

The Study of Mood and Modality in Jihad Sermon of Nahj-al Blagheh Based on the Interpersonal Metafunction of Systemic Functional Grammar¹

Mohammad Ali Arabzoozani^{2•}
Mohammad Reza Pahlavannejad³
Seyed Hossien Seyedi⁴

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Abstract

To get a better understanding on Jihad sermon of Nahj-al Blagheh, this research has studied it from a linguistic viewpoint, based on the interpersonal metafunction of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. To do this, the 100 clauses of the mentioned sermon have been analyzed first, so that the Mood (subject and finite) and the Residue of each clause is determined. The study showed that here, the validity of the clauses refers back to the speaker - Imam Ali- in many cases, and to "Allah" in some others, as the subject of the clauses, taking the specific definition of subject

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¹Ph D Candidate in Linguistics.Ferdowsi Univesity of Mashhad

arabzouzani@stu.um.ac.ir(• Responsible author)

².Faculty mebmbler of Linguistic Departement in Ferdowsi Univesity of Mashhad, Pahlevan@um.ac.ir

³Faculty member of Arabic Litratue Departement in Ferdowsi Univesity of Mashhad; seyedi@um.ac.ir

in this theory into account. In some cases, the addressed society (the people of Koofā) take the responsibility of the clauses and indicate their validity, being the subject of these clauses. Investigations on the concepts of Finite in this theory, (Time, Polarity and Modality), showed some similarities and differences between Arabic and English . In this Arabic text, Mood elements are mostly hidden in the verb, though some expressions like /en/, / qæd/ and / læ/, or a combination of them, indicates certainty in some cases. No Modal Adjunct, which can have a direct impact on the modality, polarity and time of the clause, was found in this text. Though the polarity was positive in most of the clauses, in thirteen cases, mood elements like / lΛ/, / læm/, / mΛ/ and / læmmΛ/, have brought a negative polarity to the clause. Studying Modality as the principal aspect of Mood Structure, indicated that the message is mostly transferred from a knowledgeable source - Imam Ali-, to his addressee with certainty, and the information is given through statements in which the speaker carries the responsibility of the message. Some cases of other mood structure, as interrogation and command, could be seen in this sermon. Some clauses got the specific mood of exclamation, warning, praying and damning, which played an important role in showing the meaning of the related clauses. The two possible kinds of appraisal were also clear in this text, for example the totally positive appraisal for Jihad and the completely negative one for leaving Jihad, in the beginning section of this sermon.

Keywords: Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, Interpersonal Metafunction, Mood Structure, Finite, Polarity, Modality