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## The Role of Personal Pronouns Used by Formula 1 Drivers in Post-Race Press Conferences 2024

Silvia Dwi Nuraini<sup>1</sup>✉, Suhandoko<sup>2</sup>

Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Indonesia

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### Abstract

This study aims to analyze the personal pronoun used by Formula 1 drivers in post-race press conferences by using Halliday's Systemic Functional Language. Focusing on Formula 1 drivers who appeared in post-race press conferences following 24 races during the 2024 season and employing corpus-based approach, we sought to investigate the type and the function behind the use of the personal pronoun by Formula 1 drivers in their post-race conferences. The results show that there are 17 personal pronouns found in the post-race press conference by Formula 1 drivers. These pronouns were divided into three categories: first-person, second-person, and third-person. Moreover, it was found that the use of personal pronouns in the post-race press conferences varied depending on their function. Firstly, the first-person personal pronouns were used to portray the professionalism and appreciative side of drivers. Secondly, the second-person personal pronouns were used to portray the drivers' communicative side. Lastly, the third-person personal pronouns were used to portray the drivers' objective and competitive side. Furthermore, personal pronoun 'I' is the most frequently used by Formula 1 drivers, which primarily functions to reflect drivers' individual performances and personal experiences on the grid. Ultimately, the findings show how the use of personal pronouns can reflect individual, team performance, and broader audiences.

## INTRODUCTION

Formula One is widely recognized as one of the highest levels of competition in the motorsports industry. Apart from the use of highly sophisticated automotive technology and the super-high budgets required by each team, another reason is that this type of sport has a very wide range of fans all around the world. According to F1 Destinations (2024), Formula One viewers have a significant increase over the previous year, reaching 480,000 viewers at almost all of the 24 Grand Prix during the 2023 season. Nowadays, as the sport became famous, the audience varies, not only men but also ranging from women to children. Moreover, there is a consistent pattern to the F1 races and their preparation. The race usually takes place over three days, commonly known as the “F1 weekend”. The first day consists of free practice one and two, where the cars are adjusted to the track. The second day consists of free practice three and the qualifying round to determine the starting grid. Finally, on the last day, the race is held. The actual race is, of course, the most important part and the one that attracts viewers. The race will be very exciting if a lot happens on the track. But sometimes, the race can be boring if certain things such as overtaking and crashes do not happen. Thus, in addition the race itself and the prize-giving ceremony, Formula 1 also provides media content in the form of post-race press conference where the drivers analyse the race.

Formula 1 cannot show everything that happens on the track, viewers can only see what the cameras are able to capture, which does not include the drama or detailed explanations of certain incidents. The post-race press conference provided the solution. The post-race interview offers an overview of what happened, and what is not possible to get just by watching the actual race (Sund, 2023). In general, post-race press conferences provide a chance for drivers to share their experiences on the track with fans regarding performance, excitement, or even to provide any clarifications. In a highly competitive sporting environment such as Formula 1, drivers are required to be aggressive because the only thing that matters is to win. However, at the same time, losing self-control can also cause them to be labeled as bad drivers. This applies not only on the track, but also off the track, where drivers should behave in a manner that demonstrates good sportsmanship and refrain from displaying aggressive behavior towards their fellow competitors. Indeed, this kind of ethical reflection can be seen through the choice of language used by Formula 1 drivers, especially through post-race press conferences. Throughout the interview, drivers use language to establish interpersonal relationships with other drivers, journalists, and

viewers. Out of many linguistic elements in their conversations, personal pronouns are one of the identical markers used by formula one drivers.

Personal pronouns are an important element in the communication process that functions to represent the speaker's identity and show interpersonal relationships. In the context of a sport like Formula 1, the use of personal pronouns is interesting to examine further. This is because post-race press conferences serve not only as a medium for conveying technical information after the race, but also as a means of building a social image with fellow teams and global audiences. Numerous studies have been conducted on personal pronouns, particularly in the political and academic spheres. However, there are limited research which analyzing the use of personal pronouns in the context of high-stakes sports, particularly Formula 1. Therefore, this study focuses on the use of personal pronouns by Formula 1 drivers in their post-race press conferences, analyzing the function behind the use of personal pronouns by Formula 1 drivers and how they use personal pronouns to build an image of their victory.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Pronouns are closely related to nouns. Nouns are words used to represent individuals or objects. In their usage, nouns are often replaced by substitute words called pronouns. Hernina et al. (2024) stated that from a functional perspective, pronouns can occupy the position of nouns as subjects, objects, and even predicates. Moreover, pronouns have a unique characteristic: their reference or point of reference constantly changes depending on the speaker or writer, listener or reader, or the person or thing being discussed. In other words, pronouns have no fixed meaning, their meaning depends on the context or situation of a conversation. Additionally, these pronouns come in a variety of forms, such as interrogative, demonstrative, and personal.

Personal pronouns serve to replace nouns that refer to people, animals, or specific concepts. The use of these pronouns is crucial because it prevents the repeated use of nouns. Sari Adelina et al. (2022) argued that the use of personal pronouns offers a more concise and flexible way of conveying who is involved and who is being discussed in a communication. Personal pronouns have their own characteristics that distinguish them when used in a sentence. Siska (2024) classified these characteristics into four types: number (singular and plural), person (first, second, and third), cases (subjective, objective, and nominative), and gender (masculine, feminine, and neuter). Meanwhile, according to their function, personal pronouns can be divided into five types: subject pronouns, object

pronouns, possessive pronouns, possessive adjectives, and reflexive pronouns. Additionally, personal pronouns can be further studied functionally through Halliday's Systemic Functional Language (SFL) theory.

Systemic Functional Language (SFL) emphasizes the function of language use in context rather than the structure of the language itself. Halliday (1978) stated that language has three metafunctions, namely ideational, textual, and interpersonal represented in a vast system network of meaning possibilities. Precisely, the system of meaning means that language provides various choices of meaning that can be selected by speakers according to the context of their communication. So, when people communicate, they not only choose words but also meanings among the numerous possibilities in the language system. Furthermore, each of the three metafunctions discussed above plays a distinct part in the process of creating meaning (Haratyan, 2011). First, the ideational metafunction points out how language functions to explain a phenomenon or event and connect logical ideas such as cause-and-effect relationships in the natural and social environment. Second, textual metafunction explains how language functions to arrange and organize information so that it can be conveyed in a cohesive and coherent manner. Meanwhile, interpersonal metafunction emphasizes the function of language to clarify the social relationship between the speaker and the listener.

In relation to interpersonal metafunction, personal pronouns are one of the markers that enable speakers to negotiate position, authority, and social relationships between speakers and listeners. Neddard (2017) stated that interpersonal metafunction explores how language enables speakers to manage, handle, and establish social relationships and communication with listeners or interlocutors. In other words, personal pronouns serve to point out social relations within a communication system. Thus, personal pronouns, which are the focus of this study, have a broader function than simply as a substitute for nouns, namely to build social relationships between speakers and listeners.

There are several previous studies that have examined the role of personal pronoun in a spoken text. Some of these studies are research conducted by Dahnilyah (2017), who analyzed the use of personal pronouns to express implied intent in Obama's speech. This study found that in his speeches Obama used lots of personal pronouns 'we' and 'our', where this was followed by features of Obama's speech that were rhetorical, manipulative, and persuasive. Another study of personal pronouns was done by Wahyuningsih (2018) which analyzed the use of personal pronouns in Donald Trump's inauguration speech. The result of the study reveals the function of personal pronouns by Donald Trump is as a way

to represent his personal image and maintain good interaction with his audience. In addition, Saj (2012) studied personal pronouns used by Oprah in hosting the Queen Rania of Jordan. A discourse analysis approach was used in this study. Moreover, this study found that Oprah's choice of personal pronouns in her conversation had a significant factor in maintaining a good and warm conversation with her interlocutor, Queen Rania of Jordan.

These studies show that personal pronouns indicate that language has a function in shaping identity and social image that are acceptable to the social community. While several studies of personal pronouns used in spoken text has been studied in another linguistics research, there is limited research in this study which focused on the Formula 1's post-race press conference. This research needs to be conducted in order to see how the winners describe their victories through the use of personal pronouns. Moreover, this study can provide an insight into how drivers portray their victories. Furthermore, the personal pronouns analysis can also reveal the identity of the drivers and the people around them through the personal pronouns they use. The gap of this study highlights the implementation of corpus linguistics approach in conducting the research. Furthermore, the high-stakes and highly competitive environment in Formula 1 leaves unanswered questions about the role of personal pronouns used by the drivers. Therefore, this study will reveal how personal pronouns function to portray their victories.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The approach used in this research is a corpus-based qualitative analysis. According to Fossey et al. (2002), qualitative research aims to answer questions related to humans' lives and the social worlds. The corpus data in this study consisted of several transcripts of drivers' post-race press conferences which covered 24 races in 2024 season. Post-race press conferences are question-and-answer sessions between journalists and drivers held after the race and attended by the three drivers who finished in the top three positions in a Grand Prix series. This interview was documented in video form and uploaded to the official Formula 1 YouTube account. Other than that, Formula 1 also provides a transcript version that can be accessed on the official Formula 1 website. To collect the data, the researchers searched for the official transcripts of Formula 1 drivers' post-race press conferences. The transcripts were gathered from the official website of Formula 1 in 2024 season, namely *formula1.com*. After that, the researchers copied all interview transcripts from the official Formula 1 website and combined them into a single corpus data set. After collecting the

data, in order to guarantee compatibility for corpus linguistics analysis, the researchers used the Notepad tool to convert the post-race interview transcripts into plain text format (.txt). Lastly, these corpus data then went through a cleaning process to remove any unnecessary details, such as the questions from the interviewer that had nothing to do with the drivers' statements.

After underwent a cleaning process, then, the corpus was analyzed using LancsBox software. LancsBox designed for linguistics analysis and offered several tools that can be used such as Whelk tools and KWIC (Key Word in Context) or concordances (Zih et al., 2022). To analyze the corpus data using LancsBox, there are several processes to follow. First, the researcher created a corpus folder to input the post-race press conferences data transcripts in (.txt) format. Second, the transcript data was imported into LancsBox for further analysis. Third, after the corpus data has been successfully processed, the next step is to identify the various types of personal pronouns that appear in the corpus data and calculate the frequency of each type of personal pronoun using the Whelk tool in LancsBox. Fourth, the researchers began analyzing the personal pronouns that had been found and focused on the analysis of KWIC (Key Word in Context), as well as listed the utterances that related and needed further analysis. Fifth, the researchers giving interpretation and detailed explanation for each selected utterance. Finally, to answer the second question, the researchers provide a more in-depth explanation and analysis of how Formula 1 drivers describe their victories through the personal pronouns they use in post-race press conferences by adapting Halliday's Systemic Functional Language (SFL) theory.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

After analyzing the post-race press conference transcripts by Formula One drivers, from 94849 tokens of the studied corpus, there are 17 (9879 tokens) personal pronouns used by F1 drivers in post-race press conferences. Among of them, the four personal pronouns that appears frequently in the studied corpus are the personal pronoun 'I' (3909 tokens), 'it' (1646 tokens), 'we' (1512 tokens), and 'you' (1067 tokens). The detailed analysis of system in personal pronouns used by Formula 1 drivers in post-race press conferences is shown in the following table which describing the frequency of personal pronouns:

**Table 1. Personal Pronouns in F1 Post-Race Press Conferences**

ID	Type	Frequency
1	I	3909
2	It	1646
3	We	1512
4	You	1067
5	Me	397
6	He	286
7	Us	221
8	They	212
9	Our	185
10	Them	158
11	Him	142
12	Myself	91
13	Ourselves	22
14	Yourself	14
15	Himself	6
16	Themselves	6
17	Itself	5

**Personal Pronouns in Formula 1 Post-Race Press Conferences**

The following is a corpus of KWIC (Key Word in Context) analysis related to the function of the use of personal pronouns in post-race press conferences by Formula 1 drivers. In this case, the researchers provide some evidence from KWIC LanksBox in each analysis as follows:

*First person personal pronoun*

**Table 2. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘I’**

instead of getting DRS battle. So, and then	I	could overtake them. No problem. And yeah, it’s going to
Rid of the dirty air and overtake people, or do	I	start saving my brakes because they’re going to fail or

The analysis of KWIC found that personal pronoun ‘I’ is frequently used by Formula 1 drivers to convey various expressions, including statement and decision. They used personal pronoun ‘I’ to refer to their own skill and performance on track as mentioned in this quote above. Moreover, personal pronoun often followed by drivers’ personal statements about their own performance without having anything to do with the team.

**Table 3. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘we’**

the beginning of the Medium or beginning of the Hards,	<b>we</b>	struggled to switch the tyres on. Then towards the end
quite close with the Ferraris, with the Mercs early on.	<b>We</b>	were fighting with the DRS, obviously, being a lap earlier.

Based on the KWIC data above, F1 drivers frequently used personal pronoun ‘we’ to referring to their team. The KWIC shows the personal pronoun ‘we’ is often paired and followed by drivers' statements when they talk about the performance of the team as well the performance of the car. Additionally, drivers often use ‘we’ to appreciate the contribution and dedication of the team, such as engineers and mechanics.

**Table 4. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘me’**

get within DRS, but Lando can also push and keep	<b>me</b>	out of the DRS. And that means I'm going to
can tell you, Carlos is so incredibly talented. He's helped	<b>me</b>	to improve in so many areas, his work ethic, his

The KWIC data shows that the personal pronoun ‘me’ refers to the driver. The personal pronoun ‘me’ mostly followed by a sentence that describes the drivers’ personal experience in a particular situation on the grid.

**Table 5. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘us’**

have said we had no chance. I didn't expect probably	<b>us</b>	to be competing against the Ferraris today. I think our
did a very good job today. Third and fourth for	<b>us,</b>	as a team, is positive and a good load of

The concordance data above shows that the personal pronoun ‘us’ refers to more than one person. ‘Us’ here is a pronoun that contains several entities, including the driver himself and his team. In this context, ‘us’ can also refer to their teammates.

**Table 6. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘our’**

and the amount of stress, it puts, these Sprint events to	<b>our</b>	mechanics is quite large. And I think as a
I just never felt like the tyres were working on	<b>our</b>	car. So that's something that we have to analyze. But

Unlike the personal pronoun ‘us’, which tends to refer to human entities, the personal pronoun ‘our’ has a broader scope. The KWIC data above shows how ‘our’ concords with various things, including mechanics and cars.

**Table 7. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘myself’**

and I was just feeling emotional. I tried to remind	<b>myself</b>	to try and enjoy the race as much as possible and
me to stay within the DRS and I could feel	<b>myself</b>	being pretty quick. And then, yeah, I don't know when

The personal pronoun ‘myself’ is used when the subject and object of the sentence are the same. In the KWIC data, the personal pronoun ‘myself’ is a pronoun used by Formula 1 drivers to describe situations or conditions about themselves without involving other parties. In other words, the drivers are talking about themselves.

**Table 8. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘ourselves’**

I feel like we made things way too hard for	<b>ourselves</b>	and way too tricky for ourselves. We should have just
the win, but we just simply didn’t have it in	<b>ourselves</b>	today. So we came back with a P3, a podium

Similar to the personal pronoun ‘myself’, ‘ourselves’ is also used when the subject and object are the same. However, in the context of this data, the personal pronoun ‘ourselves’ relates to situations involving many parties and does not focus solely on the speaker or driver. Moreover, the word ‘ourselves’ often concurs with sentences that indicate the struggles and conditions faced by the team.

*Second person personal pronoun*

**Table 9. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘you’**

self, you can manage the tyres, you have less pressure.	<b>You</b>	can choose your places where to push and not to
I got up in front and I had a gap,	<b>you</b>	can manage everything. You can manage yourself; you can manage

Formula 1 drivers frequently used personal pronoun ‘you’ to referring to the audience or the interviewer. They often used ‘you’ to describing their personal experiences on the grid by trying to get others to feel their situation or position which can make the audience are easier to understand.

**Table 10. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘yourself’**

had a gap, you can manage everything. You can manage	<b>yourself,</b>	you can manage the tyres, you have less pressure. You
close the gap in certain corners, you just laugh to	<b>yourself,</b>	because it’s not something I can do. Particularly in the

The personal pronoun ‘yourself’ is a pronoun that appears to reflect the driver's personal experiences. This pronoun is a form of generalization, placing the listener in the driver's shoes, even though he is actually speaking about himself.

*Third person personal pronoun*

**Table 11. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘it’**

just incredible MV: Yeah, for sure. I mean, you know,	<b>it</b>	was very challenging season. I think also as a person,
We got a really good balance in the car today.	<b>It</b>	felt a lot better than it was yesterday, particularly Q3

Personal pronoun ‘it’ refers to non-human entities, such as race situations or the car. The KWIC data proves that ‘it’ stands for specific racing situations, whether it is good or bad. Furthermore, the use of ‘it’ to describe the condition of the car shows how “it” functions as a referential pronoun used to replace a noun phrase to prevent repetition.

**Table 12. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘he’**

started rasing in Formula 1 with Carlos. You always knew	<b>he</b>	was going to be there and he was always going
of the race. Charles could try something a bit different.	<b>He</b>	was going to finish third either way. And, yeah, he

The KWIC data above shows that ‘he’ is a pronoun that refers specifically to another driver. In addition, in this context, ‘he’ is often accompanied opinions or praise of the other party.

**Table 13. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘they’**

of reach. But yeah, congratulations, first of all, to McLaren.	<b>They</b>	deserve this championship. They’ve been rock solid in the last
the end, my tyres were completely gone. And again,	<b>they</b>	were just too quick in the straights for me to

The personal pronoun ‘they’ is a pronoun used by Formula 1 drivers to refer to opposing teams. According to the KWIC data above, ‘they’ is mostly followed by statements of praise and the rival team’s performance.

**Table 14. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘them’**

I had a very strong first stint, managed to keep	<b>them</b>	within reach and within pressure margins, especially when I was
at the minute. So whether or not we could beat	<b>them,</b>	they have a better car, they have a quicker car,

The personal pronoun ‘them’ refers to the subject mentioned earlier so that there is no repetition. The scope of this pronoun is quite broad, as it is used to replace several things, including specific objects and opposing teams.

**Table 15. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘him’**

I think that mistake with Oscar when I tried overtaking	<b>him</b>	and I lost the position to Lewis cost us at
helped me have a chance against George, so I overcut	<b>him.</b>	I didn’t do a good enough job afterwards, and he

The KWIC data reveals that ‘him’ refers to a person, or in this context, the driver mentioned earlier. This pronoun is followed by a statement about their condition during the race, which directly concerns another party.

**Table 16. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘himself’**

in Ferrari with Charles and against Charles. But he’s proven	<b>himself</b>	enough. So I don’t think anyone needs to doubt him
work. So, yeah, hats off to them and Ferrari and	<b>himself</b>	because the driving part makes a big difference out there.

The personal pronoun ‘himself’ concurs with the person mentioned earlier. The driver commented on other drivers by emphasizing their individual identities through the use of ‘himself’.

**Table 17. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘themselves’**

to live from their passion, their driving, to battle between	<b>themselves.</b>	And I have a lot of good friends there that
to put them under any pressure. MV: Advice to race	<b>themselves.</b>	As a driver? Right. Yeah, I mean, you know, in

According to the KWIC data above, the personal pronoun ‘themselves’ is not limited to replacing people, but is also used to replace specific things like the race itself. ‘themselves’ broadly corresponds to several terms, including audience, drivers, and the race.

**Table 18. Examples of concordance list of the pronoun ‘itself’**

work in progress, in general. SP: I think Formula 1	<b>itself,</b>	it’s a great platform that gives an opportunity to new
Dhabi, but let’s see. I just hope this pace shows	<b>itself</b>	again before the end of the season and gives me

The last personal pronoun ‘itself’ is used when the subject and object in a sentence refer to the same thing. Based on the KWIC data above, this pronoun emphasizes previous phrases, such as *Formula 1* and the *pace*.

**The Function of Personal Pronouns in Formula 1 Post-Race Press Conference**

In this section, the researchers present the interpretation of how personal pronouns used by Formula 1 drivers in post-race press conferences emphasize the function of language in build an image of their victory. Halliday, in the theory of Systematic Functional Language (SFL), particularly in interpersonal metafunction, explains that the role of language in reflecting social relationships between speakers and listeners can be seen in several ways, one of which is through the use of pronouns (Haratyan, 2011). Therefore, through this theoretical framework, the researchers will delve deeper into how Formula 1 drivers are perceived in the social sphere by using personal pronoun in their communication process.

***The use of 1<sup>st</sup> person personal pronouns to portray the professionalism and appreciative side of drivers***

There are several 1<sup>st</sup> person personal pronouns found in the studied corpus, including personal pronoun ‘I’, ‘we’, ‘me’, ‘us’, ‘our’, ‘myself’, and ‘ourselves’. In the context of language's function in shaping identity, the personal pronouns ‘I’ and ‘me’ appear regularly in drivers’ statements at post-race press conferences. With a dominant presence with 3909 personal pronouns ‘I’ and 397 personal pronouns ‘me’, both of them underscores how drivers place greater emphasis on personal aspects in their statements, particularly when describing individual performance and personal experiences during races. This is captured in the following excerpt:

“I had Lewis attack **me** early in the race, but then once **I** got back past him, **I** got a bit of a gap to Carlos.”

By using the pronoun ‘I’ and ‘me’, the drivers emphasized that the statements they made were purely based on their own experiences and did not involve their teams. Moreover, when drivers achieve positive results such as successfully overtaking, the personal pronouns ‘I’ and ‘me’ serve as tools for claiming success. Conversely, when they experience defeat or are involved in incidents that cause loses of position, the use of ‘I’ and ‘me’ convey the idea that the drivers are brave enough to admit their mistakes and does not blame others. Thus, both personal pronoun ‘I’ and ‘me’ reinforces the drivers’ credibility as a professional Formula 1 driver who confidently show off their skills, but does not avoid responsibility when they are making mistakes.

In relation to language as a linguistic tool for reflecting team identity, there are several personal pronouns used by Formula 1 drivers, including ‘we’ and ‘us’. In the studied corpus, there are 1512 occurrences of the personal pronoun ‘we’ and 221 occurrences of the personal pronoun ‘us’. This result indicates that Formula 1 is a collective sport that

relies on the teamwork of many people, including drivers, mechanics, engineers, and other crew members. The following quote illustrates the use of the personal pronoun ‘we’ to avoid a subjective or personal tone:

“Unfortunately for **us**, **we** are still coming off the back of a tough couple of races where **we** are not quite there to fight for the win yet, but **we** are trying to do everything **we** can as a team to be back on form in Silverstone...”

Interpersonally, the use of the personal pronoun ‘we’ and ‘us’ can serve to build a sense of solidarity and loyalty among drivers and crew members. Through the use of these pronouns, drivers acknowledge the team’s role in both their failures and victories. Instead of using ‘I’ to make statements, drivers tend to use ‘we’ and ‘us’ to show appreciation for the team’s collaboration throughout the race. Therefore, this pronoun reinforces the image of drivers as professional and unselfish individuals who value teamwork.

#### *The use of 2<sup>nd</sup> person personal pronouns to portray the drivers’ communicative side*

The second personal pronouns ‘you’ and ‘yourself’ play a major role in reflecting a broader audience. In this context, ‘you’ and ‘yourself’ do not actually refer to the journalists or the audiences, these pronouns are used by the drivers to make it seem like they are talking about themselves. By using these personal pronouns, the drivers want to engage the audience or listener to imagine the experience the drivers had during the race. This can be proven through the following quote:

“It’s something that **you** cannot discover in testing because in testing **you** never put **yourself** in 10 laps consecutive behind four cars getting all the hot air from the four cars in front and the brakes never cool down.”

The quote shows how the driver tends to use ‘you’ and ‘yourself’ over ‘I,’ even though the context is about himself. This choice of personal pronouns allows the driver to make his speech more universal and relatable to his listeners. Through the use of second-personal pronouns, the driver’s victory is portrayed as something everyone can experience, not just the driver himself. This is a form of inclusive reference, which in pragmatic studies is related to engagement strategy. This strategy explained how speakers or writers attempts to actively engage readers or listeners with the argument by concentrating their attention, involving them in the discourse, and assisting them in coming to their own conclusions (Hyland, 2005). In addition, apart from making the statement more universal, the use of the personal pronoun ‘you’ also has a mitigating function. This function gives the impression that the driver’s statement is ‘softened’ to avoid an accusatory or aggressive tone because the personal pronoun ‘you’ directly involves the listener. Conveying the

experience from this perspective can create an interpersonal connection or building rapport with the audience. As a result, the image of the drivers will be seen as a communicative person by connecting individual experiences with a collective narrative that is easily understood by the public.

*The use of 3<sup>rd</sup> person personal pronouns to portray the drivers' objective and competitive side*

The personal pronoun 'it' is the second type of personal pronoun that has the most occurrences in the studied corpus with 1646 occurrences. This type of personal pronoun often refers to cars, the race, and other technical situations. It serves to provide objective statements, based on the facts that happened on the track. Evidence for this can be seen through the following quote:

“And yeah, I could finish the race, win **it**, and bring **it** home. A great feeling.”

In the quote above, 'it' is a personal pronoun that has a clear reference. The quote shows how 'it' is used twice in the same sentence. First, 'it' is used to refer to 'the race' mentioned earlier. Second, 'it' is used to reflect several possible things, which could be the result or specifically the trophy. However, in several cases, the personal pronoun 'it' can also be impersonal or not reflect anything. For instance:

“**It** was a tough fight out there at the beginning of the race, just to hold on to that P3, and I saw on the TV that Max and Lando were going pretty hard”

Based on the excerpt above, the pronoun 'it' does not refer to anything in the sentence, whether it be a person or an object. Instead, 'it' only functions as the subject of the sentence to describe the situation during the race. However, both personal and impersonal pronouns reflect the objective stance of the drivers. The technical explanations presented demonstrate that the driver assessed the situation based on factual observations. This underscores the ability of a professional, experienced and skilled Formula 1 driver to convey their experiences not only through subjective emotions but also objectively. Knowledge of technical aspects such as this can help build the image of drivers as objective and analytical figures.

The next second personal pronoun with the less existence is the personal pronoun 'he' with 286 occurrences and 'him' with 142 occurrences. The pronouns 'he' and 'him' are usually used by formula 1 drivers to refer to opposing driver, whether their teammate or competitor drivers. The use varies, but it is mostly used to express appreciation and comments on an incident or a situation during the race. Here are the examples:

“And also, you know, well done to Lewis, because **he** really controlled that race and circumstances were slightly different.”

“That crucial decision at the end, **he** just did a better job on, so hats off to **him** and Mercedes, they deserve it.”

In this quote, the personal pronouns ‘he’ and ‘him’ refer to the competitor. Through these pronouns, the driver provides positive recognition of his opponent’s abilities in a sporting manner. This demonstrates the role of personal pronouns in shaping the driver’s image as a professional, humble, and respectful figure.

Other second-personal pronouns are ‘they’ and ‘them,’ with 212 and 158 occurrences, respectively. Both pronouns are used to refer to the team itself, competitor teams, or other external parties. In the context of the Post-Race Press Conference, this personal pronoun is mostly used to convey appreciation or praise to opposing drivers. The example can be seen through this following excerpt:

“Towards the end, McLaren and Lando proved that **they** are still fast and they’re still very quick and very difficult to beat, but I’m glad that we got fastest lap with Charles and a lot of points for the championship.”

“So, whether or not we could beat **them**, **they** have a better car, **they** have a quicker car, and we have to work harder until we can match what they’re doing”

The example above demonstrates how the drivers expressed their appreciation for the opposing team’s strengths. Moreover, the use of the personal pronouns ‘they’ and ‘them’ not only emphasizes their victory over the opposing team but also creates the image of a driver who is critical of their opponents’ strengths.

Based on the objectives of this study, there are two problems discussed regarding the personal pronouns used by Formula 1 drivers in post-race press conferences, namely their types and functions. The findings reveal that there are 17 types of personal pronouns in the studied corpus. These pronouns are categorized into three types: first person, second person, and third person. Among these personal pronouns, the most dominant pronoun is the personal pronoun ‘I,’ followed by ‘it’ and ‘we.’ These results underscore that drivers tend to use a personal perspective when describing their performance and experiences on the track. Formula 1 drivers are professionals who are highly trained in their field. Therefore, being recognized for their hard work is one of the ways they can make their victories even more meaningful. Although Formula 1 is a sport that relies on teamwork, it cannot be denied that drivers play a major role in the final results. The personal pronoun ‘I’ emphasizes that the drivers are the key factor in the victory, because they are the ones who have control over what happens on the track, such as the decisions made in a very short time and how they execute the strategies given by their team. Hence, the use of the

personal pronoun 'I' serves to acknowledge the drivers' efforts, not only because of their fast cars but also because of their skills.

These results are similar to previous research by Saj (2012). In his study, Saj also found that the personal pronoun "I" was the most frequently used pronoun by Oprah Winfrey when interviewing Queen Rania of Jordan on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. During the interviews, Queen Rania talked about psychology and interpersonal relationships among women. As a host and a woman, Oprah Winfrey often uses the personal pronoun 'I' to state her personal point of view on the topic being discussed and share her personal information to build intimacy in female relationships. Moreover, Oprah Winfrey also express her personal opinions about something through the use of 'I'. Similarly, personal pronoun 'I' also used by Formula 1 drivers to gives comment on a specific topic in the context of post-race interviews. From this, an interesting fact was revealed, that by using the personal pronoun 'I', drivers manage to represent themself through their statements that is fact and objective. Thus, by using the personal pronoun 'I', the drivers clearly demonstrate their professionalism and responsibility by acknowledging that their performance in the race is an achievement they have earned through their own skills.

However, it contrasts with Dahnilyah (2017) and Wahyuningsih (2018) findings, which showed that 'we' had the highest frequency. This is understandable because the data from both studies consists of political speeches delivered by the President of the United States, which tend to be persuasive and aim to create a sense of unity between the leader and the citizens. In contrast, in sports environments such as Formula 1, the personal pronoun 'I' tends to be frequently chosen by drivers to convey personal opinions and individual experiences. Moreover, political speeches are used by politicians to achieve specific goals and are persuasive in nature. This differs from post-race press conferences, which are spontaneous actions by drivers to share their experiences and evaluations of their races. So, considering these differences, it can be said that the choice of personal pronouns can be influenced by the communicative goal that a speaker wants to achieve in a particular context.

It should be emphasized that this study has several limitations. First, the analysis focused solely on drivers who finished on the podium in the 2024 Formula 1 Grand Prix season, which is inherently random, as each Grand Prix has a different winner. Therefore, the results may not be able to represent the language style of all Formula 1 drivers. Moreover, the data used in this study is limited to post-race press conference from the 2024 season and does not cover neither the current 2025 season nor any previous Formula 1

season. So, it can be said that the results only reflect a specific moment in time. For future research, another suggestion to consider is to analyze the use of personal pronouns among Formula 1 drivers with a broader scope, such as a comparative analysis of the use of personal pronouns in two different seasons and how communication is influenced by language disparity factors. Additionally, the data analyzed in this study did not include all conversations, only a few examples of each pronoun type were analyzed. Therefore, further research is needed to provide more complex analysis results.

## **CONCLUSION(S)**

Based on the findings and discussions in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that drivers consistently use personal pronouns in their conversations during post-race press conferences. There are total of 17 types of personal pronouns that can be identified, among which the personal pronoun 'I' is the most frequently used, followed by the personal pronouns 'it' and 'we'. Through this analysis, it can be seen that the choice of personal pronouns by drivers is influenced by the communicative goals they wish to achieve, particularly in describing their victories. Moreover, categorized into three parts, including first person, second person, and third person, personal pronouns have their own functions. First, the first-person personal pronouns were used to portray the professionalism and appreciative side of drivers. Second, the second-person personal pronouns were used to portray the drivers' communicative side. While the third-person personal pronouns were used to portray the drivers' objective and competitive side. As the most frequently used personal pronoun, 'I' appeared 3,909 times in the drivers' statements at post-race press conferences. Through the use of the personal pronoun 'I,' drivers label themselves as professionals who play a key role in their victories. Moreover, the second most frequently used personal pronoun, 'it,' is often used to represent non-human entities, such as cars, races, or any technical situations. However, in some cases, the personal pronoun 'it' does not represent any of these things and is referred to as an impersonal 'it.' In addition, the less presence of the personal pronoun 'we' is used to represent internal team members, such as mechanics, team principals, and engineers. After all, Formula 1 drivers are passionate individuals who work hard to give it their all both on and off the track, and in order to do so, they require a certain level of specialized language skills to achieve their goals, as well as to make their victories even more valuable.

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