, were, been), become, seem, and appear. The participants are therefore labeled the identified and the identifier. It is presented in Table 2.6.

**Table 2.6 Relational Process**

Sharita	is	beautiful
Carrier	Relational	Attribute

#### 2.1.1.2.1.4 Behavioral Process

Behavioral processes are the least salient of Halliday's six process types since they have no clearly defined characteristics of their own: rather, they are partly like the Material and partly like the Mental. The participant who is behaving labeled Behavior, is typical a conscious being, like the Senser, but the Process is grammatically more like one of doing.

**Table 2.7 Behavioral Process**

She	is not listening
Behavior	Behavioral

Table 2.7 shows that Behavior Process is middle, the most

typical pattern is a clause consisting of Behavior and Behavioral Process.

#### 2.1.4.1.5 Verbal Process

Verbal Processes show activities of saying, commanding, asking, and offering. Syntactically, the Process can project another clause. The verb say, tell and ask to name only a few. But saying has to be interpreted in a rather broad sense; it covers any kind of symbolic exchange of meaning, like the notice tells you to keep quiet. The grammatical function of You, I, the notice is that Sayer. The verbiage is that function that corresponds to what I said.

**Table 2.6 Verbal Process**

The lecturer	praised	Anna to all students
Sayer	Verbal	Verbiage

#### 2.1.4.1.6 Existential Process

Existential Process is known as process of existing. It represents something exists of happen. It involves single Participant that is existent, which may refer to an uncountable entity (There's toast for breakfast), a countable entity (There is a cat on the chair), or an event (There was a flood in the village). Typically, Existential Process has the verb 'be' but there are some related verbs that are commonly occur such as exist, occur, happen, and hang.

**Table 2.6 Existential Process**

There are	many dogs	in the house
Existential	Existent	Location

Table 2.9 presents that Existential Process always uses 'there' as the subject. It is normally recognizable.

### 2.1.4.2 Participant

Halliday (1992) states that Participant is the person, creature, object, institution or abstraction that involves in a Process. In experiential function, Participant accompanies the six Processes. Participant is inherent in the Process. There are a number of a specific ways in which Participant may take part in a Process; it may act out the Process, it may sense through it, it may receive through it, it may be affected by it, it may say it. In the syntactic structure, the Participants are typically realized by subject, direct object, and indirect object.

In Relational Process, Identification Process has Token and Value as Participant I and II, Attribution Process has Carrier and Attribute as Participant I and II; and Possession Process has possessive called Behavior. In Verbal Process there are two Participants; and Sayer and Verbiage, while in Existential Process there is a single Participant called Existent. It can be seen summary of the entire Participant (see Table 2.10).

**Table 2.10 Types of Processes and Participants**

Types of Process	Participant I	Participant II
Material	Actor	Goal
Mental	Senser	Phenomenon
Relational	Identification: Token Attribution: Carrier Possession: Processor	Value  Attribute  Possessed
Behavioral	Behaver	-
Verbal	Sayer	Verbiage
Existential	-	Existent

Source: Halliday (1994)

Table 2.10 presents that the types of Processes and Participants. Each Process has difference identity.

For instance, when the Process can be identified as Material, the subject is called as Actor and the object is called as Goal.

### 2.1.4.3 Circumstance

Circumstances (realized by Circumstantial Adjunct) essentially encode the background against which the Process takes place. There are a few well-established categories of Circumstances which correspond to our institutions about the kinds of background conditions that occur, such as: time, place, and manner.

Circumstance is typically less closely associated with the Process and is usually not inherent in it. Commonly, the circumstantial elements relate to Extent, Location, Manner, Cause, Contingency, Accompaniment, Role, Manner, and Angle. They occur freely in all types of Processes. The interrogative forms for extent are for extent are for how long (Temporal expression) and how far (Spatial expressions) and where (Spatial expressions).

The Circumstantial element of cause represents the reason for which Process takes place – what causes it. That is why the interrogative form is why. The interrogative forms for contingency is in what Circumstance, for accompaniment is together with, for role is what as, for Matter is what about, and for Angle is says who. Table 2.11 presents the summary of Circumstance.

**Table 2.11  
 The Summary of Circumstances**

Types of Circumstances	Subcategory	Probe	Examples of Realization
Extent	Temporal spatial	For how long?	Every three hour
Location	Temporal spatial	When? Where?	In September In Jakarta
Manner		How?	Quickly
Cause		Why?	Because of you
Contingency		In what	In spite of

		Circumstances?	the rain
Accompaniment		To gather with?	With(out) his friends Instead of them
Role		What as?	As a concerned parents (smashed) into pieces
Matter		What about?	About this With reference to that
Angel		Says who?	According to Shorter Oxford

Source: Halliday (1999)

## 2.2 Conceptual Framework

Language cannot be separated from the human being, it is a media to say anything and express the ideas, by using language, people can interact well, exchanging their ideas and also to fulfill their needs. Speech function is a way of someone delivers ideas in communication to make listeners understand the ideas well.

Furthermore, the study focuses on the Experiential Function which is divided into six Processes namely Material, Mental, Relational Behavioral, Verbal and Existential Process. When one is giving speech to another person, she/he instinctively tries to organize what she/he says is a way that will make it easier to understand. Then it needs experiential function to express some meaning.

Therefore, this research is intended to identify the experiential function on Nadiem Makariem's Speech on National Education Day 2021, the then to classify the types of processes, and finally to find which type of process is the most dominant.

## III. Method of the Research

### 3.1 Research Design

Qualitative descriptive research design was applied in this study. Borg and Gall (1993:354) elaborates that descriptive method is

primarily concerned with finding out way as it is. Descriptive research design simply describes what data shown or what is going on by counting the percentage of what is set source of data. Qualitative analysis was then applied to find out theoretically which one seemed to be the better text to convey the Experiential Function in Nadiem Makariem's speech on national education day 2021.

### 3.2 Source of Data

The source of data was taken from the script of speech of Nadiem Makariem, as a Minister of education, culture, research, and technology of the Republic of Indonesia, when giving speech on National Education Day on 2 May 2021 a on website

<https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2021/05/pidato-menteri-pendidikan-kebudayaan-riiset-dan-teknologi-dalam-peringatan-hardiknas-tahun-2021>.

### 3.3 The Technique for Collecting the Data

The data of this research were the clauses found in the Nadiem Makariem's speech on National Education Day 2021. They were collected by applying the documentary technique. Ary (1979:304) states many interesting and useful projects in the field have been concerned with information obtained by examining records as document. It meant that through documentary technique, the data were collected by reading and studying some books related to the research.



### 3.4 The Technique for Analyzing the Data

After the data is collected, the data of this research were analyzed based on Miles and Huberman theories (1992). The data were analyzed through three steps namely, data reduction, data display, and conclusion (drawing and verifying the result).

## IV. Data and Data Analysis

### 4.1 Data

The data were collected from the script of speech of Nadiem Makariem as a Minister of education, culture, research, and technology of the Republic of Indonesia when giving speech on National Education Day on 2 May 2021.

The data were analyzed into the types of experiential function Process and Circumstances.

### 4.2 Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed some classifications of process of experiential function that can be answered the formulation of the problems of this research, namely kinds of Process and Circumstance of experiential function in the Nadiem Makariem's speech. Based on the theory, There were six kinds of experiential function, namely Material process, Mental process, Relational process, Verbal process, Behavioral process, Existential process. The data which collected were presented in the tables below:

**Table 4.1**  
**The Percentage of the Experiential Function Process in Nadiem Makariem's Speech**

No.	Process	Total	Percentage
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1.	Material	29	69 %
2.	Mental	3	7 %
3.	Relational	10	24 %
4.	Verbal	0	0 %
5.	Behavioral	0	0 %
6.	Existential	0	0 %
Total		42	100 %

Based on the Table 4.1 above, it is found that there are 43 clauses in Nadiem Makariem's Speech on National Education Day on 2 May 2021. The data shows that the total number of Material process occurs 29 times (69%), Mental process occurs 3 times (7%), the Relational process occurs 10 times (24%). Verbal process, Behavioral and the Existential process do not occur (0%). So, that the dominant type of process found Nadiem Makariem's Speech on National Education Day is Material process.

From the data, it is found that there are 2 types of Circumstances used in the speech. They are Location which occurs 6 times (67%) and Manner which occurs 3 times (33%).

Based on the analysis, it shows that Material is the dominant Process and Location is the dominant Circumstance.

Material Process is known as Process of doing. It relates to the verb of the sentence and deals with the notion that some entity 'does' something which may be done 'to' some other entity. Semantically, Material Processes indicate activities or events which happen in the outside world. That is why Material Process is the most dominant Nadiem Makariem's speech on National Education Day 2021 because it involves physical actions, such as *Today, we raise the spirit to welcome the new chapter of Indonesian Education*. It means that Nadiem Makariem wants to tell to all

Indonesia people that the expected change will come true as long as they take part instead of watching and waiting what the government can do. Besides that Nadiem Makariem dominantly uses the Participant “we” in his speech. For example: *Starting today, we must inspire the thought of the Father of Indonesian Education..*”. It indicates that Nadiem Makariem really wants to invite all Indonesian people to have strong feeling and reaction to the idea of Ki Hajar Dewantara as the Father of Indonesian Education so the quality of Indonesian Education can be quickly created.

Meanwhile, Location Circumstance tells about the time and place of event. It means that Location is always used to describe the time and place of events of information clearly. Furthermore, the use of two elements (Material Process and Location Circumstance) is related to the context of situation. Specifically they are related to the Field, Tenor and Mode.

However, the Field and Mode are deterministic to the use of the two elements of Experiential Function.

## V. Conclusion And Suggestion

### 5.1 Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the data in the previous chapter, some conclusions are drawn:

1. There are 3 kinds of experiential function founded in Nadiem Makariem’s Speech on National Education Day namely: Material process, Mental process, and Relational process. Verbal process, Behavioral and Existential processes are not shown in the writing. The researcher calculates the total

frequency of the occurrences the kinds of experiential function itself. (1) Material process is in first position is used 29 times or (69%), (2) the next position is Relational process with occurrences 10 times or (24%), (3) then, Mental process as the third position in this kinds of experiential function. It is used 3 times or (7%). Verbal process, Behavioral process and Existential process do not occur in the writing (0%).

2. Out of the 3 kinds of Process occur in Nadiem Makariem’s Speech on National Education Day, the most dominant Material process is in first position is used 29 times or (69%),
3. There are 2 kinds of Circumstances found from the texts, namely; Location and Matter. Location occurs 6 times (67%) while Matter occurs 3 time (33%). It appears that the dominant type of Circumstance is Location.

### 5.2 Suggestions

Having seen the results of the research, researchers are suggested to conduct the same topic with more subjects with different problems to see the difference between them so the types of process of those subjects can be seen more accurately and clearly.

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