



## Evaluating roger fowler's model for reporting independent learning policy on online national newspaper through critical discourse analysis

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### Abstract

This research aims to describe how vocabulary and grammar are used in reporting the independent learning policy in online national newspapers based on Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The data for this research comes from the news discourse on the independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id. July to December 2022 editions. The data collection technique was carried out using documentation techniques. Data was analyzed through four stages, namely selecting data, grouping data, analyzing data, and concluding research results. The results of this research show that in the news on the independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id there are 4 aspects of vocabulary, namely vocabulary for making classifications, vocabulary for limiting views, vocabulary for discourse battles, and vocabulary for marginalization and 2 aspects of grammar, namely passivation and nominalization. Based on Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model, this research shows that data on the vocabulary aspect of the use of vocabulary that limits views is more often found in news about the independence of learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id because the editors aim to simplify the understanding of readers who did not witness the event. directly. Meanwhile, in the grammatical aspects of the Kompas.com and Republika.co.id newspapers, passivation forms are more often found because the editors aim to remove the perpetrators from the events being written about. Of these two aspects, the vocabulary aspect is the most frequently found because vocabulary is very influential on understanding an event.

**Keywords:** Critical discourse analysis, freedom of learning policy news, newspapers

### Introduction

A critical perspective in discourse analysis highlights the processes involved in the creation and dissemination of meaning (Prawira, *et al.*, 2015). Apart from that, critical discourse analysis is an effort or procedure that aims to describe a reading (social reality) that the dominating individual or group wishes to study. As a result, discourse analysis can be used to reveal the strengths inherent in language use, as well as the limitations that discourse allows, the points of view that must be used, and the subjects that are covered. According to discourse, language is always involved in power dynamics.

Discourse is not only understood as an object of linguistic study, claims Darma (2013) <sup>[12]</sup>. The process of creating communication through symbols that are linked to meanings and events in large-scale social structures is known as discourse. Thus, discourse can be understood in relation to power dynamics, especially those related to the emergence of subjects and the diversity of representations of action. Therefore, the discourse analysis in this article aims to reveal the true motivation of the subject (author) who conveys this claim. This is in accordance with Darma's statement (2013:49) <sup>[12]</sup> which states that disclosure is carried out by adopting the author's point of view and adhering to the author's meaning structure to ensure the way ideology is produced and spread but remains hidden in discourse.

Discourse from the media, including the internet and mass media, is one of the discourses that attracts the most public attention. It cannot be denied how important internet media is for civilization; in fact, it ranks second only to the need for necessity. According to Khatimah (2018), both print and electronic mass media can be used to disseminate various

information that is directly relevant to the wider community. This regime greatly restricted or even attempted to castrate media freedom during the New Order era.

This is not at all like the media that exists today. Currently, the media endlessly reveals everything so that the wider public can know all the problems facing this nation (Suharyanto, 2016). Digital newspapers are a type of electronic mass media. Digital or online newspapers are now available and have become a reliable source of the latest news thanks to advances in technology. Apart from that, the advantage of online newspapers is that they are easily accessible to many readers and can be read repeatedly.

In order to provide information services to the public, Suharyanto (2016) stated that it is intended to educate the public through information material that is correct, interesting and useful for the community. Newspapers are a type of mass media that the general public can use to obtain information. Because the news they print covers everything that happens in society, newspapers are said to be a vehicle for disseminating information (Khatimah, 2018). This will give readers a glimpse of what is happening around them and enlighten them. The press is included in newspapers in the narrow sense. This is in line with the statement in Article 1 of Law Number 40 of 1999 that "The press is a social institution and mass communication vehicle which carries out journalistic activities including searching for, obtaining, owning, storing, processing and conveying information in the form of writing, sound, images, sound and images, as well as graphic data and in other forms using the available channels.

Djuroto (2006:46) <sup>[15]</sup> defines news as information about an event or occurrence that is currently taking place. News can

be spread directly or by word of mouth. However, people who use print media, such as books, magazines and newspapers, do exist. Newspapers offer written information in the form of the latest news that is being widely discussed in society today. A national newspaper like this is one of the publications that provides the latest and most widely distributed news from Kompas and Republika.

National newspapers are considered an impartial and reliable source of information (Khatimah, 2018). Apart from that, it is also considered a source of information about all events that occur throughout Indonesia. The coverage findings are considered to have high validity and cannot be questioned anymore. However, critical discourse analysis experts argue that mass media does not operate in that way. Readers are required to be more careful when understanding what they read, especially when it comes to news articles. Apart from using certain ideologies and understandings to convey facts, writers also use them to express desires. Writing news articles or speeches with appropriate syntax and vocabulary is one of the writer's techniques for advancing his ideology. The author is able to convey discourse that is in line.

Because the use of vocabulary or language can provide its own meaning for readers, every writer or journalist has their own way or strategy for using vocabulary and grammar. This is in accordance with Fowler's (2016) statement that language use is a social practice that carries certain implications and ideologies. Thus, language is the most important element in newspapers because it is through language that information or messages can be conveyed to readers. As a means of conveying broad information, national newspapers display sections relating to various issues, including education, economics and business, politics, international, sports, regional and cultural. Therefore, researchers are interested in choosing this topic to be used as a research object.

There are several reasons researchers chose this topic. First, online national newspapers, namely Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, are newspapers that have consumers throughout Indonesia. Online national newspapers are mass media that have a very wide reach and have great power in society. In a position like this, newspapers have enormous influence and potential as a medium of information for society to encourage the growth and advancement of knowledge in society.

Second, online national newspapers, namely Kompas.com and Republika.co.id Post the latest, newest and freshest news. The standardization of the term "news" created by the Indonesian Ministry of Education (1989: 108 and 331) as a report on current events or happenings supports this, although the definition of newness and how and when readers obtain this information varies. Additionally, this can vary from newspaper to newspaper.

Third, the object of research study regarding independent learning policy news is the latest information and is very often reported by the media. In the 2022/2023 academic year, the implementation of the independent curriculum in educational units is not yet mandatory because there are still pros and cons in society. Therefore, by using Roger Fowler's model in analyzing independent curriculum policy news, we can find out how editors present discourse information that contains various ideologies and certain understandings so that it can be accepted by a wide audience. Apart from that, this research topic will add

information that can be used as a means of developing good and correct language. This is in accordance with Muhyidin's (2010) opinion that efforts can be made to foster positive attitudes in the context of language development through mass media. Thus, the use of language that is in accordance with linguistic rules in mass media is very much needed, especially in online media with the aim that the written discourse is easily understood by readers and there is no misunderstanding of the meaning of vocabulary in news sections.

### Method

This research uses qualitative methodology. Because qualitative research is carried out in the natural environment, it is often called a naturalistic research approach, according to Sugiyono (2015:14). Because qualitative methodology was first used more often for cultural anthropology research, it is also known as the ethnographic method. Sukmadinata (2010:60) explains that incidents, events, social interactions, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions and thoughts of individuals and groups of people are described and analyzed through the use of qualitative methodology.

### Discussion

Discourse in newspapers contains certain ideologies that influence the news published. The choice of vocabulary and grammar in presenting news can influence the meaning of the reader or audience. In revealing aspects of vocabulary and grammar in the news discourse on the independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, researchers used 39 news stories on the independent learning policy from the July edition—December 2022 consisting of 16 news stories obtained from the Kompas.com newspaper and 23 news stories obtained from Republika.co.id as a research data source.

This is what differentiates this research from previous research. In previous research, no researchers had studied critical discourse analysis in news about the independent learning policy. Previous research focused on critical discourse analysis on crime news and social criticism, as in the following research. First, Nilawati (2018) researched the news "Failed Marriage after Abusing 2 Minors" in the Medan Pos newspaper using Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model. From the results of Nilawati's (2018) research, it can be concluded that four aspects of vocabulary were found, namely vocabulary for classifying, vocabulary for limiting views, vocabulary for discourse battles, and vocabulary for marginalization. Of the four aspects of vocabulary, the vocabulary of marginalization is more dominantly used by Media Pos newspaper editors. This is because the social reality that we want to express shows that there is still oppression of women in society.

Second, Ghassani (2018)<sup>[19]</sup> researched crime news in the Jawa Pos newspaper using Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model and focused on studying violence against women. From Ghassani's (2018)<sup>[19]</sup> research results, it can be concluded that the use of language in the media and editorial often has implications for the reader's ideology, resulting in four aspects of vocabulary in the Jawa Pos newspaper. However, the use of vocabulary makes classification more common in criminal news discourse in the form of violence against women because editors provide

assessments or names that position women more as news objects to attract readers.

Third, Santi and Rika (2020) examined crime news texts in the May 2020 edition of the Sumatra Ekspres newspaper using Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model. In contrast to Ghassani's (2018) <sup>[19]</sup> research, Santi and Rika's (2020) research examines crime news in general, such as cases of theft, muggings, stabbings and rape. From the research results of Santi and Rika (2020) it can be concluded that in the Sumatra Ekspres newspaper, aspects of vocabulary and grammar were found in crime news texts. In presenting news, vocabulary aspect data makes classification more dominant, while data on grammatical aspect passive forms is very little found because news editors are more on the side of the actor.

These three studies have differences with this research. This research focuses on critical discourse analysis of Roger Fowler's model in reporting on independent learning policies in online national newspapers. In this research, the author examines aspects of the vocabulary and grammar used by editors. From the research results, it can be seen that the editors of news discourse on the independence of learning policy in online national newspapers, namely Kompas.com and Republika.co.id tend to use more vocabulary aspects than grammatical aspects. In the news discourse, 4 aspects of vocabulary were found, namely classification vocabulary, vocabulary for limiting views, discourse battle vocabulary, and marginalization vocabulary and 2 grammatical aspects, namely passivation and nominalization.

Based on Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model, research shows that in the news the independence of learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, 125 data on vocabulary aspects and 55 data on grammatical aspects were obtained. From 125 data on vocabulary aspects, it was obtained vocabulary makes a classification of 25 data, vocabulary limits the view to 47 data, discourse battle vocabulary is 10 data, and marginalization vocabulary is 43 data.

Regarding 125 data on vocabulary aspects found in the news independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, vocabulary data limiting views was most often found in research results. This happens because media editors create boundaries in news discourse to influence the understanding of readers who do not witness events directly so that readers can connect the vocabulary they read with reality. According to Roger Fowler (in Eriyanto 2011: 137) <sup>[17]</sup> language is basically limiting, we are invited to think to understand that way, not another. Vocabulary influences how we understand and interpret an event.

The aspect of vocabulary that is least found is discourse battle vocabulary. This research shows the use of different vocabulary between editors of Republika.co.id and Kompas.com newspapers. The differences between these two media are clearly visible in the use of vocabulary aspects of discourse battles. The editors of Republika.co.id are more selective in choosing vocabulary regarding news about independent learning policies, while the editors of Kompas.com more often use vocabulary that leads public opinion, as in one of the discourse battle data (K076) "Teachers are Demanded to Create Enjoyable Learning" (Kompas.com, December 1 2022). Based on the context of the news discourse, the use of the word demanded in the

headline makes readers misunderstand the government regarding the implementation of the independent curriculum.

The differences in vocabulary use between the editors of Kompas.com and Republika.co.id newspapers which influence public opinion only aim to maintain vocabulary so that vocabulary is more accepted by the public. Readers think that the government does not provide teachers with various learning platforms that can help teachers create interesting learning. This is in line with the opinion of Eriyanto (2011: 140) <sup>[17]</sup> that the discourse battle in the news depicts each party having a different version, but trying to ensure that their version is considered the most correct and more decisive in influencing public opinion.

Meanwhile, 55 pieces of data were found in the grammatical aspect of the independent learning policy news in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, consisting of 48 passivation data and 7 nominalization data. Regarding 55 data on grammatical aspects found in news discourse independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, the most frequently found grammatical data for the passive form, while the least grammatical data for the nominalized form was found in the research results. This happens because the editor wants to eliminate the function of the perpetrator so that the reader's attention is focused on the object discussed in the news. In active sentences, what is emphasized is the subject/perpetrator of an activity, while in passive sentences what is emphasized is the victim/target of an actor or action (Eriyanto, 2011:153-154) <sup>[17]</sup>. This means that whether there is an actor or not does not affect the reader of the sentence because what is important in passive sentences is only the object. Therefore, editors predominantly use passive sentences in news independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id.

If studied more broadly, the news discourse contained in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id. is an ideological interpretation that uses the knowledge and grammar of news editors to prioritize the power of certain parties. Of course, this will encourage readers to support a particular party or group more, because if it is known to the public, the gap in understanding and use of grammar in various discourses will produce a different reality. In general, the news presented by Kompas.com media can said to be biased and in favor of the government; Specifically, the news presented uses understanding to increase reader empathy. On the other hand, the language and understanding in Republika.co.id media is more neutral. Journalists examine various points of view and do not just focus on one point of view.

Article 3 of the journalistic code of ethics states that "Indonesian journalists always test information, report in a balanced manner, do not mix facts and judgmental opinions, and apply the principle of presumption of innocence." This is in line with this. It is important for news writers to avoid bias and ensure that news is presented impartially and presents a variety of points of view. By doing this, you can ensure that human values are upheld when disseminating information to the public and help prevent marginalization.

### Closing

Based on the results of the research and discussion in this study, it can be concluded that the use of vocabulary and grammar in reporting the independent learning policy in the

newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id based on Roger Fowler's critical discourse analysis model includes two aspects, namely the vocabulary aspect and the grammar. Aspects of the vocabulary used by the editors in writing news on the independence of learning policy are the vocabulary of making classifications, the vocabulary of limiting views, the vocabulary of discourse battles, and the vocabulary of marginalization. Of the four aspects of vocabulary, vocabulary that limits views is most often found because the editor creates limits on news discourse to provide limits for the understanding of readers who do not witness events directly so that readers can connect the vocabulary they read with reality, while the vocabulary of fighting discourse is found the least in the news. independent learning policy news.

The grammatical aspects include passivation and nominalization. Based on the results of research and discussion, passivation forms of grammar are more common than nominalization forms. Thus, it can be concluded that in reporting on the independent learning policy, the grammar that is often used is the passive voice. In passive sentences, the editor removes the function of the subject so that the reader's attention is not on the perpetrator carrying out the action, but on the object being discussed.

From the overall data found from reporting on the independent learning policy in the newspapers Kompas.com and Republika.co.id, it was concluded that the vocabulary aspect was found more frequently than the grammar aspect. This happens because vocabulary in news discourse often influences readers' ideologies about something. Therefore, the choice of vocabulary in writing news discourse needs to be done to maintain the ideological neutrality of the reader

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