

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) proposed by M. A. K. Halliday. SFL views language as a resource for making meaning in social contexts and emphasizes the functional aspects of language use. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language simultaneously performs three metafunctions, namely the ideational metafunction, the interpersonal metafunction, and the textual metafunction. These metafunctions provide a framework for understanding how meanings are constructed and communicated through linguistic choices.

The ideational metafunction is concerned with the representation of experiences, events, and realities in the world. It enables speakers and writers to express actions, processes, participants, and circumstances through language. In this study, nominalization and passivization are analyzed as linguistic resources associated with the ideational metafunction because both features contribute to the representation of experiences and events. Nominalization allows processes and actions to be transformed into nouns, while passivization shifts attention from actors to actions or affected participants.

The interpersonal metafunction focuses on the interaction between speakers and listeners as well as the expression of attitudes, judgments, obligations, and commitments. Within this metafunction, modality functions as an important linguistic resource that enables speakers to express degrees of certainty, probability, willingness, and obligation. Therefore, modality is examined in this study to investigate how

President Prabowo Subianto conveys commitments, expectations, and attitudes in his inaugural speech.

Based on this framework, the present study analyzes nominalization, passivization, and modality in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech to identify how meanings are realized and what communicative purposes are achieved through the use of these linguistic features. By applying the principles of Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of meaning construction in political discourse.

B. Systemic Functional Linguistics

1. Definition of Systemic Functional Linguistics

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory of language developed by M. A. K. Halliday. This theory views language not merely as a system of grammatical rules but as a resource for making meaning in social contexts. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language functions as a social semiotic system through which individuals communicate ideas, share experiences, establish relationships, and organize messages. Therefore, SFL is primarily concerned with how language is used to create meaning rather than simply how grammatical structures are formed.

The term *systemic* refers to the notion that language consists of a network of interrelated choices available to language users. When communicating, speakers and writers select specific linguistic forms from a range of possible alternatives in order to express particular meanings. These choices are influenced by the speaker's intentions, the communicative situation, and the social context in which communication takes place. Thus, language is viewed as a system of

meaning potential that allows users to make appropriate choices according to their communicative needs.

The term *functional*, on the other hand, emphasizes that language exists to perform various social functions. Halliday argues that every linguistic choice serves a particular purpose and contributes to meaning-making. Language is used not only to convey information but also to express attitudes, negotiate relationships, influence others, and organize messages into coherent texts. Consequently, the study of language should focus on how linguistic forms function within real communicative situations rather than examining grammatical structures in isolation.

One of the central principles of SFL is that language and society are inseparable. Halliday believes that language develops and functions within social contexts because people use language to participate in social activities. The meanings expressed through language are therefore influenced by cultural values, social relationships, and situational factors. As a result, understanding language requires an examination of both linguistic structures and the contexts in which they are used. This perspective makes SFL particularly useful for analyzing authentic texts such as political speeches, news articles, academic writing, and public communication.

Another important concept in SFL is the relationship between language and context. Halliday distinguishes between the context of culture and the context of situation. The context of culture refers to the broader cultural knowledge, beliefs, and conventions shared by members of a society, whereas the context of situation refers to the immediate circumstances in which communication occurs. The

context of situation is further described through three variables: field, tenor, and mode. Field refers to the subject matter or activity being discussed, tenor refers to the relationship between participants, and mode refers to the channel or form of communication. These contextual factors influence the linguistic choices made by speakers and writers.

SFL has been widely applied in discourse analysis because it provides a comprehensive framework for examining how meanings are constructed through language. Researchers use SFL to investigate various aspects of discourse, including the representation of experiences, the expression of attitudes and commitments, and the organization of messages. In political discourse, SFL is particularly valuable because political leaders often employ specific linguistic resources to communicate policies, construct identities, persuade audiences, and present social realities in particular ways. By analyzing these linguistic choices, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how political messages are formulated and communicated.

Furthermore, SFL is highly relevant to the present study because it offers analytical tools for examining the linguistic features found in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech. The study focuses on nominalization, passivization, and modality, which are important resources within the SFL framework. Nominalization and passivization contribute to the representation of experiences and events, while modality reflects the speaker's attitudes, commitments, and judgments. Through the analysis of these features, the study seeks to explore how meanings and communicative purposes are realized in political discourse.

Therefore, Systemic Functional Linguistics provides an appropriate theoretical framework for this research because it enables the researcher to examine language as a meaning-making resource and to investigate how linguistic choices contribute to the construction of meaning in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech.

C. Metafunctions of Language

One of the most important concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is the concept of metafunctions. According to M. A. K. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language is a multifunctional system that simultaneously performs several functions whenever it is used in communication. Halliday argues that language is not merely a collection of words and grammatical structures; rather, it is a meaning-making resource that enables individuals to communicate experiences, establish social relationships, and organize messages effectively. Therefore, every text, whether spoken or written, contains multiple layers of meaning that can be analyzed through the metafunctional framework.

The concept of metafunctions is central to SFL because it explains how language operates in social life. Whenever people communicate, they do more than simply exchange information. They represent events and experiences, interact with others, express attitudes and opinions, and organize their messages into coherent forms. These functions occur simultaneously in every act of communication. Halliday identifies three metafunctions of language, namely the ideational metafunction, the interpersonal metafunction, and the textual metafunction. Together, these metafunctions provide a comprehensive framework for

understanding how meanings are created and communicated through language.

The metafunctional framework is particularly useful in discourse analysis because it allows researchers to investigate language from different perspectives. Instead of focusing solely on grammatical forms, researchers can examine how linguistic choices contribute to the construction of meaning within specific social contexts. This perspective is especially relevant to political discourse, where language is carefully selected to communicate policies, construct identities, persuade audiences, and represent social realities. Consequently, the concept of metafunctions serves as an important theoretical foundation for the present study.

1. Ideational Metafunction

The ideational metafunction is concerned with the representation of human experience. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language enables individuals to describe events, actions, situations, thoughts, feelings, and relationships occurring in the world around them. Through this metafunction, people are able to interpret and communicate their experiences in ways that are meaningful to others. In other words, the ideational metafunction allows language users to construct representations of reality.

Within the ideational metafunction, experiences are represented through a system known as transitivity. This system consists of processes, participants, and circumstances. Processes refer to actions, events, states, or experiences expressed through verbs. Participants refer to the individuals, groups, or entities involved in those processes. Circumstances provide additional information regarding aspects such

as time, place, cause, manner, and condition. Together, these elements help language users organize and communicate their experiences.

The ideational metafunction is particularly important in political discourse because politicians frequently use language to describe social conditions, national challenges, government achievements, and future plans. Through linguistic choices, political leaders can emphasize certain aspects of reality while minimizing others. Consequently, language becomes a powerful tool for shaping how audiences perceive social and political issues.

In relation to the present study, the ideational metafunction provides the theoretical basis for analyzing nominalization and passivization. Both linguistic features influence how experiences and events are represented in discourse. Nominalization allows actions and processes to be transformed into nouns, while passivization enables speakers to shift attention from actors to actions or outcomes. Therefore, these features play an important role in the construction of meaning within political speeches.

2. Interpersonal Metafunction

The interpersonal metafunction refers to the role of language in establishing and maintaining social relationships. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), communication involves not only the exchange of information but also interaction between speakers and listeners. Through language, individuals can express opinions, attitudes, emotions, evaluations, and judgments. As a result, language functions as a means of negotiating relationships and influencing others.

This metafunction reflects the speaker's position toward the message being communicated as well as toward the audience. Through various linguistic resources, speakers can indicate certainty, possibility, obligation, willingness, or commitment. These meanings allow speakers to express their personal stance and to guide how audiences interpret their messages. Consequently, the interpersonal metafunction plays a significant role in persuasive communication.

In political discourse, interpersonal meanings are particularly important because political leaders often seek to gain public trust, establish credibility, and persuade audiences to support particular ideas or policies. Political speeches frequently contain expressions of commitment, promises, recommendations, and obligations. These expressions help leaders demonstrate confidence and authority while building a connection with the public.

One of the most important linguistic resources associated with the interpersonal metafunction is modality. Modality enables speakers to express different degrees of certainty, probability, obligation, and willingness. Through modality, political leaders can communicate their intentions, commitments, and expectations regarding future actions. Therefore, modality is highly relevant to the present study because it reveals how President Prabowo Subianto expresses attitudes and commitments in his inaugural speech.

3. Textual Metafunction

The textual metafunction refers to the function of language in organizing messages into coherent and meaningful texts. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), communication can only be effective when information is arranged in a way that allows audiences to understand the intended message. Therefore, language provides

resources for structuring information and creating connections between ideas.

The textual metafunction is concerned with how speakers and writers organize information within a text. This includes the arrangement of themes and rhemes, the use of cohesive devices, and the establishment of coherence throughout the discourse. These elements help ensure that messages are logically connected and easily understood by readers or listeners.

In addition, the textual metafunction allows language users to determine which information should receive prominence and how information should be introduced and developed throughout a text. Through these organizational strategies, communication becomes more effective and meaningful. Consequently, the textual metafunction contributes significantly to the overall structure and clarity of discourse.

Although the present study focuses primarily on nominalization, passivization, and modality, an understanding of the textual metafunction remains important because these linguistic features do not occur in isolation. They function within a larger discourse structure and contribute to the organization and coherence of political speeches. Therefore, the three metafunctions should be viewed as interconnected aspects of meaning-making that work together in the construction of discourse.

Based on Halliday's framework, the present study focuses on the ideational and interpersonal metafunctions because they are directly related to the linguistic features under investigation. Nominalization and passivization are analyzed as resources of the ideational metafunction, while modality is examined as a resource of the interpersonal

metafunction. Through this framework, the study seeks to explore how meanings and communicative purposes are realized in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech.

D. Nominalization

1. Definition of Nominalization

Nominalization is one of the most significant grammatical resources in Systemic Functional Linguistics. According to M. A. K. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), nominalization refers to the process of transforming processes, actions, events, or qualities into nouns. This transformation is considered a form of grammatical metaphor because meanings that are typically expressed through verbs or adjectives are realized through nominal forms. For example, the verb *develop* can be transformed into the noun *development*, while the adjective *active* can become *activity*. Through nominalization, language users are able to represent actions and processes as entities or concepts.

Nominalization plays an important role in meaning construction because it allows speakers and writers to condense information into more compact expressions. Instead of describing an action in a complete clause, the action can be represented as a noun phrase. As a result, texts become more concise and formal. This feature is particularly common in academic writing, official documents, and political speeches, where abstract concepts and complex ideas are frequently discussed.

In addition, nominalization enables speakers to shift attention away from actors and toward actions, events, or outcomes. By transforming processes into nouns, responsibility for an action may become less explicit. Consequently, nominalization can influence

how audiences perceive social realities and political issues. For this reason, nominalization has become an important area of investigation in discourse studies and political communication.

2. Functions of Nominalization

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), nominalization serves several important functions in discourse. First, it contributes to information condensation by allowing complex ideas to be expressed in shorter forms. Second, it creates a formal and objective style that is commonly associated with institutional and political discourse. Third, nominalization facilitates the expression of abstract concepts such as development, democracy, and improvement, which are frequently used in political communication.

Furthermore, nominalization can influence the representation of agency and responsibility. By converting actions into nouns, speakers may reduce the visibility of actors involved in particular events. This characteristic makes nominalization a powerful linguistic resource for presenting information in specific ways and shaping audience interpretations.

3. Nominalization in Political Discourse

In political discourse, nominalization is often used to discuss policies, achievements, challenges, and social issues. Political leaders frequently employ nominalized forms to present complex issues as objective realities rather than as actions performed by particular individuals or institutions. Through nominalization, political discourse can appear more formal, authoritative, and persuasive. Therefore, analyzing nominalization can provide insights into how political leaders construct meanings and represent social realities.

E. Passivization

1. Definition of Passivization

Passivization refers to the use of passive constructions in which the focus of a clause is shifted from the actor to the action or the affected participant. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), passive voice is an important grammatical resource that enables speakers to organize information according to their communicative purposes. In passive constructions, the actor may be omitted entirely or placed in a less prominent position, while greater attention is directed toward the event or its outcome.

For example, the active sentence *The government implemented the policy* can be transformed into the passive sentence *The policy was implemented by the government*. In the passive form, the policy becomes the focus of attention rather than the government. This shift in emphasis can significantly affect how information is interpreted by audiences.

2. Functions of Passivization

Passivization serves several communicative functions. One of its primary functions is to emphasize actions, events, or results rather than the individuals responsible for them. In many contexts, the outcome of an action may be considered more important than the actor who performed it. Consequently, passive constructions allow speakers to direct audience attention toward specific aspects of a message.

Another important function of passivization is the backgrounding or omission of agency. When the actor is omitted, responsibility becomes less explicit. This feature is particularly useful in political discourse, where speakers may prefer to emphasize

achievements, challenges, or events rather than focusing on specific actors. Additionally, passive constructions contribute to a formal and impersonal style that is often associated with official communication.

3. Passivization in Political Discourse

Political leaders frequently use passive constructions to discuss national issues, government programs, and social challenges. Through passivization, attention can be directed toward policies and outcomes while reducing emphasis on individual responsibility. As a result, passive voice functions as a strategic linguistic resource for presenting information and influencing public interpretation of political events.

F. Modality

1. Definition of Modality

Modality is an important linguistic resource within the interpersonal metafunction of Systemic Functional Linguistics. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), modality refers to the expression of a speaker's judgment, attitude, commitment, or assessment regarding a proposition. Through modality, speakers can indicate degrees of certainty, probability, obligation, willingness, or necessity. Modal expressions such as *must*, *should*, *may*, *might*, and *will* are commonly used to convey these meanings.

Unlike nominalization and passivization, which are primarily associated with the representation of experience, modality focuses on the relationship between speakers and audiences. It reflects how speakers position themselves toward the information they communicate and how they seek to influence listeners or readers.

2. Types of Modality

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) classify modality into several categories. Probability refers to the likelihood that something will occur, while usuality refers to the frequency of an event. Obligation expresses necessity or duty, whereas inclination refers to willingness or commitment. These categories allow speakers to express varying degrees of certainty and authority in communication.

In political discourse, modality is often realized through modal verbs such as *must*, *should*, *can*, and *will*. These expressions enable political leaders to communicate promises, responsibilities, recommendations, and future plans. Consequently, modality plays a significant role in shaping audience perceptions and expectations.

3. Functions of Modality in Political Discourse

Modality performs several important functions in political communication. It enables leaders to express commitment toward policies and future actions, demonstrate confidence in proposed programs, and encourage public support. Through modality, political figures can also establish authority and strengthen persuasive messages. For example, the use of *will* may indicate a strong commitment to future action, whereas *must* may express obligation and collective responsibility.

Therefore, modality is a crucial feature of political speeches because it reveals how leaders communicate intentions, construct authority, and establish relationships with audiences. An analysis of modality can provide valuable insights into the ways political messages are formulated and conveyed in public discourse.

G. Political Discourse

Political discourse refers to the use of language in political contexts by political actors, institutions, and organizations to communicate ideas, policies, ideologies, and political objectives. According to Teun A. van Dijk (2008), political discourse is a form of social practice through which political actors exercise power, influence public opinion, and construct particular representations of social reality. Political discourse is not limited to political speeches but also includes debates, interviews, campaign messages, policy documents, and various forms of political communication.

Language plays a crucial role in political discourse because political actors rely on language to achieve their goals and establish legitimacy. Through language, politicians can present their visions, persuade audiences, justify policies, and promote particular values and ideologies. As a result, political discourse is often characterized by strategic linguistic choices that are intended to influence how audiences interpret social and political issues. These choices may involve vocabulary, grammatical structures, rhetorical devices, and other linguistic resources that contribute to the construction of meaning.

According to Ruth Wodak (2009), political discourse is closely associated with the construction of national identity, political legitimacy, and social cohesion. Political leaders frequently employ language to unite citizens, emphasize shared values, and encourage support for government policies. Consequently, political discourse becomes an important medium through which political actors establish relationships with the public and shape collective understandings of social reality.

Political speeches represent one of the most significant forms of political discourse. They provide political leaders with opportunities to

communicate directly with citizens and to articulate their visions, commitments, and policy priorities. Political speeches often contain persuasive messages designed to inspire confidence, strengthen public trust, and encourage collective action. Because of their public and strategic nature, political speeches are valuable sources of data for discourse analysis.

Among various types of political speeches, inaugural speeches hold a particularly important position. An inaugural speech is delivered by a newly elected leader at the beginning of a term of office and serves as a formal introduction to the administration's goals and priorities. Inaugural speeches typically present national challenges, future plans, policy commitments, and expressions of leadership. They also function as symbolic events that mark the transition of political power and communicate the direction of national governance.

From the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics, political discourse can be analyzed through the linguistic resources that speakers employ to construct meaning. Political leaders strategically use grammatical and lexical choices to represent experiences, express commitments, and persuade audiences. Features such as nominalization, passivization, and modality are particularly significant because they influence how events, responsibilities, and intentions are presented within discourse. Through these linguistic resources, politicians can shape public perceptions of social realities and political issues.

In the context of this study, President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech is regarded as a form of political discourse because it communicates political visions, national priorities, and commitments to the Indonesian people. As the first speech delivered after assuming the presidency, the inaugural speech serves as an important platform for

presenting governmental objectives and establishing leadership legitimacy. Therefore, analyzing nominalization, passivization, and modality in this speech can provide valuable insights into how meanings are constructed and how communicative purposes are achieved through language in political discourse.

H. Previous Studies

1. **Siahaan and Purba (2024)** conducted a study entitled *Modality in the Text of Jokowi's Speech in the Context of the Anniversary of Political Parties in Indonesia: Systemic Functional Linguistics Study*. The study aimed to identify and describe the use of modality in President Joko Widodo's political speeches delivered at the anniversaries of political parties in Indonesia. Employing a qualitative descriptive method and the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, the researchers analyzed modality markers used in the speeches. The findings revealed that modality was frequently utilized to express commitment, obligation, opinions, and attitudes toward political issues. The study concluded that modality plays a significant role in conveying interpersonal meanings and reflecting the speaker's stance in political discourse.
2. **Pasaribu, Setia, and Putri (2022)** conducted a study entitled *Nominalization in Priyanka Chopra's Selected Speeches*. The study investigated the types and realizations of nominalization found in several speeches delivered by Priyanka Chopra. Using a qualitative descriptive approach and the theory of nominalization within Systemic Functional Linguistics, the researchers found that nominalization was frequently employed to condense information and create a formal style of communication. The findings demonstrated

that nominalization contributes to the construction of abstract meanings and enhances the effectiveness of discourse.

3. **Darong (2022)** conducted a study entitled *Interpersonal Function of American Political Speech (Systemic Functional Linguistics Approach)*. The study examined interpersonal meanings in Barack Obama's victory speech through the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics. The findings indicated that modality, declarative clauses, and personal pronouns were strategically used to establish a close relationship between the speaker and the audience. The study concluded that interpersonal linguistic resources are important in constructing persuasive political messages and strengthening political communication.
4. **Darong (2021)** conducted a study entitled *Interpersonal Function of Joe Biden's Victory Speech: Systemic Functional Linguistics View*. The study focused on the interpersonal metafunction realized in Joe Biden's victory speech. Through the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics, the researcher analyzed the use of modality and other interpersonal features in the speech. The findings showed that interpersonal resources were effectively used to express commitment, optimism, and leadership. The study emphasized the importance of modality in influencing audiences and conveying political intentions.
5. **Kazemian and Hashemi (2014)** conducted a study entitled *Nominalizations in Scientific and Political Genres: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective*. The study compared the use of nominalization in scientific and political texts from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics. The findings revealed that nominalization was extensively used to create abstraction, compress

information, and construct authoritative discourse. Furthermore, the study demonstrated that nominalization serves as a powerful linguistic resource for representing ideas and shaping meanings in political communication.

Based on the previous studies above, it can be observed that most researchers focused on modality, nominalization, interpersonal meanings, and political discourse within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics. However, previous studies generally examined these linguistic features separately and employed different political speeches as research objects. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, limited studies have simultaneously investigated nominalization, passivization, and modality in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech. Therefore, the present study seeks to fill this gap by analyzing these three linguistic features and exploring how they contribute to meaning realization and communicative purposes in political discourse.

Table 2.1.
Types of Process

Process types	Category meaning	Example
Material: action	Doing, happening	The army shelled the innocent civilians.
Behavioral	Behaving	She wept for the loss of her mother.
Mental: Perception Affection, Cognition	Feeling, sensing emotive	I heard a noise outside. The girl loved her mother
Verbal	Saying	He described the procedure.
Relational	Being	Those apples are rotten
Existential	Existing	Maybe there's some other darker pattern.

The table above is adopted from Martin, Matthiessen and Painter, (1997), represent the process types and their category meanings with some examples in English. According to Fairclough (2003) and Woods (2006), many CDA studies successfully uncover political liability and the power hierarchy in social relations is features that specify linguistic choices such as nominalization and passive voicing. Fairclough had carried out discourse analysis that explores the use of syntactic transformations such as nominalization which is a development of Halliday's grammar.

I. Conceptual Framework

In this conceptual framework, President Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech is positioned as the primary object of analysis (text). The speech is analyzed through two main analytical approaches: Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and rhetorical strategies.

1. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Systemic Functional Linguistics is employed to examine how language functions to construct meaning in the inauguration speech.

The analysis focuses on the three metafunctions of language:

- a. Ideational metafunction, which explores how social reality, actions, and processes are represented through linguistic features such as nominalization and passivization.
- b. Interpersonal metafunction, which investigates how the relationship between the speaker (the President) and the audience (the public) is established through modality, attitude, and evaluative language.
- c. Textual metafunction, which analyzes how the speech is organized coherently and cohesively to deliver messages effectively and persuasively.

2. Rhetorical Strategies

In addition to linguistic analysis, this study also examines the rhetorical strategies employed in the inauguration speech. These strategies include the use of persuasive devices such as appeals to unity, nationalism, collective identity, and leadership legitimacy. The analysis of rhetorical strategies helps explain how the speech is structured to influence the audience, reinforce authority, and gain public support.

3. Outcomes of the Analysis

The integration of Systemic Functional Linguistics and rhetorical strategies provides a comprehensive understanding of:

- a. The meaning of President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech are realized through the use of nominalization, passivization, modality, and rhetorical strategies.
- b. The objectives intended to be achieved through the use of nominalization, passivization, modality, and rhetorical strategies in the inaugural speech.

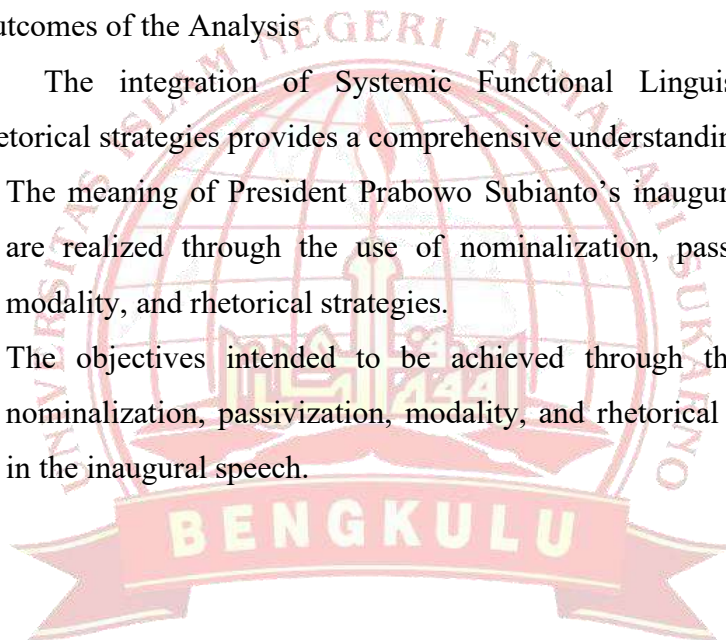


Figure 2.1
Conceptual Framework

