

An Analysis of Speech Functions in the Lyrics of "Free Palestine" by Maher Zain

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the speech functions present in the lyrics of Maher Zain's song "Free Palestine," which was recently released in June 2024. The song was selected because its lyrics serve not only as entertainment but also as a means to convey important messages, raise awareness, and foster empathy for current humanitarian issues. The primary objective of this study is to investigate how speech functions are realized in the lyrics of "Free Palestine" through discourse analysis. The research employs a qualitative approach. The data were analyzed focusing on speech functions. The data analysis process involved several steps, namely: initially identifying the lyrics, segmenting the lyrics into clauses, analyzing the clauses in terms of its function, determining the Mood types based on their grammatical structures (Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative, and Exclamative), and identifying speech functions, and drawing conclusions. The results revealed there were three types of Mood: Declarative, Interrogative, and Imperative. Declarative statement was predominant in the song, comprising 73.68% of the total analyzed clauses.

Keywords: Speech Functions, Maher Zain, Free Palestine

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji *speech functions* yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Maher Zain berjudul "Free Palestine," yang baru saja dirilis pada bulan Juni 2024. Lagu ini dipilih karena liriknya tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai hiburan, tetapi juga sebagai sarana untuk menyampaikan pesan penting, meningkatkan kesadaran, dan menumbuhkan empati terhadap isu-isu kemanusiaan saat ini. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki bagaimana *speech functions* direalisasikan dalam lirik "Free Palestine" melalui Analisis Wacana. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Data dianalisis dengan memfokuskan pada *speech functions*. Proses analisis data melibatkan beberapa langkah, yaitu: mengidentifikasi lirik, membagi lirik menjadi klausa, menganalisis klausa berdasarkan fungsinya, menentukan jenis Mood berdasarkan struktur gramatikalnya (Deklaratif, Interogatif, Imperatif, dan Ekspresif), mengidentifikasi *speech functions*, dan menarik kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa terdapat tiga jenis Mood: Deklaratif, Interogatif, dan Imperatif. Pernyataan Deklaratif mendominasi lagu ini, mencakup 73,68% dari total klausa yang dianalisis.

Kata kunci: *Speech Functions, Maher Zain, Free Palestine*

A. Introduction

Music is a powerful tool for conveying messages and emotions. As Bilal and Aydilek (2019) say music plays a vital role in human life, as it possesses the power to evoke and express emotions. Moreover, Sugiyono (2013) in Aq et al. (2024) state that through the use of music, ideas may be communicated, capturing the feelings and opinions of many people and allowing listeners to understand the songwriter's thoughts and feelings.

Maher Zain's song "Free Palestine" (2024) is a compelling example of how music can address significant political and social issues. Pasaribu and Faculty (2021) say Maher Zain is an incredible vocalist whose songs express the creator's feelings. Known for his Islamic-themed music, Zain has become a well-known Muslim singer, composer, and music producer from Britain. On his Instagram, Zain mentioned that the song "Free Palestine" holds distinct significance compared to his previous songs. He drew inspiration for this song from activists for justice and human rights in Palestine from all around the world. These activists were moved by the bravery and unwavering support of the global community for the Palestinian cause. The song seeks to uplift the spirit and fortitude of everyone who is willing to endure hardship in order to realize Palestine's dream of independence and peace.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C713u8poEnW/?igsh=amtpb2x4cnBrMmsw>

From the above explanation, the researcher aims at investigating how *speech functions* are realized in the lyrics of the song "Free Palestine" through discourse analysis. Discourse is a particular style of speaking, writing, or communicating within a group or environment that is governed by common meanings, norms, and traditions (Liyana, 2018). In addition, Nurjannah (2021) states that discourse analysis includes understanding what people read, identifying well-written texts as intended, and examining how individuals comprehend the purpose of indirect meaning in a conversation. Moreover, Wang, et al. (2021) state that discourses are shaped by various factors, including social norms, cultural values, historical influences, power dynamics, and specific communicative goals. They can be formal or informal, written or spoken, and they play a crucial role in shaping how we perceive and understand the world around us. It's a complex interplay of linguistic elements, cultural influences, and social dynamics that reflects and influences the way we communicate and interact in our daily lives.

Furthermore, Saragih and Saragih (2021) assert that discourse signifies the meaning expressed through text, defined as any functional unit of language within a context. The theory suggests that discourse analysis includes all types of text, such as

dialogue or conversation, since they possess contextual functional meaning. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) in Nasution (2019) state that text is a complex phenomenon with a wide range of "meanings" depending on the context. These theories indicate that discourse analysis is closely related to any text, including song lyrics, as they have universally appealing contextual and functional value. The lyrics of a song describe the singer's feelings. Besides providing entertainment, artists use their music to convey, share, and express their personal emotions with others.

A key component of discourse analysis is the concept of speech functions. According to Halliday's theory as referenced by Saragih and Saragih (2021), speech function is defined as the role and content communicated by a speaker during a verbal interaction or conversation, outlining the speaker's purpose and the information exchanged. These four speech functions are: giving/information = statement (S), demand/information = question (Q), give/goods & services = offer (O), and demand/goods & services = command (C). In addition, Lestari (2022) states that a person can communicate ideas in a way that helps listeners fully comprehend them by using speech function.

Moreover, Rina (2016) states that speech functions are actions or behaviors carried out by language users, such as giving commands, giving answers, and demanding things in order to meet the needs of speakers and listeners. The categories of speech functions are statement (giving information), question (demanding information), offer (giving goods-&-services), and command (demanding goods-&-services). On the other hand, Sudar (2024) states speech functions vary depending on the issue or circumstance and serve as a means of communicating ideas and aiding the listener in understanding them. Speech function is a human way of delivers ideas in communication to make listener understand the ideas well in (Kusuma et al., 2023).

Furthermore, Riadhotul (2022) states that when both the role (giving and demanding) commodity (information and good & services) were intersected. Speech

function is classified into four types; statement, offer, question and command. In interaction, the role the speaker takes may need a response that depends on how the addressee would respond. One can give different response to a question or served a command in various ways. First, a statement is a type of sentence that makes an assertion, expression of belief, or presents factual information.

The statement usually ends with a period and follows a typical grammatical structure where the subject comes before the verb and any auxiliary verbs or modals; Second, offer: An offer is a type of statement that is used to provide goods or services to someone, either as a favor or in exchange for something else. The offer statement typically includes a modal verb and ends with a question mark. Third question: A question is a form of sentence that is recognizable by the presence of a question mark (?) at the end. Its primary function is to seek clarification, information, or confirmation. Question formulation typically involves the use of auxiliary verbs and question words, such as who, what, where, why, when, and how.

The last command: A command is a type of statement that is used to demand or make a request for goods or services from someone. It is an imperative statement and does not require a subject, except for the predicate expressed. The command sentence or clause is typically ended with an exclamation mark (!).

The speech functions find their realizations in Mood which is an aspect of interpersonal meaning at the level of lexicogrammar (Halliday, 2004) in Saragih and Saragih (2021). In other words, with reference to the semiotic system the speech function is analogous to meaning and the Mood is expression. Thus, in their unmarked or congruent representations the basic or proto speech functions of statement, question and command are respectively realized or expressed by declarative, interrogative and imperative Moods.

As mentioned earlier, this study examines the speech functions in the lyrics of "Free Palestine," released in June 2024. This song was chosen because its lyrics not only provide entertainment but also convey

significant messages, raise awareness, and foster empathy for current humanitarian issues.

B. Research Method

This study utilizes a descriptive design and a qualitative approach. According to Sugiyono (2020), qualitative research methods are used to examine the natural conditions of objects. Furthermore, Ratna et al. (2020) state that the qualitative approach often involves data interpretation and analysis to provide a deeper understanding of the subject.

The data for this study were taken from the lyrics of the song "Free Palestine" by Maher Zain, released in 2024. The researcher obtained the data from YouTube and other internet sources. The research instruments included observation and documentation. Below are the lyrics of "Free Palestine" by Maher Zain:

Free Palestine

*No more murder no more life
 Palestine is in my heart
 Stand up tall
 This is a wake-up call
 Never again never again
 Means never again for all
 To all my people in Gaza
 Even though we're living far
 From each other
 Your pain is my own pain
 All for one and one for all
 Freedom is our destiny
 You go to make a choice
 Better be on the right side of history
 No one can be free
 Until we all are free
 Enough is enough
 We go to stop this genocide*

According to Halliday's theory as cited by Waluyo, et al. (2023), the lyrics were analyzed with reference to the speech functions and Mood. By considering these two features, a better understanding of verbal interaction can be achieved.

C. Result and Discussion

Table 3.1 Unmarked Realizations of Speech Functions

No	Speech Function	Unmarked Mood	Realizations Clause
1	Statement	Declarative	Free Palestine
2	Statement	Declarative	Palestine is in my heart
3	Statement	Declarative	No more murder no more life
4	Command	Imperative	Stand up tall
5	Command	Imperative	This is a wake-up call
6	Statement	Declarative	Never again never again
7	Statement	Declarative	Means never again for all
8	Statement	Declarative	To all my people in Gaza
9	Statement	Declarative	Even though we're living far
10	Statement	Declarative	From each other
11	Statement	Declarative	Your pain is my own pain
12	Statement	Declarative	All for one and one for all
13	Statement	Declarative	Freedom is our destiny
14	Command	Imperative	You go to make a choice
15	Command	Imperative	Better be on the right side of history
16	Statement	Declarative	No one can be free
17	Statement	Declarative	Until we all are free
18	Statement	Declarative	Enough is enough
19	Command	Imperative	We go to stop this genocide

The analysis of the song "Free Palestine" by Maher Zain, based on Halliday's theory of speech functions and Mood, revealed a deliberate use of language to convey powerful messages and emotions. The data showed the distribution of speech functions and their corresponding Mood realizations in the song's lyrics.

1. Statements (Declarative Mood)

The majority of the clauses in the song were statements, realized through the declarative mood. Examples included:

- a) Free Palestine
- b) Palestine is in my heart
- c) No more murder no more life
- d) Never again never again
- e) Means never again for all
- f) To all my people in Gaza
- g) Even though we're living far from each other
- h) Your pain is my own pain
- i) All for one and one for all
- j) Freedom is our destiny
- k) No one can be free until we all are free
- l) Enough is enough

These statements served to assert beliefs, express solidarity, and highlight the dire situation in Palestine. By using declarative clauses, the singer made firm and assertive claims, aiming to inform and emotionally connect with the listeners.

2. Commands (Imperative Mood)

The song also included several commands, realized through the imperative mood, such as:

- a) Stand up tall
- b) This is a wake-up call
- c) You go to make a choice
- d) Better be on the right side of history
- e) We go to stop this genocide

These commands were intended to motivate and urge listeners to take action. The use of imperatives added urgency and a call to action, encouraging the audience to stand

against injustice and supported the Palestinian struggle.

The predominance of declarative statements in the song's lyrics served to inform and remind listeners of the ongoing struggles and aspirations of the Palestinian people. Phrases like "Palestine is in my heart" and "Freedom is our destiny" conveyed deep emotional connections and a sense of inevitability towards achieving freedom. These statements not only reflected the singer's personal feelings but also aimed to resonate with the listeners' sense of justice and empathy.

On the other hand, the imperative commands interspersed throughout the song function as powerful calls to action. Statements like "Stand up tall" and "We go to stop this genocide" emphasized the necessity of immediate and collective action. This use of imperatives fosters a sense of responsibility and urgency among listeners, prompting them to consider their roles in the larger context of human rights and social justice.

By integrating both declarative and imperative Moods, Maher Zain effectively balanced the song's narrative between informing the audience about the Palestinian plight and urging them to actively participate in the fight for justice. This combination of speech functions enhanced the overall impact of the song, making it both a source of information and a rallying cry for action.

In conclusion, the analysis of the speech functions and Moods in "Free Palestine" demonstrated Maher Zain's strategic use of language to convey his message. The interplay of statements and commands in the lyrics not only informed and expressed solidarity but also motivated listeners to support the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

The analysis of Maher Zain's song "Free Palestine" reveals the strategic use of speech functions and Moods to convey powerful messages and emotions. The predominance of declarative statements serves to inform and emotionally engage the listeners by asserting beliefs and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people. The imperative commands function as urgent calls to action, encouraging listeners to stand up against injustice and support the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice. This combination of informative and motivational language enhances the overall impact of the song, making it a compelling source of both information and inspiration.

For further research, it would be beneficial to explore the impact of Maher Zain's "Free Palestine" on various listeners, including different age groups, cultures, and regions, to understand how the song's message resonates and influences listeners globally. Additionally, similar analyses could be conducted on other songs that address political and social issues to compare the effectiveness of different linguistic strategies in raising awareness and mobilizing support. Educators and activists can also utilize songs like "Free Palestine" as educational tools to foster discussions on human rights and social justice in classrooms and community settings.

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