

# Content, Structure, and Linguistics Realization of Popular Articles in Newspapers

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**Abstract**—This article is attempted to describe the content, generic structure and linguistic realization of the popular articles on the newspaper, particularly in the perspective of Indonesian newspaper. This is a descriptive research. The data collection is conducted through the documentation, reading and the questionnaire. There were four newspapers on the article taken from Radar Cirebon published on March 2017. The results of the analysis suggest that the (1) the contents tell us about the facts and the arguments of the authors, (2) the aspect of the structure shows the content of the author's arguments, and (3) The linguistics aspects are realized in various linguistics realization which are relevant to the 2013 curriculum. Conclusion and recommendation are also discussed.

**Keywords**—popular article; learning; 2013 curriculum

## I. INTRODUCTION

The popular articles occasionally have the body, footnotes, and the identity of the author. There are a variety of linguistics forms realized in the body of the texts. The popular articles show the ideas and argument of the author about something or phenomenon through the newspaper as the media [1]. Popular article is very fruitful for the readers, not only related to the linguistics of the article, e.g. vocabularies, metaphor [2] but sometimes related to the political legitimating [3]. The characteristics of the popular articles are also easy to be understood as it uses simple vocabularies and society-based information.

The 2013 National curriculum of the senior high school suggest that article is one of the competence for the students [4]. Students are learned how for evaluating information from the fact or opinion of the article, e.g. analyzing the linguistics constructing the opinion of the article, or writing the article. So, according to the 2013 curriculum, students are required to be have ability to understand what is meant by the popular article, the component of the article, and how to write an article based on the fact and students' knowledge. Moreover, students use article writing for making a debate.

Research suggests that the ability of the students to write an article is still far from being fascinating. One of the reasons is a lack of the books or material for learning to write an article. There are more than 70 % of the students feel they do not understand very well how to write an article. More 50 % of the students say that the material of the books are difficult to be

comprehended. And 80% of the students suggest the material is not interesting at all. Thus, this research is attempted to find out further how popular articles are written out from the perspectives of linguistics and the generic structures.

## II. METHODS

This is a descriptive research. The data were collected from the articles written in the local newspapers published on March 2017. There were three newspapers analyzed in the study. Data analysis was conducted through content analysis technique.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Contents of the Articles

The content of the popular article contains of the phenomenon or information from the real-lives or daily activities. As it is from the daily situations, it contains very specific information. However, it is not discussed widely.

- The first article wrote the characters education in the period of Japanese Colony in Indonesia. This is the fact. Author explains how strategies, process, and the results of the character education run by Japanese Colonials.
- The second article tells the readers how the “sholat-moslem prayer” shown by the King of Salman Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. The author reminds the moslems to do the right prayer as shown by the King of Saudi Arabia.
- The third article explained the process of flood and ways to overcome it, a case in Cirebon, Kuningan, and Majalengka.
- And the last article presents the debates of the Cirebon official inauguration on 2 April 1482.

### B. Generic Structure of the Article

Generic structure of the popular articles of newspaper Different from the books or scholarly article, popular articles are constructed in

Title^author^introduction^linking paragraph^ body^closing^author identity

1) *Title*: The findings suggest that all titles are relevant to the topic written in the articles. It was found that the title presents the topics of giving information or making explanation of the phenomena in the society.

2) *Author's name*: Names of the authors usually appear on the second part of the structure after the title. The interview suggests that this is due to the social responsibility and sense of originality of the writing.

3) *Introduction*: It was found that the author used "provocative" introduction by citing other newspapers' headline. Public figure's statements were often used by the author in his introduction. However, the findings also suggest that the quotation sometime irrelevant to the content of the articles.

4) *Linking-paragraph*: The findings reveal that the linking-paragraph used by the author to indicate he wants to present "topic-like" in the next paragraphs. However, as discovered in the analysis, not all four articles have linking-paragraphs.

5) *Body*: Body contains main information and arguments the authors want to share. Facts are often presented as the contents of the articles. As found in the analysis, subtitles are used to present small chunks of the information.

6) *Closing*: This part of the articles presents the conclusion of the argument or information. Persuasive statement mostly appears in the closing statements. Suggestion is also found in the analysis.

7) *Author's identity*: Author's identity always appears at the end of the articles. It usually provides details profession and sometimes, address of the authors. This is important as to provide "credibility" of the arguments or information given in the articles.

### C. Linguistics Realization

Author's arguments/ information are realized in particular vocabularies which are typically "opinion" such as *mestinya, kita tentu tak boleh lupa, tentu tidak boleh berlebihan, yakinlah, sayangnya, semestinya bangsa kita belajar..*

All mostly relate to make suggestion. Superlatives are found mostly in the overall four articles. The words of *sangat penting, sangat serius, sangat sukar* are mainly found in the analysis. In terms of making opinion, specific linguistics are found such as presented in the followings.

*Dapat menimbulkan banjir, tidak jarang, bisa menyebabkan trauma.*

It was also found that personal pronouns are used, e.g. *semestinya kita, kita tidak boleh lupa*. Cause-effect phrases are usually used to make arguments, take for examples *penebangan hutan yang dilakukan secara liar (illegal logging) menyebabkan terjadi pengundulan hutan luas.*

The overall findings have different points of views on presenting themes available for publics. In the character building point of views, the findings are relevant to the 2013 national curriculum. To some extent, different from European headlines which much rely on accurate and academic

information [5], Indonesian headlines or popular articles written in newspaper tend to be personal and having low quality of evidence.

In general, the generic structure has similarity to the editorials published in Malay and American headlines as revealed in Zarza and Helen [6]. At least, Zarza found out that newspaper editorials, both in Malay and American editorials initiated by case presentation and followed by justification [6].

In terms of personal argument, Zhang suggests to include the multicultural perspectives as mainly exposed in Chinese newspaper [7]. The argument is sometime used for making a "protest" against government policy [8]. Even in some cases, political legitimation is made for personal judgment [9]. This is important to provide the independency of the arguments made by the authors.

In terms of the topical information, the findings show their different topical discussion from the headlines in developed countries. Hold discussed foods as the topical or contents of the newspaper articles in the Western Newspaper headlines [10]. The overall discussion suggest that in terms of the quality of the contents and linguistics, Indonesian popular articles written in daily newspaper needs to adjust their contents and credibility.

Finally, in terms of the overall discussion, newspaper headline or popular articles should be up-to-date in the Internet-based newspaper. Therefore, according to Kuiken, linked-linguistic terms and references necessarily refer to hyperlink to provide easy references for the readers [11].

## IV. CONCLUSION

The popular articles which are published in the newspaper usually relates to making arguments or providing information. However, as revealed in the data analysis, the arguments and information are based on the personal judgment. Even references are made, the sources are mainly taken from another newspapers. As results, the evidence of the arguments are weak.

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