

AUTHORITATIVE VOICE: A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC WRITINGS USING SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL

by Siti Mahripah dkk

ABSTRACT

The quality of an academic writing can be seen from several aspects, one of which is from its credibility and authenticity. Both aspects can be seen from the representation of the author's authoritative voice. Responding to the issue above, this research was conducted with the aim to 1) identify and analyze the authoritative voice features used by English Language Education Study Program students in their academic writings, 2) analyze the distribution / frequency of each feature, and 3) analyze and determine the tendency of the type of "authoritative voice" used by the English Language Education Study Program students in their academic writing. This research was conducted by adapting the *Content Analysis* method. Data of this study which were in the form of sentences / clauses were extracted from 5 student essays resulting in 251 total data and which were then analyzed using a systemic functional linguistics approach, specifically using Appraisal Framework, which consists of three main sub-systems of graduation, attitude, and engagement. The findings indicated that not all authoritative voice features are used optimally by the students in their academic writings. There was a tendency of preference to use certain strategies / features. As for example in graduation systems, a feature that was widely used was acknowledgment indicating that most students only cited what was said by experts without giving a critical evaluation of the cited materials. Whereas in the graduation system, there appeared to be a preference for the use of a strategy that is concentrated in the force-infusing-modality feature which indicated the high nuance of probability in the contents being discussed giving an impression that the writers (i.e. students) were less certain towards the discussion being presented in their essay. And finally related to the attitude system, the findings of data analysis showed that the modes of the students' essay still contained nuances such as oral language style, indicated by the high use of social esteem features.

Kata Kunci: *authorship, voice, stance, authenticity*