Foreign Media Focusing on Indonesia's New Capital Relocation
An Attitude Analysis Using Appraisal Approach

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ABSTRACT

Today the Indonesia's new capital relocation got a big attention not only from Indonesian media but also from foreign media. This descriptive study aims at describing the attitude of foreign media discussing Indonesia's new capital relocation. The data of the study were linguistic features such as attitudinal lexis, phrases, and metaphors that reflecting attitude. The data were collected from news texts about Indonesia's new capital from three big foreign media, those were ABC, BBC, and VOA. The data were analysed with appraisal approach to find out their attitude toward Indonesia's new capital relocation. This results of the study showed that there were 19 affect evaluation, 27 judgment evaluation, and 97 appreciation evaluation. Then, negative evaluation dominated the attitude targeted to the bad condition, both the new capital considered not ready to use and the old capital considered no longer appropriate to use. It seemed that BBC, ABC, VOA tried to be fair to evaluate INC and Jakarta. However, the bigger frequency of positive evaluation targeted to INC indicated that there was a tendency for foreign mass media to support INC.

Keywords: *Appraisal theory, Attitude, Foreign media, Indonesia's new capital relocation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

After for decades the idea of Indonesia's new capital (hereon abbreviated to INC) had been floated by Indonesia's President on August 26, 2019, President Jokowi announced the location of the INC. In a press conference at the State Palace, Jokowi said that the location of INC would be moved to East Kalimantan. It arouse many reactions that everyone was talking and posting about it in social and mass media. However, many critics said the legislation was expedited with limited public consultation and environmental review (Kompas, 2022).

What media said about INC may influence the public or readers mind about it. An abundance of research had provided evidence that news as information media have also been shown to have effects on audience values, attitudes, and beliefs. News made certain issues more salient than others through frequency and intensity of coverage, and this process influences audience beliefs about what issues were important (iResearchNet, 2022).

The use of language in the news text could imply certain attitudes. There were some linguistic features that use in a news to highlight attitude. The use of this attention-grabbing language would be able to arouse the emotions and attitudes of the reader.

The evaluation of attitudes in the news could be revealed using appraisal theory. Appraisal was the branch of Systemic Functional Linguistics that extend the interpersonal meaning in social context by assessing its participant. Martin and Rose (2007) stated that appraisal was one of three major discourse semantic resources construing interpersonal meaning for negotiating social relationships to listeners or readers. Furthermore, Martin (2004) divided attitudes into three basic forms of evaluation that can be positive or negative. They were affect, judgment, and appreciation.

Affect was related to the evaluation of emotional (feeling) evaluation of a person, thing, or something. This was related to the good and bad of traits related to emotions, such as sadness, joy, hatred, desperate, and so on. Affect could also be expressed in two ways (directly and implied). The feelings conveyed directly could be seen from the use of words related to emotions that

straightforwardly showed feelings, while implied evaluation could be seen through the use of metaphorical language.

Judgement was a normative evaluation of human behavior/character related to rules or conventions of behavior. Judgement was concerned with ethics relating to religion, morals, legal rules, or existing regulations. Judgement involves judging whether something was legal/illegal, moral/immoral, polite/disrespectful. Furthermore, judgement was divided into two, namely personal judgement which consists of admiration or criticism, and moral judgement which consists of praise or condemnation.

The appreciation was an evaluation the value or quality of things, processes, and products., i.e. television shows, movies, books, buildings, and etc. Even so, the relationship between human beings and the abstract quality of life were also considered the same as objects. In appreciation the evaluation of human beings could be carried out, as in the following sentence. *She is so pretty.* It was not a judgement evaluation, although the assessed person was a human being but the thing evaluated cannot be categorized as morally wrong or correct but rather assess the physical state or beauty (Martin & Rose, 2007; White, 2020)

Studies on media attitude using appraisal approach have been conducted. Mehmet (2016) explored a semantic approach of appraisal to assist in revealing attitudes expressed in digital media posts. Then, Wu and Zhao (2018) investigated the appraisal analysis of Russian news to raise readers' awareness of paying attention to China's national image in the foreign media as well as to make journalists attach more importance to the discursive construction of national image in news reports. Hendrastuti (2019) also used appraisal that found the domination of positive attitudes to support to finish ABC fairly and peacefully. Then, Prastikawati (2021) published Attitude Perspective in BBC News' Article: An Appraisal Analysis that presented the appraisal analysis through the system of meaning (attitude) in an article taken from BBC News that can be used as a teaching material of reporting news. Earlier, Ngo and Unsworth (2015) held a study entitled Reworking the Appraisal Framework in ESL Research: Refining Attitude Resources that proposed the refinements required to account for the range of evaluative language used in discussions of personal experiences of living and studying in Australia.

In contrast to the researches above, this study focused more deeply on the attitudes of participants in foreign public broadcasting news texts related to INC relocation. As public broadcasting they were primarily founded for the sake of public service and the government. Thus, in the name of public and government they may take side or position in their evaluation about ICN relocation.

2. METHOD

This research was a descriptive study that provides an overview of the attitudes of foreign media regarding the relocation of the Indonesian capital published Moleong (2000) stated that descriptive research can use data in the form of linguistic units. This research was qualitative research since the data sources used were texts containing events or activities, places or locations, objects, etc. (Sutopo, 2006) In this study the purposive sampling technique was applied through the use of certain criteria in the determination of primary data. They were collected based on language unit criteria, such as words, phrases, and sentences, which indicate attitude. The source texts were three news texts about INC taken from three well-known foreign mass media, namely BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation), and VOA (Voice of America) (see Table 1).

This research used the appraisal theory to analyze data. The analysis realized in four steps, those were (1) data collection, (2) data reduction, (3) data display, and (4) and conclusion (Miles & Huberman, as cited in Santosa, 2017). At the first step, sorting was carried out between data and those that were not. The second step was carried out by grouping the results of the first step of analysis, that was sorting out attitudes aspects of affect, judgment, and appreciation. The next stage the analysis was carried out by associating the types of attitude aspects with the object of attitude on the news text. In the last stage of the analysis, it was focused on relating the types and characteristics of the data, data sources, theories used, the location of the study, the results of the analysis, as well as the cultural context, so that an overview could be obtained to draw conclusions in this study.

Tab1e 1. Text sources

Media	Title	Published date
BBC	Indonesia names new capital that will replace Jakarta	January 18, 2022
ABC	Indonesia Passes Law to Move Capital to Borneo Jungle	January 19, 2022
VOA	Nusantara is set to be the new capital of Indonesia, but what will happen to Jakarta?	January 30, 2022

Tab1e 2. Attitudes

Attitudes	Positive	Negative	Total
Affect	5	14	19
Judgment	15	12	27
Appreciation	40	57	97
Total	60	84	144

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study described in detail the type, target of attitude, and the relation. The data analysis showed that all aspects of attitude were found in this study, those were the evaluation of affect, judgment, and appreciation. The each of it was found in different frequencies, the evaluation was realized in two polarities as well as positively and negatively. The data distribution of attitude evaluation in this study shown in Table 2.

3.1. Affect

In determining an evaluation of feelings, there were lexis of attitudes that marked the category. The lexis of verbal phrases dominated the markers of the evaluation. From 20 recorded data, the verbal phrases used were *push, hope, ease, freely regulate, concern, worried, criticized,* and *warned.* The dominant use of this mental and behavioral process indicated that the writer wanted to inform about the character of participants in the news texts deal with ICN relocation.

Furthermore, the evaluation of feelings was realized in nominal and adjective phrases. For nominal phrase there were *critics, opportunity, burden,* and *problem.* For adjective phrases, there were *confusing, fail, happy, threatened, alarming rate*. It was also intended to present the preparation of ICN relocation.

Then, the evaluation of feelings in direct expression dominates the evaluation. It was directly given by the writer with more straightforward expression. Then, an evaluation of implied feelings was only found at two data. The evaluation was characterized by the use of metaphorical expressions, those were *burden* and *alarming rate*. It was directed to the condition of Jakarta that was no longer fit to be national capital. The small number of evaluations of these implied feelings indicates the reality of the lack of metaphorical expressions that could be used in the news text.

3.2. Judgment

The lexis of verbal phrases that reflected attitudes dominated the markers of judgment evaluation of ICN relocation. There were *take some of the pressure, spark some debate, prove confusing, formally change, strengthen trade relationships, agreed, reduce exploitation, optimizing, humanized, help, survive violated, depend very much, never been consulted, forcing, dominate, force her to give up.* All the indicators above realized in behavioral process. The dominant use of this verb phrase indicated the evaluation aimed at the behavior participants of the texts. The evaluation was about INC relocation considered for having problematic condition for the realization.

Some nominal and adverbial phrases also used in the evaluation. The indicators found in nominal phrases were *legal system, good impact, political interests, economic interests,* and *the interests of the wider community, political ambition.* The indicators were realized by attributive processes presenting the ideal condition for ICN relocation. Then, the negative judgment was also found in adverbial phrases. Those were *only for the sake, at odds, regardless of its status.* The use only three phrases of it indicated the obvious immature planning of INC relocation that verbal and nominal phrases could express it. It was also associated with the use of limited idiom or language style. There were only two metaphorical expressions found in this study, those were *spark some debate* and *humanized.*

3.3. Appreciation

The almost balanced evaluation of positive and negative attitudes marked the evaluation of appreciation on the news texts of INC. The positive and negative expressions were focused on participant behavior related to the quality of INC relocation planning.

Furthermore, the evaluation of appreciation in this study was realized in nominal and adjective phrases as well as mental and behavioral processes (verbs). The attitudinal lexis in nominal phrases dominates the markers of the appreciation evaluation. The dominant use of this nominal phrase indicates the quality identification of the object or participants of attitude. Direct evaluation dominates the appreciation evaluation. It was directly given by the writer or producer of the text to the objects or participants with more straightforward expression. As explained earlier, the use of idioms and other metaphorical meanings was a means of conveying an implied evaluation. In this study there were only a few of the use of it. For example, *alarming rate a symbol of the identity of the nation, new center of economic gravity, suffers from overcrowding, megacity, a key urban center, key for the future of Jakarta, green zone, sleepy district.* The use of this metaphorical expression indicates that there was an attempt at reinforcement in this evaluation by the writer or producer of the text. The stylistic effect of the language used could show more pronounced evaluation. However, the metaphorical form was not widely used because it was related to the fact of minimum use of idioms and other metaphorical means in the news texts.

3.4. Target

The evaluation target was the realization of evaluation in participants. The evaluation targets in this study were presented according to the attitude categories. The evaluation of attitudes in this study was aimed at many targets. The parties in question were certain people, products, processes, as well as institutions or groups. By looking at one-by-one types of attitude evaluation it could be seen that the evaluation target was dominated by

INC the process of relocation. This was in accordance with the topic of news discussion that was inseparable from events and matters related to the ICN relocation process. The author or news producer wanted to convey information to readers about the ICN relocation process in Indonesia by explaining the latest phenomena.

Moreover, there were two main kinds of target groupings in this study, that were related with the INC and the Jakarta. There was actually another pole of target in this study that represent individual and nation, For the individual there was a name such as *Pradarma Rumpang* mentioned. Then, for Indonesia as the nation, the targets were represented by Jokowi, nation, and national development. Since only found a few, they were not put into account.

Moreover, the target associated with INC were all the participants that deal with the nature, process, or part of INC were considered representing INC. In this case this group consisted of these targets: *INC, INC new name, INC construction, INC law, INC bill, ICN project, ICN plan, INC roads and ports, East Kalimantan, East Kalimantan households, East Kalimantan construction, Borneo residents, Sepaku, resident land, relocation plan, people of Kalimantan, local fishermen*. This group dominated the target off course related with the news content, that was about INC relocation.

The next target for the attitude evaluation in this study was participants associated with Jakarta as the old capital. All target that deal with the nature, process, and part of Jakarta were considered representing old capital of Jakarta. There were some terms might be use, those were *Jakarta, Jakarta role, Jakarta projects, Jakarta leadership, Jakarta land subsidence,* and *Jakarta asset.*

3.5. Target Mapping

Based on the result of indicators and targets of evaluation, the authors would compile an evaluation recapitulation that showed whether each foreign media support INC or not. The recapitulation was carried out by simplifying the evaluation target mapping, which was based on an evaluation of INC representing the new capital and Jakarta representing the old capital.

The analysis then done by calculated the data based on the polarity evaluation of each target. In this case, if a positive evaluation was aimed at INC or Jakarta, then the data fell into the category of supporting the INC or Jakarta. If a negative evaluation was given to INC or Jakarta then the data fell into the category of opposing the INC or Jakarta. If a positive or negative evaluation was given to a target that was not associated with INC and Jakarta, the data fell into the neutral category that was not taken into account.

There were variations in the total evaluation of attitudes towards INC and Jakarta. One of the variations

in support showed the level of neutrality of the three foreign mass media. From the three media, it could be seen that VOA was the most balanced in its reporting, providing an evaluation of attitudes towards both camps. This was detected from a fairly amount of attitude evaluations between the two camps that was 23/19 for positive evaluation and 20/27 for negative evaluation, an almost equal ratio with the other two medias, those were BBC with 9/0 for positive attitude and 1/1 for negative evaluation, and ABC with 3/1 for positive evaluation and 7/2 for negative evaluation. It means that VOA's neutrality in presenting the news of the INC was higher than BBC and ABC.

However, the ratio of evaluation given to each target should be calculated. It was 35/20 for positive evaluation and 43/40 for negative evaluation. Generally, there was a bigger gap of positive evaluation compared with the negative on the targets. It was 35 of INC from 20 of Jakarta in positive evaluation. It might indicate the different alignment to the target that the media tend to support INC relocation. It was also supported by the fact that the targets of the positive evaluation described for better condition of INC and Jakarta after the relocation.

4. CONCLUSION

In presenting news mass media should convey the information properly that there was a balance of attitude evaluation. The evaluation from various sides could be detected through various target evaluation found in this study, that were related with the INC, Jakarta as old capital, and another that represent individual and nation. This study showed that negative evaluation dominated the attitude targeted to the bad condition, both to INC that was considered not ready to use and to Jakarta that considered no longer appropriate to use. It seemed that BBC, ABC, VOA tried to be fair to evaluate INC representing the new capital and Jakarta as the old capital. VOA was the most neutral media followed by BBC and ABC. However, the frequency of the positive evaluation to the targets indicated that there was a tendency for foreign mass media to support INC.

This study uses an appraisal theory approach to determine attitude evaluation in news texts, especially on three main aspects of attitudes, namely appreciation, affect, judgment and the polarities. The other features of attitudes in the appraisal were not noticed in the study. Therefore, the further research needed to examine also the aspects of attitudes in appraisal theory in more detail.

It was a text as a product oriented study. The findings in this study were associated with the knowledge and understanding of researcher on related theories. Here, the researcher 's assumptions and conjectures play a role in describing the results of the analysis. It needed also to reveal the process of news writing to have more comprehensive analysis about media attitude. It also

needed to reveal the writing process by involving the opinions or reasons of the author and editor as text producer. Thus, it can be used by researchers, news writers, and press councils to enforce a neutral press.

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