

Systemic Functional Grammar Analysis of Barack Obama's Second Term Inaugural Speech

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Abstract : This research studies Barack Obama's second inaugural speech using Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). SFG is a text grammar which describes how language is used, so that the meaning of the text can be better understood. The primary source of data in this research work is Barack Obama's second inaugural speech which was obtained from the internet. The analysis of the speech was based on the ideational and textual metafunctions of Systemic Functional Grammar. Specifically, the researcher analyses the Process Types and Participants (ideational) and the Theme/Rheme (textual). It was found that material process (process of doing) was the most frequently used 'Process type' and 'We' which refers to the people of America was the frequently used 'Theme'. Application of the SFG theory, therefore, gives a better meaning to Barack Obama's speech.

Keywords : ideational, metafunction, rheme, textual, theme

Conference Title : ICALELL 2018 : International Conference on Applied Linguistics and English Language Learning

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : September 24-25, 2018