

**AN ANALYSIS OF METADISOURSE MARKERS IN ONLINE NEWS MEDIA:
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

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Abstract

This research aimed to investigate the function and category of metadiscourse markers employed in Tempo.co politic news articles. A qualitative method was applied in this current study for conducting the research. There are fourteen Tempo.co politic news articles as the sources of the data. Researchers used 14 articles discussing Jokowi as research data. This current study found that there are 11 functions and 2 types found in the selected articles. Interactional and interactive metadiscourse are the types of metadiscourse found in the article. The kinds of interactive metadiscourse observed in Tempo.co politic news articles are code gloss, evidential, frame marker, and transition. Meanwhile, engagement marker, attitude markers, booster, and hedges are the kinds of interactional metadiscourse observed in Tempo.co politic news articles. This current study did not find self-mention and endophoric markers in the articles. The functions observed are addressing readers to include them or focus their attention into the discourse explicitly, showing the writer's or speaker's attitude towards the proposition, emphasizing or clarifying a statement, displaying the statements of the writers are more of a reasonable opinion than a fact, elaborating of what the writer has been written, exemplifying something in the discourse, explicitly mentioning sources of information, establishing a clear dialog for readers, drawing a conclusion or countering ideas in the writer's statement, and adding an idea to the article.

Keywords: *metadiscourse, news articles, qualitative research*

INTRODUCTION

The readers can obtain information and messages from various sources, one of which is the mass media. Mass media is a form that can be used to convey public information. Various events that occur in the community can be disseminated through the mass media so that many people can find out about these events. The use of mass media also helps the community to meet their needs so that they can be updated about the current conditions. The mass media can connect an individual to another individual about important information that occurs from various sectors such as politics, economy, culture, and health. As a result, the readers can get a strong influence from the mass media so that human behavior and mindset can develop based on the information and messages contained in the mass media. The mass media also has a function and role in society. According to McQuill, there are six roles that the mass media have, namely forum, guide, filter, reflector, mirror of events, and experience (McQuail, 2010). The six roles will help the mass media to convey ideas and information to the interlocutor and as an audience.

Online media, electronic media, and print media are various examples of mass media that can be accessed by the public (Yunus & Sikumbang, 2010). Communication media in the form of print is called print media (Croteau & Hoynes, 2012). Books, magazines, and newspapers are examples of print media. On the other hand, there is a role for electricity that causes many people to be able to access electronic-based media. Audio visual recording is the main aspect in running electronic media. Thus, the delivery of information to and from the audience can be done by utilizing radio and television as electronic devices. On the other hand, online media is a form of media based on multimedia and telecommunications that requires an internet connection and a computer (Kurniawan, 2005). Blogs and websites are examples of online media.

Online news is an example of online media found on the website. The internet is one of the tools that can be used to display online news. Meanwhile, Kompas, Tempo, and Tribunnews are various examples of online media from Indonesia that can be accessed by the public. The three online media can be consumed by the public so that they can find out information containing political, communication, social, health, and economic messages. In conveying politic news information, Tempo.co uses metadiscourse markers so that readers can get more than just the information obtained (Sarmadan et al., 2022). It will help readers understand the written text effectively than one based on the role of the elements of metadiscourse in the news.

In discourse analysis and language education, metadiscourse is a term that is widely used by academics so that there is a link between communication and interaction between the audience and the writer (Hyland, 2005). Thus, important information can be obtained by the audience thanks to the important means of online media where metadiscourse can facilitate communication between writers and readers.

Metadiscourse is an effort to guide the reader's perception of the news content, display the author's efforts, and understand the language used by the author (Hyland, 2005). Meanwhile, tetadiscourse is the use of pragmatic for describing the content of discourse (Craig, 2008). On the other hand. Metadiscourse is a discussion of linguistic content that refers to texts where readers and writers can imagine the text (Vande et al., 1997). There are various studies that discuss the previous metadiscourse (Aini et al., 2022; Mahmood et al., 2017; Nugroho, 2020; Zareifard & Alinezhad, 2014). Based on the researcher's investigation, there are no political news articles used by previous researchers as research objects. Thus, the researcher decided to investigate metadiscourse in political news articles. Therefore, the researchers examined the various functions and types of metadiscourse markers in political news articles on Tempo.

On the other hand, metadiscourse is the author's explicit comments or text developments written about the author's discourse about the ongoing context. The author's opinion is conveyed to the reader based on the delivery of information in the implementation of metadiscourse (Ädel, 2006). This is supported by Hylan's findings which explain that metadiscourse is an important aspect in understanding the language proposed by news writers to support readers in understanding news messages optimally (Hyland, 2005).

Moreover, there are two broad categories in metadiscourse which consist of interactional metadiscourse and interactive metadiscourse. Interactional metadiscourse is an effort to involve listeners or readers in order to increase participation in the readings presented or display the speaker's or writer's perspective on the purpose of delivering news in mass media, both conventional and online media. Based on the previous statement, this research aimed to investigate the function and category of metadiscourse markers employed in Tempo.co politic news articles.

METHOD

Metadiscourse markers in political news were analyzed in this current study through the implementation of qualitative descriptive research as a research method. Qualitative methods are research efforts to obtain data orally and in writing from respondents or observed participants (Moleong, 2018). Meanwhile, political news articles on Tempo.co will be identified and classified based on the research design. There are 14 political news articles from Tempo.co which were

analyzed as data sources in this study. The fourteen articles are the latest articles about Joko Widodo published in September-October 2022. Various categories of metadiscourse markers were investigated by researchers who focus on the clauses and sentences of the article.

There are various steps taken by researchers in collecting research data. First, political news articles that discuss about Joko Widodo were collected by the researchers. Second, various political articles published by Tempo.co were read. Next, the researcher analyzed various sentences that have metadiscourse markers in Tempo.co political news articles. Finally, the researcher entered the data into a table to collect data. This present research employed content analysis as a technique to analyze research data based on the theory expressed by Hyland in metadiscourse markers (Hyland, 2005). Content analysis is an attempt by researchers to systematically describe and analyze written, visual, and oral materials (Tharenou et al., 2007).

Each marker obtained were converted into a specific code. The researchers analyzed the data in various steps, namely: (1) The researcher entered the metadiscourse marker sentences in several groups, (2) The researcher coded each marker obtained in each predefined code; The Engagement Marker is EGM, the Attitude Marker is AM, Booster is B, Evidential is E, Code Gloss is CG, Endophoric Marker is EM, Frame Mark er is FM, News is C, and various news sources are S1-S14. Next, the researcher explained and displayed the findings obtained after completing the coding.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The writer tried to use interactive metadiscourse which aimed to facilitate readers in interpreting the text correctly through information management which includes code gloss, evidential, endophoric markers, frame markers, and transition markers. The frame marker is the type of marker with the lowest occurrence rate in the Tempo.co news article, while the transition marker is the highest marker. In political news articles, there are no endophoric markers because the author never refers to other parts of the text to provide supporting arguments or additional information. Metadiscourse markers can also create an acceptable relationship and regulate the level of personality with the interlocutor consisting of self mention, engagement marker, attitude marker, hedge, and booster. In political news articles, booster is the lowest marker found, while engagement marker is the highest marker that appears based on research by researchers.

Transition

Readers can understand the semantic relationship in the main clause of sentence based on the function of transition markers (Hyland, 2005). There are three functions based on the findings of the research which consist of countering or drawing a idea in the text, contrasting and comparing statements in the text, and adding an idea to the text. Furthermore, this current study found 11 markers of transition in the Tempo.co politic news article. They are **and**, **although**, **therefore**, **however**, **since**, **so**, **because**, **also**, **but**, and **or**. Adding an idea to the text is the function of word **also**, **or**, and **and**. The examples of using transition marker in Tempo.co politic news articles can be found below:

- 1) "The Indonesian National Police (Polri) has officially named Bambang Tri Mulyono as a suspect over religious blasphemy **and** hate speech".
- 2) "Police have **also** named Sugi Nur Raharja as a suspect in the same case".

In example (1), the word connected to the statement of writer about reason for naming a suspect. Moreover, the writer added further explanation regarding the additional suspect by using "also" in the example (2). This statement is in line with Martin and Rose (2003) who stated that transition can add another explanation of the text (Martin & Rose, 2007).

For contrasting and comparing the sentences in the text, the writer can employ other transition marker, such as although, however, yet, and but.

- 3) "**However**, the book was banned due to a lack of academic scrutiny".
- 4) "**But** we have overcome the obstacles," said the President on Thursday, October 13, 2022".

Based on the examples above, the use of transition markers are employed for opposing the previous statement. In the example (3), the writer decided to contrast the previous statement by using the word "however". The similar action could also be found in the example (4) in which the writer tried to oppose the previous statement using word "but" that there were some problems in the collaboration project between China and Indonesia. Using the word within discourse can help the writer build a comparison, for example he or she can employ this action in the distinction form. Therefore, the different or similar argument can be compared using the comparison mark elements (Martin & Rose, 2007).

Moreover, countering ideas or drawing a conclusion in the writer's statement played a role as the third function of transition marker. This function can be found in the word although, therefore, and, since, so, and because. The use of those words in Tempo.co politic news article was illustrated in the below examples:

- 5) "Jokowi refused to comment on the issue **since** no report from the TGIPF regarding the stadium disaster is submitted."

Giving more extension to the terms is the reason why the writer used the word "since" in example (5) above. Moreover, the writer also can state a strong argument to the previous statement through the right transition marker. The effect of no report from the TGIPF based on the stadium disaster was provided by the writer in the article. Therefore, the writer tried to strengthen his statement using the word **since**. Consequence is the function that can be found in the word **therefore, since, so, and because**. The readers can read an argument is being countered and being justified using the consequence roles in the article.

In Tempo.co politic news articles, **and** is the most transition markers can be found by the researchers. This word appears 208 times in the articles. The reader can understand the connection between ideas in the text based on the use of this marker. Moreover, majority of transition markers in her research is the word and (Afridita et al., 2022). She said that the writer employed this marker for adding argument in her statement. Therefore, the audience can interpret the connection between idea in writer's statement by adding another element in the text.

Nevertheless, this finding is contradicted with the finding of Nugroho because he only found six transition markers in his research (Nugroho, 2020). They are as a result, so, but, or, and and. Therefore, his finding is not in line with the current research that could identify ten markers of transition word in politic news article from Tempo.co. Transition markers the majority markers that can be found in Tempo.co news articles in the category of interactive metadiscourse. This finding is supported by Nugrahani & Bram who stated that transition markers are the most markers that they could find in their research (Nugrahani & Bram, 2020).

There are three function of transition markers which were employed by writer in the Tempo.co articles. They are **consequence, comparison, and addition**. Moreover, there are three types of transition markers that can be used by writer, such as consequence for countering ideas or drawing a conclusion ideas in the writer's statement, comparison for contrasting and comparison statements in the text, and addition for strengthen explanation to the text.

Frame Marker

For the second findings, this current study found that there is a marker of frame marker in Tempo.co politic news articles. That is **overall**. A clear dialog for readers can be established based on the function of this marker. The types of frame markers in Tempo.co politic news can be found in the examples below.(Martin & Rose, 2007)

- 6) "**Overall**, the president told them that all medical expenses are paid by the government".

Overall is the discourse label because it is included in the frame marker based on example (6). The reader can interpret clearer through the use of this marker. Moreover, the function of frame marker is to facilitate a clear understanding for readers (Hyland, 2005). This marker helps the readers to comprehend the meaning of final statement of the writer that the government will pay all the medical expenses of the victims.

The writers rarely employed frame markers in the fourteen Tempo.co politic news articles. Therefore, only one frame marker that can be found in this current study. The explicitly label the article can be conducted based on the action of the writer. This statement is supported by Hyland who stated that the goals for using frame marker are to shift the topic to denote changes in the subject, to inform the purpose of the discourse, to explicitly label in the text, and to represent additive relation. In the Tempo.co politic news article, the researchers found that the lowest marker of interactive metadiscourse is the frame marker. Meanwhile, frame marker predominated the instructional manuals based on the analysis on metadiscourse for news article in his study (Herriman, 2022).

The finding of this research contradicted with the finding of previous study from Nugrahani & Bram who stated that there are some roles of using frame markers in the news article (Nugrahani & Bram, 2020). They are label text stages explicitly, declare discourse goals, order an argument, and sequence parts of the text. Meanwhile, this current research only has goal for implementing frame marker, such as to explicitly label in the text.

Evidential

This current study found four evidential markers in Tempo.co politic news article. They are **says**, **found that**, **according to**, and **said**. The function of evidential marker is to mention the information sources. The implementation of evidential in Tempo.co politic news articles can be found in the example below.

7) "**said** president Jokowi as quoted from a YouTube video on Saturday."

8) "**According to** Dedi, the improvements will refer to the safety and security regulations set by FIFA."

The writer employed those evidential marker to show that these statements were taken from other sources. The goal of implementing these marker is in line with Huh & Lee who said that the writer decided to use evidential marker for illustrating that this information was gathered by other sources, as in the example (7) and (8) (Huh & Lee, 2016). Moreover, the writer decided to strengthen the statement by illustrating the ideas from other sources in this case.

According to the result and finding, this current study found that **said** is the majority of evidential markers that can be found in Tempo.co politic news articles. This present research found 90 times of the using **said** as evidential markers in the articles. The use of this marker is to mention the sources of the information. The writer tried to employ evidential markers for supporting their proposition (Hyland, 2005). There was comparatively high frequency of occurrence based on the findings evidential markers in this current study. The finding of this research is supported by the finding of previous study which was conducted by Nugrahani & Bra, who said that the high frequency of occurrence in the articles belongs to evidential markers (Nugrahani & Bram, 2020). Supporting their proposition is the reason why the writer employed evidential marker in his statement. Therefore, this marker is expected to support his opinion in his articles.

Code Gloss

There are two function of using code gloss as metadiscourse markers based on the findings in this current study. First, code gloss is used for elaborating on what the writer. Second, code gloss is used for exemplifying something in the discourse. This current study found five code gloss markers in Tempo.co politic news articles. They are that means, known as, for example, and such as. For exemplifying something in the discourse is the first function of code gloss that can be found in the word **for example** and **such as**. The implementation of code gloss as markers in Tempo.co politic news articles can be found in the example below.

9) "I received too many reports, **such as** lifestyle issues."

10) "**For example**, we improve the toilet, AC, the checking section, and others," he said.

The word **such as** was used by writer in the example (9) to exemplify the many reports that

Jokowi got from his subordinates. While in the example (10), the writer employed for example word as code gloss marker for giving the example of the improvement, such as they improve the checking section, AC, and the toilet. Elaborating of what the writer has been written is the second function of code gloss. This function can be found in that means, known as, called. The implementation of code gloss as markers in Tempo.co politic news articles can be found in the example below.

11) "one of which is to distribute fuel cash aid, also **known as**, BLT BBM."

According to example (11), the reader of the news articles can follow the discourse because the writer of the article used **known as** the code gloss marker for elaborating the statement. Moreover, the writer employed this marker to explain the previous statement and to convey that BLT BBM is the solution of the government to the rise in fuel prices. Therefore, the writer decided to deliver the information based on the use of this marker. This statement is in line with Hyland who said that the reader of article can understand what the writer wrote based on the use of code gloss which can provide a detail message in the text (Hyland, 2005). Moreover, such as is the majority of code gloss in Tempo.co politic news based on the finding in this recent study. This current research found that such as shows seven times in the articles. Therefore, this finding is in line with Nugroho who stated that such as is the majority of code glass in his research (Nugroho, 2020).

Hedge

In Tempo.co politic news articles, this current study found five markers of hedge type based on the finding. They are may, would, could, and should. The use of hedge marker is to illustrate the statement of the writer which is more reasonable opinion than a fact. The use of hedge in Tempo.co politic news articles can be investigated in the examples below.

12) "The former governor of Jakarta opined that the KCJB project **could** strengthen Indonesia's competitiveness".

13) "The Indonesian Police pledged that they **would** no longer use tear gas to secure a football match following the Malang Kanjuruhan Stadium tragedy".

The writer can state more reasonable opinion than a fact based on the use of hedge marker in Tempo.co news articles. Conveying a message in the text as an opinion is the reason why writer used these markers in the articles. This statement is in line with Hyland who stated that the writer can deliver information in the form of an opinion and recognize the writer perspectives based on the analysis of the articles (Hyland, 2005).

According to the findings, **would** is the majority marker of hedge markers that are used in Tempo.co politic news. This current research found that there were seven times of occurrence in the articles. The writer tried to use this marker for giving information as opinion. This statement is in line with Hyland who said that the writer can present information as plausible reasoning or opinion rather than a fact (Hyland, 2005). In contrast, this finding contradicted with the previous research finding by Mahmood et al. (Mahmood et al., 2017) who stated that the differences of the frequency of hedges. This current study shows that hedges marker appeared 45 times in the Tempo.co politic news articles and their research found that 422 times in the argumentative writing by the students.

Booster

Another marker that can be found in Tempo.co politic news articles is booster. **Of course** is the example of booster marker in this study. The writer tried to use this marker for clarifying or emphasizing a statement. Moreover, the implementation of using boosters in Tempo.co politic news articles is presented below.

14) "**Of course**, we can produce our own COVID-19 vaccine from now on".

The writer tried to strengthen his statement through using **of course** as the part of booster marker, as in the example (14) above. Furthermore, the audience can get the information from the

government based on the use of booster marker in the article. This statement is supported by Hyland who stated that the writer can organize the different perspective, emphasize certainty, and close down alternatives of the audience using booster marker (Hyland, 2005).

Based on the observation, the writers rarely employed booster marker in the fourteen Tempo.co politic news articles. Moreover, the writer can strengthen his statement in the articles based on the implementation of booster marker. On the other hand, the previous statement is not in line with the previous finding which stated that they found four types of booster marker in their study (Afridita et al., 2022; Mahmood et al., 2017). They are **in fact**, **never**, **of course**, and **are**. Therefore, the lowest marker of interactional metadiscourse is booster. This statement is supported by Nugrahani & Bram who stated that the lowest marker of interactional metadiscourse is booster (Nugrahani & Bram, 2020). This current study only found one booster marker in Tempo.co politic news articles, while the booster was shown 16 times in Nugrahani & Bram's research.

Attitude Marker

This current study found two attitude markers in Tempo.co news articles based on the finding of research. They are **have to** and **need to**. Both markers play roles for illustrating the attitude of speaker or writer toward the proposition. The implementation of this marker in Tempo.co politic marker can be found in the example below.

15) "Luhut **have to** ensure that the project is going well."

According to the example (15), the writer decided to convey an obligation about the success of the implementation of this project. Furthermore, the writer used **have to** for stating the obligation in the article. Therefore, the writer conveyed an obligation that the project must be conducted effectively based on the example (15). This statement is in line with Hyland who stated that the writer can convey importance, agreement, obligation, surprise, and so on (Hyland, 2005). Therefore, it can be seen in the fourteen Tempo.co politic news articles appeared two types of attitude marker based on the finding in this current study. They are **have to** and **need to** which show only two times in the article for showing the obligation. This statement is supported by Hyland who stated that the writer can express his attitude to the proposition for delivering importance, agreement, obligation, and surprise (Hyland, 2005).

Engagement Marker

There are three markers in Tempo.co politic news articles based on the research finding. They are **our**, **your**, and **you**. The use of three types marker is to address readers to include them in the discourse or focus their attention explicitly. An example of the use of Tempo.co politic news articles can be found in the below explanation.

16) "We don't want big problems in the global economy to disrupt our economy ahead of the general elections".

Based on the example (16), the writers tried to use engagement marker for addressing reader to include them in the discourse or focus their attention. In the example (16), the writer employed word **our** to guide the readers into the interpretation that the government guarantees Indonesia's economic stability from recession.

Moreover, the engagement marker can address reader explicitly to include them in the discourse and focus their attention in the text (Hyland, 2005). Meanwhile, the finding of this research is in line with Nugroho who stated that the engagement markers are rarely found in business and opinion articles (Nugroho, 2020). The previous research showed that no engagement marker in the business articles and 15 engagement markers in the opinion article. It is same with this current study who found 10 engagement marker in the Tempo.co politic news articles.

As a conclusion, this current study has 8 types of metadiscourse markers in the fourteen Tempo.co politic articles. They are engagement markers, attitude markers, boosters, hedges, code glosses, evidential marker, frame markers, and transition markers. There are four types out of five types in terms of the use of interactional and interactive markers. This finding is in line with

previous study which stated that the writers employed the interactive metadiscourse more than the interactional metadiscourse (Pooresfahani et al., 2012). On the other hand, the news writer never employed self-mention and endophoric markers in the articles. The evidential markers and transition markers are the majority of markers that appear in politic news articles with their function.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research finding and discussion, this current study found that there are 11 functions and 2 types in Tempo.co politic news articles. Interactional and interactive metadiscourse are the types of metadiscourse markers in this study. Moreover, the kinds of interactive metadiscourse observed in Tempo.co politic news articles are code gloss, evidential, frame marker, and transition. Meanwhile, engagement marker, attitude markers, booster, and hedges are the kinds of interactional metadiscourse observed in Tempo.co politic news articles. Nevertheless, this current study did not find self-mention and endophoric markers in the articles. The functions observed are addressing readers to include them or focus their attention into the discourse explicitly, showing the writer's or speaker's attitude towards the proposition, emphasizing or clarifying a statement, displaying the statements of the writers are more of a reasonable opinion than a fact, elaborating of what the writer has been written, exemplifying something in the discourse, explicitly mentioning sources of information, establishing a clear dialog for readers, drawing a conclusion or countering ideas in the writer's statement, and adding an idea to the article. Suggestions for future researchers is to conduct the study with a larger size sample as this study only uses a small amount of sample which is 14 news articles. Other than that the future researchers also can use a different source for English news articles website namely: CNN news, BBC news, The Jakarta Post, etc.

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