

# AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE FUNCTION USED BY PRESIDENT PRABOWO AT UN SPEECH IN 2025

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## **Abstract**

This study examines how language was used in President Prabowo's speech at the United Nations in 2025. The focus of this study is on the processes and forms of each language function employed by President Prabowo. This study employs a qualitative methodology, specifically utilizing qualitative descriptive analysis to analyze the data obtained through the researcher's literature review and bibliographic study. The theoretical framework draws on Roman Jakobson's theory of language functions. The findings reveal the presence of various language functions employed in the speech. The language functions used in President Prabowo's speech at the UN General Assembly include the referential function, the emotive function, the conative function, the phatic function, the metalingual function, and the poetic function. The results of this study indicate that the speech contains all of Roman Jakobson's language functions: referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic. The use of these language functions helps construct a straightforward and easily understandable political message, which can strengthen Indonesia's diplomatic position on the world stage.

**Keywords:** *Language Function, President Prabowo, Roman Jakobson, Speech*

## **1. Introduction**

Language plays an important role in political communication and international diplomacy. On the national stage, language serves not only to convey facts but also to reinforce identity, gain legitimacy, build the image of the country, and influence public opinion and other political actors (Fairclough, 1995). Speeches by heads of state at international forums such as the United Nations (UN) are a form of strategic communication designed for a global audience, including state leaders, diplomats, international organizations, and the international public. Therefore, the use of linguistic functions is a key aspect that determines the success of diplomatic messages (Firdaus, 2018).

The speech of the President of the Republic of Indonesia at the 2025 UN

General Assembly is a very important object of study because it was delivered in the context of complex global dynamics, including issues of international conflict, peace efforts, global economic pressures, and demands for multilateral cooperation. Speeches delivered at forums such as the UN are officially available and serve as material for analyzing political discourse and diplomacy. In this context, discourse analysis allows researchers to explore how elements of speech (lexical choices, sentence structure, rhetorical figures, and argumentation strategies) are oriented toward specific communicative goals. This study is of particular interest because President Prabowo's speech at the 2025 UN General Assembly contained numerous implicit messages, which will be further analyzed using

Roman Jakobson's theory by examining the linguistic structure employed by President Prabowo.

Roman Jakobson's approach to language function is considered relevant for analyzing state speeches because Jakobson formulated six main functions of language, namely referential, emotive (expressive), conative, physis, metalingual, and poetic, which are directly related to the elements of communication: context, speaker, receiver, contact, code, and message. Analysis using this framework helps to trace the orientation of communication (e.g., presentation of facts, expression of attitudes, calls to action, maintenance of communicative relations, clarification of codes, or affirmation of style) that appears in political speeches (Wodak, 2018). Recent theoretical studies also reaffirm the relevance of Jakobson's concept of language function in the analysis of contemporary speeches (Mukminin et al., 2024). Although, research applying Jakobson's framework to speeches delivered at international multilateral forums remains very limited. Most existing studies of language function focus on election speeches, inaugural addresses, or presidential candidate debates at the domestic level, such as the analysis of the 2024 presidential candidate debates (Soegiarto et al., 2025). As for studies of speeches at the UN General Assembly, most have used a critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach based on Fairclough or Van Dijk, without specifically applying Jakobson's framework of language function.

Thus, there is a clear gap in the literature: no study has specifically analyzed the functions of language in the Indonesian President's speech at the UN General Assembly using Roman Jakobson's six-function theory of language. Therefore, this study is expected to fill the research gap with the

following objectives. The research objectives of this study are to analyze the functions of language according to Roman Jakobson, used by President Prabowo in his speech at the UN 2025, to identify the most dominant functions and discuss the linguistic implications for Indonesia's diplomatic strategy.

This study aims to understand and describe the function of language in diplomacy through President Prabowo's speech, because language is the main means of effective communication between countries in international forums. This study will answer the types of language functions used by President Prabowo in his speech at the UN, how these types of language functions are realized and described in the speech, and how the use of language functions can strengthen political messages. The objectives of this study are to describe the types of language functions used by President Prabowo in his speech at the UN, describe the realization of the types of language functions in the speech, and describe how the use of language functions can strengthen political messages. The results of this analysis are expected to contribute theoretically to the study of political linguistics and practically to the understanding of linguistic strategies in diplomatic communication, while also complementing the current literature (2021-2025), which has yet to touch on a detailed analysis of Jakobson's functions in Indonesian state speeches at the UN stage.

## 2. Literature Review

In linguistic studies and discourse analysis, Roman Jakobson's theory of language functions is regarded as a highly relevant framework for uncovering the communicative purpose and orientations of a text or utterance, including in the context of political speeches. Jakobson argued that every

verbal message, in essence, does not merely fulfill a single function but constitutes a hierarchy of functions in which one function is dominant and determines the overall character of the message, while the other functions remain present in a subordinate role (Linask, 2018).

The referential function is oriented toward the context of the message and serves to convey factual, objective, and cognitive information about situations, objects, or conditions in the real world. This function is the one most commonly associated with language because it aims to describe reality in a denotative manner, such as when someone states a fact or explains an event to their conversation partner. The emotive function is oriented toward the speaker (addresser) and aims to directly express the speaker's attitude, feelings, or views regarding what is being discussed. The emotive function does not necessarily mean that the speaker actually feels those emotions in a subtle way. Jakobson explains that this function concerns how language is encoded to create the impression of a certain attitude or feeling on the part of the speaker, whether genuine or feigned.

The conative function is oriented toward the addressee and aims to encourage, influence, or prompt the addressee to do something or respond to the message being conveyed. The most characteristic grammatical expressions of this function are the vocative cases such as calling someone by name to get their attention—and imperative sentences, which distinguish it from the referential function. The phatic function is oriented toward communicative contact and serves to open, maintain, check, or close the channel of communication between the speaker and the recipient. Jakobson refers to the phatic function as the first language function mastered by children, because

they naturally tend to make communicative contact even before they are able to convey messages that are informative in nature.

The metalingual function focuses on the language code itself and is used when language is employed to discuss, explain, or define the elements of language itself. This function encompasses various everyday situations, such as checking whether the speaker and the listener understand a word in the same way, providing a definition of a term, or clarifying the intended meaning, thereby enabling mutual understanding in communication. Jakobson regards the metalinguistic function as a unique achievement of human language not found in other sign systems, as this ability allows humans to speak about abstract, fictional, and even things not tied to the immediate situational context. The poetic function is oriented toward the message itself, that is, making the message the goal and center of attention for its own aesthetic value, not merely as a means of conveying information. This function is not limited to literary works or poetry alone but is present as a constitutive element in all verbal activities, including speeches, slogans, and everyday conversation; it is only in poetry that this function becomes dominant.

In the past five years, there have been a number of relevant studies: discourse/state address analysis studies and language function analysis studies that apply or adopt Jakobson's language function framework (or other equivalent function theories) to Indonesian political speeches and the current political communication context. For example, several studies from 2024-2025 analyze the function of political speeches in domestic and international contexts, highlighting the dominance of referential and conative functions of

state speeches and the role of phatic and poetic functions in persuasion and framing strategies (Soegiarto et al., 2025). In addition, critical studies of President Prabowo's 2025 speeches in the form of critical discourse analysis and pragmatic studies show a focus on mapping national identity and legitimizing foreign policy, but few have systematically categorized each sequence according to Jakobson's six functions (Michaelson, 2024).

In addition, several studies have been conducted on similar themes. Research conducted by Mohamed Hmouma (2025), "*Analyzing Trump's 2025 Inaugural Address Using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Model*", focuses on analyzing the rhetorical strategies, discursive structures, and language functions used by Trump in his speech. The results of the study show that logos (logic and argumentation), ethos (credibility), and pathos (emotion) are the most common rhetorical appeals in Trump's speeches. A 2020 study by Fauzi Usrya Kanaza, entitled "*A Language Function: The Analysis of the Conative Function in Meghan Markle's Speech*", the focus of this study is to identify and analyzing the types of linguistic functions used in Meghan Markle's speech. This study also aims to determine which linguistic functions appear most frequently. Specifically, this study highlights the conative function as the most dominant. In addition, this study examines how other functions, such as emotive, referential, phatic, and poetic functions, also appear in the speech. Research entitled "*Prabowo Subianto's Leadership in His Speech at the 80<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly: A Rhetorical Analysis of Ethos, Pathos, and Logos*", analyzed by Giovannesandesva & Hasnah (2025), raised the topic of rhetorical analysis of President Prabowo's speech at the UN General

Assembly in 2025 using Aristotelian theory approach, which includes ethos, pathos, and logos to examine how these speeches have helped Indonesia strengthen its political legitimacy, solidarity, humanitarianism, and arguments regarding international policy. This study found that President Prabowo's speech demonstrated that the use of effective rhetorical strategies can showcase and strengthen Indonesia's image as a global actor.

Based on this literature review, there is a clear research gap. Even though there are many new studies on political discourse and rhetoric (2021-2025), few explicitly apply Jakobson's framework of language functions to analyze President Prabowo's speech at the UN in 2025 with a systematic approach, namely, qualifying and describing the representation of each function, tracing its relationship with diplomatic objectives, and linking it to the international political context at the time the speech was delivered (Kanaza, 2020).

### 3. Research Method

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze the functions of language in President Prabowo Subianto's speech at the United Nations (UN) forum. A qualitative approach was chosen because this study focuses on interpreting meaning and the context of language use, rather than on numerical data. Qualitative research aims to understand and interpret the meanings constructed by individuals or groups regarding a social phenomenon (Gulo & Satria, 2025). The data source for this study is the official transcript of President Prabowo Subianto's speech at the UN forum in 2025. The research data consists of linguistic units such as words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that convey language functions.

Data collection was conducted through a documentary study using non-participatory observation, in which the researcher carefully read speech texts and identified sections containing language functions. This technique refers to a non-participatory observation method carried out by observing the subject without direct involvement and recording data based on the context in which it appears. In addition, the data collection process was carried out by repeatedly reading (intensively) and selecting sections containing linguistic phenomena relevant for analysis (Sugiyono, 2016)

In this study, the researchers served as the primary instrument, aided by a data recording sheet to classify the findings. The researchers identified data based on linguistic structure and contextual meaning emerging from the text. Data analysis was conducted qualitatively using Roman Jakobson's theory of language functions. The data collection method used in this study included a literature review and a review of relevant sources. The researchers identified several pieces of field data relevant to the study, which were then classified into specific categories for analysis based on their contextual application, in order to gain a deeper understanding of President Prabowo's speech at the UN General Assembly. The analysis process involves several stages: reducing the data by recording it carefully and in detail, presenting the data by summarizing it concisely, and drawing conclusion – meaning the findings can take the form of a description or portrayal of an object that was previously vague or unclear, but becomes clearer after being examined (Sugiyono, 2016). This may involve causal or interactive relationships, hypotheses or theories identify data containing language functions, classify data based on the type of language

function, describe the linguistic realization of each function, and interpret the meaning and role of language functions in reinforcing political messages in speeches. The results of the analysis are then presented descriptively, including data excerpts as supporting evidence, thereby providing a clear picture of the use of linguistic functions in the context of diplomatic communication.

## **4. Result and Discussion**

### **4.1 Results**

The results of the analysis of language functions in the speeches are presented in this section. The results show that the speakers strategically used various language functions according to Roman Jakobson, namely referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic, to create a powerful, persuasive, and rhetorically meaningful political message.

#### **4.1.1 Referential Function**

Referential function is oriented toward the context of the message and serves to convey factual, objective, and cognitive information about situations, objects, or conditions in the real world. This function is the one most commonly associated with language because it aims to describe reality in a denotative manner, such as when someone states a fact or explains an event to their conversation partner.

#### **4.1.2. Emotive Function**

Emotive function is oriented toward the speaker (addresser) and aims to directly express the speaker's attitude, feelings, or views regarding what is being discussed. The emotive function does not necessarily mean that the speaker actually feels those emotions in a subtle way. Jakobson explains that this function concerns how language is

encoded to create the impression of a certain attitude or feeling on the part of the speaker, whether genuine or feigned.

#### 4.1.3 Conative Function

Conative function is oriented toward the addressee and aims to encourage, influence, or prompt the addressee to do something or respond to the message being conveyed. The most characteristic grammatical expressions of this function are the vocative case—such as calling someone by name to get their attention—and imperative sentences, which distinguish it from the referential function.

#### 4.1.4 Phatic Function

Phatic function is oriented toward communicative contact and serves to open, maintain, check, or close the channel of communication between the speaker and the recipient. Jakobson refers to the phatic function as the first language function mastered by children, because they naturally tend to make communicative contact even before they are able to convey messages that are informative in nature.

#### 4.1.5 Metalingual Function

Metalingual function focuses on the language code itself and is used when language is employed to discuss, explain, or define the elements of language itself. This function encompasses various everyday situations, such as checking whether the speaker and the listener understand a word in the same way, providing a definition of a term, or clarifying the intended meaning, thereby enabling mutual understanding in communication. Jakobson regards the metalinguistic function as a unique achievement of human language not found in other sign systems, as this ability allows humans to speak about abstract, fictional, and even things not tied to the immediate situational context.

#### 4.1.6 Poetic Function

Poetic function is oriented toward the message itself, that is, making the message the goal and center of attention for its own aesthetic value, not merely as a means of conveying information. This function is not limited to literary works or poetry alone but is present as a constitutive element in all verbal activities, including speeches, slogans, and everyday conversation; it is only in poetry that this function becomes dominant.

### 4.2 Discussion

#### 4.2.1 Referential Function

##### Data 1:

*This year, Indonesia recorded the highest rice production and grain reserves in our history.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “This year, Indonesia recorded the highest rice production and grain reserves in our history” is important. This is because the sentence is used to state the facts about the situation in Indonesia. The sentence focuses on verifiable information and achievements. This can be proven by the inclusion of specific details, namely “this year”, and statements about production results. The main purpose of the sentence is to convey facts, as well as to enhance Indonesia’s reputation in the eyes of the world, because the sentence does not use emotion or specific appeals. In Jakobson’s theory of the novel, this information falls under the referential function because the sentence states that during this period, the Republic of Indonesia recorded the highest levels of rice production and feed reserves in its history.

##### Data 2:

*Today, Indonesia is nearer than ever before to meeting the*

*Sustainable Development Goals of ending extreme poverty and hunger — because years ago this very chamber chose to listen and uphold social and economic justice.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “Today, Indonesia is nearer than ever before to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of ending extreme poverty and hunger – because years ago this very chamber chose to listen and uphold social and economic justice” shows a referential function. This is because it is used to provide information about Indonesia’s current situation. The speaker says that Indonesia is close to achieving its global goals, especially ending extreme poverty and hunger. This is all part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sentence is also informative and explains cause and effect. The word “today” marks the present time. Meanwhile, the part “because years ago this very chamber chose to listen and uphold social and economic justice” explains the background of the achievement or why it happened. Thus, the language is used to explain social conditions and rules, not to express feelings or give orders.

In speeches at the UN, this referential function is important for making listeners from various countries understand Indonesia’s development. It also serves to emphasize that the decisions and values agreed upon at the UN have a real impact. Therefore, this sentence helps build trust and recognition for Indonesia. Indonesia is considered to be serious about implementing global development plans.

**Data 3:**

*We differ in race, religion, and nationality, yet we gather together today as one human*

*family.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “We differ in race, religion, and nationality, yet we gather together today as one human family” shows a referential function because it conveys a real picture of the social conditions of humans in the world. This sentence explains the fact that humans have different backgrounds, such as race, religion, and nationality. However, they can still gather and unite in one common forum.

The main focus of this sentence is to explain the situation and social reality. It is not about the speaker’s personal feelings or a direct appeal. The words “we differ” indicate existing differences, while the phrase “we gather together today” explains the concrete conditions at the time the speech was delivered. In the context of a speech at the United Nations, this referential function helps the audience understand the reality of global diversity and the basis for unity that underpins international cooperation.

**4.2.2 Emotive Function**

**Data 1:**

*Human folly, fueled by fear, racism, hatred, oppression, and apartheid, threatens our common future.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The phrase “human folly” expresses the speaker’s disappointment and moral criticism of human behavior. It is not merely information, but an emotional judgment. Words such as fear, racism, hatred, oppression, and apartheid have strong emotional connotations. The use of these words increases feelings of concern, anger, and condemnation of these practices. The phrase “threatens our common future” aims to touch the listener’s feelings, especially anxiety

and shared responsibility for the future. This sentence reflects the speaker's personal attitude of rejecting all forms of discrimination and oppression. Its main function is not to explain facts, but to express moral attitudes and emotions. The sentence uses emotive functions to voice concern and emotional condemnation of human behavior driven by hatred and injustice. It also invites listeners to be aware of the dangers that threaten our common future.

**Data 2:**

*We live in a time when hatred and violence can seem to be the loudest voices. But beneath this loud noise lies a quieter truth: That every person longs to be safe, to be respected, to be loved, and to leave a better world to their children.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “We live in a time when hatred and violence can seem to be the loudest voices. But beneath this loud noise lies a quieter truth: That every person longs to be safe, to be respected, to be loved, and to leave a better world to their children.” has an emotive function because the speaker conveys their feelings, attitudes, and emotional views about the developing world. In the first sentence, the phrase “hatred and violence can seem to be the loudest voices” expresses the speaker's concern about the prevalence of hatred and violence in global life. The choice of words “loudest voices” conveys the strong emotional effect of negative judgments that seem to overshadow human existence.

In the second sentence, the speaker emotionally leads the listener to see another, deeper side of global life with the phrase “a quieter truth”. This expression, which conveys hope and sympathy, shows that humans share the same desires. In this sentence, the speaker touches the listener's feelings by

mentioning the basic human needs to “be safe, be respected, be loved,” as well as the desire to “leave a better world to their children,” which resembles universal human values and the instinct to love children.

**Data 3:**

*We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship, great wisdom, restraint, humility, overcome hate, overcome suspicion.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship, great wisdom, restraint, humility, overcome hate, overcome suspicion” can be identified as a sentence that realizes an emotive function because it expresses the emotional feelings and hopes of the quoter towards world leaders. Even the phrase “we are all hopeful” contains a hopeful meaning. In addition, the phrase “we are all hopeful” also shows the emotional participation of the speaker with the recipient of the message. The word “all” emphasizes the existence of collective hope, which contains a sense of shared feeling, not just a personal opinion.

In addition, the use of the phrase “great statesmanship, great wisdom, restraint, humility” contains strong moral values and expresses both admiration and hope for world leaders. Even the use of the word “great” twice emphasizes a stronger emotional meaning and shows how important it is to the speaker. Meanwhile, the phrase “overcome hate, overcome suspicion” contains emotional meaning that expresses a desire to see a more peaceful and trusting world, as well as expressing rejection of negative emotions. From the above analysis, it can be concluded that

the sentence expressed in the example above contains emotional meaning that expresses hope for wise and humane world leadership.

#### 4.2.3 Conative Function

##### Data 1:

*We must have an independent Palestine, but we must also, we must also recognize, we must also respect, and we must also guarantee the safety and security of Israel.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

This sentence can be considered a conative sentence because the speaker explicitly directs and encourages the listener to do something to the target audience, namely, world leaders and the international community. This can be seen from the repeated use of the words “we must” in the sentence, which can be considered a strong invitation with a tone of obligation rather than an opinion or information. By using this sentence, the speaker emphasizes the importance of certain political actions and attitudes that must be taken together. The repetition of the words “we must also” can be said to be a persuasive repetition to the listener to not only pay attention to one thing, but to pay attention to two things that have the same high level of politeness. This can be said to be an attempt by the speaker to direct the listener’s way of thinking and behavior so that they have a fair and balanced way of thinking and behaving.

In addition, the words recognize, respect, and guarantee can be said to be a form of indirect command that encourages the listener to do something, so it can be said to be a conative sentence. Overall, the conative function in this sentence is used to influence the audience in terms of attitude, decision, and action in the context of international

politics. The speaker not only expresses his personal opinion but also persuasively invites the audience to take moral and political responsibility to achieve a just peace by guaranteeing the rights and security of both parties.

##### Data 2:

*Let us use science to uplift, not use science to destroy. Let rising nations help others to live themselves.*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “Let us use science to uplift, not use science to destroy. Let rising nations help others to live themselves” is an example of the realization of the conative role, because the speaker explicitly calls on and influences the listener to take certain actions. The phrase “let us” is an example of a persuasive invitation, which involves both the speaker and the listener, making it sound inclusive and motivating joint participation.

The first sentence contains the phrase “use science to uplift, not use science to destroy”, which describes the action contained in the sentence, namely the action of using science for humanitarian and development purposes. In this phrase, there is a contrast between the words uplift and destroy, encouraging the listener to take positive action. Meanwhile, the phrase let rising nations help others to live themselves sounds like a moral encouragement for rising nations to play an active role in helping others achieve independence. Overall, the conative role in the sentence aims to direct the behavior and actions of the audience to use science responsibly and build global solidarity. The message is conveyed in a subtle yet firm manner, with the hope that it will influence the listener’s actions in a more humane and just manner.

**Data 3:**

*We must stand for a multilateral order where peace, prosperity, and progress are not the privilege of a few but the right of all. (<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)*

The sentence “We must stand for a multilateral order where peace, prosperity, and progress are not the privilege of a few but the right of all” realizes the conative function because the speaker explicitly invites and encourages the audience to take a certain stance and action. The use of the phrase “we must” indicates a strong appeal with moral obligation, directing listeners not to be passive but to actively support the proposed world order.

The expression stands for a multilateral order that serves as a direct encouragement for the audience to support and fight for a fair system of international cooperation. Meanwhile, the explanation that peace, prosperity, and progress are not the privilege of a few but the right of all reinforces this invitation by providing a moral argument that appeals to a sense of justice. The contrast between the privilege of a few and the right of all is used to influence the listener’s attitude to reject inequality and support global equality. Overall, the conative function in this sentence aims to influence the audience’s attitudes, views, and actions to commit to global peace and justice through multilateral cooperation. This sentence not only conveys ideas but also motivates listeners to take a stand and act in the common interest of humanity.

**4.2.4 Phatic Function**

**Data 1:**

*His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;*

*Her Excellency Madam Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly; His Excellency Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Management; (<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)*

The order of greetings “His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations; Her Excellency Madam Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly; His Excellency Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Management” serves a phatic function because it is used by the speaker to open, maintain, and affirm communication with the audience before delivering the main content of the speech. In this section, the speaker has not yet presented the core information, but rather focuses on ensuring that the communication channel between the speaker and the audience is well established.

The use of honorific titles such as “His Excellency” and “Her Excellency” serves as a form of politeness and respect, which is socially important for creating a formal and conducive atmosphere for communication. By greeting each important figure individually, the speaker shows recognition of their presence, so that the audience feels valued and involved in the communication situation. Overall, the phatic function in this section serves to attract the audience’s attention, build social closeness, and create a positive communication atmosphere. Through this formal greeting, the speaker ensures that the communication interaction can begin well, so that the main message to be conveyed next can be better received.

**Data 2:**

*Wassalamu'alaikum  
warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,  
Syalom,  
Om santi santi santi om,  
Namo Buddhaya,  
Thank you very  
much.* (<https://www.setneg.go.id/>  
)

The series of expressions “Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Shalom, Om santi santi santi om, Namo Buddhaya, Thank you very much” fulfill a phatic function because they are used by speakers to maintain and close communication with the audience politely and harmoniously. These expressions are not intended to convey new information, but rather serve as a social tool to strengthen the communication bond between the speaker and the listener. The use of various greetings from different religious and cultural backgrounds shows the speaker’s effort to greet and embrace the entire audience broadly. This creates an atmosphere of togetherness, mutual respect, and shows social dynamics towards the diversity of the audience. This can also be seen in the expression “Thank you very much”, which serves as a closing that marks the end of the speech while maintaining politeness and smoothness in the interaction.

Overall, the phatic function in this sequence of sentences serves to ensure smooth and harmonious communication, both at the conclusion and in maintaining social relations between the speaker and the audience. Through these greetings and expressions of gratitude, the speaker emphasizes that the communication ends with respect and familiarity.

#### 4.2.5 Metalingual Function

##### Data 1:

*All men are created equal was the  
creed that opened the way to  
unprecedented global prosperity and  
dignity.* (<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “All men are created equal” was the creed that opened the way to unprecedented global prosperity and dignity.” It fulfills a metalingual function because the speaker uses language to express language itself, specifically by referring to a famous saying or statement. The quote “All men are created equal” is not used as a direct statement, but rather as an object of discussion, namely as a creed (principle or belief). By mentioning and explaining the meaning and impact of this expression, the speaker helps the audience understand the meaning, function, and significance of a linguistic statement in its historical and social context. The speaker is not only conveying a moral message but also explaining how a sentence or principle formulated in a particular language can influence human thinking and the development of civilization.

Overall, the metalingual function in this sentence serves to interpret and explain the meaning of a linguistic expression, so that the audience has a common understanding of the terms or statements used. In this way, language is used to clarify language, which is the main characteristic of the metalingual function.

##### Data 2:

*gave Indonesia independence,  
international legitimacy, opened doors,  
and supported our early development  
through the efforts of the UN Children's  
Fund (UNICEF), the UN Food and  
Agriculture Organization (FAO), and  
the World Health Organization (WHO).*  
(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “gave Indonesia independence international legitimacy, opened doors, and supported our early development through the efforts of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO)” fulfills a metalingual function because the speaker uses language to explain and clarify the terms and institutions mentioned in that language itself. The mention of international institutions accompanied by their full names and abbreviations – UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) – aims to ensure that the audience clearly understands the meaning and reference of these terms.

Through this explanation, the speaker helps the audience understand what the international abbreviations mean. Language not only serves to convey historical information about international support for Indonesia, but also serves to explain the language itself, namely, the names and full forms of institutions. This is especially important in the context of international speeches with diverse audiences. Overall, the metalingual function in this sentence serves to avoid misunderstandings, clarify terms, and ensure uniformity of understanding among the audience. Thus, the main message can be received accurately because the language used has been explained through the language itself.

#### 4.2.6 Poetic Function

##### Data 1:

*Thucydides warned: “The strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must.”* (<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “Thucydides warned: ‘The strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must,’” fulfills a poetic

function because the main focus is on how the information is structured and formulated, not the information itself. In this sentence, the selected information is presented in a short, concise, balanced sentence, giving it a strong aesthetic and rhetorical beauty. The form of sentence, consisting of two phrases, “the strong do what they can” and “the weak suffer what they must,” has a rhythm and balance of language that makes the information sharp and memorable. Not only that, but the contrast between “the strong” and “the weak” indicates an imbalance of power that needs to be addressed, while also strengthening the emotional power and critical meaning of the information. Thus, the poetic function appears to play a role in “affirming information” through the beauty and precision of language. With good word arrangement and clear contrast, the statement not only conveys a warning but also serves as a rhetorical force that makes the statement more meaningful and relevant to the reader.

##### Data 2:

*We must draw closer, not drift further apart.*

*Together we must strive to achieve our hopes, our dreams*

(<https://www.setneg.go.id/>)

The sentence “We must draw closer, not drift further apart. Together we must strive to achieve our hopes, our dreams” fulfills a poetic function because the speaker shows great attention to the form of language and its expressive power, so that the message conveyed sounds beautiful, rhythmic, and memorable. Language is not only used as a means of communication, but also to produce aesthetic and rhetorical effects. In the first sentence, there is a clear contrast between “draw closer” and “drift further apart”. The contrast between the two words enhances the meaning of unity and division by using

opposite words, so that the message conveyed feels sharp and poignant. The short and balanced sentence structure also adds to the power of the language's rhythm.

The sentence reinforces the poetic meaning by repeating the pronoun "our" in the phrase "our hopes, our dreams". Thus, repetition gives an impression of togetherness and harmonious rhythm. In addition, the word "together" is placed at the beginning of the sentence, giving emphasis and beauty to the sentence. From the sentence as a whole, the poetic meaning serves to reinforce the meaning of unity and working together with the beauty and regularity of language. With balance, contrast, and repetition, the message becomes more effective and memorable.

Based on the results of the analysis, various types of language functions according to Roman Jakobson are realized in speech through the choice of words, sentence structure, and rhetorical strategies that complement each other. Each language function appears in different linguistic forms according to the communicative purpose of the speaker.

The referential function is realized through statements that focus on facts, global conditions, and socio-political realities. The speaker conveys information about the world situation, issues of peace, security, development, and international cooperation in a relatively objective manner. Sentences containing this function are generally declarative and informative, aiming to provide context so that the audience understands the issues being discussed. Thus, the referential function serves as the basis for argumentation before the speaker conveys further attitudes or appeals. In the speech delivered by President Prabowo at the 2025 UN

conference, this can be found in the sentence "For centuries, Indonesians lived under colonial domination, oppression, and slavery" and " This year, Indonesia recorded the highest rice production and grain reserves in our history". This sentence clearly illustrates the use of the referential function because it contains indications that have been analyzed as relating to the social conditions occurring in Indonesia itself.

The emotive function is realized through the use of evaluative and emotional expressions that reflect the speaker's attitudes and feelings towards global issues. Value-laden words, such as condemnation of hatred, violence, and injustice, are used to convey concern and hope. In this way, the speaker not only conveys facts but also expresses moral attitudes that they want the audience to feel. In President Prabowo's state address at the 2025 UN conference, the emotive function can be found in the sentence "Human folly, fueled by fear, racism, hatred, oppression, and apartheid, threatens our common future" and "We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship, great wisdom, restraint, humility, overcome hate, overcome suspicion". In accordance with the theory used, this sentence clearly illustrates how the emotive function is used.

The conative function is manifested through invitations and exhortations that directly direct the audience toward certain attitudes and actions. The use of modal forms such as *we must* and *let us* shows a strong encouragement for the audience to act collectively. This sentence structure places the audience as an active party responsible for realizing the message being conveyed. In President Prabowo's speech at the 2025 UN conference, there is a sentence that clearly illustrates how this conative function is used, namely in the sentence

“Let us use science to uplift, not use science to destroy. Let rising nations help others to live themselves” and “We must stand for a multilateral order where peace, prosperity, and progress are not the privilege of a few but the right of all”. This became the basis for the author’s analysis to classify it into this conative function.

The phatic function is realized through formal greetings, opening remarks, and closing remarks that serve to maintain smooth communication interactions. The use of honorary titles, interfaith greetings, and expressions of gratitude is used to build harmonious social relationships and ensure the audience’s attention before and after the delivery of the main message. The phatic function can also be found in President Prabowo’s state address at the 2025 UN conference, specifically in this sentence: “His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations; Her Excellency Madam Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly; His Excellency Mr. Moses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Management”.

The metalingual function is evident in the use of language to explain terms, quotations, and abbreviations used in speeches. The mention of famous expressions and explanations of the full names of international institutions aim to align the audience’s understanding of the language code used, especially in the context of international forums with diverse backgrounds. In President Prabowo’s state address at the 2025 UN conference, this function can be found in the sentence “All men are created equal’ was the creed that opened the way to unprecedented global prosperity and dignity”. After analysis, this sentence encompasses the entire meaning of this function.

Meanwhile, poetic function is realized through the use of aesthetic and rhetorical language structures, such as parallelism, repetition, and contrast of meaning. Short sentences with balanced structures and plays on opposing meanings are used to strengthen the memorability and impact of the message, so that the main ideas of the speech feel stronger and more memorable. In President Prabowo’s state address at the 2025 UN conference, there are sentences that, after analysis based on this theory, clearly fall under the poetic function, including “We must draw closer, not drift further apart. Together we must strive to achieve our hopes, our dreams”.

Based on the results of the analysis, the use of various language functions according to Roman Jakobson has been proven to significantly strengthen the political message in speeches. The referential function provides a factual and contextual basis so that political messages sound rational and are logically acceptable. The emotive function helps convey the speaker’s attitudes and feelings, such as concern and hope, which build the audience’s emotional involvement. The conative function plays a role in directing and encouraging the audience to behave and act in accordance with the message being conveyed.

In addition, the phatic function creates good communication through greetings and closing remarks, so that the audience feels valued and more open to political messages. The metalingual function ensures common understanding by explaining important terms and concepts, so that the message is clear and does not cause misinterpretation. Meanwhile, the poetic function reinforces the appeal of the message through the choice of words and a

beautiful, concise, and memorable language structure. Overall, the combination of these various linguistic functions makes the political message clearer, more persuasive, emotional, and memorable, and helps speakers build moral legitimacy and audience support for the ideas being conveyed.

## 5. Conclusion

From several facts in the field and discussions presented by the author regarding the analysis of President Prabowo's use of language at the 2025 UN forum, this article concludes that in President Prabowo's state address, the use of language analyzed using Roman Jakobson's theory can be found. This analysis covers the use of almost all of the functions formulated by Roman Jakobson, including the referential function, emotive function, conative function, phatic function, metalingual function, and poetic function. From this, the speech delivered by President Prabowo can then be considered to have messages that characterize the identity of the Indonesian state. In addition, academically, this study aims to describe the types of language functions used by President Prabowo in his speech at the UN, describe the realization of the types of language functions in the speech, and describe how the use of language functions can strengthen political messages. The researchers recommended several measures aimed at deepening students understanding and insights to guide them toward a more critical and inclusive perspective, namely improving the quality of education and enhancing the existing curriculum by leveraging modern technology to support a more competent and well-rounded education.

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