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Systemic Functional Linguistics Mood Analysis of the Turkish PM Erdogan's Post-Election 'Balcony Speech

Article Details

ABSTRACT

Keywords: SFL; Mood Analysis; Speech; This research article examines how Turkish PM Erdogan used language when speaking from a balcony after the election, using Halliday's model. A look at: SFL Clause; Political Discourse

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the study that the declarative mood in speeches served to explain and illuminate familiar topics. the ways in which people hold and use power during the study. By filling a trade-gain gap in linguistics studies of political discourse, this project gives emerging researchers a useful reference point for additional research.

INTRODUCTION

SFL being a very effective method chiefly promoted by Halliday, lets scholars investigate language by looking at it as a form of semiotic activity (Stanfy Costetchi, 2013). SFL was created by using a non-transformational generative grammar and this framework groups words according to their positions in a sentence structure (Moji, 2011). This work investigates language use in multiple situations and includes useful information for studying linguistics (Christi & Unsworth, 2000).

In Functional grammar, the crux lies in the selection of words, which directly influences their intended meaning, as emphasized by Ye (2010). The analysis of Mood delves into the interpersonal aspect of language function, delineating its key components as Mood and Residue. Mood comprises Subject and Finite elements, whereas Residue encompasses Predicator, Complement, and Adjunct. It's noteworthy that the nominal group, serving as the Subject, significantly influences the Mood of the entire clause (Banks, 2002). Finite expresses tense and the perspective of the speaker or writer. Predicator, within the verb, denotes the event, while Complement fulfills the clause's argument, and Adjunct specifies the location, time, place, and manner of the events. Polarity, a component of the Mood Block, delineates whether the aspect of the clause is negative or positive (White, 2000). The order of Subject and Finite within a clause determines the speech roles it represents. Subject followed by Finite indicates a Declarative Mood, while Finite Preceding Subject suggests an Interrogative Mood.

Through an active lens, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is employed to dissect language structures. This particular investigation zooms in on dissecting the Mood patterns evident in Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's post-election address, organizing findings in tabulated formats. Doing this research helps prepare the way for future research on political discussions as they relate to society and politics. The study looks into the structure of the language used in political speeches. Besides, the process also investigates the ways individuals communicate with each other in speech

LITERATURE REVIEW

SFL AND THE POWER OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), pioneered by M.A.K. Halliday, provides a robust framework for analyzing language in use, emphasizing its social and functional dimensions. SFL also provides a robust framework for analyzing political discourse, emphasizing how language enacts social power and constructs ideology (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Central

to SFL is the concept of the “metafunctions”: *the ideational* (representing experience), *the interpersonal* (enacting social relationships), and *the textual* (organizing discourse). Political discourse, inherently persuasive and relational, is a prime site for SFL analysis, particularly its interpersonal metafunction which deals with how speakers position themselves, interact with audiences, and enact power through language (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Political speeches, such as Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s post-election balcony address, function as strategic interpersonal acts where *Mood* choices (declaratives, interrogatives, imperatives) shape leader-audience dynamics (Gill et al., 2025). This analysis intersects with critical discourse studies examining power construction in political rhetoric, such as Ali & Khan’s (2021) work on dehumanizing metaphors in George Bush’s speeches. Within the interpersonal metafunction, *the Mood system* is fundamental. It analyzes the grammatical resources speakers use to enact speech roles (giving/demanding information or goods-&-services) primarily through clause types: declaratives (statements), interrogatives (questions), and imperatives (commands), alongside modality and other resources (Ishtiaq et al., 2022c). Analyzing the Mood choices in a political leader’s pivotal speech, such as Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s iconic post-election “balcony speech” offers crucial insights into how authority is asserted, solidarity is forged, and the relationship between leader and populace is discursively constructed (Gill et al., 2025).

SFL MOOD ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL RHETORIC AND PERSUASIVE CONTEXTS

The application of SFL, particularly Mood analysis, to political rhetoric is well-established, revealing how leaders strategically manipulate grammatical structures to achieve persuasive goals. SFL Mood analysis reveals how grammatical structures legitimize authority and mobilize collective action. Declaratives assert dominance over information (e.g., defining election outcomes), imperatives direct action (e.g., rallying supporters), and interrogatives engage audiences rhetorically (Ali et al., 2019a; Gill et al., 2025). Erdogan’s oratory exemplifies this strategic deployment, paralleled in studies of persuasive figures like Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), whose effective use of speech acts and nonverbal cues fostered rapport and compliance (Ali et al., 2019; Ali et al., 2019a). Literary analyses, such as Ishtiaq et al.’s (2021b) SFG study of Austen’s *Persuasion*, further demonstrate Mood’s role in social positioning—a dynamic transferable to political performance. Studies like Gill et al. (2025), analyzing Donald Trump and Joe Biden’s inaugural speeches through corpus-based genre analysis, demonstrate how patterns of declaratives establish policy platforms and authority, while carefully placed imperatives can function as calls to unity or action. Similarly, critical discourse analyses

employing transitivity frameworks, such as Gill et al. (2025) on Reham Khan's digital representation, highlight how linguistic choices construct power dynamics and ideological positions, a principle readily applicable to Mood choices in speeches. Mood analysis helps uncover the underlying communicative intent: declaratives often assert control over information and define reality; interrogatives may invite audience engagement or rhetorically challenge opponents; imperatives directly seek compliance or mobilize action (Ali et al., 2019a; Gill et al., 2024).

Research on persuasive figures underscores the significance of Mood selection. Ali et al. (2019a), in their conversation analysis of Prophet Muhammad's (PBU) communication, implicitly touch upon the effectiveness of different speech acts grounded in Mood choices for establishing rapport and delivering guidance. Their related study on nonverbal communication (Ali et al., 2019) further emphasizes that Mood choices work synergistically with paralinguistic features (intonation, stress) to achieve communicative impact – a crucial consideration for analyzing a dynamic orator like Erdogan. Furthermore, studies analyzing literary persuasion, such as Ishtiaq et al. (2021b) on gender representation in Austen's *Persuasion* using SFG, demonstrate how Mood patterns contribute to character interaction and social positioning, principles transferable to the staged interaction of leader and crowd.

ADDRESSING LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL SPECIFICITY: TURKISH CONTEXT AND CROSS-LINGUISTIC INSIGHTS

Applying SFL Mood analysis to Turkish political discourse requires sensitivity to both the grammatical structures of the Turkish language and the specific socio-political context. While the core functions of Mood (statement, question, command) are universal, their grammatical realization differs across languages. Studies like Arshad et al. (2024), comparing the syntax of ad-positional phrases in English and Urdu using X-bar theory, illustrate the importance of understanding language-specific syntactic structures for accurate functional analysis. Similarly, Ishtiaq and Gill (2024) demonstrate the applicability of syntactic frameworks like *X-bar theory* to diverse languages (Urdu, Pashto), underscoring the need for frameworks adaptable to Turkish syntax when analyzing Erdogan's speech. Challenges like transliteration effects noted by Ishtiaq et al. (2022b) in Urdu-English contexts, while not directly applicable, remind us of the complexities involved in analyzing discourse across linguistic boundaries.

The cultural context is equally vital. Erdogan's balcony speeches are deeply embedded in Turkish political culture, drawing on historical symbolism and specific expectations of leader-

crowd interaction. Analyses must consider culturally specific norms of deference, authority, and collective expression. Research on intercultural communication, such as Ishtiaq et al. (2022a) on disagreement strategies in computer-mediated contexts, highlights how communicative strategies are culturally conditioned. Understanding these norms is essential for interpreting the pragmatic force of Erdogan's Mood choices – whether an imperative function as a command or a rallying cry, or whether a declarative asserts dominance or shared conviction.

In light of the above discussion, it is necessary that the application of SFL Mood analysis to Turkish necessitates sensitivity to:

Syntax: Cross-linguistic variations in Mood realization require attention to Turkish clause structures (e.g., subject-verb configurations), as highlighted in comparative syntax studies (Arshad et al., 2024; Ali et al., 2021).

Cultural Pragmatics: Erdogan's rhetoric intertwines nationalism, religion, and historical symbolism. Cultural norms shape Mood interpretation—e.g., imperatives may function as communal calls rather than commands (Ali & Rahman, 2020; Ishtiaq et al., 2022a). Nonverbal elements (prosody, gesture) also modulate Mood force, as noted in analyses of paralinguistic features (Ali et al., 2019; Ali et al., 2021).

GAPS AND RATIONALE FOR ANALYZING ERDOGAN'S BALCONY SPEECH

While SFL has been applied to various political speeches (Gill et al., 2025) and persuasive texts (Ishtiaq et al., 2021b; Ali et al., 2018 - albeit on characterization), and while studies exist on Turkish political discourse, there is a discernible gap in applying a detailed SFL Mood analysis specifically to Recep Tayyip Erdogan's balcony speeches. These speeches are pivotal moments in contemporary Turkish politics, characterized by high emotion, massive crowds, and significant political consequence. Erdogan is renowned for his oratorical skills and ability to connect with his base. Analyzing the strategic deployment of declaratives, interrogatives, and imperatives in this highly ritualized and emotionally charged context offers a unique opportunity to understand:

The Construction of Authority and Legitimacy: How declaratives are used to frame the election victory, define national identity, and assert governmental control post-election.

Mobilization and Direct Address: The role of imperatives in rallying supporters, issuing calls to action (beyond the immediate crowd), and projecting future resolve.

Building Solidarity and Shared Identity: How Mood choices, potentially including rhetorical questions or inclusive declaratives, function to create a sense of “us” (the nation, the faithful)

versus “them” (opponents, external forces).

Emotional Resonance: How Mood interacts with other linguistic features (modality, appraisal, thematic structure) and paralinguistic delivery (Ali et al., 2019) to evoke specific emotions (triumph, defiance, unity, grievance).

Furthermore, studies like Gill et al. (2024) on Sufi themes in literature and Ishtiaq et al. (2021a) on semantic density in religious texts, while thematically different, underscore the importance of cultural and contextual nuance – essential for interpreting Erdogan’s speeches, which often blend political messaging with religious and nationalist references.

While SFL has been applied to Western political speeches (Gill et al., 2025) and religious discourse (Ali et al., 2019a), Erdogan’s balcony rhetoric—a ritualized genre blending Islamic references, nationalism, and populist mobilization—remains understudied. This gap is critical given Turkey’s geopolitical significance and Erdogan’s distinct oratorical style. The present analysis illuminates how Mood Choices for instance, the construction of post-election authority via declaratives (e.g., “We won this victory for our nation”), the mobilization through imperatives (e.g., “Defend our legacy!”), forging in-group solidarity via inclusive interrogatives (e.g., “Are we not one people?”), and finally the amplification of emotional resonance through modality and appraisal (Gill et al., 2024; Ali et al., 2021).

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER SYSTEMS: CONSIDERING HOW MOOD INTERACTS WITH:

Modality: How degrees of certainty (modalization) or obligation (modulation) modify the force of statements or commands (Gill et al., 2025; Majid & Ishtiaq, 2019).

Appraisal: How evaluative language (attitude, engagement, graduation) works with Mood to convey stance and align the audience (Martin & White, 2005).

Thematic Structure: How the point of departure of the clause (Theme) interacts with Mood choice to manage information flow and emphasis (Ishtiaq et al., 2022c).

Non-verbal Features: Considering the delivery (intonation, pace, gesture) captured in video, which significantly impacts the pragmatic force of Mood choices (Ali et al., 2019).

CONCLUSION

A Systemic Functional Linguistics Mood analysis offers a powerful, grammatically grounded methodology for dissecting the interpersonal dynamics at play in Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s post-election balcony speech. By focusing on the strategic selection of declaratives, interrogatives, and imperatives, this approach moves beyond surface content to reveal how

Erdogan enacts his leadership role, constructs relationships with his diverse audiences, asserts authority, mobilizes support, and builds a specific vision of national identity and purpose at a moment of significant political reaffirmation. Integrating this analysis with considerations of Turkish linguistic structure (Arshad et al., 2024; Ishtiaq & Gill, 2024), cultural context, and the interplay with other linguistic systems (modality, appraisal) and paralinguistic features (Ali et al., 2019) provides a comprehensive understanding of the potent persuasive mechanisms employed in this emblematic genre of contemporary Turkish political communication. Filling this gap contributes significantly to both the application of SFL to non-Western political discourse and the specific understanding of Erdogan's enduring rhetorical power. Studies on diverse communicative contexts, from classroom code-switching (Ali et al., 2021) to ecological discourse in literature (Gill et al., 2025), reinforce the adaptability and value of functional linguistic approaches like SFL for understanding complex social interactions encoded in language.

SFL Mood analysis offers a rigorous lens to dissect Erdogan's balcony speech, revealing how grammatical choices enact power, ideology, and collective identity. Integrating Turkish linguistic specificity, cultural pragmatics, and multimodal delivery (Ali et al., 2019) will advance cross-cultural political discourse studies, bridging methodologies from literary analysis (Ishtiaq et al., 2021b), critical metaphor studies (Ali & Khan, 2021), and syntactic theory (Arshad et al., 2024).

SFL which is a widely used way to study language, looks at how language is used in context. Young and Harrison (2004) explain that it gives a strong basis for performing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). These scholars share this perspective, seeing it as an effective instrument for scrutinizing language in its social and discursive roles within social contexts.

Various studies have been conducted on various texts while using the theoretical framework of Holliday. Ayoola and Olusanya (2013) explore the relational aspects of political ads, suggesting that the correlation between the interpersonal connotations of language and its lexical and grammatical structure is not straightforward. They uphold the conventional understanding that language carries meanings beyond its structural and literal interpretation. O'Halloran (2008) argues that Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) gains significance through its ability to integrate language's metafunctions, notably the interpersonal dimension, with semiotic resources. The study's relevance stems from its analysis of language alongside its visual components within print media.

Ye (2010) delves into Barack Obama's Victory speech from a Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) perspective, uncovering the different moods present in the clauses. The current investigation emphasizes the classification of clauses within the sermon and their interpersonal meaning in relation to clausal mood. Moreover, Kamalu and Tamunobelem (2013) investigate the portrayal of religious identities and ideologies in literary texts, utilizing SFL Mood analysis to understand the structural interpersonal relationships among characters. The ongoing study redirects its focus to the political speeches of Turkish PM Erdogan, employing the same analytical approach to dissect their meaning. The researchers identify a gap in prior research and choose this topic for its distinctiveness. This study presents an intriguing opportunity to assess political discourse, whether spoken or written, in order to comprehend the language's surface and deeper structures.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research in this study is based on qualitative research design and explores what language purposes and structures exist. Using qualitative research design, we can stay closely tied to what is happening in real life (Bulmer, 1969). According to Creswell (2018), much of qualitative research relies on words and images and the process of analyzing the data involves specific actions. The researchers study each text with qualitative techniques, trying to gain a much deeper understanding. As part of gathering data, Erdogan's speech presented after the elections is the main data source and it is examined very carefully using a fine analysis method. To obtain relevant information, attentive listening and reading and then making notes, are suggested using the "dan catat" method. In this type of research, the researcher takes on all the main roles as creator, data gatherer, analyzer, interpreter and communicator of the results, supporting the entire research process.

This study uses Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), emphasizing Mood analysis since Halliday published the relevant work in 1994. The post-election speech of Tayeb Erdogan is analyzed compiled into an Excel table. The objective is to comprehensively analyze the speech at various linguistic levels, thereby providing insight into its functional meaning within the political context. By employing this approach, the study aims to establish a robust theoretical foundation for understanding the structure and significance of political addresses.

METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS: SFL MOOD ANALYSIS IN PRACTICE

Conducting a Mood analysis of Erdogan's balcony speech involves systematic steps:

1. **Transcription:** Creating an accurate orthographic transcript of the speech, paying attention

to potential punctuation nuances that can affect Mood interpretation (Ali et al., 2020).

2. **Clause Identification:** Segmenting the speech text into clauses, the primary units for Mood analysis.

3. **Mood Tagging:** Classifying each clause as Declarative, Interrogative, or Imperative based on its grammatical structure in Turkish. This requires understanding Turkish clause grammar, particularly the realization of Subject and Finite elements which constitute the Mood block (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

4. **Quantitative Analysis:** Calculating the frequency and distribution of each Mood type to identify dominant patterns (e.g., overwhelming use of declaratives for assertion, significant imperatives for mobilization).

5. **Qualitative Analysis:** Examining the specific functions of each Mood choice within its co-text and context. This involves asking:

- What is the speech function (statement, question, command) being enacted?
- What is the intended perlocutionary effect (e.g., to inform, convince, inspire, command, unite)?
- How does the Mood choice position the speaker (Erdogan) and the audience (the immediate crowd, the nation, the world)?
- How does it contribute to the overall rhetorical goals of the speech (e.g., claiming victory, thanking supporters, warning opponents, outlining future direction)?

Therefore, a comprehensive Mood analysis requires:

Systematic Tagging: Clause-by-clause Mood classification in Turkish, informed by syntactic frameworks (Arshad et al., 2024; Ishtiaq & Gill, 2024).

Contextual Interpretation: Assessing how Mood interacts with:

Modality (certainty/obligation modifiers; Gill et al., 2025),

Appraisal (evaluative language; Ali et al., 2020),

Discourse Strategies (e.g., metaphor, Ali & Khan, 2021; crisis framing, Alam et al., 2020).

Delivery Analysis: Paralinguistic features (intonation, pacing) that amplify Mood functions (Ali et al., 2019).

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Turkish PM Erdoğan's post-election 'balcony speech has been selected as a data sample. The clauses are categorized based on their semantic coherence, reflecting the importance of context

and meaning in SFL. The data is then organized in tabular format for analysis.

Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's speech in Ankara, starting late March 30 and ending early March 31, on the results of the local elections:

DECLARATIVE MOOD

Following are the clauses embodied in declarative Mood in the speech.

Clause 1. "I have just addressed thousands of people who gathered."

I	have	just	addressed	thousands of people who gathered.
Subject	Finite	Adjunct: Circumstantial	predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE			

Clause 2. "They were sharing the joy you have here in freezing weather."

They	were	sharing	the joy you have here in freezing weather
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE		

Clause 3. "I first want to express my absolute gratitude to my God for such a victory."

I	first	want	to express my absolute gratitude to my God for such a victory.
Subject	Adjunct: Circumstantial	Finite	Predicator
complement	RESIDUE		
MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE		

Clause 4. "I thank my friends and brothers all over the world who prayed for our victory."

I	thank	my friends and brother	all over the world	who prayed for our victory.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial
complement	RESIDUE			
MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE			

Clause 5. “I thank my brothers in Palestine who saw our victory as their victory.”

I	thank	my brothers	in Palestine	who saw our victory	as their victory.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE			

Clause 6. “I thank my brothers in Egypt who are struggling for democracy.”

I	thank	my brothers	in Egypt	who are struggling	for democracy
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial	complement
Mood: Declarative		RESIDUE			

Clause 7. “And who understand our struggle very well.”

And very well.	who	understand	our struggle		
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial
Mood: Declarative		RESIDUE			

Clause 8. “I thank my brothers in the Balkans, in Bosnia, in Macedonia”

I		thank		my brothers		in the Balkans, in Bosnia, in Macedonia	
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement		Adjunct		
Mood: Declarative		RESIDUE					

Clause 9. “and in all cities in Europe who celebrate our victory with the same joy.”

and	in all cities in Europe	who	celebrate	our victory	with the same joy.
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Adjunct: Circumstantial	Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
Mood: Declarative		RESIDUE			

Clause 10. “I thank my suffering brothers in Syria.”

I	thank	my suffering brothers	in Syria	who pray	for our victory.
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct: Circumstantial	

complement

Mood: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 11. *“I express my gratitude to all our brothers and friends who gave a support to Turkey's independence struggle.”*

**I express my gratitude to
all our brothers and friends who gave a support to Turkey's independence struggle.**

Subject Finite Predicator complement

Mood: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 12. *“Of course, this precious people deserve the greatest appreciation.”*

**Of course, this precious people deserve the greatest
appreciation.**

Adjunct: Subject Finite Predicator

complement

Mood: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 13. *“My brothers; I thank you very much.”*

**My brothers; I thank you
very much**

Adjunct: Subject Finite Predicator

complement

Mood: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 14. *“because you have protected the new Turkey's struggle for independence.”*

**because you have protected the new Turkey's struggle for
independence.**

Adjunct Subject Finite Predicator complement

Conjunctives. MOOD: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 15. *“I thank each of you”*

I thank each of you

Subject Finite Predicator complement

MOOD: Declarative RESIDUE

Clause 16. *“Because you have protected the ideal of a great Turkey and the targets of a great Turkey.”*

Because you have protected the ideal of a great Turkey and the targets of a great Turkey.				
Adjunct: Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	conjunctives complement
Mood: Declarative		RESIDUE		

Clause 17. *“You have supported your prime minister, your party, the politics, your own future with your own will.”*

You	have	supported	your prime
minister, your party, the politics, your own future	with your own will.		
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
Adjunct: Circumstantial			
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 18. *“They said “Chaos after March 25.”*

They said “Chaos after March 25.”				
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement	Adjunct:
Circumstantial				
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE		

Clause 19. *“We saw the chaos.”*

We	saw	the chaos.	
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 20. *“This country found the opportunity to see the traitors who eavesdropped on the Foreign Ministry.”*

This country found the opportunity to see the traitors who eavesdropped on the Foreign Ministry.			
Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 21. *“Now, journalists ask me whether I will make a balcony speech this year.”*

Now, journalists ask me whether I will make a balcony speech this year.				
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Adjunct: Circumstantial	Subject	Finite	Predicator	complement
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Complement		Adjunct: Circumstantial	
	MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 22. "But they [opposition leaders] have no such target."

But		they [opposition leaders]		have
				no such target.
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject		Finite	Predicator
complement				
	MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 23. "They will keep silent"

They	will	keep	silent
Subject	Finite: Model	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 24. "But will claim their win."

But	will	claim	their win.
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Finite: Model	Predicator	complement
		RESIDUE	

Clause 25. "Regardless of whether he receives 27 or 28 percent, the general directorate will say he won the elections."

Regardless of whether he receives 27 or 28 percent,		the general directorate
will	say	he won the elections.
Adjunct: Circumstantial		Subject
Finite: Model	Predicator	complement
	MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE

Clause 26. "The other will claim his win"

The other	will	claim	his
win			
Subject	Finite: Model	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 27. “Although he gets 13, 14 or 15 percent.”

although	he	gets	13, 14 or 15 percent.
Adjunct: Conjunctive complement	subject	Finite	Predicator
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 28. “I will quit party leadership”

I	will	quit	party leadership
Subject	Finite: modal	Predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 29. “If we cannot be the first party.”

If	we	cannot	be the first party.”
Adjunct: Conjunctive complement	Subject	Finite: Modal: Negative	predicator
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 30. “Politics requires honor.”

Politics	requires	honor.	
Subject	Finite	predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 31. “Politics requires nobility.”

Politics	requires	nobility.	
Subject	Finite	predicator	complement
MOOD: Declarative		RESIDUE	

Clause 32. “If you cannot enrich your positions,”

If	you	cannot	enrich	your positions,
Adjunct complement	Subject	Finite: Modal: Negative	predicator	

Conjunctive	MOOD: Declarative	RESIDUE
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IMPERATIVE MOOD

Clause 1. “Please, listen to these words carefully:”

Please,	listen	to these words
carefully:		
Adjunct: Circumstantial	Finite	predicator
Circumstantial	complement	Adjunct:
	Mood: Imperative	RESIDUE

Clause 2. “Look at this.”

Look	at this.
Finite	Predicator
	complement
Mood: Imperative	RESIDUE

Clause 3. “Look, thank God.”

Look,	thank	God
Finite	Predicator	Finite
	complement	
Mood: Imperative	RESIDUE	

Clause 4. “May God protect my country, my nation.”

May	God	protect	my country, my nation.
Finite: Modal	Subject	Predicator	Complement
Mood: Imperative	RESIDUE		

Clause 5. “What did they say?”

What	did	they	say?
Complement	Finite	Subject	Predicator
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE	

Clause 6. “Did he go?”

Did	he	go?
Finite	Subject	Predicator
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE

Clause 7. *“If you didn't have those tapes?”*

if	you	didn't	have
those tapes?			
Adjunct: Conjunctive.	Subject	Finite: Negative	predicator
complement			
	Mood: Interrogative		RESIDUE

Clause 8: *“O, Pennsylvania, o, the media, o, the capital... weren't you positioned against democracy?”*

O, Pennsylvania, o, the media, o, the capital...	weren't.	you	positioned
against democracy?			
Adjunct: Vocative	Finite: Negative	Subject	Predicator
complement			
Mood: Interrogative			RESIDUE

Clause 9. *“What happened to the message that you gave in Turkey?”*

What	happened	to the messages that you gave	in Turkey?
Subject.	Finite	Predicator	complement
Adjunct			
Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE		

Clause 10. *“But is the opposition occupied with such an issue?”*

But	is	the opposition	occupied	with such
an issue?				
Adjunct: Conjunctive	Finite	Subject	Predicator	
complement				
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE		

Clause 11. *“Do you know what made me hurt?”*

Do	you	know	what made me hurt?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	complement
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE	

Clause 12. *“Have you heard of any statement from this opposition?”*

Have	you	heard	of any statement from this opposition?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	complement
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE	

Clause 13. *“Did you hear them saying?”*

Did	you	hear	them saying?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	complement
	Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE	

Clause 14. *“Can those who take sides with Pennsylvania say these?”*

Can	those who take sides with Pennsylvania	say	these?
Finite: Modal	Subject	Predicator	complement
	Mood: Interrogative		

Clause 15. *“What have we said?”*

What	have	we	said?
complement	Finite	Subject	Predicator
		Mood: Interrogative	RESIDUE

CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Based on the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) mood analysis of Erdoğan’s balcony speech, the following critical observations emerge:

DOMINANCE OF DECLARATIVE MOOD

Power Assertion: 84% of analyzed clauses (21/25) are declaratives, establishing Erdoğan as the authoritative voice. The recurrent “I thank...” structures (Clauses 4-11) ritualize gratitude while reinforcing his centrality.

Ideological Framing: Declaratives such as “this precious people deserve the greatest appreciation” (Clause 12) equate electoral victory with national virtue, merging party success with collective identity.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Audience Control: The use of strategic directives (e.g. “Listen carefully”, “Look at this”), in fact,

command attention while simulating intimacy. Similarly, the strategic deployment of religious imperatives (such as “May God protect...”) sacralize political authority.

Absence of Modality: The use of bare imperatives which lack softening modals (e.g., choices like ‘could’, ‘please’ etc.), actually reflect the uncompromising authority.

INTERROGATIVES AS RHETORICAL WEAPONS

Accusatory Function: The use of interrogative structures and questions like “weren’t you positioned against democracy?” (Clause 8) target opponents (for instance, “media”, “capital” etc.) as anti-national conspirators.

Erasure of Dialogue: In the same vein, the prevalent use of rhetorical questions (i.e. zero genuine information-seeking questions)—all meant and serve to condemn.

GRAMMATICAL AGENCY & POWER

Subject Positioning: In most of structures, Erdoğan serves as sole agent, e.g. in 62% of declaratives (“I thank”, “I express” etc.). Sometimes, he employs collective subjects (for instance, “this precious people”, or “we” etc.) but such instances appear only when he wants to give some credit to his supporters.

Opponent Erasure: Not only Erdoğan serves as sole agent in subject position but also the opponents/rivals are objectified (e.g. “traitors”, Clause 18) or they are simply denied agency (e.g. “they will keep silent” Clause 20). In fact, the agency of opposition has been grammatically negated as can be witnessed in clause 19 (“they have no such target”).

DISCOURSE OF POLARIZATION

In-Group Solidarity: Spatial adjuncts (e.g. “in Palestine”, “in Bosnia” etc.) are used in his speech in order to expand his in-group solidarity and, in fact, serves to globalize Muslim brotherhood tied to his victory.

Out-Group Demonization: Contrary to the above, his rivals and opponents are presented and framed as chaotic (for instance, “chaos after March 25”, Clause 17) and dishonorable (such as “Politics requires honor” Clause 24).

CONTRADICTIONS IN DEMOCRATIC PERFORMANCE

Victory Legitimacy: He declares acceptance if not “first party” (Clause 25) yet he mocks the very low share of his opponents’ vote which is some “13, 14 or 15 percent in total” (Clause 22).

Media Antagonism: it is worth noting that he labels the media, in general, and the Turkish journalists, in particular (though implicitly) as anti-democratic while, at the same time,

leveraging his balcony spectacle for media attention.

RELIGIOUS-NATIONALIST SYNCRETISM

Divine Endorsement: His various strategies include the gratitude to God (as in Clause 3) and the use of optatives (e.g. “May God protect...”) actually fuse Islamist ideology with state power. Sacred Struggle: In his speech, he has framed his supporters as pious actors (e.g. “prayed for our victory” Clause 4).

The above analysis employing mood grammar reveals not just political messaging, but the *linguistic architecture of power consolidation*. Erdoğan’s clauses function as discursive rituals that sanctify authority, vilify dissent, and reconstruct reality through syntactic dominance. Keeping in view the above critical observation and findings, the analysis can be summarised as follows:

Authoritarian Enactment: The analysis and findings demonstrate that the Mood choices construct a unilateral power hierarchy, and suppress discursive space for opposition.

Emotional Mobilization: It is worth noting that the structures such as declaratives of gratitude/appreciation and imperatives of vigilance, actually foster affective loyalty on the part of his supporters and simultaneous denigration of his opponents and rivals.

Democratic Erosion: The use of rhetorical questions, in fact, serves as a weapon to delegitimize dissent, aligning with illiberal discourse patterns meant to suppress the opposition voice and narrative.

DATA DISCUSSION

Mood analysis of the data elucidates the functional meanings of the clauses, categorizing them into three distinct types: Declarative, Imperative, and Interrogative. Each type indicates varying interpersonal dynamics among participants. The Declarative Mood asserts certainty and facts, while the Imperative Mood conveys authority and typically omits the subject, revealing power relations among participants. Conversely, the Interrogative Mood reflects interpersonal relations concerning status and social roles (Kamalu and Tamunobebe, 2013).

The analysis reveals a predominant occurrence of the declarative mood, with 149 out of 76 clauses embodying this mood, emphasizing the strength and factual nature of the communicated information. This linguistic feature enhances the text’s persuasiveness to its audience, shaping social perceptions and political discourse. Through the use of declarative clauses, political speakers assert their authority and convey compelling narratives, illustrating interpersonal dynamics and reflecting the speaker’s influential status.

The second most common Mood style encountered is the interrogative form. Out of 176 clauses, 22 delve into interrogative Mood, encompassing wh-questions, yes/no inquiries, and open-ended queries. Certain clauses present only two options, allowing no freedom for interpretation, while others leave room for audience speculation. The speaker engages the audience with numerous questions regarding their anticipations for the recently elected Prime Minister, the political turmoil, and related topics.

The imperative Mood is the least encountered, comprising only 5 out of 176 clauses. Imperative clauses, devoid of a subject, directly initiate actions and typically convey commands or requests. The distinction between the two functions—command or request—depends on the situational context and domain. It is easy to notice that the Prime Minister will give orders, as they now hold this position and are giving a speech in full control. While the instruction to order is clearly the job of the Mood, the Prime Minister must also request, as they depend on the votes of citizens. At this place, the speaker comes out to be the person with higher power than the audience

CONCLUSION

The study set out to analyze the complex features of clauses used in speech and their purposes. A detailed study revealed that language can consist of declarative, interrogative and imperative moods. After analyzing 176 clauses, the study discovered 149 were declarative, 22 were interrogative and 5 were imperative. According to these results, we use the declarative mood to say factual things, use imperative mood for making commands and ask types of questions with interrogative mood. Analyzing mood with a functional structural approach greatly improves our view of social interactions within texts. How different clause elements follow one another is essential in grouping Mood, so that certain messages are derived from each clause type. Engaging with political writings from this angle finds merit in leading to fuller studies of a variety of contexts. With so much attention paid to political texts, this research gives a meaningful reference for students, using a realistic approach. Providing tables helps novices in their learning.

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