



Appraisal: Framing on Covid-19 Pandemic Handling News in Indonesia

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v9i11.4187>

Abstract

Appraisal research in political discourse has frequently been investigated to examine media stance and ideology towards pros-cons issue. This condition implicates a gap in the form of the realization and implication of the evaluation language in forming not only the issue reported, but also the framing of certain political figures. Media reports in Indonesia on post-pandemic peak handling stimulate public discussion about 2024 general election. Accordingly, this study examines framing building in COVID-19 news text to understand the use of evaluation language in constructing the images of Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo as presidential candidates for 2024. Descriptive-qualitative research on *kompas.com* is carried out through content analysis using the SFL approach and appraisal theory. Total sampling is used in collecting the data from 6 prominent news texts about pandemic handling. Every aspect of attitude is utilized to build positive impression in the news texts. Graduation and engagement analysis show the imbalance of *kompas.com* journalists in emphasizing content narratives and news point of view. Framing analysis reveals that Anies is described as an ambitious figure framed through the +valuation, +impact, -propriety features, while Ganjar is portrayed as an indomitable and sincere figure using the +tenacity, +inclination, and +security features. Pandemic handling news on *kompas.com* contain bias which is detrimental to Anies but beneficial to Ganjar. The neutrality bias of *kompas.com* journalists in this context has the potential to build new social values which may affect the political situation in 2024.

Keywords: *National Regulatory Body; Harmonization; Omnibus Law*

Introduction

With the world in upheaval over Covid-19 as a biological disaster, many aspects of life have been impacted, including social conditions. Therefore, effectively spreading information about the development of Covid-19 plays a key role in saving human lives (Roozenbeek et al., 2020). In Indonesia, the government's delay in responding to the crisis and the dissemination of unclear and inconsistent information and unclear decisions has been costly for the health of the population (Olivia et al., 2020). Beside the health condition, new normal adaptations including the school closures policy also became the most discussed topic in media. Later when the vaccine has been deployed to the public in 2021, the topic began to shift in various directions such as government's vaccination program including the socio-political issue it entails.

In such conditions, media plays a vital role in expressing social thoughts and national agendas built in the form of national discourse on social interaction through news texts (Rahman, 2020). In addition, news texts are the result of conscious formation of considerations, motives, as well as ideological, economic, idealism and practical political agendas (Fairclough, 1995; Lodhi et al., 2019; Thompson, 2013; van Dijk, 1993). Thus, various reactions have arisen in the society toward various political figures who has the responsibility of dealing with the pandemic. Such situation was created as the result of a social process built by the media utilizing information on Covid-19 handling. The use of COVID-19 information as a means of building public images of such political figures is a form of a journalistic text organization strategy called framing.

Framing involves placing information in a special context to focus on certain parts of an issue (Pan & Kosicki, 1993). Therefore, the highlighted information can strongly influence people's conclusions and judgments. From a linguistic point of view, thoughts and social values in a cultural context formed through texts are considered as a form of social process. Such process is a reflection of the function of language as a system of social interaction which is called as interpersonal function as part of Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday et al., 2014). Halliday states that Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) models language in accordance to function (ideational, interpersonal, textual), namely the function of language is theorized, described, and analyzed according to the context where language used or operated as social semiotics system (Halliday et al., 2014, pp. 38–40). Language in the concept of social semiotics have role as sign or symbol system that expresses cultural values and norms of certain society in a linguistic social process (Santosa, 2003). In relation to framing, interpersonal functions in news texts are realized by utilizing elements of interpersonal language called as appraisal system (Martin & White, 2005).

Briefly, appraisal traverses the language of evaluation, the emotional strength of the attitudes negotiated in the discourse, as well as various ways to express these values to the interlocutor and the reader (Martin & Rose, 2003). The appraisal system is a comprehensive and principled discourse evaluation model as a way to map implicit and explicit attitudes in the use of evaluative language when communicators position themselves with their own arguments (Macken-Horarik & Isaac, 2014). It consists of attitude, graduation, and engagement. Attitude is a semantic resource used to express feelings, judgments, and appreciation. Technically, it is divided into three types: expressing emotions; assessing character; and appreciating the value of things. In the formation of framing in news texts, attitude has an important role in building positive and negative images of certain political figures by attracting the emergence of various types of evaluative reactions from its readers based on culturally agreed values. Graduation relates to attitude as part of the appraisal system which states the level/ how strong the evaluation is delivered. In news text, graduation is used to strengthen journalists' authoritative point of view with the aim of making interpersonal influence even more convincing. Engagement deals with the way a speaker/ author chooses in positioning himself towards the message/ attitude in the text, whether delivered directly (monogloss) or by linking external references (heterogloss). Engagement allows news text to act as a shaper of social engagement where the journalist hints at his attitude towards something by involving other parties including the reader as part of the created social values.

Based on the above explanation, it is possible that COVID-19 news not only relays information about COVID-19, but also contains political value being used as a frame to give positive or negative images of certain political figures. Therefore, media framing in the pandemic era is important to study considering that linguistic social interaction has a major role in forming social reality. In addition, the linguistic behavior of appraisal system in forming framing needs to be analyzed by taking into account the point of view and ideology of the media so as to produce an explanation of variations in patterns, behaviors and forms of different language universes.

Furthermore, appraisal research in general from the last decade has been investigated to examine various aspects of political discourse. The most popular topic in research in this field is the attempt to uncover media ideology (Aloy Mayo & Taboada, 2017; Kamal, 2017; Nurhadi, 2017; Santosa et al.,

2014; Soo-Guan Khoo et al., 2012; Tavassoli et al., 2019; Wei, 2017; Zhang, 2013). In addition, several researchers have also tried to detect interpersonal attitudes of journalists in compiling news texts (Chalimah et al., 2018; Jullian, 2011; Khalid, 2013; Kim Ngan & Huong Lan, 2020; Wu & Zhao, 2018). Moreover, appraisal system is also processed to compare journalists' positions as well as different media ideologies (Baden & Tenenboim-Weinblatt, 2018; Engelbrecht, 2020; Pusparini et al., 2017; Van Driel, 2018). These studies have succeeded in providing an overview of the use of evaluation language in news texts. In addition, the findings can explain the use of evaluation language and its persuasive point of view in detail as linguistic evidence that represents media ideology. Unfortunately, these studies have not reconstructed their findings to find specific patterns of language behavior that form the hidden framing found in certain discourses.

Meanwhile, mass media draws public attention to certain issues and builds pictures of political figures by presenting suggestions that form public opinion regarded as correct, including what they think, know, and feel (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). However, previous research has focused more on the attitude of journalists towards the issues causing pro and con reactions. Therefore, the evaluations found need to be reconstructed as a language building that represents descriptions about the figures who become the source of the news. Hence, this condition leaves research gap in the form of the realization and implication of the evaluation language in forming the framing of figures with different political positions in the pandemic era.

Accordingly, this study seeks to investigate the implementation of appraisal system in shaping political framing or public images of Anis Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo in the COVID-19 news text on *kompas.com*. Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo are considered to have balanced power and chance as the candidate of 2024 Indonesian presidential election (Nindita, 2021). *Kompas.com* selected as source of data because the online media becomes most visited Indonesian news in 2021 according to Similarweb (*Kompas.Com Traffic Analytics & Market Share, 2021*). Besides, *kompas.com* also has the highest social engagement in Indonesia according to Alexa (*Kompas.Com Competitive Analysis, Marketing Mix and Traffic - Alexa, 2021*). These aspects are urgent because the number of social media users in Indonesia continue to experience enhancement every year. It was recorded that in 2021 there were 21 million new users, adding to the total social media users in Indonesia to 191.4 million in January 2022 based on the DataReportal (*Digital 2022, 2022*).

Method

To investigate the framing arrangement of Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo in the news text on *kompas.com*, this study adopted a descriptive-qualitative type of research. Then the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach was chosen in this study by utilizing appraisal theory that acts as an interpersonal system at the level of sematic discourse. Furthermore, by paying attention to the “focus-determined boundary”, this research uses media research boundaries (Lincoln & Guba, 1985; Santosa, 2017). That is, the research location in this study is the online media *kompas.com* along with the COVID-19 news text. In connection with that, the source of data in this study is the news text of the development of the handling of COVID-19 in DKI Jakarta and Central Java from *kompas.com*. The selected news text is news published after the peak of the daily transmission trend on July 15th until December 2021. Moreover, the news should be prominent, important and influential in the society, measured through citizen engagement through news pages and social media.

Thus, the data in this study are all vocabularies, word groups, and clauses that contain interaction domains within the appraisal framework, namely attitude, graduation, and engagement. The data is collected from data sources using total sampling technique and identified according to the need for categorization by document analysis or content analysis methods. In addition, the data is validated by using triangulation of sources in the form of documents. Then, the data analysis in this study used

Spradley's (2016) content analysis stage which consisted of domain, taxonomy, componential, and cultural theme analysis.

Findings

Media Framing for Anies Baswedan

Attitud

Based on the analysis of three COVID-19 news texts with news source Anies Baswedan, 75 data on attitudes were found from 57 clauses. The data consists of affect, judgement, and appreciation, positive or negative. In other words, all aspects of attitudes were used in forming the framing of Anies. Complete distribution of the data can be seen in table 1. The number of attitudes that far exceeds the number of clauses make up the text indicates high intensity of evaluation language use. From the three analyzed texts, it can be seen that all of them have a higher number of attitudes than the number of clauses. The high intensity of evaluation language has the potential to cause the news text composition less balanced (Soo-Guan Khoo et al., 2012).

Table 1 Attitude distribution on Anies Baswedan framing

Data source	Clause	Attitude	Affect		Judgement		Appreciation	
			+	-	+	-	+	-
text 1	10	14	3	0	3	2	4	2
text 2	21	31	4	0	8	9	7	3
text 3	26	30	0	1	0	3	21	5
Anies			7	1	11	14	32	10
Σ	57	75	9%	1%	15%	19%	43%	13%
			8		25		42	
			11%		33%		56%	

Meanwhile, the attitude that composes the framing of Anies is dominated by appreciation as much as 42 data (56%), followed by judgement as much as 25 data (33%), and lastly affect is only used 8 times (11%). More specifically, positive appreciation is the most frequently used evaluation language feature (32 data) followed by negative judgment (14 data), positive judgment (11 data), negative appreciation (10 data), positive affect (7 data), and the least is negative affect (1 data).

A total of 75 attitudes data were found consisting of 50 positive attitudes (67%) and 25 negative attitudes (33%). This means that, in general, news texts reporting on Anies' performance tend to have a positive nuance. This illustrates the condition of the development on the pandemic handling which is increasingly showing a positive trend after passing the peak of positive cases in mid-July 2021. However, these positive nuances do not always represent the framing depiction aimed at Anies. Therefore, it is necessary to pay close attention to the distribution of each aspect of attitudes and their features (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021).

The first is affect, which is the attitude aspect that shows an assessment of people's feelings. It is composed of 7 positive affect and 1 negative affect. In more detail, the findings of affect consist of +satisfaction (3 data), +security (3 data), +inclination (1 datum) features, -inclination (1 datum). The highest number of affect features only consists of +satisfaction and +security with 3 data each. This number is not strong enough to represent the framing depiction in the 3 analyzed texts. Thus, it can be stated that affect is not dominantly used to build Anis' image. Besides, affect is seldom used in non-fiction text since emotional reaction is considered biased and unproductive (Ng, 2017).

Furthermore, in the analysis of the second type of attitude, namely judgement, relating to the assessment of a person's behavior, it was found that as many as 25 data consisted of 11 positive judgements and 14 negative judgements. In detail, the judgement features found are +veracity (8 data), -veracity (8 data), -propriety (5 data), +capacity (2 data), +tenacity (1 datum), -capacity (1 datum). From these findings, it can be seen that the dominant feature is -propriety. Veracity is not considered dominant because the negative and positive features are balanced. Thus, the dominance of negative propriety features implies an impression of being impolite or unethical (Martin & White, 2005, p. 52).

The last one is appreciation. The most dominant attitude aspect that describes Anies' image was used 42 times with details of 32 positive appreciations and 10 negative appreciations. The overwhelming number of appreciations was built on +valuation (15 data), +impact (14 data), -quality (3 data), -valuation (3 data), -impact (2 data), +quality (2 data), -balance (1 datum), +complexity (1 datum), -complexity (1 datum). From these details, it can be seen that the appreciation aspect building is dominated by positive valuation and positive impact. These features make positive impressions in the form of evaluations of ideational worth and attention-grabbing benefits oriented to interpersonal significance (Martin & White, 2005, p. 57).

Thus, the overall impressions of Anies Baswedan built up in the COVID-19 news text on kompas.com are, in order of the most dominant, consisting of +valuation, +impact, and -propriety. In other words, the framing built by kompas.com for Anies took advantage of the types of attitudes namely judgement and appreciation. The analysis evidence of these attitude features is presented as follows:

... bahkan beberapa kali kita di atas 30 kali standar WHO," ucapnya. (even several times we are above 30 times the WHO standard," he said.) (ANI/T03/18c/app.+val)

"Perkembangan terbaru, tadi barusan kami lihat sama-sama, IGD-IGD sekarang ruangnya banyak yang kosong, ("The latest development, we just saw it together, the emergency rooms now have a lot of empty rooms,) (ANI/T03/04a/app.+imp)

Gubernur DKI Jakarta Anies Baswedan mengklaim bahwa dunia tercengang melihat penanganan Covid-19 di Indonesia. (DKI Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan claimed that the world was astonished to see the handling of Covid-19 in Indonesia.) (ANI/T01/02/jdg.-pro)

Graduation

Graduation analysis on three COVID-19 news texts in kompas.com with Anies Baswedan as the main news source results in the findings of 45 (60%) graduation data from 75 attitude data. The findings are dominated by force as many as 34 data (76%), while focus only appears 11 times (24%). In addition, these evaluations are modified by evaluation gradation that favored Anies' image or called as positive gradation with 33 data (73%). Meanwhile, the evaluation gradation that is detrimental to Anies' image or the negative gradation is found in 12 data (27%). The positive gradation is dominated by intensifying:+infusion of 10 data, quantifying:+isolation 6 data, and sharpen 6 data. Negative gradation is dominated by quantifying:-isolation in 5 data and soften 4 data. Overall gradation comes from journalists and Anies. From journalists, 17 data are found, 9 positive and 8 negative. Meanwhile, Anies produces 28 data, 24 positive and 4 negative. The following are the examples of graduation finding from pandemic handling news text.

Gubernur DKI Jakarta Anies Baswedan mengklaim bahwa dunia tercengang melihat penanganan Covid-19 di Indonesia. (DKI Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan claimed that the world was astonished to see the handling of Covid-19 in Indonesia.) (KOM/ANI/T01/02/int.+inf)

"Perkembangan terbaru, tadi barusan kami lihat sama-sama, IGD-IGD sekarang ruangnya banyak yang kosong, ... ("The latest development, we just saw it together, the emergency rooms now have a lot of empty rooms, ...) (KOM/ANI/T03/04a/qua.+iso)

"Ini mengulang peristiwa September 1945 ketika rakyat dan para pemimpinnya menyatakan sebarisan, menyatakan selangkah, dan menyatakan bergerak bersama," tutur Anies. ("This repeats the events of September 1945 when the people and their leaders declared a line, declared a step, and declared that they were moving together," said Anies.) (KOM/ANI/T01/08/sha)

These data are positive graduation data. Evaluative lexicon *"tercengang"* 'astonished' included in the high-graded attitude so that it is included in the type of graduation force:intensifying:+infusion. While the word *"banyak"* 'a lot of' also has a high gradation. Because it stands as a separate lexicon from attitude, then it is included in the category graduation force:quantifying:+isolation. Next, the expression *"mengulang peristiwa September 1945"* 'repeats the events of September 1945' included in sharpen as the value of the cooperation of the people and leaders in dealing with the pandemic is equated with the struggle for independence.

"Jadi ada tren positivity rate yang menurun, ("So there is a downward trend in the positivity rate,) (KOM/ANI/T03/17a/qua.-iso)

Hal ini terlihat dari tingkat keterisian di instalasi gawat darurat (IGD) rumah sakit rujukan Covid-19 sudah mulai menurun. (This can be seen from the occupancy rate in the emergency department (IGD) of the Covid-19 referral hospital, which has begun to decline.) (KOM/ANI/T03/03/sof)

The data above are negative graduation data. The use of the word *"ada"* 'there is' which has a low gradation is a representation of the feature graduation force:quantifying:-isolation. Then the expression *"sudah mulai"* 'has begun' is the form of soften as the Covid-19 decline is considered to be in beginning stage, it's kind of a decline, meaning it hasn't really decreased.

Engagement

Analysis of engagement on three COVID-19 news texts in kompas.com with Anies Baswedan as the main news source resulted in the findings of 75 engagement data. The amount of engagement data is the same as attitude data because each evaluation language has definite and clear source. The findings are dominated by heterogloss as much as 53 data (71%), while monogloss appears 22 times (29%). Positive engagement was found in 50 data (67%) and dominated by projecting clause in 38 data. Meanwhile, the distribution of negative engagement features was detected in 25 data (33%), found in the form of monogloss as many as 10 data and modalities as much as 11 data. The following is the example of the realization of the use of engagement to build framing in news texts.

... bahkan beberapa kali kita di atas 30 kali standar WHO," ucapnya. (... even several times we are above 30 times the WHO standard," he said.) (KOM/ANI/T03/18c/PC)

The data is a form of positive engagement. Constituent *"ucapnya"* 'he said' is a marker of projecting clause to submit an evaluation *"di atas standar WHO"* 'above 30 times the WHO standard'. By using projecting clause journalists quoted Anies' statement that the Covid-19 testing in Jakarta was already above the WHO standard. By quoting in such a way, journalists try to build the impression of being in a neutral position in conveying the information.

Anies Klaim Pengendalian Wabah Covid-19 di Jakarta Sudah Membaik (Anies Claims Control of the Covid-19 Outbreak in Jakarta Has Improved) (KOM/ANI/T03/01/mon)

Kami di DKI Jakarta dari awal tak akan menambah data dan tak akan mengurangi," kata Anies. (We in DKI Jakarta from the beginning will not add data and will not reduce it," said Anies.) (KOM/ANI/T02/10/mdu.inc)

These data are a form of negative engagement. As discussed in the attitude finding section, the word *"klaim"* 'claims' is a negative attitude and the evaluation comes from the journalist himself. Therefore, the right engagement category is monogloss. Then in the second example, the expression *"tak*

akan ‘will not’ is an indicator of the use of modalities. The use of modalities in evaluation language indicates an indirect quoted outside opinion. The expression “*tak akan*” ‘will not’ give the impression as a rebuttal to the opinion that says ‘will’. In this case, the evaluation quoted contains Anies' statement stating that DKI Jakarta will not manipulate the data. By quoting the statement containing the modality, journalists indirectly validate the existence of other opinions which is contradictory in nature and is beyond what is quoted. Because originally the quote contained a positive evaluation, then the implied evaluation of the modality is negative. More detailedly, “*tak akan*” ‘will not’ contains an expression of desire so that it is included in the features engagement modalization:modulation:inclination.

Media Framing for Ganjar Pranowo

Attitude

The analysis of three COVID-19 news texts with the news source Ganjar Pranowo resulted in 60 attitudes data from 62 clauses. The data consists of affect, judgment, and appreciation. All types of positive evaluations were found and all types of negative evaluations appeared except for negative affect. The complete distribution of the data can be seen in table 2. In contrast to the findings for Anies, the number of attitudes in the COVID-19 news text with news source Ganjar Pranowo looks more balanced (Soo-Guan Khoo et al., 2012).

From the three analyzed texts, it can be seen that only text 1 has a number of attitudes exceeding the number of clauses that make up the text by a thin margin. Hence, it is known that the texts tend to be balanced. Meanwhile, the attitudes that are structured to form the framing of Ganjar Pranowo are dominated by judgment as much as 29 data (48%), followed by affect as much as 16 data (27%) which is almost offset by appreciation as much as 15 data (25%). In a more specific division, positive judgment is the most frequently used evaluation language feature (26 data) followed by positive affect (16 data), positive appreciation (9 data), negative appreciation (6 data), and negative judgment (3 data).

Furthermore, as many as 60 data attitudes were found consisting of 42 positive attitudes (70%) and 18 negative attitudes (30%). Thus, in general, news texts reporting on Ganjar's leadership in dealing with the pandemic tend to be positive. This is in line with the development situation in handling the pandemic which is increasingly showing a positive trend after passing the peak of positive cases in mid-July 2021. However, in order to provide a more specific image, it is necessary to pay close attention to the distribution of each attitude aspect and their features (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021).

Table 2 Attitude distribution on Ganjar Pranowo framing

Data source	Clause	Attitude	Affect		Judgement		Appreciation	
			+	-	+	-	+	-
text 1	18	20	3	0	8	3	3	3
text 2	24	22	6	0	14	0	0	2
text 3	20	18	7	0	4	0	6	1
Ganjar			16	0	26	3	9	6
Σ	62	60	27%	0%	43%	5%	15%	10%
			16		29		15	
			27%		48%		25%	

The first is affect which is an assessment of people's feelings. This aspect is composed of 16 positive affect and 0 negative affect. In more detail, the findings of affect shows that it consists of the features +inclination (8 data), +security (7 data), and +happiness (1 datum). Thus, it is known that the affect forming Ganjar's image is built on the positive features of inclination and security. These features indicate the involvement of attention and a sense of security concerned with ecosocial well-being in the development of the pandemic handling (Martin & White, 2005, p. 49).

The second type of evaluation language relates to the assessment of a person's behavior, namely judgement. The results of the analysis show that there are 29 data findings consisting of 26 positive judgements and 3 negative judgements. The abundance of judgements is composed of the features of +tenacity (18 data), +propriety (5 data), +capacity (2 data), -propriety (2 data), and -tenacity (1 datum). From these findings, the +tenacity feature looks abundant and very dominant. Propriety features are not considered as dominant because they are few in number after deducting by the negative types. Thus, the dominance of such positive tenacity features implies a strong impression of a firm, loyal, and resolute (Martin & White, 2005, p. 52).

The last one is appreciation. The attitude aspect that the least describes Ganjar's image was found 15 times with details of 9 positive appreciations and 6 negative appreciations. The data of appreciation consist of +impact (5 data), -impact (3 data), +quality (2 data), +valuation (2 data), -quality (1 datum), -balance (1 datum), and -valuation (1 datum). From these details, by considering the positive and negative evaluations, it can be seen that this type of appreciation evaluation is not dominated by certain features. This means that this feature is not taken into consideration by journalists in shaping Ganjar's image.

Based on these findings, overall impressions built on Ganjar in the COVID-19 news text on Kompas.com are in order of the most dominant consisting of +tenacity, +inclination, and +security. In other words, Kompas.com framing building for Ganjar utilizes two types of attitudes namely judgement and affect. Evidence of the analysis of these attitude features is presented as follows:

Baliho Tokoh Politik Mulai Bertebaran, Ganjar Pilih "Ngurusi" Covid-19 (Billboards of Political Figures Begin to Spread, Ganjar Choose to "Take Care" of Covid-19) (GAN/T01/01/jdg.+ten)

"Saya ingin merasakan semangat mereka (tenaga kesehatan) saja. ("I just want to feel their spirit (health workers).) (GAN/T02/08/aff.+inc)

"Covid belum selesai. ("Covid is not over yet.) (GAN/T03/05/aff.+sec)

Graduation

The graduation investigation of three COVID-19 news texts on Kompas.com with Ganjar Pranowo as the main news source results in the findings of 21 (35%) graduation data from 60 attitude data. The finding is dominated by force as much as 20 data (95%), while focus only appears 1 time (5%). Furthermore, the evaluation language in the Covid-19 news text sourced from Ganjar Pranowo on Kompas.com was modified by an evaluation gradation that favored Ganjar's image or called as positive graduation of 20 data (95%). While the evaluation gradation that is detrimental to Ganjar's image or the negative graduation is found in 1 data (5%). The positive graduation is dominated by intensifying:+isolation and intensifying:+infusion in 7 data each. Negative graduation was only found in 1 data in the form of intensifying:-isolation. Overall, the graduation comes from journalists and Ganjar. From journalists it was found that 3 positive data. Meanwhile, from Ganjar 18 data are collected, 17 positive and 1 negative. The following are the examples of a graduation finding in the news text.

... apalagi memasang baliho raksasa di pinggir jalan, (... let alone putting up giant billboards on the side of the road,) (KOM/GAN/T01/02/int.+iso)

Bagaimana mereka berjuang, (How they fighting,) (KOM/GAN/T02/09a/int.+inf)

mencoba menggenjot vaksinasi agar segera selesai," ungkap dia. (trying to boost vaccination so that it will be finished soon," he said.) (KOM/GAN/T03/16/int.-inf)

Expression "raksasa" 'giant' contains high gradation and stands as a separate lexicon from the attitude "memasang baliho" 'putting up billboards' so it is included in the type of graduation force:intensifying:+isolation. While in the next example the word "berjuang" 'fighting' is a positive attitudinal lexicon with high gradation so that it is included in the category of graduation

force:intensifying:+infusion. The two examples of graduation findings are positive graduations because they benefit Ganjar Pranowo's image in the Covid-19 news on kompas.com. Next, the word “*mencoba*” ‘trying’ is included in the type of graduation force:intensifying:-isolation as the word has a low level of graduation so that in this context it gives a less strong impression, or less totality in terms of vaccination commitment from Ganjar Pranowo.

Engagement

Analysis of engagement on three COVID-19 news texts in kompas.com with Ganjar Pranowo as the main news source results in the findings of 60 engagement data. These findings are dominated by heterogloss as much as 48 data (80%), while monogloss appears 12 times (20%). Furthermore, positive engagement is found in 56 data (93%) and dominated by projecting clauses in 44 data. Meanwhile, the distribution of negative engagement features is detected in 2 data (3%) and found in the form of modality:modulation:obligation. The following are the examples of the engagement realization to build framing in news texts.

Kami bersama kalian," ungkap dia. (We are with you," he said.) (KOM/GAN/T02/17/PC)

... hingga akhir tahun 2021 vaksinasi Covid-19 harus selesai. (... until the end of 2021 the Covid-19 vaccination must be completed.) (KOM/GAN/T03/15/mdu.obl)

The constituent “*ungkap dia*” ‘he said’ is a marker of projecting clause to convey the evaluation “*bersama kalian*” ‘with you’. The positive evaluation comes from Ganjar Pranowo. This type of positive engagement is widely used by Kompas.com journalists in building positive framing of Ganjar. Then the second data example above is a form of negative engagement. However, the negative impression is not too conspicuous because it results from the use of the modality. The word “*harus*” ‘must’ is included in modalization:modulation:obligation thus implying an assumption of “*tidak harus*” ‘must not’. In this context, obligation “*harus*” ‘must’ is the modifier of evaluation “*selesai*” ‘completed’ which is positively charged. With this modality, journalists seem to agree with the negative assumption that vaccinations may or may not be completed by the end of the year.

Discussion

COVID-19 news texts reporting pandemic handling by Anies and Ganjar are generally built with positive impression. This is in contrast to previous related studies (Chalimah et al., 2018; Kamal, 2017; Pusparini et al., 2017). These differences in findings are most likely influenced by the differences in news text characteristic studied. Aforementioned previous studies discussed the pros and cons issues, while in this study the news texts used as data sources discussed neutral issue, namely the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the data source context is also important because the news texts analyzed in this study were deliberately chosen in a timeframe where the circulation of information was filled with positive news related to the development of pandemic handling. Therefore, this research does not only focus on the issues discussed in news text, but also strives to detect linguistic behavior towards certain political figures behind it.

The positive impression or atmosphere on the findings of this study illustrates the development condition of the pandemic handling which shows positive trend in the last six-month period of 2021. However, from a detailed analysis on composition and distribution of the attitude features, it was found that there were differences in the way of conveying the image or framing of the two governors. This can be used to detect the message behind the news text (Surjowati, 2019). In addition, this hidden message needs to be exposed because social process conducted by the journalist have the potential to build new cultural values (Santosa, 2009). The framing for Anies was composed of appreciation and judgement, while the framing for Ganjar was dominated by judgment followed by affect. From here the difference in framing is still vague. In a more detailed explanation, Anies is described with +valuation, +impact, -

propriety, while Ganjar is described with +tenacity, +inclination, and +security. With this description, the framing direction that Kompas.com journalists tried to sneak into the public began to unravel. The finding of negative features in the framing composition for Anies has the potential to make Anies' image worsen. While the dominance of positive features in the framing building for Ganjar makes the negative image minimally formed. As mentioned in the previous section, the composition and distribution of such attitudes implies that Anies is described as an ambitious political figure, while Ganjar is described as a persistent and sincere political figure.

The positive impressions built through valuation and impact illustrate Anies' achievement for his success in leading Jakarta through the peak period of positive COVID-19 cases. This can be seen from the example of the analysis above. It is stated that Jakarta has 30 times the number of Covid testing above the WHO standard and the latest developments show that many IGD rooms are empty. However, the existence of a negative impression in the form of -propriety is vital because this feature is included in the judgement aspect which is an assessment of Anies' behavior. That is to say, Jakarta's success in going through the peak period of the COVID-19 crisis is assessed as Anies' own claim. By using the constituent "claimed", Anies seems to want to get recognition for his success. In conditions of a pandemic that has not ended, of course this is something inappropriate. Therefore, it appears that Anies is framed as a political figure who is unethical because he tends to highlight his success even though the pandemic condition has not completely ended. Then the framing depiction is supported by the findings of positive graduation, which mostly come from Anies, while negative graduation mostly come from journalists themselves. From the engagement findings, it is also seen that the negative engagement findings are dominated by monogloss. The findings of the graduation and engagement can be interpreted as that Kompas.com journalists are quite frank in preparing negative framing against Anies Baswedan who is described as a political figure who tends to be arrogant and ambitious because he is more concerned with his region achievements rather than paying attention to his people.

The positive impressions built through positive features illustrate the focus highlighted by journalists in portraying the figure of Ganjar. This focus is illustrated in the persistent nature of Ganjar while leading Central Java in the face of the peak of the pandemic. For example, this persistence is proven through the constituents of "choose to 'take care of' Covid-19". In addition, the positive inclination feature illustrates that the persistence is carried out on the basis of sincerity and closeness to the community as Ganjar stated that he wanted to feel the spirit of the health workers. Furthermore, the positive security feature is a complement which implies that apart from being persistent and sincere, Ganjar is also caring by always reminding the public that "covid is not over yet". Thus, Ganjar is framed as a leader who cares and is loyal to fight with the community in the face of a pandemic in order to realize shared security. This finding is corroborated by the graduation implementation which shows a very high dominance of positive features up to 95% indicating the tendency of journalists to emphasize the positive side of Ganjar's image. Meanwhile, engagement features implemented appear to be dominated by heterogloss projecting clause so that the framing constructed is as if narrated from a neutral point of view. Finally, Ganjar Pranowo is described as a political figure who cares, sensitive, loyal, and steadfast because he is more concerned in paying attention to his people than building a positive image as a presidential candidate for 2024.

Thus, the explanation above signifies the tendency of Kompas.com to give Anies a bad image while at the same time respecting and praising Ganjar's character. Such an imbalance indicates bias in the news text (Sabao, 2016). In other words, Covid-19 news on Kompas.com contains bias that is detrimental to Anies but favorable to Ganjar. This suggests the existence of certain agenda compiled by Kompas.com in welcoming the 2024 political year—as after the peak of the pandemic in Indonesia passed, many parties linked the success of political figures in dealing with the pandemic with the potential to become presidential candidates in 2024. As stated by Lakoff (Lakoff, 2004), invoking certain frame repeatedly and consistently substantially influences discussion and perception of an issue.

Furthermore, these findings were only known after carrying out an in-depth framing analysis utilizing the arrangement and distribution of the appraisal system. This indicates possibility that general public will only grasp these news texts as carriers of positive information related to the government's success in dealing with the post-pandemic peak after mid-July 2021. What public may unaware of, this information is also subtly used by journalists to shape political narratives that have the potential to affect the political scene in 2024. Meanwhile, society are naturally drawn to and influenced by framing, both psychologically and emotionally (Dunning, 2018). The framing might be insignificant for the development of the pandemic handling in Indonesia. However, framing is a powerful tool to make sense of certain discourse, define experiences and catalogue past experiences for future use (Dunning, 2018). Thus, the slightest framing will be meaningful because it has strong potential to be taken as a starting point not only for public, but also for the media itself to appraise these political figures in the future.

Conclusion

The framing of COVID-19 news in *kompas.com* in the last half year period of 2021 contain bias that is detrimental to Anies but favorable to Ganjar. The neutrality bias is built and hidden behind positive information about the success of passing the peak period of the pandemic in DKI Jakarta and Central Java. The information was compiled using every aspect of attitude to build a positive impression in the news text. Analysis of graduation and engagement show the imbalance of *kompas.com* journalists in emphasizing narrative content and news point of view indicating the existence of political framing behind the positive information. Framing analysis shows that Anies is described as an ambitious figure yang formed through +valuation, +impact, -propriety features, while Ganjar is described as a persistent and sincere figure using +tenacity, +inclination, and +security features. Political narratives built on the neutrality bias of journalists as such have the potential to become cultural values that can influence the political situation in 2024. That way, in addition to getting used to thinking critically, the public also needs to be wiser and alert in consuming and disseminating news and information through various media.

Political narratives and framing are not only hidden behind COVID-19 information in online news, but also potentially through various other information media. In addition, framing findings explaining media neutrality bias can be clarified and strengthened by considering public acceptance through interviews. These will form the basis for discussions that complement scientific research on the discipline and political discourse for other researchers who are interested in using a functional systemic point of view at a future opportunity.

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