



## Students' Application of Systematic Functional Linguistics on EFLs' Blog Website

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**Abstract** The study aims to investigate the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a method for analyzing text. The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) has a nearly limitless range of applications. Social media has become an important platform for everyone to broadcast information, opinions, and emotion freely and borderless in today's society especially on blog. Using a qualitative method, this research focused on the outcome of the students' ability in applying SFL on social media. The data are taken from Blog-Web media of English Education Department Students IAIN Padangsidimpuan. The findings lead to the conclusion that the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics on Blog was good. Interpersonal meaning occurred in 9 times or in percentages of 45% of written clauses entires. It signifies that its ability to inform and persuade readers goes optimal. However, linguistic approaches must be improved in order for the texts to sound more understandable.

**Keywords:** *Systemic Functional Linguistics, Blog-Website. Applying*

**Abstrak** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) sebagai metode untuk menganalisis teks. *Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik* (SFL) memiliki jangkauan aplikasi yang hampir tak terbatas. Media sosial telah menjadi platform penting bagi setiap orang untuk menyebarkan informasi, opini, dan emosi secara bebas dan tanpa batas di masyarakat saat ini tak terkecuali dengan blog. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif, penelitian ini berfokus pada hasil kemampuan siswa dalam menerapkan SFL di media sosial. Data diambil dari Media Blog Web mahasiswa jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris IAIN Padangsidimpuan. Temuan tersebut mengarah pada kesimpulan bahwa penerapan *Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik* pada blog sudah baik. Interpersonal meaning muncul sebanyak 9 kali yang dipersenkan sebanyak 45% klausa. Ini menandakan bahwa kemampuannya untuk menginformasikan dan membujuk pembaca telah berjalan optimal. Namun, pendekatan linguistik harus ditingkatkan agar teks terdengar lebih mudah dipahami.

**Kata Kunci:** *Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik, Blog Web, Penerapan.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Regarding to this pandemic Covid-19 era, the government now force issues for social distancing including on academic field. The teachers and students are now learning in online system. Thus, making an online media as a platform for teaching becomes needed. Teachers can adopt materials by themselves from various sources. The materials will be easier to be understood if it is common in the students' daily live and suitable with their needs. Hence, it is one of the best solutions for the students to understand the materials by using social media whether using a textbook. As stated by Grabe (2009), "Lots of textbook do not provide content learning in a clear way". Thus, the innovation to take the materials from students' daily live such social media have to be exploited.

Every single student can have many accounts of social media. Social media has become an important platform for everyone to broadcast information, opinions, and emotion freely and borderless in today's society. Social media was interactive technologies that allow people to share or exchange ideas, interest, thought and others through virtual network. Gupta and Bashir (2018) stated that social media has four major purposes which were for entertainment, socialization, informativeness, and academic purposes.

Basically, social media becomes part of human live. Social media has various kinds such Weblog, facebook, twitter, instagram, Quora, Tik-tok and many else. Those all can be a platform for students to share information, making social, and even for entertaining. As stated by Yohanna (2020), people are now free to communicate and share information. Those, it was important to make the students get more advantages for themselves by using social media by analyzing the text that cited on it.

Weblog or also known as blog is one of social media platform discussion located on a website. Zhang (2009) stated that a blog is a web-based space for writing where all the writing and editing of information is managed through a web browser and available on internet. Nowadays a blog is regularly updated for personal use or business needed. Blogs that interactively allow their visitors to leave comments and messages. Blog also consist of web-based journals that are easily linked and cross-

linked in online communities or discrete entries or posts that are created by single individuals, small groups or multiple authors.

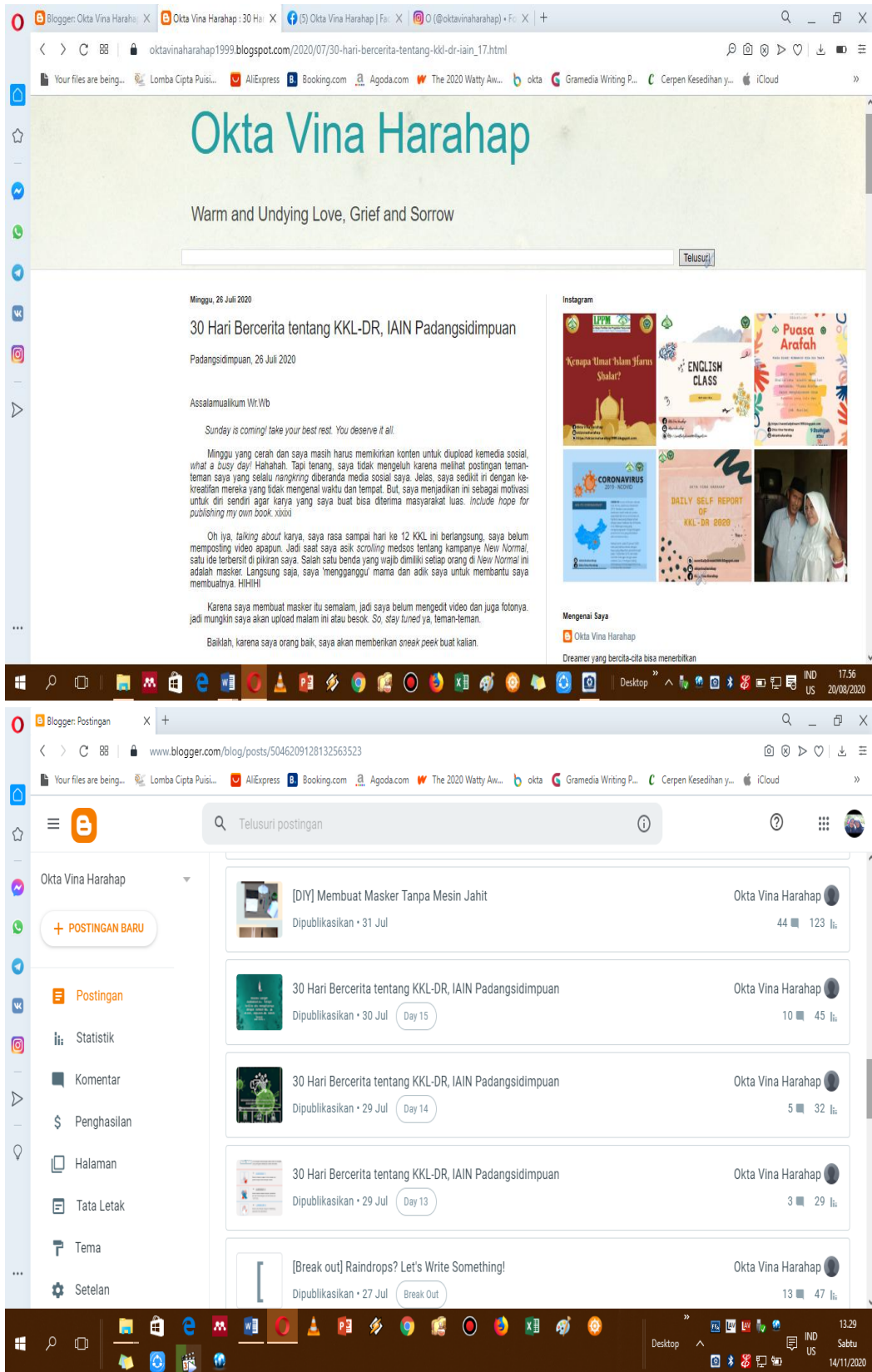
Perhaps the incredible growth of blogs can be attributed to the simplicity of creating and maintaining your blog. No Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) programming knowledge or skill is required. The blog can be hosted and published through software providers like Pyra at Blogger.com (recently acquired by Google), although the author, who manages the entries and the look and feel – also known as the blogskin - controls the content. Blogger.com claims to host over three hundred and fifty thousand blogs and that a new blog is created every forty seconds! (Zhang 2009). From a simple search of the Internet, however, it is clear that much language classroom blogging is occurring and simply not being reported in English language learning literature. As blogs become more and more common place, educators in recent years have begun seeing the potential of blogs for teaching and learning.

Expert lists five features that a representative blog exhibits: personal editorship; a hyperlinked posting structure; frequent updates; free public access to the content via the Internet; and archived postings (Bartlett-bragg 2003). Typically, the blog has a single author, however there are some group blogs where contributors post and debate short essays and opinion pieces. The comments represent the opinions of the author(s) and their interpretations of an event, content or context.

A blog is a web-based space for writing where all the writing and editing of information is managed through a web browser and is immediately and publicly available on the Internet (Zhang, 2009). The term "weblog" was first used by Jorn Barger on his website in 1997, and now it is used to describe a personal website that offers frequently updated observations, news, headlines, commentary, recommended links and/or diary entries, generally organized chronologically (Montes-alcalá, 2007). The word blog is both a noun and a verb. People who maintain a blog are called bloggers. The act of posting to your blog is called blogging and the collective world of blogging is the Blog-o-sphere.

Blog is defined as a site or online journal published on the World Wide Web (WWW). Furthermore, it can be defined that blog is online private journal published regularly on the internet. English Education Department Students at the State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) has their own blog. So the researcher interested

to use this blog to be analyzed with SFL which are interpersonal meaning, ideational meaning and textual meaning.



Rouse stated the name blog is a contraction of the term weblog. It is a website which consists of a series of entries organized in chronological order often updated with new information about different topics; the writer is referred as 'blogger'. Generally, weblogs are devoted to one or several subjects or themes, usually of topical interest, and, in general, can be thought of as developing commentaries, individual or collective on their particular themes (Aydin, 2014). A weblog may consist of the recorded ideas of an individual with his personal view (a sort of journal) or be collaboration open to anyone.

At this time, using blogs in education, and particularly in language learning, is still novel and there have not been many formal studies done on this topic. Studies that have been published include research on blogging's effect on learner autonomy, increasing writing fluency, as a place for completing writing assignments. A blog has geography just like any static website and features several specific "territories" that in combination create the uniqueness that is a blog. It can be discussed from following factors:

1. Blogs do not require sophisticated software or knowledge of computer programming. Everyone can participate with a variety of different easy-to-use, free blog accounts available on the Internet.
2. Blogs offer several security options, such as limiting access for reading and posting. You have total control of who is authorized to view sensitive or confidential information with Blogware's easy to use security tools.
3. Many blogs are written by only one author and visitors can not make posts or edit posts, but they can add comments to an existing post. Some blogs are community blogs, where all members of the community can make posts.
4. Blogs disregard the status of users – all users are equal. Users often use screen names rather than their actual names. Sometimes anonymous posting is allowed.
5. Blog entries can consist of text, images, audio, video, and hyperlinks. No need to email photos anymore – just tell people to go to blog! Through hyperlinks, readers can be sent directly to other resources anymore – just tell people to go to your blog! Through hyperlinks, readers can be sent directly to other resources. Hyperlinks are used as supporting information for any claim.

Hyperlinks can bring news, pictures, and other information from the outside to the blog's readers.

6. Blog has an auto-archiving feature. All posts are archived. Archives can be searched by keyword, or by date. Reverse chronological order of posts allows readers to identify the most recent posts made since the last time they read the blog to identify the most recent posts made since the last time they read the blog.
7. Blog content can be distributed via subscriptions. A person can subscribe to many blogs and have the content aggregated in one place. RSS aggregators gather entries from many blogs and send them to the reader instead of the reader going to each individual blog.

Systematic functional linguistics (SFL) as an approach in discourse analysis was proposed the meanings of systematics axis and place of structure in context in a clause and text exactly. As stated by Halliday (1985), "SFL starts at social context, and looks at how language both acts upon, and is constrained by this social context". It also supported with Gerot & Wignell (1995), systematic functional linguistics sees language as the resource of making meaning. Moreover, SFL describe language in actual use that focus not only on the text but also on the context (Purnama, 2019). In sum, SFL can express meanings by recognizing phenomena of variety analysed and un-analysed lexicogrammar.

Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) was firstly developed by Halliday looks at the clauses that can be observed through three model analysis, which were transitivity, mood system and thematic structure. Transitivity works in describing ideational meaning, mood system can be used in finding out interpersonal meaning, and thematic structure explore the textual meaning (Eggins, 2013). Ideational meanings represent experience in language that talking about something or someone doing something, textual meaning refers to the way the text is organized as a peach of writing or speech, meanwhile interpersonal meaning express the role relationship and attitudes of speakers or writers (Eggins, 2004).

To study about systematic functional linguistics, there are several earlier studies were conducted to support the study. The first journal article was written by

Purnama (2019). This study revealed research to look for the trend of students' analysis SFL on different media. It was Mass Media and Social Media. The second was written by Dewi (2016) as the students from university of Indonesia. She was observing the teachers' subject matter knowledge competence by analysing the coherence of analytical exposition texts. The third is Putri (2010), the students from Andalas University, the research conducted about systemic functional linguistic analysis of metafunctions in the Jakarta Post Reader's forum. The next was conducted by Fikmawati, the research was conducted a systemic functional linguistics research regarding the speech function on the movie script of confession of a shopaholic by P.J. Hogan. The last the research who is conducted by Marhamah (2014), her research focus on Muses' song lyrics in Black Holes and Revelations album focusing on interpersonal meaning.

Finally, this paper is to complete and report the students' application of systematic functional linguistics on Blog-Website, those previous literatures help much information in making this journal. Meanwhile, the writer interested in research about systematic functional linguistics used by students of English department in using Blog-Website.

## **METHOD**

The qualitative technique and descriptive method were used in this study. This study took a qualitative approach since it began with assumptions and the investigation of research problems enquiring into the meaning of individuals or groups which ascribe to a social or human problem (Creswell 2014). The researcher purposively chose 10 students of English Education Department at IAIN Padangsidempuan as the participants. The students chosen were homogenously seventh-semester students who equally had completed systemic functional linguistics course. Source of Data in this research comes from the students' social media. The 10 students had been applied systemic functional linguistics on the social media. Because this research looks directly at communication via texts or transcripts, and so to get the essential part of social interaction, the writer employs content analysis technique to analyze data. Content analysis is a widely used in qualitative research technique. The research instrument was documentation. The

documents analysis requires data be examined and interpreted in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop knowledge (Bowen 2009). The posts as the data were documented and compiled for a further analysis, by using Halliday theory on SFL.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The researchers found 20 English written entries as a result of study. The study shows that students who applied systemic functional linguistics on the social in this case called blog— have various discussions. It means that the social media contributes greatly to enhance students' creativity in applying systemic functional linguistics approaches to language phenomena. Focusing on textual meaning, students analyzed formal and informal registers. Thus, the writer concluded the data were obtained as follow:

**Table 1**  
**Total of Using Systematic Functional Linguistics**  
**by English Education Department Students on Blog**

| <b>Kinds of SFL</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentages</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| INM                 | 9                | 45%                |
| IDM                 | 7                | 35%                |
| TM                  | 4                | 20%                |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>20</b>        | <b>100%</b>        |

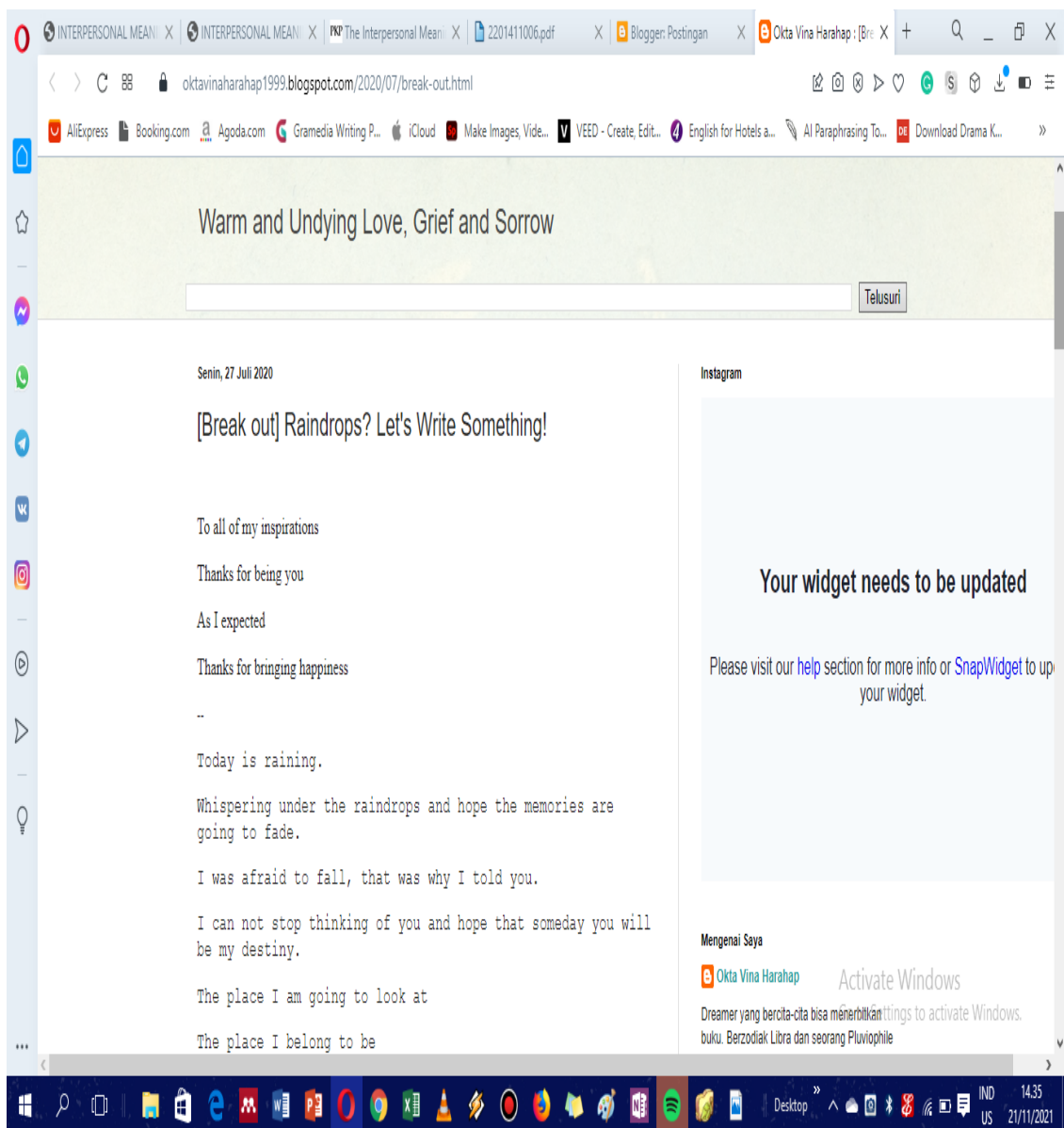
From the result table above, it can be seen that students written clauses which made Interpersonal meaning (INM) were 9 clauses (45%), Ideational meaning (IDM) were 7 clauses (35%), and textual meaning were 4 clauses (20%). It can be concluded that interpersonal meaning appeared more often than others.

On their blog page, students use systemic functional linguistics approaches to explore more language phenomena. Meanings about things are referred to as ideational meanings. As can be seen on the blog page,



students only use about 7 clauses. The field of discourse has the biggest effect on ideational meanings. Interpersonal meanings are those that communicate a speaker's feelings and opinions. The tenor of language has a big impact on these kinds of meanings. It same with result above that shows interpersonal meaning exist about 9 clauses. Then, textual meanings express the relationship between language and its environment, which includes both the verbal environment – what has previously been said or written (co-text) – and the nonverbal, situational environment (context). The form of speech has the greatest impact on textual meanings. This kind of SFL exist about 4 clauses on the blog page.

Furthermore, because they employ interpersonal meaning in their analysis, students are considered to discuss more linguistic phenomena. The social relationship between speakers and listeners, or between writers and readers, can be determined by interpersonal meaning, which expresses speakers' or writers' attitudes and judgment. However, depending on the situation, it can be used in a variety of ways. It can be used in formal and informal language, written and spoken language, grammatical and ungrammatical language.



To study the proposed topics, the result of the finding in this paper showed that the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics on Blog was good. Interpersonal meaning occurred in 9 times or in percentages of 45% of written clauses entires. It signifies that its ability to inform and persuade readers goes optimal. The study by Purnama (2019) was different. The focus of this research was to look for the trend of students analysis SFL on different media. It was Mass Media and Social Media the finding showed the application of systematic functional linguistics is actually almost unlimited. However, the broad scope of SFL

application seems blurry. Social media students explored more language phenomena than did mass media students using SFL on the mass media.

Moreover, Dewi (2016) also has different result, By focusing the analysis of systematic functional linguistics on exposition text, this research focus on observing the teachers subject matter by three English pre service teachers. This research found that pre service teachers were able to make coherent text seen from theme and thematic progression. Meanwhile the result from interview showed that they encountered the challenges. The first challenge was to make the text more relevant and coherent. That is, the main argument must be supported by the arguments which were written by the pre-service teachers. The second challenge was to distinguish between censorship and professional. It can be conclude that the text written by pre-service teachers seemed to generally reflect.

The next topic also give a similar topic even though different in using subject. This research focus on the analysis of systematic functional linguistic in the Script of Confession of a Shopaholic Movie by P.J Hogan. The result were divided into typical and non-typical mood. The typical clause consist of 144 clauses which are divided into declarative (68 clauses), polar interrogative (7 clauses), Wh-interrogative (6 clauses), elliptical (51 clauses), and imperative (12 clauses. Beside non typical mood consist of 3 clause which divided modulated interrogative declarative (1 clause), command (13 clauses, statement (67 clauses) and question (22 clauses) (Fikmawati 2012).

Finally, this research and others findings conclude that there are some different result about analysis of SFL. This research focus on the using SFL which are ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning. While another finding focus on typical and non-typical mood that are more general and complicated to be analyzed. All this finding can be used to analyze an English text so it can be understood well for knowing a specific unit of structure text.

## **CONCLUSION**

The use of social media to enhance students' creativity in applying systemic functional linguistics to its applications has proven to be very beneficial. Blogs as one of the most popular platform social media used to write something interesting in easy way can be used to apply systemic functional linguistics in language

phenomena. The result showed that students who applied systemic functional linguistics on social media have various language phenomenon. The most of kinds systematic functional linguistics that used by the English department of IAIN Padangsidempuan occurred was interpersonal meaning that is in 45%. While ideational meaning and textual meaning showed the short percentages. Ideational meaning (IDM) were 7 clauses (35%), and textual meaning were 4 clauses (20%). It can be concluded that interpersonal meaning appeared more often than others.

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