



RESEARCH PAPER

Negotiating Destiny: Interpersonal Meaning-Making and the Linguistic Dynamics of Santiago's Social World in Coelho's *The Alchemist* (1988)

¹Adnan Jamshaid, ²Shahid Kalim Khan and ³Dr. Fasiha Altaf

1. M.Phil. Scholar, Northern University, Nowshera, KPK, Pakistan
2. Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Thal University Bhakkar, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Education, GC Women University Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

*Corresponding Author fasiha.altaf@gcwus.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore the highly acclaimed novel – The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho from Hallidgian Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) with specific focus on the interpersonal meta-function for the analysis of the protagonist dialogues. The story of the novel centers on the transformative journey of the protagonist – Santiago. This research explores the important role of language which shadows the role of narrative to put self-discovery as an outcome along with identity negotiation and social interaction. Hallidgian SFL interpersonal meta-function analysis interprets the dialogues of the protagonist which include relational exchanges and inner monologues. These relational exchanges and inner monologues are the interactions with the Englishman and the Alchemist. These interactions and dialogues reveal that social relationship and personal agency heavily rely on the use of language. The research decodes the fundamentals of SFL analysis that protagonist's use of Mood, Modality and Appraisal helps us to understand the spiritual maturation and philosophical evolution. Reflective tone and evolving certainty are best understood by the use of modal verbs (must and should) along with the use of declarative and interrogative moods. Research also decodes Coelho's craft for the nuanced interplay between free will, faith and destiny by mapping Santiago's linguistic expressions as he interacts with the mentoring figures. This all encapsulates the revelation of the 'Personal Legend'. The study successfully bridges the scholarly gap with the application of Hallidgian SFL analysis for the affirmation of language as a performative and expressive tool along with its importance to shape the destiny of the protagonist through meaningful dialogues, embedded interpersonal acts and symbolic language.

Keywords: Interpersonal Meta-Function, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Self-Discovery, Linguistic and Philosophical

Introduction

Instructional Michael Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework on Paulo Coelho's novel *The Alchemist* offers insights for relevance and significance with the academic field. This article examines the interpersonal meta-function in novel *The Alchemist* by using Hallidgian SFL lens. The research is a contribution for the in-depth analysis of the novel's thematic structures and embedded linguistic features. Simply, the study has synthesized both the selected application of SFL and selected existing studies conducted on the novel – *The Alchemist*. Extensive review of the existing literature comprising of multiple research articles / thesis and various other resources has helped in the contextualization, gap identification and justification of the study. In the wake of already established theoretical perspective and notions. The primary analytical tools of the SFL framework include exploration of interpersonal meta-function to study the linguistic features as it provides structured approach which studies the use of language in the novel – *The Alchemist* for its analysis that is built in the narrative of the novel under the pen of Coelho.

Language is a dynamic force which shapes individual identity and human interactions which extends beyond just a medium of communication and never restricts the role of language just to communicate only. Literature utilizes the language for the construction of social relationships, personal expression and collective experiences which derive the individual's self-discovery as sought in the novel – *The Alchemist*. The novel tells us the story of an Andalusian shepherd – Santiago the protagonist of the novel who is on a quest to arrive for his personal legend. The whole journey is echoed and facilitated by social interactions depending on the use of language which reflects cross-cultural influence of language and quest for the personal legend – the path to self-discovery. The novel has been praised and investigated for various themes such as destiny, love, spirituality, personal fulfilment and the role of language but it lacked the exploration of the self under the Hallidian Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL).

In this study the research aims to study *The Alchemist* (1988) which is a globally acclaimed novel that celebrates the journey of the Spanish shepherd named Santiago from Hallidian lens (interpersonal meta-function). The journey leads Santiago to various encounters enriching his experiences for deepened understanding of the life with enhanced spirituality. These interactions make him even profound by encountering powerful and mysterious characters inching towards the destination of self-discovery. The thematic and philosophical richness and significance of the conversations and interactions in terms of text expressing Santiago's thought process remain central to the story. The thematic and philosophical richness signifies the opportunity of the linguistic analysis under comprehensive Systemic Functional Linguistics (2014). Halliday's framework (2014) analyzes the language's functional aspects as SFL takes language in use as a system of social semiotic which has very intricate association and link with the context in which language performs its social function. Halliday (2014) is of the view that interpersonal (speech functions, mood and modality) in order to understand the framework for its construction of reality through language, organization of the discourse and interaction with social relationships.

Interpersonal meta-function focusing on interaction for the establishment and maintenance of social relationships, enact roles and express attitudes which includes mood, modality and appraisal also evident under Coelho's nib in *The Alchemist* (1988). It analyzes the interactive dynamics between the characters, the way the characters interact and transform each other. The mentoring language challenges Santiago for the revelation of the mentor-mentee relationship in the evolution. The certainty levels and attitudes about the actions and beliefs can be observed in the model expressions in the utterances of Santiago.

In *The Alchemist* (1988) the protagonist Santiago embarks on a transformative journey that links self-discovery with his interactions with society. However, the mechanisms through which language both constructs Santiago's social interactions and reflects societal influences on his quest has remained underexplored. This study seeks to bridge this gap by investigating how language functions as a pivotal tool in shaping Santiago's social interactions and quest for self-discovery throughout his journey. The objective of the research lies in the exploration of crucial mechanism played by the language to reveal Santiago's quest for self-discovery as he embarks on the journey to nowhere but to seek his personal legend. The focus ties to the role of language in shaping social interactions and in return those interactions contributing to inch towards the objective of self-discovery – the interpersonal meta-function of Michael Halliday's SFL framework. The communication and engagements of Santiago rely on the use of language which reflects that language operates as an instrument. Communication of various characters also construct the protagonist's perspective about the outer world beyond his herd of sheep. The study examines the dialogues, linguistic structures and symbolic language in the novel to uncover how the protagonist's journey is shaped through use of language and social interactions for interpersonal meta-function.

This research is significant as it uncovers the ways in which identities are shaped by the language, characters' interactions and progression of the narrative. The study is also significant as it contributes in the existing body of knowledge by applying SFL framework (2014). There is a dearth in the existing body of knowledge about the use of Halliday's SFL (2014) analysis which will examine interpersonal meta-function to broaden the body of knowledge on the subject. The study is a contribution to the existing body of knowledge as the analysis offers perspectives on role of language in the thematic progression and development of the characters as they communicate and interact. It is fundamentally the study of use of language for the influence of language on one's journey of life and development of social interactions. The study investigates the intricate link between personal transformation and use of language as developed in the novel.

Literature Review

The application of interpersonal meta-function can unfold the characters for their evolving dynamics in terms of mood, modality and appraisal as highlighted by Halliday (2014). The same can be applied for the analysis of the evolving dynamics of Santiago. The interpersonal aspects have also been explored in literary dialogues by Thompson and Hunston (2006) to show power dynamics and social relations with the help of employed language. The conversational texts have also been analyzed for interpersonal meta-function to highlight that how interactions are shaped by mood and modality by Eggins and Slade (2006). Similarly, Matthiessen (2015) also investigated literary dialogues for interpersonal elements by showing negotiation of social identity by characters through language. In another study, the interactions between characters of *The Great Gatsby* have been investigated by Matthiessen (2015) through SFL (2014) which uncovered social relationships and power dynamics.

Miqdad and Al-Ameedi (2024) studied interpersonal meta-function to assess the mood and modality by reflecting upon linguistic choices. These linguistic choices have highlighted the psychological turmoil, ultimate sacrifice and self-doubt of the protagonist. The research has adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods which elaborated that instead of an inherent duty the mother's sacrifice has been realized as a choice. The linguistic perspective described the mother-child dynamics and related insights as a matter of choice. The framework grounds in the Hallidian SFL approach and explores interpersonal meta-function examining that how use of language reflects upon attitudes, relationships and power. Mood and modality respectively classify statements dealing with questions and commands for mood; and possibility, certainty and obligation in terms of modality. The sacrifice of Louisa is examined linguistically through narration and dialogues which tells us about the use of language constructing meanings for the readers as the reader goes through the text explores the struggles of the protagonist. Although novels rely on the developments of the plot but this novel has an intricate association with Mood and Modality. This research has also drawn a comparison between Metcalfe's novel with Nam et al.'s (2022) study (a sociological research) for the comparison of mother's willing sacrifice for her children where Nam disagrees and questions the role of modern mothers as they might not always sacrifice. Nam et al. (2022) is of the view that modern mothers have their personal happiness and priorities over maternal sacrifice. Metcalfe's novel presents the traditional imagery mothers selfless love for her children reinforces the traditional image of maternal self-sacrifice. This contrast highlights cultural and narrative differences in how motherhood is linguistically framed. The author has also highlighted that maternal sacrifice also lacks from cross-cultural viewpoint as differing linguistic traditions have their unique ways to portray the traditions. Lexical cohesion and transitivity are such elements which need more focused exploration for their linguistic aspects. There is also absence of the analysis that how audience is influenced by the linguistic features – reader's reception. In totality, the study concludes that SFL for its meta-functions (specifically interpersonal as employed in this research) is an effective instrument to dig deep the nuanced portrayal of the characters in literary texts – in this case the element of maternal sacrifice under the pen of Metcalfe.

Salvia Salsabila and Murni Fidiyanti (2024) conducted a study to investigate 'Back to December' a song by Taylor Swift for its emotional expression by employing the Hallidial Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. The study highlights the importance of lyrical analysis for better understanding of the complex emotions conveyed by the artist which connects with the audience and resonates with their emotions. Poetry is also known for fostering emotional connections with the audience as this research outlines that the lyrical style of Swift is confessional which has a universal appeal and resonance along with presentation of personal narrative which affirms the mediation of emotional articulation through music. Hallidial SFL frameworks underpins its theoretical grounds in three meta-functional (Ideational, Interpersonal and Textual) which focus on representation of language for ideas and emotions; interactions between the orator and audience; organization of text in the form of coherent messages. Halliday's SFL framework is robust in nature which provides analysis methodology through which various literary texts can be analyzed such as Swift's lyrics in this case. The study has critically evaluated the linguistic choices used by Swift which are framed within the scope of SFL. The nuances of the lyrics find contentment in the illuminated emotional levels. The research dissected specific verses of the lyrics which demonstrate that how Swift has used modality, thematic progression and vivid imagery. All these elements surface new experiences of emotional content for the readers and listeners. The study also analyzes that the Swift's lyrical narrative resonates with longing, regret, love, separation and related human experiences.

Asia Shahmir et al. (2023) conducted a study to explore two speeches delivered by Noam Chomsky (2014) and Shah Mahmood Qureshi (2021) for their attitudinal analysis under the Hallidial lens of SFL framework to uncover their insights on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Both the speeches were delivered at United Nations General Assembly and addressed to global stakeholders. The appraisal theory of the study has been derived from SFL framework which examines linguistic choices employed by both the speakers to convey emotions, attitudes and judgements related to the ongoing crisis between Israel and Palestine. Martin and White's (2005) appraisal theory has also been utilized to augment the primary theoretical framework which helped to distinguish between key dimensions such as affect, appreciation and judgement. For political discourses the relevance of appraisal theory cannot be overlooked. It plays central role where speakers' aim is to influence public sentiment and express complex emotional contexts specially when the crisis is about human sufferings. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) also highlight that the role of language also plays interpersonal meta-function which establishes relationship between orator and consumer for emotional engagement and critical evaluation. The study has proposed that attitudinal resources employed by the speakers contribute in highlighting the contemporary political issues with the use of language discourse and scripts have potential to communicate complex issues and develop social mobilization.

Hafiz Ahmad Bilal (2012) studied a short story 'Thank You M'am' authored by Langston Hughes by using Hallidial systemic functional linguistics framework in which the short story has been comprehensively analyzed for inter-personal meta-function. Hallidial approach has been used as lens for the interplay of interpersonal meta-function. Hafiz Ahmed Bilal (2012), through SFL analysis has highlighted various themes and trends in the short story. The emerging key themes revolve around guidance, compassion and redemption in which the central character Mrs. Jones showcasing mother care and strength revealing trust notions, second chances and societal dynamics. Various trends highlighted in the study includes the application of socio-linguistic methodologies, contextualizing, characters' motivation and societal norms. Interpersonal meta-function highlights authoritative relationship with Roger. Bilal's analysis of Hughes' 'Thank You M'am' through the SFL lens enhances the understanding of complex narrative and showcases the powerfulness of functional linguistics allowing character interaction, multidimensional understanding of the text and social commentary. Findings suggest that application of the analytic framework in literature promotes role of language which shapes social experiences for interpersonal aspects.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation of this research set firmly into Hallidial SFL with particular focus on the interpersonal meta-functional analysis. Interpersonal meta-functional analysis helps to understand the use of language which serves as a social semiotic system further analyzed for imperative mood, declarative mood and interrogative mood. In terms of modality it studies obligation, certainty and probability. For appraisal it assesses the attitudinal and emotional expressions. The research primarily sets its foundation on Halliday's and Matthiessen's model (2014) which is further integrated with Appraisal Theory of Martin and White's (2005). Literary-Linguistic exploration is facilitated with this comprehensive framework that links with the thematic progression and textual choices of the protagonist.

Material and Methods

The design of the research is qualitative which focuses on the analysis of interpersonal meta-function by using Hallidial SFL (2014) framework as its primary method to analyze the dialogues of leading character Santiago in Coelho's *The Alchemist* (1988). Being a qualitative study the approach remains helpful in the discovering various facts such as social status, economic status, societal norms, religion, race and gendered opinions / perspectives. These all areas and facets are not quite obvious and layered which requires sophisticated qualitative handling in order to grasp the social context. According to Berg (2017), qualitative approach helps and facilitates the researchers to reveal the hidden functioning of hidden definitions, subtle meanings, concepts and metaphors which seek to answer many social contexts that remain hidden and subtle for their obvious and tangible investigation along with the people who live those circumstances. The selected text of Santiago's utterances from Coelho's *The Alchemist* (1988) are taken as the primary source; whereas, secondary sources comprise of topic related articles, internet sources and books. The interpersonal meta-function analyzes the role of language in facilitating social iterations, communicative roles and it also reflects on the relationships. This functions includes mood, modality and appraisal. Mood can be declarative, interrogative and imperative; modality can be obligation, probability and degrees of certainty; and appraisal is the evaluation of emotions and attitudes (Halliday, 2014).

The interpersonal analysis of the novel primarily focuses on the utterances of the Santiago and his social interactions with other characters such as the Alchemist, Englishman and Melchizedek. These interactions include the revelation of personal transformation under the influence of these interactions. Under this heading the mood analysis examines interrogative dialogues which highlight his thirst for the knowledge and immaculate curiosity. The expression of certainty and possibility falls under modality analysis which is explored through the expression found in interactions. These interactions are specially highlighted for conversations which shed light on the destiny as growing belied in Santiago. Politeness strategies are helpful in the discovery of power dynamics specially the figures of wisdom interacting with Santiago in the course of journey. The speech exchanges and roles also demonstrate the communicative style of Santiago which has visible onsets of confidence boost and gain as the journey develops. The Appraisal Theory as presented by Martin and White (2005) has been utilized to explore the attitudes and emotions which are deeply encoded in the communication of Santiago – this linguistic expression ranges for beliefs, skepticism and encouragement in the conversations which provides insights into development of the character and narrative tension built within the linguistic choices. The research also evaluates the use of lexical choices and evaluative expression which also contributes in the cognitive and emotional growth of the protagonist. Interpersonal meta-function explores the language performance during social interactions and relationships which include mood which refers to the role of the speaker in communication act (Halliday, 2014). SFL asserted the evaluation of the emotions and attitudes that can influence narrative tension and perception (Martin & White, 2005).

Results and Discussion

The concern of interpersonal meta-function is about the role of language in shaping interactions and relationships in which dialogues are central and crucial such as Santiago evolves his identity through conversations with the figures of wisdom including Alchemist, Englishman and Melchizedek. These figures play the role of mentors for Santiago in his quest for self-discovery. Certainty, possibility and obligation are the expressions of modality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Assertion of authority and use of high modality verbs is in abundance by the mentoring figures in *The Alchemist*. For instance, the excerpt:

“..... must listen to your heart” (Coelho, 1988, Part 2, p. 93)

‘Must’ is modal verb which reflects strong reinforcement and obligation – the authoritative role of the mentor. Thompson (2013) states that it contributes to the dedicated tone ensuring necessity and promise to pursue dreams. The interrogative agency marks questioning in the Santiago’s journey which clearly signals character’s growth, for instance, the excerpt:

“.....Why do we have to listen to our hearts.....” (Coelho, 1988, Part 2, p. 94)

Here the structure is interrogative which narrates willingness to question authority and also evolves curiosity – a transition from being passive to becoming active seeker of the truth. These interrogatives in communication are crucial for the development of the character as such onsets indicate shifting power dynamics (Eggins & Slade, 2006). Different vocative has also been utilized to address the protagonist – Santiago. Various characters use these vocatives and relational positioning; for instance, the excerpt:

The mentoring position and authority is evident as the Alchemist calls Santiago ‘My Boy’; the Englishman considers him ‘a simple shepherd’. Both the calling sings resonate differing power roles. Relational positioning also depends on the lexical choices which align with the Appraisal theory highlighting the encoding of hierarchy within the use of language (Martin & White, 2005).

The *Alchemist* displays rich linguistic landscape as viewed from Hallidian SFL lens as the role of language is visible in the personal transformation and construction of social interactions. Transitivity patterns evolve Santiago’s agency under ideational meta-function. Identity and power relations evolve under interpersonal meta-function. Metaphor and repetition ensure cohesion under textual meta-function.

This analysis aligns with previous studies that emphasize the role of language in shaping self-identity (Butt et al., 2012; Fairclough, 2003). Ultimately, Coelho’s linguistic choices not only narrate Santiago’s journey but also engage the reader in a deeper exploration of destiny, self-discovery, and human interaction.

“.....when he thought to complain about the burden of its weight.....he had withstood the cold of the dawn.....” (Coelho, 1988, Part One, p. 9)

The construction of social and personal meaning in order to examine the relationship between characters, readers and writer refers to the interpersonal analysis of the text which covers mood, modality, perspective and appraisal. The mood of the passage from interpersonal meta-function point of view is declarative which showcases the factual internal monologue of Santiago. The analysis shows that implicit modal meaning is prevalent instead of explicit modality (should, must, may, etc.). The mention of positive and negative meanings associating with the burden of jacket suggest sense of adaptability and acceptance. Perspective and use of pronoun is repeated which reinforces the personal element in the journey – the use of pronoun ‘he’ reflects individual’s experience in the character of Santiago.

Judgement and attitude specially the shift from negative judgement to appreciation also reflect the burden and usefulness of jacket from appraisal perspective. The subtle expression of resilience and gratitude has been reinforced in the passage to highlight Santiago's growing philosophical aura.

“.....I couldn't have found God in the seminary, he thought, as he looked at the sunrise.....” (Coelho, 1988, Part 1, p. 10)

The passage frames the internal process of Santiago's realization. Institutional learning is a result of contrast between seminary and sunrise which portrays connection between spirituality and personal experiences. The concern of the interpersonal meta-function is with social relationships, attitude and interaction. Declarative sentences set the mood of the passage which indicate realization instead of command or question. There is modal negation – ‘couldn't have found’ which emphasis the act of impossibility. There is a deep seated belief in Santiago's conscious that divine truth is not possible through formal education. Experiential and personal approach to faith is an implicit critique contrasting seminary with sunrise. Repeated use of first person singular pronoun ‘I’ reflects personal realization and independence. There is a slight distance between the narrator with the use of indirect speech ‘he thought’ – an internal perspective instead of absolute truth. The protagonist's realization is personal and subjective which reflects emotional engagement and growing autonomy showcasing spirituality beyond formal education. Text is connected and structured in textual meta-function representing theme and rheme. For instance, the contrast between spirituality and religion has been shown in the phrase ‘.....I couldn't have found God in the seminary.....’. Rheme is the moment of realization with new information; for instance, ‘.....he thought as he looked at the sunrise.....’. Conjunctive adjunct provide linkage between ideas. Use of word like ‘as’ links two actions ‘looking and thinking’. Contrast and parallelism is shown between natural revelation and institutional knowledge which compares ‘the sunrise’ with ‘God in the seminary’. External triggering and internal reflection of mental process can be seen in material versus mental process – ‘looked versus thought’.

This structure supports that there is a transition from rigid institutional belief to personal and more fluid belief. Role of language position's Santiago as an active seeker instead of passive knowledge recipient. Mental processes show autonomous shaping of belief system which is not directed by the authority bur induced. The rejection of institutionalized version is because of modality – the certainty that indicates direct experience of self-discovery. Figures like Santiago's father, the Englishman, the Alchemist and the King of Salem influence Santiago interactions. These interactions challenge him to disregard dogmatic truths and create personal experiences. Use of language in the novel is fundamentally mentor-driven social learning contributing in the development of the Santiago's character. Meaningful social interactions act as catalyst in the journey of Santiago to achieve self-discovery. The encounters with the Alchemist and the King of Salem is mentor like encounters which guide but never dictate and allow Santiago to develop his own worldly understanding. The metaphorical use of language during interactions is about interpreting the sign language instead of being direct. Contrast drawn between sunrise and seminary is one's interaction with the nature that means learning through experience instead of doctrine. Nature provides and speaks in the language of symbols and omens with shape Santiago's self-perception. The self-talk and external encounters also reflect upon Santiago's mental processes which help in the spiritual growth. Hence the Santiago's self-discovery is an outcome of balanced personal reflection and social interactions. Santiago's language is evolved perception which challenges the institutional authority and directly connects with the divinity. Here seminary is institutional authority; whereas, sunrise refers to the divine.

“.....It's the possibility of having a dream come true.....had suddenly remembered that, in Tarifa, there was an old woman who interpreted dreams.....” (Coelho, 1988, Part 1, p. 11).

Let's take a look into interpersonal meta-function analysis of the passage which shows declarative mood as the statements are Santiago's reflections instead of direct dialogue. The becoming of dream a truth is Santiago's hope in faith instead of certainty. The hopeful perspective also indicates positive appraisal – appreciation. Passage also expresses determination and element of urgency. The tone about the future is optimistic yet uncertain which is visible by use of modal and reflective language. Validation of beliefs also depends on importance of social interactions. Textual meta-function reflects theme-rheme progression; where, the possibility of dream becoming true makes life interesting acts. The thematic focus centers around significance of dreams' transition. The internal realization paves the path to action. Use of pronouns and conjunctions provide cohesive elements. Pronouns such as 'he' and 'his' are helpful in maintaining coherence and conjunction like 'as' provide linkage between movement and thought process. Use of language in this passage ensures thought to action logical progression. Inner realization leads to apparent actions which further reflect upon evolved understanding of the destiny. Use of language has proved its importance in the creation of direct interactions which befitted Santiago's journey and self-discovery – for instance the element of urgency after the interaction with dream interpreter woman. Interactions validate the shaping of faith and destiny. The internally originated beliefs found refuge in the guidance of social interactions which affirm his destiny.

“.....Another trick, the boy thought. But he decided to take a chance..... I don't know how animals know the age of human beings.....” (Coelho, 1988, Part 1, p. 13).

The establishment of social roles and relationships has been analyzed from interpersonal function perspective in declarative mood.

Process	Use of Language	Meta-Functional Analysis
Mood and Modality	I don't like, I don't know why	Open ended quest and expression of uncertainty
Pronouns	I and My	First person pronoun – subjective experience
Engagement	Skepticism	Santiago's perspective about the strangers shows behavioral openness

The shift from personal narration to an act of generalization is the marked social observation broader in nature and puts emphasis on the implicit contrast between children and adults. Sheep playing with strangers reflects Santiago's skepticism for a guarded attitude. He is open to question animal behavior which is also an openness to learning – a key trait of the Santiago's journey. To sum up, the interpersonal experience is an evolved perspective on interactive nature of human providing an emergent awareness about the entities which are beyond human control.

‘.....An omen. The boy smiled to himself.....He had learned that there were certain things one shouldn't ask about.....make my own decisions," he said to himself.....’ (Coelho, 1988, Part 1, p. 43).

Personal and social interactions fall under the category of interpersonal meta-function. Santiago's internal dialogue instead of direct social encounters is the key subject of the passage. Coelho's linguistic choices highlight the evolving relationship with decision-making and fate. There is a categorization of declarative sentences, modalities and First and Third person pronoun as tabulated underneath:

Process	Use of Language	Meta-Functional Analysis
Declarative ToneI promised that I would make my own decisions.....	Santiago's reflections

Modalitiesone shouldn't ask about.....	Obligation and certainty
First and Third Person	I promised, the by smiled	Personal agency

The use of declarative sentences determines the shaping of journey by the individual. Modalities are obligations and certainty which reinforce knowledge which should remain unexplored to avoid any disruption in the pursuit of destiny. Narrative shifts from third person to first person signals a transition to personal agency from external observation. There is a logical flow of ideas which progress the internal transformation of Santiago which has been analyzed under textual meta-function. In terms of theme and rheme, the passage follows mystical tone with the flow of phrase 'an omen'; whereas, rheme has been reflected in the reflections, decisions and actions of Santiago which clearly shows tug of war between free will and fate. Coelho has achieved cohesion by using words like destiny, pouch, stones and decisions which link the passage from thematic aspects and associate it with belief in the omens and journey of the Santiago. There is also use of parallel structures which repeat contrast between asking and not asking questions reinforcing the acceptance of one's destiny.

The role of language for the construction of social interactions between various characters and Santiago clearly reflect internal monologue of Santiago as he speaks to himself instead of direct communication with others. He has used declarative statements and modal verbs; for instance, 'one shouldn't ask about' is a representation of his negotiation between meaning and understanding of the fate. He heavily relies on self-reflection and omens which represents his passiveness, yet the decisions he makes such as not mending the pouch reflects his increased and growing acceptance of not known. The nature of the passage is introspective which helps us to understand the role of social interactions in shaping the self-discovery quest of Santiago. The protagonist is influenced by his interactions with mentoring figures such as the crystal merchant, the Alchemist and the King of the Salem. All these figures through their communication develop a mentor-mentee relationship with Santiago and become a lighthouse guiding towards self-realization. The understanding of personal choice and fate help him building trust towards universe. This trust depends on two factors, gained wisdom and direct experiences – the direct outcome of the role of language and social interactions. Coelho's use of language as reflected in the language used by Santiago illustrates the evolving destiny's perception which is blended introspection and action. Monologue – self talk mirrors broader balancing of journey – the balance between surrender and control shaping the quest for the self-discovery.

".....The hills of Andalusia were only two hours away.....but there was an entire desert.....the fact that the two hours had stretched into an entire year didn't matter....." (Coelho, 1988, Part 2, p. 67).

The enactment of attitudes and social interactions falls under the category of interpersonal meta-function. The interpersonal meta-function analyzes the use of language for the expression of attitudes, relationships and engagements with audience. Tabulated below is the detailed analysis of interpersonal meta-function:

Interpersonal	Use of Language	Meta-Functional Analysis
Mood and Modality	Yet the boy felt that there was another way to regard his situation	Use of declarative sentences establishing an assertive tone

Appraisal	Didn't matter, closer	Use of attitudinal language that shows emotional detachment
Engagement	Readers' response about the novel	It is an interaction with the reader that invites to empathize and adapt

Maintenance of coherence, flow and organization of discourse are analyzed under textual meta-function which ensures emphasis and clarity in the text. The spatial orientation has been reflected in the very beginning of the passage in which the mention of 'the hills of Andalusia' has been made before the introduction of the desert. The mention of obstacle precedes as 'but there was an entire desert'. Here there is a shift in the perception of Santiago which goes like 'yet the boy felt'. The overall sequence mirrors Santiago's cognitive process from the acknowledgement of reality to its restructuring. Lexical and grammatical ties combine for the element of cohesion as the repetition of phrase 'two hours' reinforces that Santiago is focused on progress only. The opposition between the mental resilience and physical hardship is maintained by using 'but' and 'yet' – contrastive conjunctions.

As already established that language constructs social interactions in the case of Santiago by emphasizing optimistic reframing of hardships and internal resilience. The temporal and spatial perception of Santiago is the outcome of his encounters with mentors like the Alchemist and the King of Salem. These mentor-mentee interactions take him beyond the perception of obstacles focusing only on the progress and opportunity. Santiago is undoubtedly a person who has actively engaged and negotiated with meanings instead of passive understanding of the reality. All this is the outcome of use of linguistic choices such as modality, relational processes and contrast reflecting upon the lesson of the novel. The overall journey grows Santiago psychologically and spiritually to stay connected with the cause – reaching the pyramids. The transformation of the characters has lot more to owe to influence of social encounters with crystal merchant, the King of Salem and the Alchemist. Santiago redefines success every time and reshapes his worldview with each social encounter. He keeps on redefining his success, fear and fate. Internalizations of lessons is also reflected by the Santiago's reframing of time as mentioned in phrases 'two hours later' instead of 'a year lost'. It clarifies well that the use of language in *The Alchemist* is not just to narrate Santiago's physical journey but to construct a reality where perception is shaping the destiny. The interactions with other characters also briefly reinforce that a person's attitude towards obstacles determines the fulfillment of personal legend.

Conclusions

The interpersonal analysis concludes that there is a deep interaction between linguistic dynamics and narrative strategy as the linguistic dynamics are deeply entrenched with the narrative strategy. This all reflects the internal and external transformation of Santiago as protagonist in the novel. Language acts as a reflective tool when analyzed for declarative and interrogative moods for the exploration of philosophical inquiries of Santiago. Mental transition of Santiago heavily relies on the use of modal verbs which express obligation and certainty. There is a relational standpoint where vocatives such as 'simple shepherd' and 'my boy' express mentorship hierarchies and power asymmetries. There is a complete linguistic charter of the growth of the protagonist which swings from passive questions to assertive declarations. This growth demonstrates that social agency and self-perception have evolved. The dialogues act as pedagogical encounters such as conversations with the Alchemist are symbolic and never be taken as narrative fillers. Santiago builds his worldview on the basis of these social interactions. Apropos, the Hallidien SFL (Interpersonal Meta-Functional Analysis) is an effective framework to capture the nuanced interplay between the destiny, identity and language. Linguistic framing serves two major purposes (a) enrichment of the literary analysis (b) exploration of the influencing

ability of syntactic choices and narrative voice for construction of the character and perception of the readers.

Recommendations

In future the scholars can focus on the comparison of interpersonal meta-function across Coelho's range of works. Cross-cultural SFL analysis is another possibility which will help in revealing diversified versions of identity and destiny. SFL can also be combined with reader-response stylistic lens to enhance interpretive variation and reader perception to create meanings for themselves.

References

- Bilal, H. A. (2012). Analysis of Thank You M'am: Halliday's meta-functions. *Academic Research International*, 2(1), 726.
- Butt, D., Fahey, R., Feez, S., Spinks, S., & Yallop, C. (2013). *Using functional grammar: An explorer's guide* (3rd ed.). Macquarie University.
- Eggs, S., & Slade, D. (2006). *Analyzing casual conversation* (3rd ed.). Equinox Publishing.
- Fairclough, N. (2013). *Language and power* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Halliday, M. A. (2019). Linguistic function and literary style: An inquiry into the language of William Golding's *The Inheritors*. In *Essays in modern stylistics* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1978). *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning* (2nd ed.). London: Cambridge University Press.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. (2013). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar*. Routledge.
- Halliday, M. A. K., Matthiessen, C. M. (2014). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Hancock, B., Ockleford, E., & Windridge, K. (2001). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* (4th ed.). London: Trent focus group.
- Martin, J. R., & White, P. R. R. (2005). *The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English* (4th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Miqdad Ijam, D. M., & Kadhim Al-Ameedi, R. T. (2024). A Systemic Functional Linguistic Analysis of Mood and Modality in One of Metcalfe's Novels. *Theory & Practice in Language Studies (TPLS)*, 14(5), 35-44.
- Nam, S., Hye Kim, J., Seo, G., & Kim, S. (2022). Mothers' Willingness to Sacrifice for Their Children: An Exploratory Approach. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 53(3), 356-381.
- Salsabila, S., & Fidiyanti, M. (2024, October). Emotional Expression in Taylor Swift's 'Back to December' Using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. In *Proceedings of National English Undergraduate Student Conference (NEUSCO)*, 1(1), 204-213.
- Shahmir, A., Rasool, S., & Irshad, S. (2023). The Attitudinal Analysis of Speeches Delivered by Noam Chomsky and Shah Mahmood Qureshi at United Nation. *UW Journal of Social Sciences*, 6(1), 97-111.
- Thompson, G., & Hunston, S. (Eds.). (2006). *System and Corpus: Exploring Connections*. Equinox Publishing.
- Thompson, G. (2014). *Introducing Functional Grammar* (3rd ed.). Routledge.