A CORPUS ANALYSIS OF THE RELIABILITY OF THE VERBS IN COVID-19 RELATED NEWS IN INDONESIA

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Abstract: *This research aims to analyze how media articles in 2020 use verbs to express the reliability (probability and likelihood of something happening) based on Bednarek media evaluation (2006) and explore the characteristics of news related to COVID-19 in Indonesia. Combined with corpus analysis, this study had analyzed the reliability level of modal verbs from a 300,000-word corpus compiled from about 600 COVID-19 related news published by the Jakarta Post in 2020. Researchers found four verbs as the keywords indicating the reliability of news related to COVID-19 in Indonesia. The two verbs are considered to have high-reliability values, for example, reported and confirmed. At the same time, the other two verbs are considered to have medium-level reliability, such as expected and suspected. Reliability keywords are used as predictions, opportunities, guesses, and reporting past events. Many keyword uses are accompanied by information from government officials, some experts, and many researchers. Therefore, the COVID-19 news in Indonesia is portrayed with a high likelihood of its events happening.*

***Keywords*:** corpus linguistics, media evaluation, reliability parameter

INTRODUCTION

This study analyzed the linguistic aspects of the portrayal of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia since news media, like any other subject of linguistic study, is susceptible to the changes made by the circumstances around it. According to Smith et al. (2020), "COVID-19 is a public health crisis on a global scale. It serves as an ideal case study for communication researchers to examine how different countries around the world report the same issue and how the reporting reflects each country's cultural and political context."

Bednarek (2006) explained that media evaluation offers an insight into how one should analyze media. There are some key aspects or parameters; one of them is the parameter of reliability. It is the parameter that indicates the likelihood of how something is described. This present study analyzed the reliability of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia through the use of verbs in news articles. Furthermore, to capture an accurate representation of the phenomenon, corpus analysis was used in this research, complete with its specialized corpus. A qualitative analysis was applied to determine the reliability values taken from the context of each sentence from the news.

Along with the theme of this research, a linguistic study on COVID-19 by Asif et al. (2021) explained that through the analysis of the neologism of new words, new expressions, or

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creative words that appeared during the pandemic on social media, global events like the pandemic would affect the words used to describe the COVID-19 pandemic. The research provides information on how languages may be affected by the pandemic. This correlates to the research conducted by Brennen et al. (2020) that explores the types, sources, and statements of COVID-19 misinformation. The research shows how information is often rotated, distorted, recontextualized, or reprocessed. One of the main sources is social media networks. A linguistic study can reveal the impact of media reports on the spread of COVID-19 itself. The study of Chang et al. (2020) pointed out that the reduction in the implementation of correct information has affected the increase in the peak of confirmed cases in China. Therefore, linguistic research, especially research on media evaluation, can significantly impact pandemics. Many previous studies focus on different countries, and each country can lead to different results. In Indonesia, there is still very little research on this specific topic, which is the primary motivation for researchers to conduct this research.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Corpus

Corpus, with its extensive collection of data, is suitable for analyzing linguistics phenomenon that occurs across a wide range of samples under a specific set of time. As Litosseliti (2010) stated, "A further advantage of the corpus linguistics approach is that it can enable researchers to quantify linguistic patterns, providing more solid conclusions to be reached" (p. 94). Corpus analysis can analyze how a certain condition in some periods could affect the language. The COVID-19 pandemic marks a new set period where language could be affected due to its increase in reporting the COVID-19 topic. The fact that it affects the entire population means that linguistically, the effect on language may happen across different languages and cultures. The pandemic shed a unique opportunity to study the change of language between different cultures and other linguistic aspects under the same condition.

However, corpus analysis is only a tool that can be used to find a certain linguistic pattern, but the interpretation of the context of the text usually does not represent in just the verbs; therefore, further analysis is required. As stated by Bednarek (2006), "it must be pointed out that although we can find a wealth of research on the media in general, much of it is either non-linguistic (in a strict sense) or of a limited scope (focusing on a few aspects of media language, offering case studies, etc.)" (p. 5). Therefore, corpus analysis accompanied by

qualitative analysis can give a deeper insight into the linguistics and discourse analysis of the media.

Media Evaluation

Bednarek (2006) explained that media evaluation consists of what she called the core evaluative parameters, which include comprehensibility, emotivity, expectedness, importance, possibility/necessity, and reliability.

Table 1. Core Evaluative Parameter

Core Evaluative Parameter	Values	Examples
Comprehensibility	Comprehensible Incomprehensible	"Pain, clear Mysterious, unclear"
Emotivity	Positive Negative	"A polished speech A rant"
Expectedness	Expected Unexpected	"Familiar, inevitably Astonishing, surprising"
Importance	Important Unimportant	"Key, top, landmark Minor, slightly,"
Possibility/Necessity	Necessary/ Not Necessary Possible/Not Possible	"Had to/ Need not Could/ Inability, could not"
Reliability	Genuine Fake High Medium Low	"Real Choreographed Will, be to Likely May"

Source: Bednarek, 2006 p. 42

Reliability is one of the parameters which indicate certainty and ambiguity. The examples are as follows:

Table 2. Examples of Five Values of Reliability

Sentence	Reliability
"The sense of shock felt among Britain's senior police officers yesterday was *genuine*"	Genuine
"Scores of defiant delegates sat on their hands rather than be whipped into a mood of *artificial*"	Fake
"The Conservative party left its annual conference last night divided over whether to ditch Iain Duncan Smith as leader before Christmas, as rebels and loyalists geared up for a febrile weekend of politicking that *could* determine his fate."	Low
"Dica's lawyers said they would appeal, and the case is *likely to* go to the Lords."	Median
"'If she made about £100,000 in a year, after advertising, phone and travel costs, the poor woman was left with barely £5,000.' That is *certainly* not a view shared by the French police."	High

Source: Bednarek, 2006 p. 52

Bednarek (2010) uses the reliability level *genuine* and *fake* to describe how information can give positive and negative evaluations about its factuality.

Table 3. *Genuine* **and** *Fake* **Values of Reliability**

Evaluative parameters and combinations	Potential functions
"Reliability: low, medium, or high"	"evaluating sources" "strengthening or mitigating evaluations"
"Reliability: genuine or not genuine"	"triggering positive or negative evaluations news value of facticity"

Source: Bednarek, 2010 p. 44

Aside from the various level given to the reliability parameter, Bednarek (2010) also gives some examples and simple definitions of the reliability parameter, as follows:

Table 4. Examples of the Reliability Parameter

Parameter	Paraphrase	Potential Evaluative Items
Reliability	"How likely or how unlikely does it appear that this will happen?"	"put that in doubt, certainly, (un)likely, will, certain to, potential, could, may, undoubtedly, perhaps, doomed to"

Source: Bednarek, 2010 p. 36-37

As shown from Table 3, a set of keywords is given as an example of the reliability parameter. However, Bednarek (2010) explains that there are no specific words that should be followed. It is because media evaluation is context-dependent. The keywords shown in Table 4 may have different meanings under different contexts and topics. Therefore, qualitative analysis is required to analyze the context and find the meaning of the keywords before they are included and given their appropriate value as the reliability parameter.

COVID-19

The current pandemic is caused by a new coronavirus spread from Wuhan, China, in 2019, hence the name COVID-19. The virus has officially been named SARS-CoV-2 (World Health Organization, 2020). It is from a family of coronaviruses, a commonly known virus targeting the respiratory system in humans. The pandemic affects many aspects of people's lives. Governments shut down their borders, running the lockdown protocols, and health protocols require people to wear a mask, keep their distance from each other, and wash their hands frequently (The Jakarta Post, 2020).

Information is crucial in these times of crisis. Any update on the virus spread, the vaccine, and government policy regarding the pandemic is very important. Every bit of information regarding the virus is necessary. As Singh (2020) mentions on the World Health Organization website,

> Fast and frugal innovations – for example, universal mask wearing, the provision of hand hygiene resources and safe water to all communities, and the delivery of high-quality information, including locally tailored risk communication –– have proven especially valuable, and should be leveraged to maximum effect.

Therefore, the portrayal of the news is important and can affect how the general public thinks and act in this situation.

METHOD

Sample

The Specialized COVID-19 Corpus

This present study uses a specialized corpus consisting of articles taken from the chosen news site, *The Jakarta Post,* under the topic of COVID-19. The Jakarta Post was selected as the one news source representing the English news site in Indonesia. This study specifically chose English as the criteria of the news site to eliminate any language barrier that might exist in a different language. Other than that, the use of English means that the data and findings on this research can be used by other researchers from different countries for future research. The Specialized COVID-19 Corpus consists of 300.000 words taken from 600 articles ranging from January 2020 to December 2020.

Instrument

This research used AntConc as the corpus software to analyze the data. AntConc is a free-to-use corpus software made by Laurence Anthony with many tools and features (Anthony, 2020).
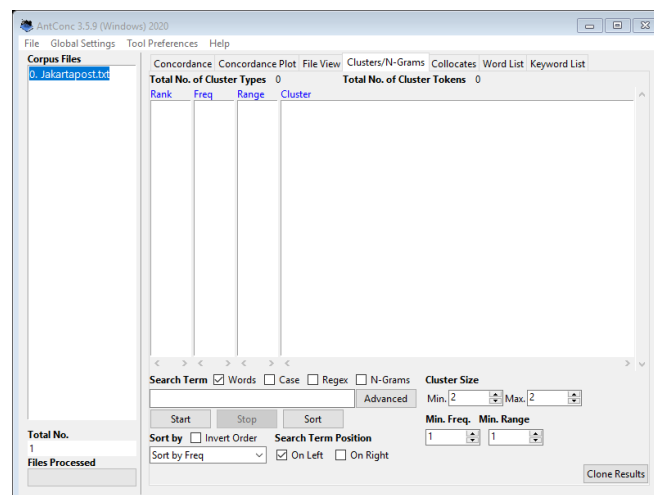

Figure 1: AntConc Corpus Software

Data collection procedures

The articles were manually compiled by the researchers to form the specialized corpus. Through the online subscription feature on the Jakarta Post news site, the researchers could

access all the articles needed in the year 2020. The articles can also be sorted based on the month it was published, making it easier for the researchers to sort the data.
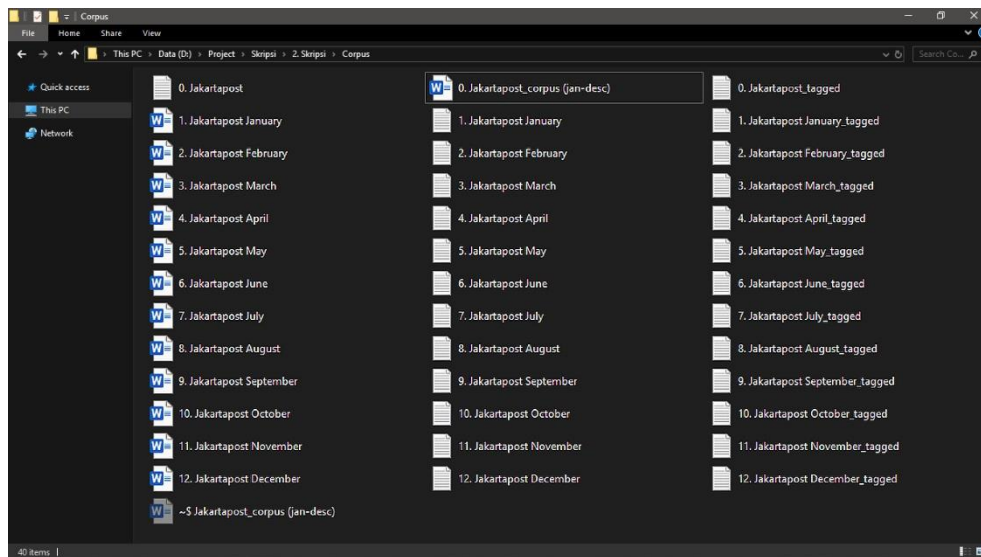

Figure 2: Screenshot of the Collections of the News Article

Data analysis

The researchers used the software AntConc to find all the uses of the verbs in the specialized COVID-19 corpus. Then, the verbs are sorted based on their frequency. The researchers chose the frequently used verbs to be analyzed. After that, for the qualitative analysis, the researchers used the concordance feature on the corpus software AntConc to find all the uses of the verbs to determine the context of each verb used in the sentences. After analyzing the context, the researchers then conclude the reliability value of the verbs.
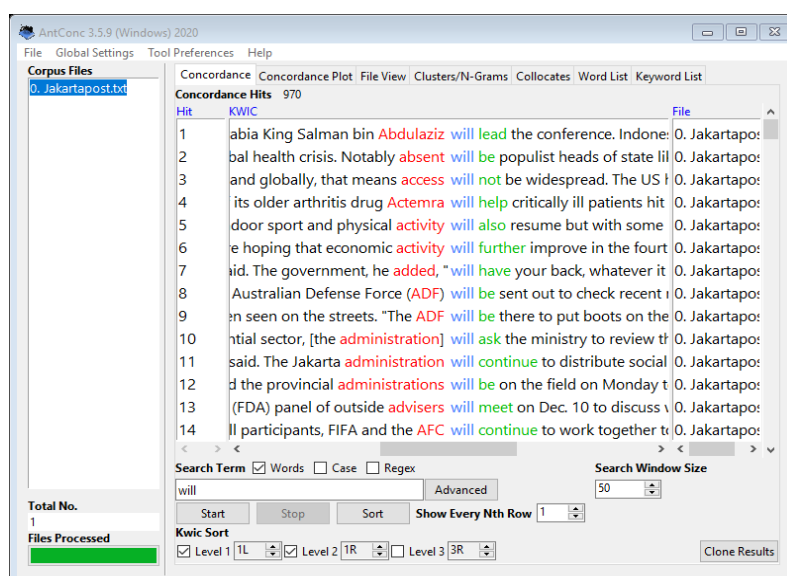

Figure 3: Example of the Concordance Feature Results

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researchers found four verbs with high frequencies used to describe the reliability in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. The four verbs are *reported*, *confirmed*, *expected*, and *suspected*. These verbs represent how the media portray the reliability in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia.

The Verbs as the Reliability Parameter

The four verbs found have frequencies above one hundred, with the highest being as high as four hundred by the verb reported.

Table 5. All of the Verbs Found as the Reliability Parameter Keywords

No	Frequency	Range	Token	Reliability Level
1	424	12	Reported	High
2	352	12	Confirmed	High
3	115	12	Expected	Medium
4	111	8	Suspected	Medium

Previously, according to Wandana (2021), the four verbs were considered to have a high-reliability level. The researchers once only used two reliability levels in the analysis, high and low, for simplicity. The four keywords found are in the form of past tense, which in and of itself has a high-reliability value because all of them describe events that already happened.

However, the differentiation comes from the modality that is commonly used in news reporting. According to Bednarek (2010), "Evaluations of reliability are connected to what is generally described as an epistemic modality or modalisation in linguistics, that is, matters of reliability, certainty, confidence, and likelihood." (p. 26). The words expected and suspected are the verbs commonly used to indicate possibility rather than facts compared to the verbs reported and confirmed. The value of the reliability can vary in the different uses of the modality, starting from an utmost certainty to a mere guess.

According to Bednarek (2010), a news story is based on the aspect of evidentiality, another parameter on Bednarek's media evaluation. Evidentiality is used by the writers to evaluate the reliability and the source in giving subjective statements. Generally, a factual proof will have more reliability than someone's opinion or thoughts. Based on that, the verbs reported and confirmed are bound to have the highest value of reliability since both of them are used to portray the information as it is.

Table 6. The Concordance of the Verb *Reported*

No	Sentence
1	"California on Wednesday reported a coronavirus case of unknown origin, making it potentially the first incident of the virus spreading within US communities."
2	"Owners of Chinese restaurants abroad have reported a downturn in business since the novel coronavirus outbreak, as few customers dare to have dinners there."
3	"The second-most populous state in Australia reported a record rise of 725 new COVID-19 cases despite having reimposed a lockdown on Melbourne, the state capital with a population of 5 million people, four weeks ago."
4	"Bahrain, which has suspended flights to Dubai, on Wednesday reported a rise in cases to 26, some of whom had traveled through the UAE."
5	"On Wednesday, India's health ministry reported a total of 1.19 million coronavirus cases so far with almost 29,000 deaths."
6	"Every one of Indonesia's 34 provinces has reported positive COVID-19 infections, according to the Health Ministry, with Gorontalo reporting its first confirmed case on Friday."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

In Table 6, it can be seen that the verb *reported* is followed or accompanied by facts. For instance, the first sentence on Table 6 above mentions *California* as the location, *Wednesday* as the time, *unknown origin* as the source, and *US communities* as the target subject. All of the sentences above and the majority of the verb *reported* on COVID-19 related news are found with a specific piece of information regarding the condition and the status of the current pandemic.

The verb *reported* in and of itself is the basic expression to report a piece of information. Merriam-Webster (2021) also describes the verb *reported* as the following, "to make a written record or summary of," "to give a formal or official account or statement of," or "to announce or relate as the result of investigation." So, it is suitable for the verb *reported* to be given the high value in the reliability parameter, the same with the verb *confirmed*.

Table 7. The Concordance of the Verb Confirmed

No	Sentence
1	"The new cases come after authorities on Wednesday confirmed a second instance in which a person tested positive for the virus without having traveled to Japan."
2	"The country has confirmed a total of 16,298 cases since the pandemic began, with 189 fatalities, more than half in Victoria and its capital Melbourne, which is under a new lockdown."
3	"Australia has now confirmed almost 26,000 cases of Covid-19 and 663 deaths from the virus, the vast majority in Melbourne and its surrounds since July."
4	"According to the official government count, Jakarta had 52,840 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 1,386 deaths as of Saturday. (trn)"
5	"This week, the world hit a grim milestone, surpassing more than 37 million confirmed COVID-19 cases."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Meanwhile, the verb *reported* is the common term used in making a factual statement in many news reporting. The verb *confirmed,* on the other hand, is unique to COVID-19 news. In table 7, it can be seen that all five sentences as the example are all describing the COVID-19 victims. The verb *confirmed* is used to update the numbers of cases from a given time in a

specific location, starting from the global count to the cases in each country, city, and even individual cases, as seen in the first sentence of Table 7.

Both *reported* and *confirmed* are the frequent words used in describing the reliability of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. Both are used to describe facts, thus giving them high-reliability value. Furthermore, the two verbs can also be categorized as *genuine*. The two verbs are both reporting the news without any opinionated information that can cause any negative evaluation towards the news factuality. Bednarek (2010) uses the reliability level *genuine* when a word is used to describe the authenticity of something related in the news (Table 3).

Table 8. The Concordance of the Verb *Expected*

No	Sentence
1	"Approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is expected later this month in the United States and EU."
2	"Up to four million doses are expected by the end of December."
3	"Coronavirus vaccines are expected to be key to moving beyond the pandemic and several labs are currently working on developing the shots."
4	"Preliminary results of the trial are expected to be released by the end of September, the university said."
5	"All emerging market and developing economy regions are expected to contract this year, including notably emerging Asia, where large economies, such as India and Indonesia, continue to try to bring the pandemic under control," the IMF said in its report."
6	"Few vaccine developers were expected to have definitive trial results before the presidential election."
7	"The vaccine is expected to provide immunity from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, for up to two years, according to the Russian health ministry."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

In Table 8, the verb expected is used as a modality to describe any future event and prediction relating to COVID-19. It can be seen that the topics covered by the verb *expected* are ranging from the update on the vaccine, the spread of the virus, and other aspects affected by the pandemic. The example in Table 8 shows how the verb *expected* is used to set an expectation towards all the information regarding the virus. Similar to the verb *reported,* all uses of the verb *expected* are followed with some evidence. The writer's expectations themselves are not made by the sources such as the governments, experts, or healthcare professionals.

For instance, the fifth sentence on Table 8 is originally taken from an article with the title, "Indonesia's GDP to decline more than thought as virus keeps spreading: IMF." The article begins with the following sentences:

> "Indonesia's economic downturn is likely to be worse than previously expected as Southeast Asia's largest economy struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic, says the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Indonesia's gross domestic product (GDP) is now expected to shrink by 1.5 percent this year rather than the 0.3 percent contraction the IMF had projected in June. The downward revision for Indonesia comes as the IMF has turned less pessimistic about the global economy, according to the October update of the World Economic Outlook, published on Tuesday." (Akhlas, 2020)

It can be seen that the source of information and the expectation came from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Furthermore, the data in which the expectation are made is also presented throughout the article. This made the verb *expected* more or less the same as the verb *reported,* both of them being only statements or facts taken from trusted sources. Although, the data used alongside the verb *expected* is used to make a prediction rather than a piece of laid-out information only to report. Here the reliability value of the verb *expected* is lower than the verbs *reported* and *confirmed.* Even though the values might only be slightly lower since the evidence and the prediction itself do not come from the writer but rather from trusted sources.

Table 9. The Concordance of the Verb Suspected

No	Sentence
1	"She was suspected of having the coronavirus upon arrival in Indonesia."
2	"I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport authorities in Denpasar, Bali had installed thermal scanners on two of the airport\x92s international arrival gates to anticipate any coronavirus transmission that was suspected to be the cause of the pneumonia."
3	"Two cases of coronavirus were suspected among two staff members of one of the participating teams," cycling's governing body, UCI, said on Friday."
4	"After consulting a lung specialist, he was suspected to have contracted the coronavirus."
5	"A 65-year-old patient suspected to have contracted COVID-19 died on Thursday at the Sulianti Saroso Infectious Diseases Hospital (RSPI Sulianti Saroso) in Jakarta."
6	"An Indonesian citizen is suspected to have the coronavirus after traveling from China."
7	"The virus, which is suspected to have crossed from animals to humans at a market in Wuhan, has killed more than 2,500 people across China and spread around the world."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Here, the verb *suspected* has some similarities with the verb *confirmed*, in the sense that both of them are unique to COVID-19 news reporting. Furthermore, in Table 9, it can be seen that the verb *suspected* is used to describe detailed information of an individual case of COVID-19 (sentence 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6), among other things like the source and the cause of the virus (sentence 2 and 7). So, while the verb *confirmed* points toward a larger number of cases, the verb *suspected* is more about the detail of each case.

To further prove how the verb *suspected* is unique in COVID-19 reporting, here is the screenshot of what the corpus software AntConc found as the concordance, the example of the uses of the verb *suspected*, as shown in the picture below.

Concordance Hits 117	
Hit	KWIC
13	Agus Putranto has dismissed reports of a *suspected case* of a new coronavirus, which first
14	d more than 83,000 people globally. Test 'every *suspected case*' of COVID-19: WHO News Desk Agence
15	called Monday for countries to test every *suspected case* of COVID-19, as the rest of
16	antine requirements on visitors from Beijing. One *suspected case* who flew from Beijing to southwestern
17	laboratory evidence. A probable case means a *suspected case* with supportive laboratory data and/or
18	, more cities are put under lockdown and *suspected cases* are found in other countries, fears
19	New York City, with an additional nine *suspected cases* awaiting confirmation. Shortly afterward Go
20	the fast-spreading Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, as *suspected cases* begin to be recorded across the
21	reporting no confirmed cases by Tuesday, although *suspected cases* continued to be recorded across the
22	revised its total number of confirmed and *suspected cases* down 0.3% to 177,700. The pandemic has batt
23	94 Terawan said on Sunday, despite reports of *suspected cases* in several regions. Hospital authorities ac
24	as quoted by Antara, despite reports of *suspected cases* in some regions. The government appears
25	as quoted by Antara, despite reports of *suspected cases* in some regions. The government appears
26	ntact with its counterpart in Singapore regarding *suspected cases* of the coronavirus there. "We are
27	good fortune stemmed from prayers after some 102 *suspected cases* of the virus tested negative. Nonetheless,
28	year, reported no new deaths or new *suspected cases* on Friday, with the toll still
29	age meeting MIS-C criteria should report *suspected cases* to their local, state, or territorial
30	, while two others remain under observation. The *suspected cases* were reported in Jakarta, Manado in
31	epidemic has reached the country, after two *suspected cases* were reported in Jambi and Bandung,
32	below 5 percent. Even then, the number of *suspected cases* \x96 those who have yet to
33	Kalimantan, also died with COVID-19 as the *suspected cause*. Almost all recommendations from the World
34	in China. Officials call for calm as *suspected coronavirus cases* emerge Karina M Tehusijarana an
35	h Singapore -- marked the first identification of *suspected coronavirus cases* in the province after authoriti
36	N95 masks after news outlets reported on *suspected coronavirus cases* in Jakarta and Bandung, West
37	and care, Nucki Nursjamsi, said hospitals with *suspected coronavirus cases* must file a request via
38	has insisted that the country has zero *suspected coronavirus cases*. \x93No one is suspected
39	observation after being admitted to hospitals for *suspected coronavirus infection* as of Tuesday. Meanwhile, I

Figure 5: Some Sample of the Concordance of the Verb *Suspected*

It can be seen from Figure 5 that the words often found alongside the verb *suspected* are the words *cases* and *coronavirus* to form the combined words such as *suspected cases* and *suspected coronavirus cases*. It shows how the verb *suspected,* much like the verb *confirmed,* are both unique to COVID-19 related news reporting.

The reliability value of the verb *suspected* has a similar value to the verb *expected.* In contrast, all the predictions are based on evidence. The prediction itself is not made by the writer but instead by trusted sources such as governments, experts, and healthcare professionals. For instance, in Table 9, sentences 3, 4, and 5 are written with the source of information in the same sentence, such as a lung specialist and a hospital. In contrast, others are followed with details throughout the news article.

The Reliability of the Verbs

Reliability as a term comes closely related to the word reliable, which by definition means "suitable or fit to be relied on: dependable." (Merriam-Webster, 2021a). Similarly, on news reporting, how a news article or the writing of the news itself indicates how reliable their source is. A news article should describe the state of the information used in writing, whether it is a rumor, someone's opinion, or an official statement. The general audience can use information as a base to create their objective opinion regarding the information. For example, when a news article reports that the information came from a regular person's opinion, it can be noted how reliable that source is compared to the opinion of some experts. So, the general audience can keep in their mind the reliability of the information regardless of how important or dramatic news is.

In media evaluation by Bednarek (2006), an evaluation is carried out by paying attention to keywords representing a set of evaluative parameters. Each part of speech in a sentence may contribute to different or multiple evaluative parameters. For instance, in this present research, the part of speech used to evaluate the reliability is the verbs. This current research found four verbs with similar but varying reliability levels, starting from the verbs *reporting* and *confirmed* having the highest reliability value to the verbs *expected* and *suspected* having a slightly less value or medium. The verbs in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia represent its reliability values and characteristic in the word choices. The verbs *confirmed* and *suspected* are both unique to the COVID-19 news reporting. Both of them are often used to describe the cases in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research conducted by Oktavianti & Ardianti (2019) explains how verbs can be used to determine the characteristic of the text. The research used a corpus-based analysis from a corpus consisting of the Jakarta Post news articles. The result is as follows, "Verbal type occupies the most frequent position since the nature of news is to deliver information of factual events" (p.203). It can be noted the importance of the verbs in their role to deliver the information. Therefore, by evaluating the reliability of the verbs in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia, the reliability of the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia itself can also be assessed.

Furthermore, the nature of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia can be seen from the use of the verbs *reported* and *confirmed* as the keywords with high-reliability value. With a situation like the current pandemic, the information demand is very high, especially on the number of cases, vaccines, and any statements from government officials, healthcare professionals, and experts. All of the information is represented by using the verb *reported* to describe the official statements and the use of confirmed to describe the update on the COVID-19 cases, among other things. But, with the pandemic happening worldwide, all sorts of predictions are needed or stated as it is needed for everyone to know what to do and expect in the long term. Here, the predictions are represented by using the verbs *expected* and *suspected*. Both verbs are taken straight from the governments, healthcare professionals, and experts. This is due to the characteristic of COVID-19 related topics associated with some information regarding science in health, medicine, epidemiology, economy, and other high degree science.

A group of researchers at Boston University, Smith et al. (2020), used machine learning to analyze the topics in which COVID-19 related news is covered. From all of the topics analyzed by machine learning, it all boils down to the topic such as the outbreak in China,

global and domestic, government and personal actions, global and domestic economic consequences, and also other topics such as the impact the pandemic has on entertainment, sports, education, diaspora, and frontline healthcare. All of which requires expertise owned by the experts, healthcare officials, and the governments. Therefore, in keeping with the demands on such information regarding COVID-19, the writing of the news article used the verbs *reported, confirmed, expected,* and *suspected.*

However, the corpus analysis combined with the qualitative analysis used in this research works because the news media reports the correct factual information. It is one of the reasons the Jakarta Post is chosen as the only news source, as the known reputable English news source in Indonesia, and to eliminate varieties in the reports of multiple news publishers. The study conducted by Brennen et al. (2020) explored the types, sources, and claims of COVID-19 misinformation. This study shows how the information is often spun, twisted, recontextualized, or reworked. One of the primary sources is social media. So, it is still our responsibility to read and understand the writing of the news and choose our news source wisely.

Analyzing the reliability of the verbs in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia describes how COVID-19 is portrayed in media. With the use of the verbs *reported, confirmed, expected,* and *suspected*, it can be said that the media covers the COVID-19 news through many statements and predictions from experts, governments, and healthcare professionals. The verbs *reported* and *confirmed* are the verbs that are used to deliver officials' statements and reports to the public. In contrast, the verbs *expected* and *suspected* are used to portray the predictions that the officials made towards the pandemic. The high and medium levels given to the verbs used to portray the reliability of the COVID-19 news in Indonesia indicate that the COVID-19 news topic is covered with a high likelihood of happening. It can be seen from the evidentiality that is present in the news. All of the statements and predictions are evidence-based and are often laid out and included in the writing of the news article. The COVID-19 related news in Indonesia has become an important topic and has become a way to inform the general public. The media is the source of information used to create decisions and personal judgments towards the pandemic.

CONCLUSION

The present study analyzed the reliability of the verbs in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia using corpus analysis and qualitative analysis. This stud found four different keywords representing the reliability parameter. The keywords are the verbs *reported,*

confirmed, expected, and *suspected.* The four verbs have reliability values ranging from high to medium. The verb *reported* and *confirmed* are considered to have a high-reliability value due to the aspect of evidentiality found in the use of both verbs. The verbs *expected* and *confirmed* are considered to have a medium reliability level due to the modality used to express the prediction in the news. However, all four verbs are considered in the range of high reliability because of the nature of COVID-19 related news that contains science-based information such as health, epidemiology, economic, and other high degree sciences. This sort of information can only be acquired through the official statement of the government, healthcare professionals, and experts. The media has an important role in informing the public about the pandemic.

However, this study only analyzes the linguistic aspect of the writing of the news. The accuracy of the information only came from choosing the Jakarta Post as the reputable English news publisher in Indonesia. The responsibility in reading the news is to understand the writing of the news, which this study has presented, and also in choosing trusted news sources. Furthermore, this study can further be improved and continued with analyzing the article next year and increasing the number of words made into the specialized corpus. The researchers can also use more than one news publisher to further increase the variety and accuracy of the research. The analysis of news media is important to understand how certain topics are portrayed and how the general public is informed. The present study analyzed the reliability of the verbs in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia using corpus analysis and qualitative analysis. This stud found four different keywords representing the reliability parameter. The keywords are the verbs *reported, confirmed, expected,* and *suspected.* The four verbs have reliability values ranging from high to medium. The verb *reported* and *confirmed* are considered to have a high-reliability value due to the aspect of evidentiality found in the use of both verbs. The verbs *expected* and *confirmed* are considered to have a medium reliability level due to the modality used to express the prediction in the news. However, all four verbs are considered in the range of high reliability because of the nature of COVID-19 related news that contains science-based information such as health, epidemiology, economic, and other high degree sciences. This sort of information can only be acquired through the official statement of the government, healthcare professionals, and experts. The media has an important role in informing the public about the pandemic.

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