



**THESIS**

**NOMINALIZATIONS IN DONALD TRUMP'S 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 SPEECH:  
A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR APPROACH**

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
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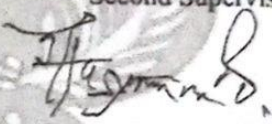
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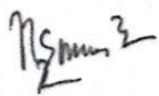
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**THESIS**  
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A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR APPROACH**

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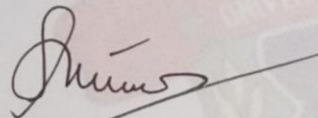
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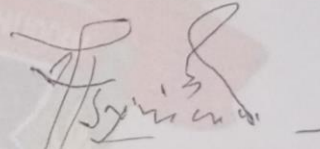
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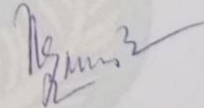
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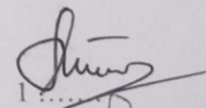
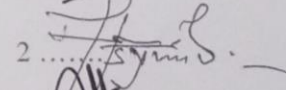
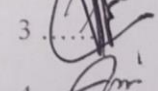
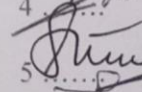
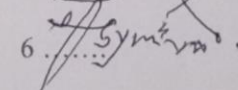
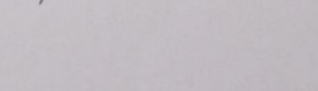
**AGREEMENT**

Today, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the Board of Examination has kindly approved a thesis by MUHAMMAD IQBAL ABDULLAH (F041171329) entitled, **NOMINALIZAITONS IN DONALD TRUMP'S 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 SPEECH: A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR APPROACH**, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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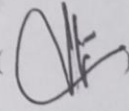
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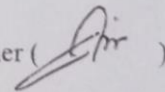
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Yang Menyatakan,  
  
Muhammad Iqbal Abdullah

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Makassar, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023  
The Writer,

Muhammad Iqbal Abdullah

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## ABSTRAK

**Muhammad Iqbal Abdullah.** F041171329. “*Nominalisasi dalam Pidato Donald Trump 11 Maret 2020: Pendekatan Tata Bahasa Fungsional Sistematis*”. (Dibimbing oleh: **Simon Sitoto dan Husain Hasyim**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan menemukan berapa cakupan nominalisasi yang terkandung dalam pidato Donald Trump 11 Maret 2020, menentukan jenis-jenis nominalisasi yang terjadi, dan menjelaskan realisasi dari nominalisasi yang terjadi dalam pidato tersebut.

Analisis dilakukan berlandaskan pada pendekatan Tata Bahasa Fungsional Sistematis Halliday & Matthiessen (2014). Metode yang digunakan adalah metode analisis konten kuantitatif berdasar pada Krippendorf (2018) dan analisis data kualitatif Miles et al. (2014), dengan teknik pengumpulan data *simak* dan catatan (Mahsun, 2005), dan analisis data menggunakan Model Interaktif (Miles et al., 2014).

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan tiga hal penting. Pertama, penulis menemukan 51.59% dari total klausa dalam pidato Donald Trump 11 Maret 2020 mengandung nominalisasi. Kedua, penulis menemukan tiga dari empat jenis nominalisasi ditemukan dalam pidato Donald Trump 11 Maret 2020 dengan presentase 0% (frasa preposisi ke noun), 2,61% (konjungsi ke noun), 6,96% (adjektif ke noun), dan 90,43% (verb ke noun). Ketiga, penulis menemukan sepuluh fenomena terkait dengan realisasi nominalisasi dalam pidato Donald Trump 11 Maret 2020. Sepuluh hal tersebut adalah (1) nominalisasi yang tidak selalu memperpendek teks, (2) nominalisasi yang mengubah Proses atau Atribut ke Benda, (3) nominalisasi yang membantu memodifikasi verba nominal dengan Atribut, (4) nominalisasi yang mengubah Tema dari Aktor menjadi Proses yang sudah dinominalisasi, (5) nominalisasi yang memerlukan proses baru, (6) nominalisasi membantu pengorganisasian klausa, (7) nominalisasi dan bentuk kongruennya yang tidak selalu terkait secara morfologis, (8) nominalisasi yang menghapus partisipan, (9) nominalisasi yang tidak selalu mengharuskan penghapusan partisipan, dan (10) nominalisasi yang menggantikan klausa.

*Key words: nominalization, congruent, process, attribute, thing, conjunction, speech*



## ABSTRACT

**Muhammad Iqbal Abdullah.** F041171329. “*Nominalization in Donald Trump’s 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Speech*”. (Supervised by: **Simon Sitoto dan Husain Hasyim**)

This research aims to determine the extent of nominalizations that are contained in Donald Trump’s 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech, to describe the types of nominalization that occur, and to explain the realization of the nominalization in the speech.

The analysis was carried out based on the Halliday & Matthiessen Systematic Functional Grammar approach (2014). The methods used were a quantitative content analysis based on Krippendorf (2018) and a qualitative data analysis based on Miles et al. (2014), using scrutinized and note-taking data collection techniques (Mahsun, 2005), and data analysis using the Interactive Model (Miles et al., 2014).

In this research, the writer finds three important things. First, the writer finds that 51.59% of the total clauses contain nominalization. Second, the writer finds three of the four types of nominalization found in Donald Trump’s 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech with a percentage of 0% (prepositional phrases to nouns), 2.61% (conjunctions to nouns), 6.96% (adjectives to nouns), and 90.43% (verbs to nouns). Third, the writer finds ten phenomena related to the realization of nominalization in Donald Trump’s 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech namely (1) nominalization that does not shorten a sentence, (2) nominalization that changes Processes or Attributes to Things, (3) nominalization that helps modifying a nominalized verb with an Attribute, (4) nominalization that changes the Theme from an Actor to a nominalized Process, (5) nominalization that requires a new process, (6) nominalization that helps organizing a clause, (7) nominalization and its congruent form that are not related morphologically, (8) nominalization that deletes participants, (9) nominalization that does not require deleting participants, (10) nominalization that substitutes a clause.

*Key words: nominalization, congruent, process, attribute, thing, conjunction, speech*

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter explains the introduction of the writer's research on nominalizations in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech. This chapter is divided into six sections. They are background of the study, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, research questions, the objectives of the study, and significance of the study.

#### **A. Background of The Study**

Traditionally, grammar was not used to study languages in reality. Instead, grammarians focused on 'visual' text that they had made to illustrate the grammar categories. Nevertheless, this kind of data was not reliable. The use of language is hugely different from the 'virtual' text made by the grammarians. Fortunately, only after the middle of 20<sup>th</sup> century, grammar studies became more advanced in collecting data by using tape recorders and computers. The unreliability led to the backwardness of grammar studies compared to other scientific fields like physics.

This condition led some grammarians to make changes and one of them was Halliday. Halliday tried to use grammar more scientifically by using more reliable data. The more reliable data means that Halliday uses the language as it is (in reality), not the 'virtual' text mentioned before. Moreover, Halliday also analyzed spoken language with his approach.

The grammar proposed by Halliday is Systemic Functional Grammar. This grammar is used to analyze the real language used by humans. Furthermore, this grammar also was used successfully to analyze grammar outside English language. Considering these two points, Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar seems to be far more advanced compared to the traditional grammar.

Halliday's notion of Systemic Functional Grammar has inspired a lot of works on linguistics, language teaching, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics. Furthermore, this notion also influenced other theories on linguistics studies such as Critical Linguistics, and Critical Discourse Analysis.

One of the most important parts of Systemic Functional Grammar is grammatical metaphor. This notion is considered the most important part of the theory regarding its contribution to linguistics, and language teaching. Nominalization, as a part of grammatical metaphor concern, is considered as the most powerful tool to make a grammatical metaphor. By using nominalization, the function of Process and Property is changed to Thing. While Systemic Functional Grammar is remarkably interesting, and revolutionary in linguistics, grammatical metaphor is the most interesting part of the theory, and the study of nominalization is the biggest part of grammatical metaphor.

Many researchers using Systemic Functional Grammar have been conducted, but many of them did not pay attention to nominalization. In the writer's view, this is something disappointing. The reason is that nominalization is one of the most significant parts of Systemic Functional Grammar, so the study on

nominalization should be conducted in a more comprehensive way. In conclusion, the writer views that research on nominalization must be conducted for the benefit of the grammar theory.

Donald Trump was a very phenomenal figure in the world. His presidency got attention from around the world. The reason was not just that he was the president of the United States of America, but also the way he talks to the public; the language he uses. Unlike many presidents in the United States of America, the way Trump speaks is not diplomatic. He, even, many times slipped and said something sensitive such as racism.

For example, he said that Latin people were rapist. Furthermore, he even promised to ban Muslims from entering the United States of America and build Trump Wall to prevent illegal immigrants from Mexico. These what Trump has said are very contrast to American liberal value that is open to anyone and anything.

By researching the use of nominalization, the writer finds some important and interesting findings that may help people to understand speech better. Furthermore, the findings also can attract more researchers to conduct more research using Systemic Functional Grammar which is still considered new in Indonesia.

## **B. Identification of The Problem**

The writer tried to conduct research using Systemic Functional Grammar approach by analyzing the nominalizations that occur in Donald Trump's speech on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The reasons behind the research are mentioned below:

1. Language and the ‘virtual’ text are something different.
2. To analyze text using grammar, it would be more interesting to use more advanced grammar theory.
3. Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar is an interesting and more advanced grammar theory.
4. Systemic Functional Grammar can be used to analyze spoken languages.
5. The way Donald Trump talks are unique and interesting.
6. Research on grammatical metaphors is still not common.
7. Grammatical metaphor is the most significant part of Systemic Functional Grammar.
8. Nominalization is the most significant part of grammatical metaphor.

### **C. Scope of The Problem**

The object of the study was Donald Trump’s 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech which is available on YouTube. The speech was published on the same day as the speech was delivered. The writer also used the transcript of the speech that is available online on New York Times official website which is a reliable source.

The research was limited to nominalization based on Halliday and Matthiessen’s Systemic Functional Grammar from their book *Construing*



*experience through meaning: A language-based approach to cognition* (1999). The reason for choosing this was the writer's assumption that by focusing on nominalization, the research would be more focused on the realization and characteristics of the nominalization in the speech. The writer also thinks that the nominalization study from the book is well explained in detail compared to other books.

#### **D. Research Questions**

This research tried to answer these two questions:

1. To what extent does Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech contain nominalizations?
2. What types of nominalizations are used in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech?
3. How are the nominalizations realized in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech?

#### **E. The Objective of The Study**

Considering the identification of the problem, the objectives of the study are:

1. To determine to what extent Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech contains nominalization.
2. To describe the types of nominalizations that are used by Donald Trump in his 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech.

3. To find out how nominalizations are realized in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March speech.

#### **F. Significance of The Study**

The writer views that this research has two significances. First, in theoretical significancy, this research will enrich the study of grammar, especially in the field of metaphorical language and nominalization that are based on Systemic Functional Grammar. Second, in practical significancy, the writer hopes that this research will help the reader to understand the use of nominalization and to understand the use of Systemic Functional Grammar approach.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter explains literature review of the writer's research on nominalizations in Donald Trump's 11th March 2020 speech. This chapter is divided into two sections. First, the writer explains some remarkable researches on nominalizations. They are *An Analysis of Lexical Density and Nominalization in Summaries of Scientific Papers Made by MAWAPRES (A Systemic Functional Approach)* (M. Astrid S., 2017), *On the significance of disciplinary variation in research articles: Perspectives from nominalization* (Kaidan et al., 2021), and *Nominalization in Priyanka Chopra's Selected Speech* (Pasaribu et al., 2022). Second, the writer explains the theoretical framework based on Systemic Functional Grammar approach. They are Systemic Functional Grammar itself, the three metafunctions (Ideational, Interpersonal, and Textual Meanings), and the Grammatical Metaphors that includes nominalizations.

#### **A. Previous Research**

Research on nominalization is not something new and there are some remarkable researches. They are newly conducted after 2015. It shows that this topic of nominalization is something interesting among researchers. The researches were not just conducted to investigate written language but some of them also investigated spoken language.

Research by M. Astrid S. (2017) entitled *An Analysis of Lexical Density and Nominalization in Summaries of Scientific Papers Made by MAWAPRES (A*

*Systemic Functional Approach*) investigated the use of nominalization and the lexical density of selected summaries of scientific papers that are written by students in Hasanuddin University. The research was remarkably successful. He found that only three from eight summaries are considered as scientific due to the lack of lexical density. Furthermore, the research also found that in order to improve the density, nominalization and long noun phrases can be used.

Research by Kaidan et al. (2021) entitled *On the significance of disciplinary variation in research articles: Perspectives from nominalization* investigated nominalization that occurs in selected research articles from various departments at Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz. The research found that authors from applied linguistics used more nominalization significantly. They also found that the most common nominalization is the conversion from verb to noun.

Pasaribu et al. (2022) also investigated the use of nominalization in some speeches by Priyanka Chopra. The research is entitled *Nominalization in Priyanka Chopra's Selected Speech*. The research found that deverbal nouns are the most used nominalization types in Priyanka Chopra's speeches. They also found that nominalization can be made by suffixation such as adding suffixes *-dom*, *er*, and *-ion* and conversion such as *care*, *cause*, and *waste*. The research was not based on the Systemic Functional Grammar approach.

This research was conducted to analyze nominalization in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March Speech. The research by Kaidan et al. (2021) was remarkable but it investigates written text that is highly condensed. The other research by M. Astrid S. (2017) was also successfully conducted and the finding was surprising.

Unfortunately, the research also investigated written text. The research that was conducted to investigate spoken language was the research by Pasaribu et al. (2022) but the research did not use Systemic Functional Grammar approach.

Based on the explanation above, the writer viewed that research on nominalization in spoken language is interesting and must be conducted. Pasaribu et al. (2022) successfully found some interesting facts, but they did not use Systemic Functional Grammar approach. In order to explore the notion of Systemic Functional Grammar, the writer conducted this research to investigate nominalization in Donald Trump's 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 speech by using Systemic Functional Grammar approach.

## **B. Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Systemic Functional Grammar**

Systemic Functional Grammar is a school of grammar introduced by Michael Halliday in the 1960s. As part of grammar theories, this theory focuses on grammar, but it is different to Traditional Grammar and the more recent grammar theory by Chomsky, Formal Grammar. In both Traditional Grammar and Formal Grammar, texts are considered assets of words.

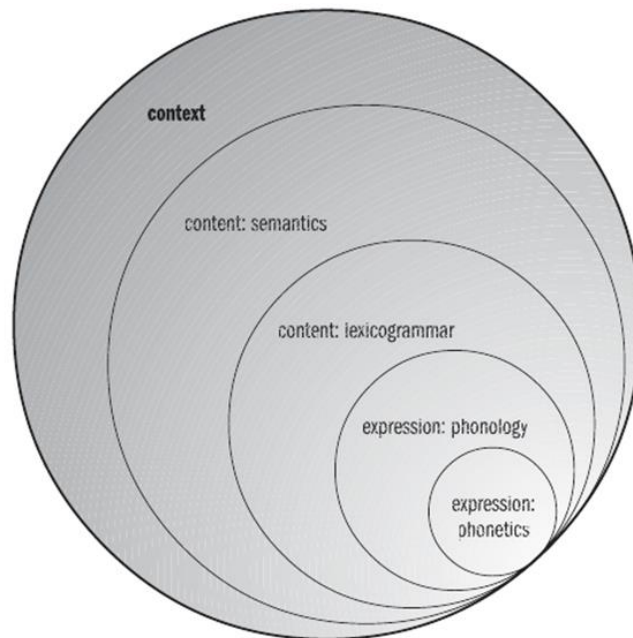
However, Halliday had a different point of view. According to him, texts are the resources of meaning and not just merely sets of words. Furthermore, Halliday did not claim that grammar is not



important, instead, he viewed that grammar is essential in language education.

Systemic Functional Grammar focused on both functions and grammatical systems of language (Halliday, 1994). For the functions, Systemic Functional Grammar has a notion that a language expresses a social function or purpose systematically and simultaneously. At the same time, a language also has systems that are also systematic and simultaneous. By focusing on the two aspects of language, the approach is more advanced and sophisticated than Traditional Grammar.

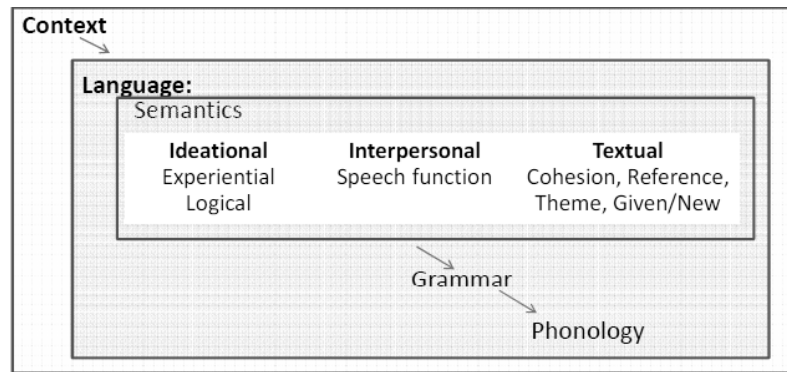
## 2. Language Stratification



**Figure 2.1:** Language stratification according to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014)

**Figure 2.1** shows that there are three strata related to language. First, it is context stratum. This stratum is integrated into the whole of the process to make meaning. In another words, language itself occurs and is related to the contexts. Second, it is the content stratum that is divided into two strata: semantics, and lexicogrammar. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) stated that semantics stratum is to make sense of our experience and to carry out interactions with audience by using language. Whereas they also added that the lexicogrammar stratum is to transform what has been done in semantics strata to wording. The last stratum is Expression stratum. This stratum is divided into two strata: phonology, and phonetics. The phonology stratum is to organize the speech sound into the formal sound structures and systems whereas, the phonetics stratum is to sound to be heard by the audience. The language itself happens the last two stratum: Content stratum and Expression stratum.

This research focused on the Content stratum that has two strata: semantics and lexicogrammar as mentioned before. The semantics stratum, however, is about human's experience and interaction by using language and it consists of three metafunctions: interpersonal, ideational, and textual metafunctions. The lexicogrammar stratum is about wording; how the three metafunctions from the semantics stratum are realized into wording.



**Figure 2.2:** Semantics stratum (Almurashi, 2016) adapted from Halliday & Hasan (1989)

### 3. Ideational Meaning

#### a. Experiential Meaning

Egins (2004) defined that experiential meaning is how a person, by using language, represents the reality. It belongs to the Transitivity system. This system is a set of grammatical systems that consists of six principal process types to construe the experience of a person (Halliday, 1994). The six process types are: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential.

#### b. Logical Meaning

Egins (2004) noted that in order to make a successful text, a person also needs to express the represented reality in such a way which can make the text clear. The content within the text must be related to the prior text, and signals which part is more or less important in order to understand the text.

#### **4. Interpersonal Meaning**

Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) stated that a clause is organized as an interactive event. It means that in order to make a text, it must involve the speaker, or writer, and audience. The interaction between them is which the interpersonal meaning focuses. To analyze the interpersonal meaning, Systemic Functional Grammar analyzes the Mood and Residue of a clause.

#### **5. Textual Meaning**

Textual meaning is how a clause is organized as messages (Eggins, 2004). Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) also explained that message is a quantum of information which flows in a discourse. In this line of meaning, the focus of analyzing is the Theme that is always accompanied by Rhyme.

#### **6. Grammatical Metaphor**

Grammatical metaphor, which is proposed by Halliday (1985a), is the most significant part of Systemic Functional Grammar theory according to Devrim (2015). In the theoretical field, grammatical metaphor is considered one of the most important characteristics in science. In the field of applied linguistics, especially language education, grammatical metaphor is considered one of the most important contributions of Systemic Functional Grammar.

In Systemic Functional Grammar, meaning can be realized congruently and in a less congruent way. Congruency is what meaning is typically realized in a language pattern. On the contrary, if meaning does not follow the typical realization, this indicates the grammatical metaphor (Eggins, 1994).

Grammatical metaphor is a stratal tension between semantics stratum and lexicogrammar stratum. The tension between both strata creates at least two levels that must be read. One level indicates the grammar which is related to the lexicogrammar stratum, and the other level indicates or is related to the semantics stratum (Devrim, 2015).

According to Halliday (1985), grammatical metaphors have three main types. First, it is interpersonal metaphor or *metaphors of mood*. Second, it is ideational metaphor or *metaphors of transitivity*. The last one is logical metaphors or textual metaphors (see also, Emilia, 2014).

#### **a. Interpersonal Metaphor**

There are two types of interpersonal metaphor. First, it is mood metaphors. This metaphor occurs when a semantic speech function is realized in an incongruent mood option in grammar. For example, the speech function command can be incongruently realized using interrogative mood. Second, it is metaphors of modality. This metaphor occurs when a modality



is realized incongruently to a clause complex explicitly. For example, the modal finite *can* can be realized incongruently to a clause complex, “I believe ...”, or “I think ...” (Devrim, 2015).

### **b. Ideational and Textual Metaphor**

Ideational metaphor mostly occurs when a *process* is realized by a noun, and a quality is realized by a noun. The changing from *process*, that is congruently realized by verb, and quality, that is congruently realized by adjective, to noun is also called nominalization.

Furthermore, Martin (1992) added that logical and ideational metaphor cooperate with each other. Logical metaphor depends on ideational metaphor. For example, the conjunctions “if—then” in “*If we smoke, then we will suffer for lung cancer.*” are metaphorically realized to *cause* in “*smoking can cause lung cancer*” (see also, Emilia, 2014).

### **c. Metaphor in Spoken and Written Languages**

Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) mentioned that there is difference between spoken and written language regarding the use of metaphor. In spoken language, the use of metaphor seems to be lesser, but the clausal patterns are more complex. In written language, they also mentioned that the clausal

patterns are simple, the ideational contents are packed in nominalization. The difference indicates that written language tends to use nominalization more than spoken language.

**Table 2.1:** The differences between spoken and written languages according to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014)

Spoken Language	Written Language
Low lexical density	High lexical density
High grammatical intricacy	Low grammatical intricacy

#### **d. Nominalization**

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), nominalization is the most powerful tool for making grammatical metaphors. By using nominalization, processes, congruently realized by verbs, and properties, congruently realized by adjectives, are changed to nouns. Because of the change, they do not function as Process or Attribute again, instead, they function as Thing.

The process of nominalization is downgrading process function and attribute function to Thing function. In congruent form, process functions as a verb, and attribute functions as adjective. However, in metaphorical form, they function as Thing in a nominal group. In conclusion, nominalization is the

change of Process and Attribute form their congruent forms to functioning as a Thing in a nominal group.

Nominalization has some effects. First, nominalization can be used to make wording more effective. The reason is that more information can be packaged in one nominalization rather than in a longer clause. Second, nominalization makes a text more abstract, but the text is still considered as a dense text. Furthermore, nominalization removes the responsible person or other nominal group of an action that happens in a process (Eggins, 2004).

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (1999), there are four major classifications of nominalization. First, it is the conversion of adjective to Thing. For example, the adjective *unstable* is converted to *unstability* that functions as Thing. Second, it is the conversion of verb to Thing. For example, the verb *transform* is converted to *transformation* that functions as Thing.

Third, the circumstance *with* is converted to *accompaniment* that functions as Thing. Fourth, the conjunction *if* is converted to *condition* that functions as Thing. See the table below:

**Table 2.2:** Four Major nominalization types according to Halliday & Matthiessen (1999)

Type		Grammatical Shift		Semantic Shift	
		Grammatical Class	Grammatical Function	Congruent =>	Metaphorical
1		adjective => noun	Epithet/Attribute => Thing	quality	thing
2		verb => noun		process:	
	i		Event => Thing	event	
	ii		Auxiliary => Thing	tense; modality	
	iii		Catenative => Thing	phase; contingency	
3		preposition (al phrase) => noun		circumstance	
	i	preposition	Minor Process => Thing	minor process	
	ii	prepositional phrase	Location, Extent, etc. => Classifier	minor process + thing	
4		conjunction => noun	Conjunctive => Thing	relator	