ATLANTIS PRESS

An Analysis of the Use of Diction on Covid-19 News in Disway.id

Zainudin Syafari*
Postgraduate English Department,
University of Mataram
Mataram, Indonesia
syafari31@gmail.com

Lalu Muhaimi
Postgraduate English Department,
University of Mataram
Mataram, Indonesia
lalu_muhaimi16@unram.ac.id

N Nuriadi
Postgraduate English Department
University of Mataram
Mataram, Indonesia
nurex23@yahoo.com.

Abstract-**The aim of this study is to analyze the use of diction in Covid-19 reporting on the news site disway.id written by Dahlan Iskan, a senior Indonesian journalist. This study to analyze the diction based on the Gorys Keraf theory which includes; (1) diction based on meaning consist of denotation and connotation (2) diction based on lexical issues related to Covid-19, and (3) the function of diction in Covid-19 news on www.disway.id. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The object of the research is dictions in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in Dahlan Iskan's four articles on disway.id with different themes. The articles are those published on April 8, 2020, June 4, 2020, September 26, and October 8, 2020. Data collection was conducted by reading, recording, classifying and analyzing. The validity of the data in this study was obtained through observation, discussion, and sufficient references. There are three research results found based on the data analysis. First, the type of diction used by Dahlan Iskan on disway.id in the Covid-19 issue is diction which has denotative and connotative meanings, but most of the dictions (90%) of the articles use denotative diction. Second, the dictions are based on a lexical structure which shows the diversity of the dictions used. Mostly, the use of dictions ha synonyms, homonyms, and homographs. Third, the function of diction in Covid-19 news on disway.id is to attract readers, create public opinion, and provide understanding from various perspectives on Covid-19 issues.**

Keywords: *Use of Diction, Covid-19 News, Disway.Id*

I. INTRODUCTION

Sapir [1] considers that language has closely related to the culture. Like two sides of a coin, language and culture are two things in one system that cannot be separated. Sapir views that the history of language has similarities with cultural history. Language has an important role and also has many advantages in various aspects of human life. Through language, people can interact and communicate with each other.

Meanwhile, Hofstede [2] stated that the language is influenced by the four elements in the culture, among others: values, rituals, heroes and symbols of culture. These four things affect language in one part, but at the same time also require language as a means of expression.

Gray [3] stated that people speak in different ways not only according to their native dialect and social, but also according to their context. In this context, language refers to the unique way of people in expressing themselves in certain situations which is called language style.

There are two kinds of language styles, namely written styles and spoken styles. Spoken style is associated with popular style [4]. Meanwhile, written style is usually associated with high technicality; the use of abstract nouns and other characteristics which allow the reader to present its own challenges.

Referring to the stylistics of spoken and written use in the mass media, it is proved that the main purpose of writing in mass media is to spread the information to the readers. Therefore, as a writer, it is very important to consider whether the text can be understood by the reader or not. The clarity of the text can be influenced by several factors, one of which is the style of language and diction or choice of words [5].

Mass media is the official channel for delivering words and messages to the public by using language as the main medium. This is in line with Wasis opinion [6] that one of the main functions of language is as a means of communication, delivering information, and as means of building intelligence and national character.

Jay Black and Frederick C. Whitney [7] state that mass communication is a process in which messages are mass produced and sent to large recipients, anonymous, and heterogeneous. As the number of recipients is large and sometimes unpredictable, it is necessary to pay close attention to the diction used in writing.

A Working in the communication and information services, mass media companies use language, especially diction to develop their business. Diction is an appropriate words choice and harmony of use to express an idea in order to obtain particular effectiveness. Diction can be popular because it is used by famous people. Therefore, it is important to explain the characteristics of diction in the mass media.

The ability to choose diction is the key to the success of mass media. Diction can affect the behavior, thoughts, and orientation of the readers, especially the diction used in the headline. For the mass media, it is not only the headlines that influence the rating, but the entire content of the news is important to deliver the ideas or information. Therefore, diction in news is deliberately formulated according to the needs of the reader, influences the reader's emotions, and attracts the reader's interest [8].

The diction used by the mass media in constructing the reality or events that happen in society is expected to become learning and moral character for the community as expressed by Tester [9] that through the mass media more attention to moral issues is created and expressed in the social and cultural situation of modern society.

In this research, the authors will only discuss one news site media in Indonesia which has a big influence on the readers. In delivering messages, the media has its own style of language, diction, and even ideology, whether it is for propaganda purposes or telling the truth even for entertainment. The author will further analyze the diction or choice of words from the news. The use of diction in the media will provide its own identity for the media itself. The diction also indicates a different target audience and market.

Disway.id is the object of the author's current research. This is an online media written by Dahlan Iskan, a senior Indonesian journalist. The use of language in this media is a combination of formal and informal language. As a journalist who founded the Jawa Post Group, it is necessary for us to research and analyze more deeply the aspects of the language that the writer used to deliver his messages on disway.id.

II. METHODS

Diction is words choice. It means that choosing the right words and alignments to express ideas to obtain a certain influence. Diction is very important, both in the context of written and spoken language. Through diction, a writer expresses ideas that can be understood by the audience. Diction is the condition in which the writer is able to express simple and complex ideas by choosing accurate and economical words, and by choosing ways of expression and explanation that suitable for the target audience [10].

According to [10] diction is the choice of words which includes the meaning of what words are used to deliver an idea, how to form proper word groupings or use appropriate expressions, and which language style is best used in a situation.

Diction can also mean that the ability to distinguish precisely the meaning of the idea to be delivered and the ability to find a form that suitable in the situation and sense of value that is owned by the community. Selection of the right words is only possible by mastering a lot of vocabulary or words in the language.

In this study, the researchers used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the subject. This method is most suitable for this research because it is considered to be able to produce a detailed description of diction. According to Webster et.al [11]. Qualitative research is research related to the development of the description of social phenomena. This method is relevant to use because the data were analyzed descriptively without any numbers to be calculated.

The data collection techniques used in this study were reading techniques and note taking techniques. The reading technique is used to obtain data which is conducted by reading the use of diction in Covid-19-themed news on the website www.disway.id. The next activity is recording data that has been found in the research subject in accordance with the accuracy, type, and meaning of diction into the data card. The use of this data recording card will allow for systematic work because the data has been previously classified. In addition, the data card will also make it easier for researchers to check the results of data collection and recording.

The validity of the data in this study is maintained by using the criteria for credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. The qualitative approach has eight data checking techniques, namely extension of participation, persistence of observations, triangulation, peer checking of reference adequacy, negative case studies, member checking, and detailed descriptions (Moleong, 2001:175-187). Researchers try to complete the elements and requirements for data inspection to make quality research results.

The source of data

The research data was taken from four articles by Dahlan Iskan regarding Covid-19 news published on www.disway.id, as follow

1. The article "Covid Apalagi" was published on disway.id on April 8, 2020
2. The article "Setan Tersembunyi" was published on disway.id on 4 June, 2020
3. The article "Berenang Tenggelam" was published on disway.id on 26 September 2020
4. The article "Liburan Emas" was published on disway.id on 8 October, 2020

After the data collection process is complete, the right topics were be selected which then classified based on the themes in the Covid-19 news. Based on the classification results, there are four major topics found as can be seen below;

TABLE 1. CLASSIFICATION OF COVID-19 THEME TITLE OF THE ARTICLES

1	Information of handling Covid-19 on Abroad	"Liburan Emas" was published on disway.id on October 8, 2020
2	Government policy toward Covid-19	"Setan Tersembunyi" was published on disway.id on June 4, 2020.
3	Covid-19 Vaccine	"Berenang Tenggelam" was published on disway.id on September 26, 2020.
4	Motivation/how to survive during the pandemic	"Covid Apalagi" was published on disway.id on April 8, 2020

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Watkinson [10] in his theory explains that diction is based on its meaning, namely denotative meaning and connotative meaning, and based on lexical (synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs), formal diction, and informal diction (abstract words), concrete words, general words, special words, popular words, jargon, slang, foreign words, and loanwords). However, in this study, the authors limited it to diction based on meaning and diction based on lexical.

Denotative meaning is sometimes called conceptual meaning or cognitive meaning, which is considered as central factor in linguistic communication. The denotative meaning is also called the primary meaning, which is the true meaning of a word. It is a meaning learned early in life and most likely refers to physical situations [12].

Denotative meaning is the meaning in the natural world explicitly. This natural meaning is the meaning in accordance with existing things. Denotative is a meaning

that a word contains objectively which is called the conceptual meaning.

Meanwhile, the connotative meaning is defined as an idea or feeling associated with a word in addition to its literal or primary meaning. Thus, the connotation is known as affective meaning, referring to the emotional and association aspects of a term.

Based on lexical, diction can be divided into synonyms, antonyms, homophones and homographs.

a. Synonym is a term which can be limited to (1) various words that have the same meaning, or (2) a condition in which two or more words have the same meaning.
b. Antonym in traditional terminology are words with opposite meanings. In other words, an antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning of other words, such as hot and cold, short and tall. Antonym is the opposite of synonym.
c. Homophones are words that have same pronunciation but have different meanings. The words that are pronounced the same way are usually caused by the arrangement of letters that make up the words that are similar or even exactly the same. Homophones which are spelt or pronounced the same are also classified into homographs and homonyms. Meanwhile, a homophone which has the same sound is alsocalled a heterograph. The term of homophone comes from the Greek word "homo" which means "same" and "phone" which means "sound or speech". Based on this understanding, some sources which discuss homophone in general also argue that the term "homophone" does not stop at being limited to words that sound the same, but can also be used for longer units such as phrases and also groups of letters with the same pronunciation.
d. Homographs are the word that have same written form as another word but have different meaning. However, some dictionaries insist that the words must also have different sound.

Diction Based on Meaning

1. The article "Covid Apalagi" was published by disway.id on April 8, 2020.
   A number of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences which areclassified into the connotative category, namely;
a. *"Anda sudah menjadi ahli Covid-19 saat ini"*. This sentence is a connotative which has a satire meaning that Indonesians are very familiar with the corona virus only from the information read on social media and online media.
b. *"Covid-lah yang horee termasuk cebonger dan kampreter"*. This sentence is described as a living being which has thoughts and emotions. Because, the corona virus can feel happy if the people still like to play social media just to find out about this virus. Meanwhile, the words "Cebong and Kampret" are the names for supporters of Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto in the 2019 Presidential Election.
c. *"Waktunya Banting Stir"*. This sentence means that

everyone should turn their attention away from Covid-19 to get more benefits.

There are words, phrases, clauses, and denotative sentences that dominate the articles written by Dahlan Iskan because the author wants to deliver an implied and clear message to the reader. The number of denotative words and sentences in the article is around 95 percent.

2. The article "Setan Tersembunyi" was published by disway.id on June 4, 2020. A number of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that classified into the connotative category, namely;
a. *"Setannya selalu tersembunyi di detail pelaksanaan"*. The word "Setan" actually means something bad or has a bad connotation. The meaning in this sentence is something that is less, weakness or failure from the program that is being conducted. Dahlan Iskan wrote the sentence by quoting one of the wise words "setannya ada di dalam detailnya".
b. *"Borok-boroknya selalu di jepitan pelaksanaan di lapangan"*. The word 'borok' which literally means a wound on the skin which tends to be disgusting, but here means ugliness or obstruction in a program.
c. *"New Normal kelihatannya sudah seperti tahun baru. Yang ditunggu tinggal berapa yang kena ledakan mercon"*. The word "mercon" means Covid-19 which appears in large numbers or cases of Covid that will explode in the new normal period if it is not controlled.
   The number of denotative words and sentences dominates the article "Setan Tersembunyi" because the author wants to deliver a clear message to his readers. The number of denotative words and sentences in the article was more than 90 percent.

3. The article *"Berenang Tenggelam"* was published on disway.id on 26 September 2020.
a. *"Tidak boleh ada virus Covid-19 yang masih gentayangan di dalam tubuh seseorang,"*. In this sentence there is a word "gentayangan". The word is a connotative sentence because it is often used to refer to ghosts in the beliefs of some people, while Covid-19 is clearly not a ghost, but a virus that can be seen with the aid of a microscope.
b. Next is a sentence *"Ada yang boros imunnya, ada yang hemat imunnya"*. The words "boros" and "hemat" in this sentence are part of a sentence that has a connotative meaning because the real meaning is that there are people with low levels of immunity, some people are strong levels.
c. *"Kita akan berenang bersama atau tenggelam bersama"*. This sentence is a meaningful metaphor, whether giving vaccines to the Indonesian people will save the community from a pandemic or endanger the health of people who have ejected the vaccine.
d. *"Kelihatannya kita hebat; tetap bisa berenang menuju pantai",*. Through this sentence, the author is optimistic that the government and the people of Indonesia will

receive the Covid-19 vaccine and avoid the failure of the vaccination program.

Similar to previous articles, the number of words and sentences that have denotative meanings dominates the article "Berenang Tenggelam " because the author wants to deliver a clear message to his readers. The number of denotative words and sentences in the article is more than 90 percent.

4. The article *"Liburan Emas"* was published on disway.id on 8 October 2020.
   Words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain connotative meanings in the article, among others;

a. First in terms of language, the word *"Liburan Emas"* is a form of connotative sentence which means that Chinese people can finally enjoy their first holiday after Covid-19 entered the country in early 2020. They can enjoy the holidays after 1st October, which is China's independence day.
b. On the sentence "Saya Memelototi angka-angka penderita baru Covid-19 di China". The word "memelototi" is a connotative word, which means that the author is making serious efforts to observe the number of Covid-19 sufferers in the middle of the holiday season.
c. On the sentence "Itu pun terkait dengan virus impor". The word "virus impor" means that Covid-19 virus found at international arrival airports or at Chinese entrances, is not a Covid-19 transmission in mainland China, but a virus that was brought from outside China.

Similar to the previous articles, the number of words and sentences that have denotative meanings dominates the article "Liburan Emas" because the author wants to deliver a clear message to his readers. The number of denotative words and sentences in the article was more than 90 percent.

Diction Based on Lexical Meanings

a) The article "Covid Apalagi" was published by disway.id on April 8, 2020.
1. The synonymous words include of words "*Dikait-kaitkan* (dihubung-hubungkan), *berhenti* (setop), *menduga* (mengira/berasumsi), *horee* (kesenangan), jualan (berdagang), *toko* (kios, warung), *berpeluha*n (berkeringat), *karyawan* (pekerja/buruh)". There are 8 words in synonym in the article entitled "Covid Apalagi".
2. The anonymous words include of words; "kepanasan (antonym from kedinginan), sepi (antonym from ramai,) steril (antonym from kotor/tidak bersih). There are 3 words in antonym in the article entitled "Covid Apalagi".
3. The words that are included in the homograph group, namely:
- "*Isolasi mandiri*" (disway.id). Its means limiting yourself at home or in health facilities. In another example sentence "*Saya membeli isolasi*". The word "isolasi" here is a noun, namely duct tape.

- Next on the sentence "Ada tim yang antar makanan" (disway.id). means a verb meaning to carry. In another example sentence "Pekelahian antar kampung". Kata "antar " has meaning between two parties.
- Next on the sentence "*Dengan **pura-pura lupa**"* (disway.id). The meaning of this word is by prentending to forget. In another example sentence "Di Bali terlihat Pura-Pura berjejer sepanjang jalan,". The word "Pura-Pura" means the place of the Hindu community for conducting the worship.

There are six words in the article "Covid Apalagi" which are categorized as ihomograph while there are no words and sentences which are classified as in the homophone are not found in this article.

b) The article "Setan Tersembunyi" was published by disway.id on June 4, 2020.
1. The synonymous words include words; *ngawur* (serampangan/sembarangan), *apes* (sial/tidak beruntung), *mencekam* (menakutkan/mengerikan), *Pun* (begitu juga), *adegan* (akting), *riuh* (ramai). A total of six words in the article contain synonym diction.
2. The anonymous words include of words; lancar (antonym from seret), marah-marah (antonym from tenang), berjubel (antonym from longgar), pemimpin (antonym from rakyat). There are four words that have antonyms in the article entitled "Setan Tersembunyi". There are six antonyms in the article.
3. The homographed words and sentences, namely;
- "***Jepitan-**jepitan pelaksanaan di lapangan*" (disway.id). In another example sentence "***Jepitan** sandal sudah rusak*". The word "jepitan" is a noun, which is part of the *sandal*. In this article, the author finds only one sentence classified into homograph. Meanwhile,homophone is not found in the article entitled "Setan Tersembunyi" published by disway.id on June 4, 2020.
c) The article "Berenang Tenggelam" was published on disway.id on September 26, 2020.
1. The synonymous words include of words; *gembira* (menyenangkan), penuh harapan (optimistis), *lenyap* (hilang/musnah), *melejit* (naik dengan cepat). There are four words that are synonymous in the article.
2. The anonymous words include of words; menyetujui (antonym from menolak), Sembuh (antonym from sakit), boros (antonym from hemat), selamanya (antonym from sebentar/fana). There are four words that are anonymous in the article.
3. The homographed words and sentences, namely:
- "Ada yang bilang tiga bulan" (disway.id) means the date in the calendar. In another example sentence "Bulan tidak muncul saat hujan". The word "bulan" certainly means earth's satellite. There is one word of homograph that found in this article, meanwhile homophone diction was not found.
d) The article "Liburan Emas" was published on disway.id on October 8, 2020.
1. The synonymous words include of words; *alias* (atau/dengan kata lain), *kepo* (ingin tahu), *menghubungi*

(kontak), *uji coba* (tes). There are four synonymous words in the article.

2. The anonymous words include of words: mendebarkan (antonym from menenangkan), cepat-cepat (antonym from pelan-pelan). There are two anonymous words in the article.

3. The words that are included in the homograph sentences, namely;

- "*Munculnya* **gelombang** *baru wabah corona*" (disway.id). It means that the corona virus is already in phase two in WHO predictions. In another example sentence "**Gelombang** *laut semakin membesar*". The word "gelombang" here means waves in the sea.

- "Dilakukan transplantasi paru-paru" (disway.id). The meaning is the replacement of body organs. In another example sentence "Dia membeli alat transplantasi tanaman". In this second example, the word "transplantasi" means a tool for cutting the plants.

- "Beberapa orang yang kritis telah teratasi" (disway.id). It means that the condition is quite severe. In another example sentence "Salah satu mahasiswa itu sangat kritis di kelas," the word "kritis" means smart or intelligent student.

There are three examples of homograph sentences in the fourth article. As for the type of homophone diction, the author did not find it in the article.

From the four articles, which are classified into four types of themes (i.e. Information on handling Covid-19 abroad, Government policies against Covid-19, Covid-19 Vaccines, and motivation / ways to survive during a pandemic) there was no specific difference in the type of lexical diction. All articles in the research samples showed a similar distribution of diction. However, one type of lexical diction namely homophone is not found in the four articles written by Dahlan Iskan.

The function of diction in Covid-19 news on Disway.id

The function of diction is to symbolize ideas that you want to express either orally or in writing. A good diction can explain the meaning in the idea to be expressed. The articles written by Dahlan Iskan on disway.id have a function and meaning, namely;

1. Provide effective communication. Proper diction also has a better effect on communication. The effective diction will produce quality and efficient communication. For example, the selection of titles that tend to be short and literary, such as "Liburan Emas", "Setan Tersembunyi," "Berenang Tenggelam" and "Covid Apalagi". The simple, short and literary title will make communication more effective because it is easy to read.

2. The diction written by Dahlan Iskan is also to prevent misinterpretation. Multiple or ambiguous meanings usually have a negative impact on communication problems. Good diction will result in good communication, so that the meaning to be delivered is not ambiguous.

3. The meaning and function of diction in this article forms an appropriate style of expression of ideas. This can be seen from the use of several diction, both connotative and denotative which complement each other, so that it looks attractive to the reader. In addition, diction can also form a style of expression of ideas so that readers are comfortable reading the article until the end of the sentence.

4. In addition, the use of diction in the four articles which is the object of this research is to provide a different atmosphere in communicating. Good writing can make the mind calm and make it easier to understand the content of information.

IV. CONCLUSION

The use of dictions in news on disway.id related to Covid-19 based on the discussion are divided into two; diction based on connotative and denotative meanings and diction based on lexical. From the four articles written by Dahlan Iskan on disway.id, the following conclusions can be drawn;

1. 90 percent of the diction used by Dahlan Iskan is denotative. It means that the author wants to give a clear message to readers regarding the Covid-19 issue.

2. Only 10 percent of the diction used by Dahlan Iskan has connotations. The connotative diction is used by the writer as a variation of the sentence so that it has appeal and easy to read by fans of disway.id.

3. From the lexical diction, the author uses four main types of diction, namely synonym, antonym, homophone and homograph. From the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the most widely used by Dahlan Iskan are synonyms followed by homographs and antonyms, whereas homophone diction was not found.

4. The function and meaning of diction in covid-19 news on disway.id is to attract readers, form public opinion, and provide an understanding from various perspectives on Covid-19 issues.

REFERENCES

[1] [1] Sapir, E. *"Language, Thought, and Reality".*, Cambridge: MIT Press. 1956

[2] Hofstede, Geert, and Robert R. McCrae. "Personality and culture revisited: Linking traits and dimensions of culture." *Cross-cultural research* 38.1. 2004: 52-88.

[3] Gray, Wayne D., and Marilyn C. Salzman. "Damaged merchandise? A review of experiments that compare usability evaluation methods." *Human–computer interaction* 13.3. 1998: 203-261.

[4] Carter, Ronald, and Michael McCarthy. *Exploring spoken english*. Vol. 2. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

[5] Halliday, Michael AK. "Systemic background." *Systemic perspectives on discourse* 1. 1985: 1-15.

[6] Wasis, Basuki, Herlambang Perdana Wiratraman, and Roedy Haryo Widjono. "Peranan Kebebasan Akademik dalam Penyelamatan Sumberdaya Alam dan Antropologi Budaya Lokal The Role of Academic Freedom in Saving Natural Resources and Local Cultural Anthropology."

[7] Black, Jay, and Frederick C. Whitney. "Introduction to Mass Communication . Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C.". 1988

[8] Laksono, Sarwo Adhi. *MODEL PEMBELAJARAN PENJASORKES MELALUI PERMAINAN BOLA VOLI KIDS PADA ANAK BERKEBUTUHAN KHUSUS SD NEGERI 07 JEBED KECAMATAN TAMAN KABUPATEN PEMALANG TAHUN 2012*. Diss. Universitas Negeri Semarang, 2013

[9] Tester, Mark, and Romola Davenport. "Na+ tolerance and Na+ transport in higher plants." *Annals of botany* 91.5 (2003): 503-527.

[10] Watkinson, Andrew R., and J. White. "Some life-history consequences of modular construction in plants." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. B, Biological Sciences* 313.1159 (1986): 31-51.

[11] [1] Webster-Stratton, Carolyn, and Lois Hancock. "Training for parents of young children with conduct problems: content, methods, and therapeutic processes." (1998).

[12] [2] LARSON, ERIC B., et al. "Dementia in elderly outpatients: a prospective study." Annals of Internal Medicine 100.3 (1984): 417-423.