

A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL STUDY OF THE ENGLISH MOOD SYSTEM IN LIMAN'S *HUSTLERS*

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Abstract

The research titled A Systemic Functional Analysis of Mood System in Liman's "*Hustlers*" analyses several distinct types of system in Liman's (2019) "*Hustlers*". The motivation for this research, being a newly published book as at the time of carrying out this research, is that there is apparently no existing literature on the linguistic or Systemic Functional analysis of the mood system in Liman's '*Hustlers*.' This research attempts to analyse Liman's (2019) *Hustlers* using the English mood system. The data for the study was selected using the stratified random selection procedure from a number of independent clauses found in the text. The text adopts the transitivity system as a theoretical frame work. The findings of the research reveal that the declarative mood type was dominantly used by the playwright.

Key words: Systemic, Functional, Mood, Analysis, System

Background to the Study

Language is central to human communication. Language can be rightly described and defined from various perspectives and this is why Siyal and Jindal (2008) are of the opinion that everybody knows the answer to the question 'What is Language?' but nobody has so far been able to come out with any standard definition that fully explains the term language. This has given rise to different schools of thought developed as theoretical frameworks for the purpose of analysing and describing language.

According to Halliday and Mathiessen (2004), language is a system of meanings while grammatical forms are meant to realize these meanings; thus addressing the question of how meanings are formed. This meaning notion of language makes it have a social value.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) was developed in the 1960s and is chiefly associated with M.A.K. Halliday. Several researchers are inclined to this theory because besides its other advantages over some theories precede it, SFL provides a nucleus for analysing a text. It allows for a language to be analysed as it is used in specific contexts. For example, it allows for the analysis of language as used in the class room, banking and finance, law, literature (poetry prose and drama) politics and many more. Therefore, Halliday views language as a sort of semiotic system which is characterized by both strata organization and functional diversity (Isyaku, 2014).

Function is central to Systemic Functional Linguistics. According to Halliday (1967), language is used to serve a variety of functions; thus, there are basically three meta-functions of language which are under the semantic model. These meta-functions include the ideational, interpersonal, and textual meta-functions. These meta-functions correspond to three system networks which include the

Theme, Mood and Transitivity

Language is an interdependent network of systems that conveys meaning. The central meaning is inherent in an independent clause and each clause has three levels of meaning. The three layers of meaning include: the ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings (Dawning and Locke, 2006). In this work, the researcher focuses on the interpersonal meaning of language which deals with exchanges between interlocutors as seen in the text *Hustlers*. In any form of dialogue, it is assumed that when someone speaks, he assigns a role to another interlocutor and such a role could be either as a giver or a receiver of information (Downing and Locke, 2006). It is noteworthy that this depends on what a speaker intends to do with his proposition. This leads to the grammatical aspect that determines a certain proposition known as MOOD.

From the point of view of Systemic Functional grammar, mood is a grammatical entity that expresses the interpersonal meaning of language at the clausal level. Unlike the traditional grammarians'

perspective, the English mood system is not just a word (verb moods) but the arrangement of words (syntax); that is, the subject and verb in a particular way to show whether the writer/speaker is making a proposition or proposal. A proposition is a clause that a writer/speaker makes to pass information or request it, while a proposal demands an action from the listener. According to Halliday and Mathiessen (2014), there are two major mood types: the indicative mood (declarative and interrogative) and the imperative mood (jussive and optative). It is based on the context that an interlocutor may choose to deploy among the available options. Mood is a structure at the clausal unit that realizes the interpersonal meta-function of language, and the elements of mood are Finite and Subject (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2014).

This research attempts to analyse Liman's (2019) *Hustlers* using the English mood system. To the best of my knowledge, there is apparently no existing literature on the linguistic or Systemic Functional analysis of the mood system in Liman's *Hustlers*. It is noteworthy that this work study attempts to build on the cistern of existing knowledge available in the scope of systemic functional grammar

Conceptual Review

Introduce the concepts you will review here. It is unethical to have one subheading follow another without any text in-between.

Mood and Modality

In Systemic Functional Grammar, the mood and modality are used to qualify the interpersonal element in the clause as exchange. Modality is expressed through the mood and it contemplates the mood in the construction of the interpersonal meaning. According to Bankole (2015, p. 32), Young (1980) defines mood as the 'name given to those grammatical systems that express the speaker's relation to the proposition, but this kind of meaning does not only concern the speaker and propositions'. This means that the speaker takes up an attitude to what he says or is saying for the sake of communicating with

others; the addressees are necessarily involved in the exchange, message or representation being made, as the speaker may input to the addressees some relationship to the proposition. For instance:

1. This is Ibrahim's car.
2. Is this Ibrahim's car?

Ajilboye (2006) describes mood as a characteristic of the verb that can be analysed at the verbal group unit. Aliyu (2006), cited in Bankole (2015, p.32), explains that mood refers to the grammatical distinction in the verb forms that are used by the speaker or a writer to express some attitude. The moods of the statement are generally revealed through the use of inflections or auxiliaries. In some moods like the imperative, the air of certainty may be expressed with the auxiliary "will". The intonation or context will indicate the intention of the speaker.

For Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), mood is the principal grammatical component of a clause as an exchange which carries the argument of rhetorical exchanges forward. They contend that the variation between statements and questions is expressed by means of the mood system which spreads over just one part of the clause. Hence, as a rule, English has grammatical resources for statements and questions, which not only constitutes an end in themselves but also serve as points of entry to a great variety of different rhetorical functions. The expression of the rhetorical functions of clauses in English as exchange is achieved through the mood system.

From the above description of the English mood system, it can be affirmed that it is not only the property of a verbal group but also of the sentence that has syntactic implications on the forms of the verbal group and the structure of the clause as well as semantic import or the interpretation (meaning) of an utterance. In other words, it gives the listener or reader a clue to what the speaker or writer is saying. Hence, Osisanwo (1999) observes that the English mood system accounts for two different options; first utterances express the subject (if it is present in the discourses) by including or excluding it. Second, is the option of

stating the expression of the action spelt out in the speech even as well as how the events are presented in the clause structure. This means that the mood system expresses the act displayed in the communicative event presented in the clause structure as including the participants or not. This is to say that they are different ways the mood system can be signalled.

Structural Constituents of Mood

According to the Hallidayan framework in Systemic Functional Linguistics, the mood refers technically to the mood block which comprises the following components.

- Subject (S)
- Finite element (F)
- Modal adjunct (AM)

The S, F and modal adjunct all come under the mood block while all other elements come under the residue except the following which may be omitted from one's analysis:

- Conjunctions and conjunctive adjuncts
- Vocatives and expletives

The difference between complement and adjunct is explained in Halliday and Matthiessen (2004:122-124) thus:

A complement is an element within Residue that has the potential of being Subject but is not.... It is typically realized by a nominal group. "An adjunct is an element that has not got the potential of being subject.... An adjunct is typically realized by an adverbial group or a prepositional phrase (rather than by a nominal group)."

When analysing the clause using Halliday's SFPCA for mood system, it is grouped into the mood block-S and F under MOOD, and the P and C under RESIDUE.

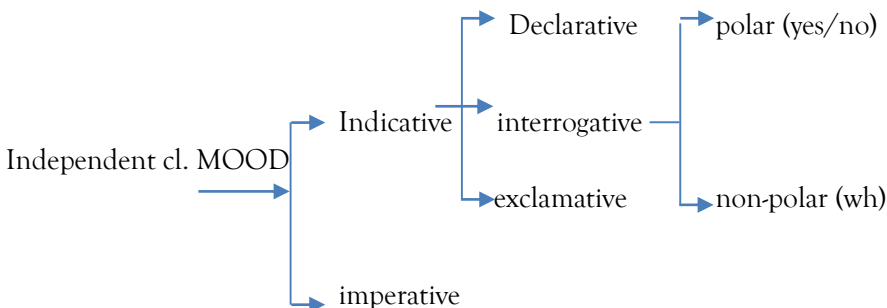
There are two types of adjuncts- Modal Adjuncts (AM) and the residue adjuncts (AR). ARs provide circumstantial information (things to do with time, place, manner etc.), including the agents of passive clauses such as 'the beans was eaten by her'. All ARs form parts of the

mood block. They provide additional information on likelihood. AMs include both mood and comment adjuncts. The following illustration depicts the view of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004):

	Type	Examples
Mood adjunct	Probability	probably, possibly, certainly, perhaps, maybe
	Usuality	always, ever, seldom, rarely, usually
	Obligation	definitely, absolutely, at all costs, by all means
	Obviousness	obviously, positively, of course, surely, clearly
	Intensity	just, simply, even, merely, really, actually, in fact, quite, almost, nearly, scarcely
	Polarity	not, n't, (as in couldn't, etc.)
Comment adjunct	Admissive	frankly, to be honest, to tell you the truth
	Desiderative	(un)fortunately, to my delight, luckily, regrettably, hopefully
	Entreaty	please, kindly
	Evaluative	understandably, by mistake, curiously enough, mistakenly, unwisely
	Opinion	in my opinion, from my point of view, personally, to my mind
	Persuasive	honestly, really, seriously
	Predictive	To my surprise, surprisingly, as expected, amazingly, by chance
	Presumption	evidently, apparently, no doubt, presumably

Mood adjunct (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004:115) in Bankole (2015:35)

The various types of mood are shown in the figure below:



English Mood System

According to Halliday in Eggins (1998), proposition can be divided into two constituents. For instance:

She isn't so pretty
 MOOD RESIDUE

Halliday refers to a clause that expressed information as a proposition. Hence, Mood is about the grammar of proposition. Mood as a concept is analysed as a unit that contains the subject and finite element. On the other hand, Residue is the part of a clause that contains the predicate and an optional complement and/or adjunct as its constituents. In qualifying language, SFL sees language in terms of the functions it performs.

“Mood element functions to Carey argument; and a Residue, which can be left or ellipsed” (Eggins, 1994). Halliday in Eggins (1994) describes the Mood element as carrying “the burden of the clause as an interactive event.” The following speech functions are performed by the Mood

1. Statement – declarative mood
2. Question – interrogative mood
3. Offer –modulated interrogative mood
4. Command – imperative mood (Eggins, 1994)

Hence, the independent clauses of this research are analysed thus:

Methodology

The primary source of data for this research is Liman's (2019) *Hustlers*. Stratified random sampling was adopted for the data collection. The researcher selected a number of the independent clauses first in Liman's (2019) *Hustlers*. The researcher arrived at the number of sentences by using the stratified sampling procedure to select and group them. The study adopts Halliday's classification of the transitivity system for the analysis of data. The analysis were framed into mood block of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) to differentiate between the part of independent clause that contains elements of mood and the part that is called residue. The following tables illustrates how the data collected from Liman's *Hustlers* were analysed into mood structures.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data analysis is presented in a tabular form and it shows the division of the independent clauses into Mood and Residue as well as their constituents.

1. Analysis of Declarative Mood System in Liman's (2019) *Hustlers*.

Declarative moods can also be referred to as simple sentences. Declarative moods perform a speech function of issuing out statements. This type of mood form consists of the Mood and Residue as its constituents. The following independent clauses are declarative.

Clause 1: Tina and Ngo are too afraid of me (Act one, page 3)

Tina and Ngo	Are	too afraid of me
Subject	Finite	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative declarative

Speech function: statement

Clause 2: She means exactly what you heard (Act one, page 7)

She	Means	Exactly what you heard
Subject	Finite	Complement
MOOD	RESIDUE	

Mood type: declarative
 Speech function: statement

Clause 3: They are not enough (Act one, page 8).

They	are not	Enough
Subject	Finite: Negative	Complement
MOOD	RESIDUE	

Mood type: indicative declarative
 Speech function: statement

Clause 4: She will never escape my punishment (page 10)

She	Will	Never	escape	my punishment
Subject	Finite	Adjunct	Predicator	Complement
MOOD	RESIDUE			

Mood type: declarative
 Speech function: statement

Clause 5: He is so nice (Page 9).

He	Is	so nice
Subject	Finite	Compliment
MOOD	RESIDUE	

Mood type: declarative
 Speech function: statement

Clause 6: Thanks my man (Page 15).

Thanks	My	Man
Predicator	Complement	Subject
RESIDUE	MOOD	

Mood type: indicative declarative:

Speech function: statement

Clause 7: Trust is a burden (page, 13).

Trust	Is	A burden
Subject	Finite	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative declarative

Speech function: statement

Clause 8: We trust you (Page 13)

We	Trust	You
Subject	Predicator	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative declarative

Speech function: statement

Clause 9: You are handsome and caring (Page 17).

You	Are	Handsome and caring
Subject	Finite	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative mood

Speech function: Statement

Clause 10: I trust you (Page 17)

I	Trust	You
Subject	Predicator	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative declarative

Mood function: Statement

2. Analysis of Interrogative Mood System in Liman's (2019) *Hustlers*

Clause 11: Do you understand? (Page, 11).

Do	You	With us
Finite	Subject	Compliment
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative interrogative (Yes/no)

Speech function: question

Clause 12: Where are the rest? (Page 31)

Where	Are	the rest?
Adjunct/WH-	Finite	Subject
RESIDUE		MOOD

Mood type: indicative interrogative (WH-)

Speech function: question

Clause 13: Am I crazy? (Page 48)

Am	I	Crazy?
Finite	Subject	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE

Mood type: indicative interrogative (yes/no question)

Speech function: question

Clause 14: How was your journey? (Page 40)

How	Was	your	Journey?
Adjunct 1	Finite	Subject	Adjunct 2
RE-	MOOD		-SIDUE

Mood type: indicative interrogative (WH-)

Speech function: question

Clause 15: What have I done this time? (Page, 10)

What	Have	I	Done	This time?
Complement	Finite: past modal	Subject	Predicator	Adjunct
RE-	MOOD		SIDUE	

Mood type: indicative interrogative

Speech function: question

Clause 16: Can I see the V.C? (Page 29)

Can	I	See	The V.C?
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE	

Mood type: indicative interrogative (Yes/no)

Speech function: question

Clause 17: Who were you expecting? (Page 43)

Who	Were	You	Expecting?
Adjunct	Finite	Subject	Predicator
RE-	MOOD		-SIDUE

Mood type: indicative interrogative (WH-)

Speech function: question

Clause 18: What did you tell them? (Page 37)

What	Did	You	Tell	Them?
Adjunct	Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement
Adjunct mood			RESIDUE	
MOOD				

Mood type: modulated interrogative (Wh)

Speech function: question

3. Analysis of Imperative Moods

Imperative moods perform the speech function of commanding. The command can be either direct or indirect (modulated). Technically, they are called optative and jussive.

Clause 19: Tell that messenger to hurry up! (Page 20)

Tell	That messenger		to hurry up
Finite	Predicator	Subject	Complement

MO-	RESI-	- OD		-DUE
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Mood type: imperative

Speech function: command

Clause 20: keep quiet! (Page 50)

Keep		Quiet
Finite	Predicator	Complement
MOOD	RESI-	-DUE

Mood type: imperative

Speech function: command

Discussion of Findings

The observation by the researcher is that the playwright has been deliberate in selecting a mixture of the Standard British English, the Nigerian English variety and the Nigerian Pidgin English to depict the reality of language use in most Nigerian universities and offices. From the analysis, the following findings have been deduced by the researcher, thus:

First, it could be pointed out that the playwright has used harmoniously the major mood types through the characters in the play. Second, it is noteworthy that there is more of a preponderance of the use of the declarative mood type over the interrogative and imperative moods. This is illustrated in the analysis above. Out of the twenty independent clauses analysed, the imperative mood has the least usage with a total number of two analysed clauses, while the interrogative mood has an intermediate number of times used with a total number of eight analysed clauses. However, the declarative mood has the highest number of use with a total number of ten analysed clauses. This establishes the dynamic role the declarative mood has in a social exchange.

In addition, from the declarative mood analysis, it can be observed that virtually all the elements of the mood block were used. It harboured both the complete elements of the mood (subject and finite)

and the complete elements of the residue (predicator, adjunct and complement).

Also, from the above analysis, the researcher observes that the interrogative mood can come in different forms (e.g. Polar questions, Wh questions, Rhetorical etc.) and the speech function of all the types of interrogatives analysed is to question. While some interrogatives require a response, others do not require any response but stir up a thought in the addressed character as well as the audience.

Furthermore, although less used, the imperative mood was deployed severally in the text also. This type of mood had a predominant speech function of giving command, others include request (politely and rudely) and offer.

Finally, cases of interjections such as ‘Oh! Haba! My God! Wow! Hey!’ etc. were sparsely used by the characters to depict emotions such as awe or surprise as well as disappointment.

Conclusion

The study has meticulously attempted to analyse thirty main independent clauses by using the stratified random selection procedure from Liman’s “*Hustlers*” and applying M.A.K Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics. This research deployed the use of the mood system for the analysis of selected independent clauses from Liman’s “*Hustlers*”. Mood types from the text were identified and subsequently analysed. From the findings obtained after the analysis of selected clauses used in this text, it is concluded that declarative mood type was predominantly used in giving information and building the dramatic storyline. This is as a result of the high the constant characters’ use of dialogue to give or express information at various points in time. This gives the text a fascinating and easily understandable demeanor.

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