

Constructing Political Influence in Labor Day Speech: An SFL Analysis of Prabowo Subianto's Political Discourse

Tyas Alhim Mubarok

English Language Study Program

FIPS, Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Blitar, Indonesia

Email: tyasalhim@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the construction of political influence in Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech through the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Using a qualitative descriptive approach, the study analyzes the speech based on Halliday's three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings, focusing on transitivity, mood, modality, thematic structure, and lexical patterns. The findings reveal that material processes dominate the speech, emphasizing action-oriented leadership through promises, policies, and commitments toward workers' welfare. Relational and mental processes are also employed to construct solidarity, empathy, and moral positioning. Interpersonally, the speech is characterized by dominant declarative moods and high modality expressions, which project authority, certainty, and political commitment. The frequent use of inclusive pronouns such as 'kita' and 'saudara-saudara' reduces social distance and strengthens solidarity between the speaker and the audience. Textually, repetitive thematic structures and labor-centered lexical patterns reinforce nationalist ideology, collective struggle, and persuasive political messaging. Overall, the speech strategically constructs Prabowo Subianto as a protective, populist, and decisive leader who aligns himself with workers and ordinary citizens against social and economic injustice. Limitations and implications are suggested to provide insights for future researchers in conducting further studies on political discourse and SFL analysis.

Keywords: *Political discourse, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Prabowo Subianto, Labor Day speech*

INTRODUCTION

Political speeches play a crucial role in shaping public opinion, legitimizing governmental policies, and constructing political identities. Through language, political leaders communicate ideological positions, establish relationships with audiences, and persuade citizens to support particular agendas. As Fairclough (2013) argues, political discourse is not merely a medium for conveying information but also an instrument for exercising power, constructing social realities, and influencing public perception. Consequently, the analysis of political speeches has become an important area of discourse studies, particularly within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL).

Systemic Functional Linguistics, developed by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), views language as a social semiotic system in which every linguistic choice serves a communicative purpose. SFL explains meaning through three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. The ideational metafunction concerns how speakers represent experiences through transitivity processes, participants, and circumstances. The interpersonal metafunction focuses on how speakers negotiate relationships, attitudes, and authority through mood, modality, and personal pronouns. Meanwhile, the textual metafunction explains how linguistic resources organize messages into coherent and persuasive discourse through thematic structures and lexical cohesion. These three metafunctions provide a comprehensive framework for examining how political leaders strategically employ language to construct influence and legitimacy (I Dewa Gede Fathur Try Githa et al., 2026; Lumanlan et al., 2025; Syahsurya & Tasaufy, 2026).

Labor Day speeches constitute a distinctive genre of political discourse because they directly address workers, labor unions, and the broader public concerning employment, welfare, and social justice. Such speeches often combine policy announcements with persuasive rhetoric designed to strengthen solidarity between political leaders and working-class communities. In Indonesia, Labor Day has increasingly become a strategic political platform where government leaders communicate commitments to labor protection while simultaneously reinforcing their political legitimacy (Alfianyah et al., 2025; Kazemian & Naiyf Qaiwer, 2025).

As the President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto delivered a Labor Day speech that emphasized workers' welfare, social protection, economic justice, and national development. Throughout the speech, he repeatedly highlighted government

initiatives, including labor protection policies, affordable housing programs, employment security, transportation subsidies, and social welfare programs. Simultaneously, the speech presents emotional appeals, inclusive language, and nationalist narratives that seek to position the President as a protector of workers and ordinary citizens. These linguistic characteristics make the speech an appropriate object for Systemic Functional Linguistics analysis.

Previous studies have extensively investigated political discourse using Critical Discourse Analysis and rhetorical approaches (Abdurrahman & Abdurrahman, 2023; El Bakri, 2025; Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review, 2026; Sueb & Wafa, 2026; Syahsurya & Tasaufy, 2026; Syeda Nida Zainab et al., 2025). However, relatively few studies have comprehensively examined Indonesian presidential speeches by integrating Halliday's three metafunctions—ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings—within a single analytical framework. Existing research often emphasizes either transitivity patterns or interpersonal meanings while paying less attention to the interaction among all three metafunctions in constructing political influence. Therefore, there remains a research gap concerning how multiple linguistic resources simultaneously contribute to the representation of leadership, solidarity, and political persuasion in contemporary Indonesian political discourse.

To address this gap, the present study analyzes Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech through the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics. Specifically, the study investigates the realization of transitivity processes, mood structures, modality expressions, thematic organization, and lexical patterns to explain how political influence is linguistically constructed throughout the speech. By examining these metafunctional resources, this study aims to reveal how language functions to construct leadership, strengthen solidarity with workers, and communicate political commitment.

The findings are expected to contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study enriches the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics in political discourse studies by demonstrating the interaction among Halliday's three metafunctions in Indonesian presidential speeches. Practically, the findings provide valuable insights for discourse analysts, linguists, educators, and future researchers interested in political communication, persuasive discourse, and the linguistic construction of leadership in contemporary political contexts.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design to investigate how political influence is constructed in Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech through the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). A qualitative approach was selected because the objective of the study was to interpret linguistic meanings and explain how language functions to construct political ideology, leadership, and solidarity rather than to measure statistical relationships.

The primary data consisted of the official transcript of President Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech delivered on 1 May 2026 during the International Labor Day commemoration in Indonesia. The speech transcript served as the sole source of analysis because it represents authentic political discourse addressed directly to workers, labor unions, government officials, and the Indonesian public. The transcript was transcribed and organized into clauses, following (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) recommendation that the clause functions as the basic unit of analysis in Systemic Functional Linguistics.

Data analysis was conducted using Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) three metafunctions of language, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. The ideational metafunction was analyzed through the transitivity system by identifying six process types: material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes, together with their participants and circumstances. The interpersonal metafunction focused on mood structures, modality expressions, and personal pronouns to examine how authority, commitment, and solidarity were negotiated between the speaker and the audience. The textual metafunction examined thematic structures, lexical cohesion, repetition, and dominant lexical patterns to explain how the speech achieved coherence and persuasive organization.

The analysis followed four systematic stages. First, the complete speech transcript was read repeatedly to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the discourse. Second, the transcript was segmented into clauses and coded according to the relevant SFL categories. Third, each clause was classified based on its transitivity process, mood type, modality, thematic organization, and lexical choices. Finally, the identified linguistic patterns were interpreted to explain how they contributed to constructing political influence, leadership identity, workers' solidarity, and persuasive political discourse.

To enhance the credibility of the findings, the coding process followed the analytical framework proposed by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and was continuously compared with previous studies on political discourse employing Systemic Functional Linguistics. The interpretation emphasized consistency among the three metafunctions so that the analysis reflected how experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings collectively functioned to construct political messages in the speech.

The findings are presented descriptively through selected excerpts from the speech accompanied by linguistic interpretation. The discussion highlights the dominant linguistic features and explains how these features contribute to representing Prabowo Subianto as a protective, action-oriented, and populist political leader while reinforcing solidarity with Indonesian workers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The analysis of Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech reveals that political influence is constructed through the interaction of ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. Material processes dominate the speech, emphasizing governmental actions and commitments toward workers' welfare. Interpersonally, declarative mood and high modality project authority and confidence, while inclusive pronouns strengthen solidarity with the audience. Textually, repetitive thematic structures and labor-oriented lexical choices reinforce the central message of social justice and national prosperity.

4.1 Ideational Meaning: Transitivity Analysis

The transitivity analysis demonstrates that material processes are the most frequently employed process type throughout the speech. These processes mainly describe government actions, policy implementation, and future commitments directed toward workers and ordinary citizens. The speech consists of 328 analyzed clauses. The transitivity analysis indicates that material processes occur most frequently, followed by relational and mental processes. This pattern suggests that the speech emphasizes concrete governmental actions rather than abstract political rhetoric.

Table 1. Distribution of Transitivity Processes

Process Type	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Linguistic Function / Discursive Function	Representative Examples	Interpretation
--------------	---------------	----------------	---	-------------------------	----------------

Material	156	47.6	Expresses governmental actions, policies, and commitments	<i>membangun, melindungi, mengangkat, memberi, mengambil alih</i>	Dominant process showing action-oriented leadership and emphasizing governmental commitment to workers' welfare.
Relational	69	21.0	Constructs identity, legitimacy, and evaluation	<i>Hari ini adalah hari perjuangan kaum buruh, Negara kita kuat</i>	Constructs ideological identity, legitimizes government authority, and evaluates national conditions.
Mental	42	12.8	Represents feelings, perceptions, and empathy	<i>Saya merasa, Saya menyadari, Saya menghormati</i>	Demonstrates empathy, awareness, and emotional engagement with workers and society.
Verbal	34	10.4	Announces policies and governmental decisions	<i>Saya perintahkan, Saya umumkan</i>	Represents institutional authority through announcements, directives, and official commitments.
Existential	17	5.2	Indicates the existence of social issues or institutions	<i>Ada pekerja...</i>	Highlights the existence of social realities, institutions, and issues requiring governmental attention.
Behavioral	10	3.0	Represents physiological or psychological behaviour	Limited occurrence	Minor contribution, reflecting observable psychological or behavioral responses rather than concrete actions.
Total	328	100	—	—	—

Material processes dominate the speech because the President consistently describes concrete governmental actions through verbs such as *membangun* (build), *melindungi* (protect), *mengangkat* (appoint), *memberi* (provide), *meresmikan*

(inaugurate), and *mengambil alih* (take over). These linguistic choices construct an image of leadership based on action and policy implementation rather than political promises alone.

Relational processes mainly define the identity of workers, the government, and the nation, whereas mental processes reveal the speaker's empathy toward workers through expressions such as *saya merasa* (I feel), *saya menyadari* (I realize), and *saya menghormati* (I respect). Verbal processes are frequently employed when announcing governmental regulations, presidential decrees, and policy initiatives.

4.2 Interpersonal Meaning

Mood Analysis

The interpersonal analysis indicates that the speech predominantly employs declarative mood, presenting information, promises, and governmental achievements with confidence.

Table 2. Mood Types Identified in the Speech

Mood Type	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Function	Representative Example	Interpretation
Declarative	287	87.5	Giving information and political commitments	"Kita akan melindungi."	Dominant mood type expressing authority, delivering information, and reinforcing governmental commitments to the public.
Imperative	26	7.9	Encouraging and motivating the audience	"Jangan khawatir."	Motivates, reassures, and encourages listeners to support or participate in governmental initiatives.
Interrogative	15	4.6	Building interaction with listeners	"Bagaimana? Setuju?"	Creates interaction, invites audience participation, and strengthens speaker–audience engagement.
Total	328	100	—	—	—

The predominance of declarative mood indicates that the speech primarily functions to communicate governmental achievements, policy commitments, and future programs. Imperative clauses, such as *Jangan khawatir* ("Do not worry") and *Marilah kita bersyukur* ("Let us be grateful"), serve persuasive rather than authoritative purposes by reassuring and motivating the audience. Interrogative clauses appear only occasionally to establish interaction and maintain audience engagement. The overwhelming use of declarative clauses portrays the speaker as a decisive leader whose statements are presented as reliable governmental commitments.

Modality Analysis

The speech is characterized by **high modality**, indicating certainty and strong commitment.

Table 3. Dominant Modal Expressions

Modal Expression	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Modal Value	Function	Interpretation
<i>akan</i>	64	43.8	High	Expresses future commitment	The most dominant modal expression, emphasizing governmental commitment and future-oriented political promises.
<i>harus</i>	28	19.2	High	Indicates obligation and necessity	Expresses strong obligation, responsibility, and policy necessity, reinforcing governmental authority.
<i>dapat / bisa</i>	19	13.0	Medium	Expresses possibility and capability	Highlights capability, opportunity, and potential actions that can be achieved through cooperation.
<i>tidak akan</i>	15	10.3	High	Shows determination	Conveys firm determination and rejection of undesirable actions or conditions, strengthening political resolve.
<i>jangan</i>	14	9.6	Medium	Encourages and reassures	Functions as an encouraging expression that reassures and motivates the audience while reducing uncertainty.

<i>pasti</i>	7	4.8	High	Conveys certainty	Reinforces confidence and certainty regarding governmental policies and expected outcomes.
Total	147	100	—	—	—

The modal verb *akan* appears most frequently, indicating repeated commitments regarding workers' welfare, affordable housing, legal protection, and employment policies. Likewise, the frequent use of *harus* emphasizes governmental obligations and priorities. These high-modality expressions strengthen the speaker's authority while projecting confidence in the implementation of public policies. These modal expressions strengthen political credibility by projecting certainty rather than possibility. The distribution of modal expressions indicates that high-value modality dominates the speech, particularly through the frequent use of *akan*, *harus*, *tidak akan*, and *pasti*. This pattern reflects a discourse characterized by strong commitment, obligation, determination, and certainty, reinforcing the speaker's authority and political credibility. Meanwhile, medium-value modality, represented by *dapat/bisa* and **jangan**, serves to encourage audience participation, express capability, and provide reassurance. Within Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) interpersonal metafunction, this distribution demonstrates how modality is strategically employed to construct political influence, strengthen public trust, and project leadership confidence.

Personal Pronouns

Inclusive pronouns dominate interpersonal interaction.

Table 4. Personal Pronouns and Their Functions

Pronoun	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Communicative Function	Political Meaning	Interpretation
kita	86	37.4	Inclusive solidarity	Reduces social distance	The most frequently used pronoun, emphasizing inclusiveness, shared identity, and collective responsibility between the government and the people.
saya	74	32.2	Personal commitment and leadership	Builds leadership credibility	Highlights the speaker's personal responsibility, accountability, and

					leadership commitment in addressing national issues.
saudara - saudara	52	22.6	Audience engagement	Creates emotional closeness	Directly addresses the audience, fostering emotional connection, participation, and solidarity with listeners.
kami	18	7.8	Governmental representation	Represents institutional commitment	Refers to the government or administration as a collective institution, emphasizing official responsibility and policy implementation.
Total	230	100	—	—	—

The distribution of personal pronouns demonstrates that inclusive pronouns are strategically employed to strengthen interpersonal relations between the speaker and the audience. The repeated use of *kita* positions the President and workers as members of the same collective group pursuing shared national goals. The predominance of *kita* (37.4%) reflects an effort to reduce social distance and construct a shared national identity, while the frequent use of *saya* (32.2%) reinforces personal accountability and leadership credibility. The use of *saudara-saudara* (22.6%) serves to engage listeners emotionally and encourage participation, whereas *kami* (7.8%) represents the government's institutional identity and collective responsibility. From the perspective of Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) interpersonal metafunction, these pronoun choices function as important linguistic resources for constructing political influence, solidarity, and public trust throughout the speech.

4.3 Textual Meaning

Theme Analysis

The thematic organization demonstrates a consistent progression beginning with the speaker, followed by governmental action and workers' welfare.

Table 5. Dominant Themes

Theme	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Typical Pattern	Communicative Purpose	Interpretation
-------	---------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------------	----------------

Kita	102	31.1	<i>Kita akan..., Kita sudah...</i>	Highlights collective governmental action	The dominant topical theme, emphasizing inclusiveness, shared responsibility, and collective action between the government and the people.
Saya	84	25.6	<i>Saya merasa..., Saya bertekad...</i>	Builds personal credibility and leadership	Strengthens the speaker's personal authority, accountability, and commitment to fulfilling political promises.
Saudara-saudara	61	18.6	<i>Saudara-saudara sekalian...</i>	Maintains audience engagement	Directly addresses listeners, creating emotional closeness and encouraging audience participation throughout the speech.
Hari ini	18	5.5	<i>Hari ini...</i>	Provides contextual framing	Establishes the temporal context and highlights the significance of the Labor Day event as the setting for the speech.
Others	63	19.2	Various topical themes	Supporting information	Introduces additional topics and supporting information that complement the main political messages and discourse organization.
Total	328	100	—	—	—

The distribution of topical themes indicates that *Kita* is the most frequently used Theme (31.1%), reflecting the speaker's strategy of constructing collective identity and emphasizing cooperation between the government and the public. The prominent use of *Saya* (25.6%) reinforces personal leadership and accountability, while *Saudara-saudara* (18.6%) functions to maintain direct interaction and emotional engagement with the audience. The Theme *Hari ini* (5.5%) provides contextual framing by situating the speech within the Labor Day event, whereas the *Others* category (19.2%) supports the overall coherence of the discourse through additional topical information. From the perspective of (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) textual metafunction, the selection of

Themes organizes the flow of information strategically, guiding audience attention while reinforcing political legitimacy, solidarity, and leadership throughout the speech. The recurrence of these themes creates coherence throughout the speech while continuously directing attention toward workers and government responsibility.

Lexical Patterns

The lexical analysis identifies several recurring semantic fields.

Table 6. Dominant Lexical Fields

Semantic Field	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Representative Words	Discursive Function	Interpretation
Labor	138	32.5	<i>buruh, pekerja, nelayan, petani, ojol</i>	Represents the target audience	The most dominant semantic field, highlighting workers and labor groups as the primary beneficiaries and central focus of the political discourse.
Government	91	21.4	<i>pemerintah, negara, presiden, menteri</i>	Constructs institutional authority	Reinforces the legitimacy, authority, and responsibility of the government in implementing national policies.
Welfare	83	19.5	<i>rumah, upah, perlindungan, BPJS, kesejahteraan</i>	Emphasizes social policies	Highlights governmental commitments to improving social welfare, labor protection, and public prosperity.
Nationalism	67	15.8	<i>Indonesia, rakyat, bangsa, Merdeka</i>	Reinforces national unity	Strengthens national identity, patriotism, and solidarity by emphasizing collective values and national interests.
Economy	44	10.4	<i>investasi, kredit, industri, ekonomi</i>	Supports economic development discourse	Frames economic growth, investment, and industrial development as

					essential components of improving national welfare and labor conditions.
Total	423	100	—	—	—

The repeated occurrence of labor- and welfare-related vocabulary demonstrates that the speech is primarily organized around workers' protection and national prosperity. The distribution of semantic fields demonstrates that Labor is the most dominant field (138 occurrences; 32.5%), indicating that workers, farmers, fishermen, and online motorcycle taxi drivers are positioned as the primary audience and beneficiaries of the speech. The prominence of the Government field (21.4%) reinforces institutional authority and political legitimacy, while the Welfare field (19.5%) emphasizes commitments to social protection, fair wages, housing, and public welfare. The Nationalism field (15.8%) strengthens national identity and collective solidarity, whereas the Economy field (10.4%) links labor welfare to broader economic development, investment, and industrial progress. From the perspective of SFL (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), these lexical choices contribute to the construction of ideological meanings by portraying the government as both a protector of workers and a driver of national development, thereby reinforcing political legitimacy and social cohesion.

The findings indicate that political influence in Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech is realized through the integration of Halliday's three metafunctions. Ideationally, material processes dominate, representing the President as an action-oriented leader who prioritizes policy implementation and workers' welfare. Interpersonally, declarative mood, high modality, and inclusive pronouns project authority while simultaneously constructing solidarity with workers. Textually, repetitive thematic patterns and labor-centered lexical choices ensure coherence and reinforce persuasive political messaging.

Overall, the interaction of these linguistic resources constructs Prabowo Subianto as a protective, populist, decisive, and worker-oriented political leader, consistent with the communicative purpose of a Labor Day presidential address. The analysis demonstrates that Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech constructs political influence through the interaction of ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. The speech is characterized by a predominance of material processes, declarative

mood, high modality, inclusive personal pronouns, and repetitive thematic structures. These linguistic resources collectively portray the President as an action-oriented leader who is committed to protecting workers and improving public welfare.

Overall, the findings indicate that Prabowo Subianto strategically employs linguistic resources to construct political influence. The dominance of material processes presents the President as an action-oriented leader committed to implementing concrete policies for workers' welfare. Declarative mood and high modality project certainty, authority, and governmental credibility, while inclusive pronouns reduce social distance and strengthen solidarity with workers. Finally, repetitive thematic structures and labor-centered lexical patterns create a coherent and persuasive political discourse that consistently frames the government as the protector of workers and ordinary citizens. These findings support Halliday's (2014) proposition that ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings function simultaneously to construct social reality and political ideology through language.

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech strategically constructs political influence through the simultaneous realization of Halliday's three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. Rather than functioning merely as a ceremonial address, the speech serves as a persuasive political discourse designed to legitimize governmental authority, strengthen solidarity with workers, and reinforce the President's public image. The interaction among transitivity choices, mood structures, modality expressions, thematic organization, and lexical patterns enables the speaker to communicate ideological commitment while projecting himself as a decisive and protective national leader.

From the ideational perspective, the predominance of material processes indicates that the speech is primarily action-oriented. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) argue that material processes represent actions and events occurring in the physical world. In this speech, verbs such as *build*, *protect*, *provide*, *establish*, *increase*, and *implement* emphasize governmental intervention in addressing workers' welfare. Rather than presenting abstract political ideals, the President foregrounds tangible policies, including affordable housing, employment protection, labor legislation, transportation subsidies, and social security programs. This finding suggests that political legitimacy is constructed through the representation of concrete governmental

actions instead of ideological claims alone. Such a strategy enables the speaker to portray leadership as practical, solution-oriented, and accountable (Alfianyah et al., 2025; El Bakri, 2025; SBBU SBA et al., 2025).

The presence of relational processes further reinforces political legitimacy by defining the identities of workers, government, and the nation. Statements identifying Labor Day as "the day of workers' struggle" and describing governmental responsibility toward citizens function to establish ideological relationships between the state and the working class. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), relational processes classify, identify, and attribute meanings to social actors. In this speech, they contribute to positioning workers not merely as economic participants but as essential partners in national development. Consequently, the government is represented as the legitimate protector of public welfare (Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review, 2026; Lumanlan et al., 2025; Wahyuni & Sugaryamah, 2025).

Another significant finding concerns the use of mental processes, which express feelings, perception, and cognition. Expressions such as *I feel*, *I realize*, and *I respect* construct an emotional connection between the President and workers. These linguistic choices support previous studies suggesting that emotional appeals increase political credibility by presenting leaders as empathetic and morally responsible rather than distant authority figures. Through these mental processes, the speaker humanizes presidential authority and reduces hierarchical distance between the government and ordinary citizens (Syeda Nida Zainab et al., 2025).

The interpersonal analysis also reveals that declarative mood overwhelmingly dominates the speech. This finding indicates that the primary communicative function of the discourse is to provide information, announce governmental achievements, and communicate future commitments. Declarative clauses present political promises as factual and achievable, thereby increasing the persuasive power of the speech. Although imperative clauses occasionally appear, they mainly function to encourage unity and reassure the audience rather than to issue commands. Likewise, interrogative clauses are used strategically to maintain interaction with listeners, creating the impression of dialogue despite the speech's monologic format (I Dewa Gede Fathur Try Githa et al., 2026; Mubarak, 2025; Sueb & Wafa, 2026).

The extensive use of high modality further strengthens political persuasion. Modal expressions such as *will*, *must*, and *will not* communicate certainty, obligation,

and determination. Halliday explains that modality reflects a speaker's degree of commitment toward a proposition. In Prabowo's speech, the repeated use of high modality projects confidence in governmental policies and portrays the President as a leader capable of fulfilling his promises. The frequent occurrence of *will* particularly emphasizes future-oriented commitments, suggesting optimism regarding labor protection, economic development, and national prosperity. Consequently, modality functions not only as a grammatical feature but also as a rhetorical strategy for constructing political authority and public trust (Sueb & Wafa, 2026).

One of the most distinctive interpersonal features is the repeated use of inclusive personal pronouns, particularly *kita* ("we") and *saudara-saudara* ("brothers and sisters"). Inclusive pronouns minimize social distance by constructing a collective identity shared by the President, the government, and workers. Rather than separating the governing elite from citizens, the speech linguistically positions them within the same national community. This finding supports previous research in political discourse demonstrating that inclusive pronouns function as powerful persuasive devices because they encourage audiences to perceive governmental objectives as collective goals. Simultaneously, the alternation between *saya* ("I") and *kita* ("we") allows the speaker to balance personal accountability with institutional responsibility (Mubarak, n.d., 2026).

From the textual perspective, the speech demonstrates a highly consistent thematic organization. Clauses frequently begin with themes such as *Saya*, *Kita*, and *Saudara-saudara*, creating a coherent progression that continuously connects leadership, governmental action, and workers' welfare. Halliday's concept of thematic progression suggests that recurring themes facilitate textual coherence and guide readers or listeners through complex information. In this speech, thematic repetition enables audiences to follow the argument smoothly while repeatedly emphasizing the government's commitment to workers. Such organization strengthens the persuasive effect because important political messages remain continuously foregrounded throughout the discourse (Fareh et al., 2025; Kazemian & Naiyf Qaiwer, 2025; Lubis et al., 2026; Mareen Tahira et al., 2025).

The lexical analysis likewise reveals a consistent concentration on vocabulary associated with labor, welfare, government, and nationalism. Frequent lexical items related to workers, employment, housing, protection, justice, and Indonesia create a unified semantic network that reinforces the ideological orientation of the speech. The

repeated association between labor welfare and national development suggests that workers are represented as central contributors to the nation's future. This lexical cohesion also strengthens political persuasion by maintaining a stable discourse focus from the opening to the closing sections of the speech (Fairclough, 2013).

Taken together, the three metafunctions interact to construct a coherent political narrative. Ideational meanings represent concrete governmental actions; interpersonal meanings establish authority, commitment, and solidarity; and textual meanings organize these messages into a persuasive discourse. Rather than operating independently, these linguistic resources complement one another in shaping the image of Prabowo Subianto as a protective, populist, and action-oriented leader. This finding supports Halliday's proposition that meaning in language emerges through the simultaneous realization of experiential, interpersonal, and textual functions (Kazemian & Naiyf Qaiwer, 2025; Luo & Xie, 2025).

The findings also contribute to political discourse studies by demonstrating that presidential speeches may serve multiple communicative purposes simultaneously: informing the public, legitimizing governmental policies, strengthening emotional identification with citizens, and reinforcing political authority. While previous studies have frequently focused on either transitivity or interpersonal meanings separately, this study shows that political influence is more comprehensively understood when all three metafunctions are examined together. Therefore, the study extends the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics to contemporary Indonesian political discourse by illustrating how linguistic choices function collectively to construct leadership, ideology, and public persuasion (Nofitri & Nurhayati, 2025), (Mauti & Sieras, 2026).

Nevertheless, this study has several limitations. The analysis is limited to a single presidential speech delivered during the 2026 Labor Day celebration. Consequently, the findings cannot be generalized to all political speeches or communication contexts. Future research may compare speeches delivered by different Indonesian presidents, examine political discourse across multiple national events, or combine Systemic Functional Linguistics with Critical Discourse Analysis or corpus linguistics to provide broader perspectives on political language and ideological construction.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study demonstrates that political influence in Prabowo Subianto's Labor Day speech is constructed through the integrated use of Halliday's three metafunctions within the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. Ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings work simultaneously to project political legitimacy, strengthen solidarity with workers, and communicate governmental commitment. Rather than functioning independently, these linguistic resources collectively shape a coherent political discourse that portrays leadership as action-oriented, inclusive, and closely aligned with the interests of the Indonesian people.

The findings contribute to the growing body of research on political discourse by illustrating how SFL provides a comprehensive analytical framework for explaining the relationship between linguistic choices and political persuasion. The study highlights that political speeches are not merely vehicles for delivering information but also strategic instruments for constructing authority, fostering public trust, and reinforcing ideological values. These insights offer practical value for linguists, discourse analysts, and political communication scholars seeking to understand how language is employed to influence public perception and legitimize governmental policies.

This study is limited to the analysis of a single presidential Labor Day speech, which restricts the generalizability of its findings. Future research should investigate a larger corpus of presidential speeches across different political contexts and compare the discourse strategies of different political leaders. Integrating Systemic Functional Linguistics with Critical Discourse Analysis, corpus linguistics, or computational approaches is also recommended to provide a more comprehensive understanding of political language, ideological construction, and persuasive communication.

REFERENCES

- Abdurrahman, I. B., & Abdurrahman, R. B. (2023). A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN POLITICAL SPEECHES Donald Trump UN General Assembly Speech: A Case Study. *Journal of Tikrit University for Humanities*, 30(5, 2), 39–58. <https://doi.org/10.25130/jtuh.30.5.2.2023.20>
- Alfianyah, M. H. A., Megah, S. I., & Sugiharti, S. (2025). A Critical Discourse Analysis of President Prabowo Subianto's Political Speech to the Turkish Parliament. *Journal*

- of Pragmatics Research*, 7(2), 246–367. <https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v7i2.246-367>
- El Bakri, J. (2025). Political Discourse Analysis: A Critical Analysis of Donald Trump's Political Speeches. *CaLLs (Journal of Culture, Arts, Literature, and Linguistics)*, 11(2), 155. <https://doi.org/10.30872/calls.v11i2.18876>
- Fairclough, N. (2013). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language* (2. ed., [Nachdr.]). Routledge.
- Fareh, S., Malkawi, R. J., Rabab'ah, G., & Alghazo, S. (2025). Framing Crisis Discourse in Biden's Political Speech: The Use of Persuasion to Rally Public Support. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law - Revue Internationale de Sémiotique Juridique*, 38(7), 2293–2317. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-025-10292-x>
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2014). *Halliday's introduction to functional grammar* (4th edition). Routledge.
- I Dewa Gede Fathur Try Githa, Ida Bagus Putrayasa, & Ni Ketut Widiani. (2026). The Dynamics of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) Interpersonal Metafunction in Understanding Students' Desires in Indonesian Language Learning. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 4(2), 671–679. <https://doi.org/10.55681/ijssh.v4i2.2795>
- Kazemian, B., & Naiyf Qaiwer, S. (2025). A functional analysis of metadiscourse markers in political discourse: Persuasive strategies in Netanyahu's speeches. *Discourse and Interaction*, 18(2), 120–143. <https://doi.org/10.5817/DI2025-2-120>
- Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review. (2026). *Verbal Voice as a Meaning-Making Resource in Political Forums: A Systemic Functional Linguistic Analysis*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.19574220>
- Lubis, I. S., Nurlela, N., Sinar, T. S., & Setia, E. (2026). Metafunctional signifying elements in Angkola ceremonial discourse: A Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis. *Studies in English Language and Education*, 13(1), 485–504. <https://doi.org/10.24815/siele.v13i1.193>
- Lumanlan, J., Do, H., & Genuino, C. (2025). (Re)Defining heroism: A Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) analysis of a president's speech. *Studies in Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.48185/spda.v6i2.1839>

- Luo, Z., & Xie, P. (2025). A Projection Analysis of News Critical Literacy Among Chinese EFL Learners: An SFL Approach. *Sage Open*, 15(1), 21582440251321849. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440251321849>
- Mareen Tahira, Muhammad Sabboor Hussain, & Iram Rubab. (2025). INTERPERSONAL MEANINGS IN DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE: SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC (SFL) ANALYSIS OF TRUMP'S 2025 SPEECH IN SAUDIA. *Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL (JALT)*, 8(3), 1898–1911. <https://doi.org/10.63878/jalt1189>
- Mauti, A. B., & Sieras, S. G. (2026). Copular Constructions and Their Role in Meaning Negotiation in Trending Online Political Discussions. *International Journal of Language and Literary Studies*, 8(1), 290–302. <https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlls.v8i1.2501>
- Mubarak, T. A. (n.d.). *Child Talk, Adult Power: A Conversation Analysis of The Boss Baby Movie*.
- Mubarak, T. A. (2025). Politeness Strategies Used by the Main Characters in The Garfield Movie: A Pragmatic Perspective. *Briliant: Jurnal Riset Dan Konseptual*, 10(2), 274–283. <https://doi.org/10.28926/briliant.v10i2.2287>
- Mubarak, T. A. (2026). An Analysis of Deixis in "Enola Holmes 2" Movie Script. *Journal of English Linguistics*, 1(1).
- Nofitri, T. N. W., & Nurhayati, N. (2025). *Discourse Strategies of Social Relation's Construction by Indonesian Presidential Candidates in Their First Campaign 2024*.
- SBBU SBA, Fatima, M., Bano, R., & SBBU SBA. (2025). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Political Speeches: A CDA examination of Imran's and Arden's Speeches at the UN and General Assembly. *Journal of Advanced-Corpus Oriented Research*, 1(1), 69–80. <https://doi.org/10.58932/MULK0007>
- Sueb, & Wafa, A. (2026). Transitivity, modality, and power relations: A critical discourse analysis of leadership styles in East Java's 2018 gubernatorial election debates, Indonesia. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 15(2), 433–445. <https://doi.org/10.17509/cazjm514>
- Syahsurya, M. A., & Tasaufy, F. S. (2026). Systemic Functional Analysis of NATO's Linguistic Strategies to Debunk Russian Information Warfare. *Edulitics (Education, Literature, and Linguistics) Journal*, 10(2), 174–192. <https://doi.org/10.52166/edulitics.v10i2.11335>

- Syeda Nida Zainab, Sabeen Fatima, & Muhammad Hussain. (2025). Transitivity and Power in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Debate: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *The Critical Review of Social Sciences Studies*, 3(4), 547–562. <https://doi.org/10.59075/p5bfqk16>
- Wahyuni, P., & Sugaryamah, D. (2025). *Pros and Cons of Nickel Mining in Raja Ampat: A Critical Discourse Analysis Based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)*.