The Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning of Barack Obama’s
Presidential Campaign Speeches in 2012

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摘要

人際功能一詞來自於韓禮德的系統功能語法。作為語言的三大元功能之一，人際功能是指語言能夠讓我們參與交流活動，建立和維持社會關係，表達說話者的觀點並影響和改變聽者的觀點和行為。本論文選取四篇美國總統奧巴馬的演說詞作為語料樣本進行分析，韓禮德的系統功能語法為框架，採取定量和定性相結合的分析方法，通過對語氣、情態、人稱和時態系統四個方面的研究，探究奧巴馬在不同場合下展現出得不同的人際功能的實現形式。研究結果表明，從語氣系統方面來看，陳述語氣占主導地位，其次是祈使語氣和疑問語氣。在奧巴馬的演講中，奧巴馬需要給觀眾提供大量的信息，因此，大量使用陳述語氣來表明自己的政治觀點和立場。同時，祈使語句的使用，尤其是“let us”結構的使用，可以避免直接命令，也使得奧巴馬更容易操控話題的主導權；此外，奧巴馬使用少量的疑問語氣來激發聽者的興趣，從而強調他要傳遞的信息。從情態系統方面來看，在情態三級值中，中量值占主導地位，其次是高量值和低量值。奧巴馬使用中高量值有助於提高演講內容的可信度，從而提高說服力。從人稱來看，奧巴馬使用了inclusive-we和exclusive-we，巧妙的將聽眾包含在內，拉近了與聽眾之間的距離。同時，他還利用第二人稱you，突顯聽者的重要性以及彰顯自身的權威地位。此外，時態系統的巧妙運用也使用奧巴馬同聽者之間建立起了和諧的關係。本論文有助於理解奧巴馬再次競選總統演講的特色，也有助於提高英語演講能力，以及為英語教學提供了一定的啟發意義。

關鍵詞：人際意義；語氣；情態；人稱；時態；奧巴馬演講
Abstract

Interpersonal metafunction is a term in Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar. As one of three core metafunctions, the interpersonal metafunction means language can help us participate in communication, establish and maintain social relationship, express the speaker’s opinions, and influence or even change the audiences’ views and behaviors. For this purpose, four speeches of Barack Obama were chosen as samples in the present study. Based on the framework of Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar, both quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted as analyzing tools in order to make a detailed study. The present study includes analyses from mood, modality, personal pronouns and tense system, which studies the realizations of the interpersonal metafunction in different occasions. The results show that, in terms of the mood system, the declarative mood is in dominant place, followed by the imperative mood and the interrogative mood. In the four sample speeches, Barack Obama needed to provide a large amount of information, thus he had to use the declarative mood for many times to demonstrate his political ideas and stances. And the uses of the imperative mood, especially the “let us” structure, can avoid giving commands directly, which also helps Barack Obama to manipulate the topics easily; besides, Barack Obama uses a few interrogatives to arouse the audiences’ interests so as to emphasize his ideas. In modality system, the median modal expressions accounts for the greatest portion among the three scales, followed by high and low modal expressions. Obama uses median and high modal expressions to strengthen the reliability of his speech. In personal pronoun system, Obama uses inclusive-we and exclusive-we wisely, which shortens the distance between the speaker and his audience. In the meantime, he uses the second personal pronoun you many times in order to show the audience’s importance and his
own stance. The usage of the tense system also helps establish a harmonious relationship between Obama and his audience. The present study do a great help to get a comprehensible understanding about Barack Obama’s features in re-election campaign speeches, which also improves readers’ skills in making speeches. The present study also provides some guidance about the English teaching.

Keywords: interpersonal metafunction; mood; modality; personal pronoun; tense; Barack Obama’s re-election campaign speech
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