

# Still Young But Full-Fledged Democracy: An Analysis of Conceptual Metaphor of Indonesian Democracy

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the Indonesian Democracy as the target domain of conceptual metaphor used in foreign media news reports around the 2019 general election. The study aims to identify the sub-topics of the target domain related to Indonesian Democracy and further to describe the highlighted image and view towards Indonesian democracy. The data were taken from forty foreign news reports from four different media. The Conceptual Metaphor Framework of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) was used. The data analysis was conducted in two stages; the first stage was quantitative analysis using AntCoc Corpus Concordance Software, and the second stage was qualitative analysis to analyze the sub-topic of the conceptual metaphor target domain. The result showed that from seventy-seven democracy-related discourse, there were fifteen metaphorical expressions. Three main sub-topics generally described the target domain democracy: the age and the development of Indonesian democracy, the perception towards democracy, and the importance of Indonesian democracy for geopolitical stability. The results also show that Indonesian democracy is viewed as growing in a better direction as described in metaphors such as the only remaining democratic bright spots in South East Asia and the largest displays of democracy globally.

**Keywords:** *AntConc concordance software, conceptual metaphor, corpus linguistics, Indonesian democracy*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The use of metaphor in everyday discourse, including in political discourse has been acknowledged as a tool in sending a powerful message. Charteris-Black (2011) agrees that metaphor is typically used in persuasive political myths and arguments because it represents a certain mental representation. According to Chilton (2004), metaphor is essential in political discourse as it can be used as a mode of reasoning. In comparison, Goatly (2007) reports how metaphors can construct myths and shape ideologies.

This paper aims to examine the sub-topic of the Indonesian democracy as the conceptual metaphor target domain in foreign media reports on Indonesian election 2019 from the corpus-driven analysis and to identify the highlighted image and view towards Indonesian democracy that can be inferred from the metaphor.

The use of metaphorical expressions are also found during the reports around the Indonesian election 2019. The foreign media news highlights various aspects from the candidates, political parties, and the voters. The metaphorical description of the Indonesian election itself, in general, is reported by Adam and Prautomo, (2020) who report one of them the logistical challenge of the election that is metaphorically described.

This study is a corpus-based study, McEnery and Wilson (1996) define Corpus linguistics as a language study based on real-life language use. In conceptual metaphor theory, corpus linguistics is essential in examining a large source of data. Sardinha (2011) agrees that metaphor probabilities and dimensions of metaphor variation are two of the aspects provided by the use of corpus linguistics in metaphor research. The use of concordance software that involves large text corpora has also been extensive, especially when it involves a large number of data.

The analysis of metaphor in corpus linguistics can be conducted with various orientations. Stefanowitsch (2006) affirms that the orientation of data collection in metaphor study can be conducted in source domain-oriented, target domain-oriented, or both. This study focuses on democracy as the target domain means that the metaphor used to speak about Indonesian democracy in foreign media news that has been purposively taken as data will be analysed.

**1.1. Conceptual Metaphor in Political Discourse**

The Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) as the framework of this study has been extensively used since it was first proposed by Lakoff & Johnson (1980). The CMT views metaphor as a cognitive process rather than at the surface linguistics level. There are two domains in conceptual metaphor, the first is the target domain, which is the topic discussed and is more abstract, and the second is the source domain, which is the concrete topic used to speak about the target domain. Thus, in this study, the target domain is Democracy, whereas the source domain is all the topics used to speak about the target domain.

The research of conceptual metaphor in political discourse has been highlighted by many scholars (Arcimavičienė, 2011; Fallah & Moini, 2016; Franssila, 2013; Umar & Rasul, 2017) and has shown the pervasiveness of metaphor in political discourse. Perez & Reuchamps (2015) agree that metaphors not only reflect perceived reality, but they also function as cues by which citizens come to understand political positions. Whereas further analysis method of metaphor in political discourse is proposed by Charteris-Black, (2004) that applies the cognitive view of metaphor in political discourse and proposes the critical analysis with three analysis stage, i.e: Metaphor Identification, Metaphor Interpretation, and Metaphor Explanation.

**2. METHOD**

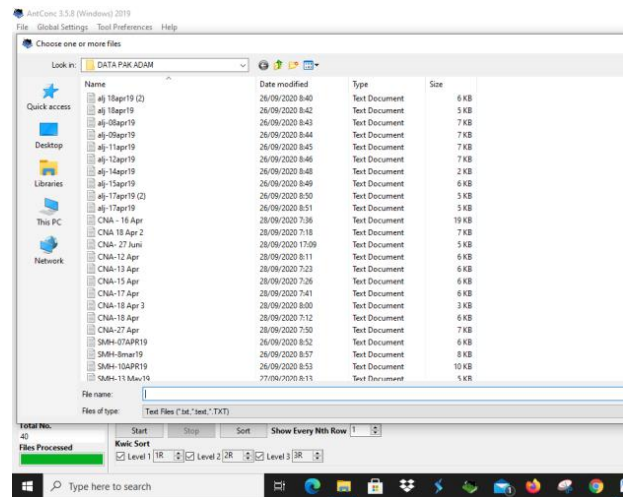
As this study is corpus-driven, then the quantitative and qualitative methods are used during the data collection and data analysis stage. According to Biber, Conrad, & Reppen (1998), corpus-based research relies on quantitative and qualitative processes. The quantitative stage is used to analyze the comparison of metaphorical versus the non-metaphorical appearance of a particular metaphor about democracy. In contrast, the qualitative method is used to analyze the deep ideology

behind the metaphor. In this study, the terms metaphor and metaphorical expression are used interchangeably.

There were 40 news reports taken as the source of the data in this study, ten news reports for each online media news, i.e., Al Jazeera (AJ), Sydney Morning Herald (SMH), The Guardian (TG), and Channel News Asia (CNA). The news reports chosen were all discussing the Indonesian election 2019, with the range of the news report were from March 8, 2019, until May 13, 2019. In this study, AntConc 3.5.8 version was used (Anthony, 2019). The reason for using this concordance software is that the software is free and is user-friendly. Also, during this study, only basic features of the concordance software were used, i.e., the concordance features by searching the keyword in context (KWIC)

The concordance search stage was first to prepare the file format to be opened in AntConc by converting the collected data initially from the web site page and is transferred into Microsoft word file. From Microsoft word file, all of the data sources were converted into text format file. This conversion processed is also done using AntFile Converter.

Once all the files have been converted into text files, the search of the concordance keywords was conducted. The screenshot of the converted files can be seen in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1** Screenshot of all data source in text files

After the concordance search stage was completed, the next stage is qualitative analysis to identify metaphorical expressions. Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) provides three stages of analysis (Charteris-Black, 2004); they are metaphor identification. Then, after metaphor Identification, the metaphor

interpretation and metaphor explanation was conducted. The last two stages were used to describe further the topic of each source domain of metaphor of Indonesian democracy along with its implied or inferences which can be revealed from the particular use of the metaphors.

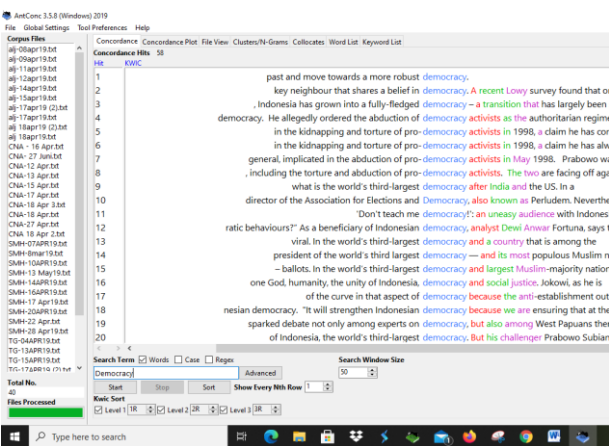
### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to identify the sub-topic of the target domain (Indonesian Democracy) of metaphor and to identify the image inferences related to Indonesian democracy. The first stage was to search related KWIC in concordance using AntConc Concordance Software; two keywords were used during concordance search. The first is the word “democracy” and the second is the word “democratic”. Table 1 below shows the concordance search result.

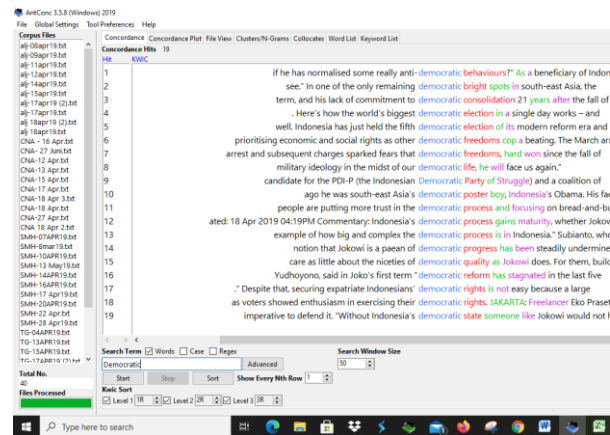
**Table 1.** The KWIC hits in Concordance

	Concordance Key Words		
	Democracy	Democratic	Total
<b>Total Hits</b>	58	19	77

Figures 2 and 3 show the screenshot results during concordance search in AntConc:



**Figure 2** The Concordance hit for the word “democracy”



**Figure 3** The Concordance hit for the word “democratic”

After this first stage of concordance search, the metaphor identification stage was conducted from all 77 data that has been collected. Metaphor identification is conducted to identify the metaphorical expressions from the concordance hits for the word “democracy” and “democratic”. In this stage, the expressions will be considered metaphor when the most basic sense are in contrast to the current contextual meaning, and there is a cross-domain mapping between the two senses (Steen, 2010).

#### 3.1. The Sub Topic of Democracy Metaphor

Two keywords were used in concordance search, the first was “democracy” and the second was “Democratic”. From 58 hits of concordance for “democracy”, 13 expressions are considered metaphorical expressions, whereas 45 of them are not metaphorical. As for “democratic” concordance search, there are 19 hits, with only two use of metaphorical, and 17 are non-metaphorical which can be seen in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.** Metaphorical Versus Non-Metaphorical Expressions from Concordance

	Concordance Key Words		
	Democracy	Democratic	Total
<b>Total Hits</b>	58	19	77
<b>Metaphorical</b>	13	2	15
<b>Non-Metaphorical</b>	45	17	62

The finding shows that from the total of 77 hits, there are 62 non-metaphorical usages from democracy

and democratic in context with 15 metaphorical expressions. From the metaphorical expressions about democracy, metaphors associated with the word democracy are higher than the metaphorical use in the word democratic. The topics that are used as source domain of metaphorical expressions vary, and is described in the following sub-section

### ***3.2. The Sub-Topic of Target Domain of Democracy Metaphor***

There are three main sub-topics of target domain (democracy) metaphor from the analysis, which focus on various aspects: the age and the development of Indonesian democracy, the perception towards Indonesian democracy, and the importance of Indonesian democracy geopolitical stability. Each of the sub-topic of the target domain is described with various source domain.

#### ***3.2.1. The Age and The Development of Democracy***

The metaphorical expressions below express Indonesian Democracy as the description of individual age; from democracy as young to democracy as mature.

TG, April 17, 2019

“In a country **where democracy is also relatively young**, elections are a colourful and celebratory affair”

TG, April 4, 2019

“Jokowi’s rapid rise from successful furniture entrepreneur to beloved small-town mayor, reform-minded Jakarta governor and ultimately the president, **was something of a political fairytale for Indonesia’s young democracy**”

Describing Indonesian Democracy as a young individual implies that democracy has growth characteristics and implies there is more room for better improvement. Also, the use of “young” implies a certainty that it will be grown into a more mature state.

Whereas other metaphor describes democracy in terms of human’s age but uses the word “maturity as seen in the metaphor below:

CNA, April 18, 2019

“**Indonesia’s democratic process gains maturity**, whether Jokowi or Prabowo wins”.

In the news above, Indonesian democracy is described as an individual who has reached its mature states. Therefore, no matter the outcome of the election,

Indonesian democracy has been viewed as an individual who has gained maturity. The inferences implied from the description of gaining maturity are that Indonesian democracy has been at the stage where the ideal practice of democracy has been shown particularly during the 2019 election.

Another source domain of metaphor of democracy that describes the development is the description that democracy is an entity that is moving and growing as seen in two metaphorical expressions below:

CNA, April 18, 2019

“...Indonesia may have shown the world, for now at least, that it has the capacity to learn from the past and **move towards a more robust democracy.**”

Indonesian Democracy in the sentence above is metaphorically described as an entity that is moving towards a right direction which is a robust state. The description that democracy is moving toward better states has implied good progress and is a result of learning from the past.

In the sentence below, the description of Indonesian democracy as a fully-fledged thing suggests that it has developed well and has been fully extended.

SMH, April 10, 2019

“**Indonesia has grown into a fully-fledged democracy** – a transition that has largely been successful”

The description of Indonesian democracy with “move towards a more robust democracy” and “has grown into a fully-fledged democracy” infer the same message in general that Indonesian democracy is on a proper path toward a better direction.

Whereas in the sentence below, the metaphor of “ahead of the curve” also resonances with the two preceding sentences.

TG, April 17, 2019

“I think **Indonesia was ahead of the curve in that aspect of democracy** because the anti-establishment outsider, Joko Widodo, won in 2014 already,’says an Indonesia analyst, Kevin O’Rourke”.

#### ***3.2.2. The perception of Indonesian democracy***

The second sub-topic of democracy as the target domain that is described metaphorically is the perception and image of Indonesian democracy with the various source domain.

In the series of metaphorical expressions below, Democracy is viewed as a property or an entity that can possess some elements and characteristics and asserts a favorable inference towards Indonesian democracy

AJ, April 14, 2019

“Wednesday's presidential and **legislative elections will be one of the largest displays of democracy in the world**”.

In the news above, the Indonesian election description is described as the largest displays of democracy in the world that suggests not only the considerable scale of the election but also used to describe the nation as one of the biggest democratic nations in the world.

The election as part of democracy as a festivity event is described as “colourful and celebratory affair” in the news below.

TG, April 15, 2019

“elections are **a colourful and celebratory affair**, described locally as “pesta demokrasi”, or “democracy party”.

Another metaphor description that is also used is the description of Indonesian democracy and its election and a democratic bright spot and is said as one of the only remaining democratic bright spots. The metaphor suggests that among other countries in South-East Asia, Indonesia has shown its democratic development ahead of other South-East Asian countries.

TG, April 17, 2019

“In one of **the only remaining democratic bright spots in south-east Asia**, the election campaign has been marked by a deluge of fake news”.

Using “bright spot” to speak about Indonesia among other South-East Asian countries has also suggested a positive image of Indonesian democracy.

Whereas in the sentence below, the focus is about how Indonesian people feel about democracy

TG, April 15, 2019

“**Indonesians are also fierce defenders** of their democracy – with many voters remaining at their polling stations during the last election to watch the count”.

“Fierce defenders of democracy’ implies that Indonesian voters firmly uphold the spirit of democracy and suggest that they will do the necessary action to ensure that the process is conducted well by one of them, present at the polling station to watch the counts. This also suggests voters' participation is not only during voting, but they also want to be involved in making sure that all the electoral processes have been performed lawfully.

### 3.2.3 *The importance of Indonesian Democracy*

The last sub-topic of democracy as target domain that is addressed is the importance of Indonesian democracy to the geopolitical environment, either in South East Asia or in a broader context in the Asia Pacific and in the world.

In the news below, the importance of Indonesian democracy is described by using the word ‘strength’ and implied a democracy as an entity with a characteristic that can be either weak or strong.

SMH, April 22, 2019

“*The strength of Indonesian democracy* will help Australia work with Jakarta on the shared challenges for the whole region”

The news above discusses the importance of Indonesian democracy for the region’s stability. The stronger the democracy in Indonesia is, the more stable the geopolitical states in the region. This infers the importance of the Indonesian democracy position.

The various source domains of the metaphorical expression to describe Indonesian democracy show the discourse's different focus. For instance, the progress and the development of Indonesian democracy by using the source domain expresses its development, such as moving towards a more robust democracy and fully-fledged and “gains maturity”. Those three particular metaphorical expressions describe the excellent development of Indonesian democracy.

In terms of the image and perception toward Indonesian democracy, the use of the metaphorical expressions “the only remaining democratic bright spots in South East Asia”, “the largest displays of democracy in the world” not only infers a positive image towards Indonesian democracy but also asserts the message on the importance of the Indonesian democracy to the stability of the region.

From the results, there are three sub-topics of democracy target domain that are expressed with various source domains; the first is the age and the development of Indonesian democracy, the perception towards democracy, and the importance of Indonesian democracy for geopolitical stability.

Apart from the description of the newly developed democracy, few metaphorical expressions infer and highlight a positive image and view toward Indonesian democracy, such as: “move towards a more robust democracy”, “the only remaining democratic bright spots in South East Asia”, “the largest displays of democracy in the world”. It suggests that Indonesian democracy is developed and is grown into a well-developed state of democracy.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

During the Indonesian election 2019, the foreign news reports focused not only on the candidates and political parties involved in the election, but also discussed Indonesian democracy and its development. This study seeks to identify how Indonesian democracy is described in foreign media news reports using metaphorical expressions. The use of metaphor is pervasive in political discourse, and it can be used to reveal the particular highlighted aspect that is intended to imply by the text producer.

The analysis of metaphor in discourse can be conducted to a broader range of data; this study attempts to apply the concordance software in corpus linguistics, particularly in political metaphor analysis. Further corpus-based studies can be conducted to a broader range of data corpus which covers a more extended range of time, to study the view towards Indonesian democracy across few eras in Indonesian democracy history diachronically.

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