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GRADUATION SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF CRIME NEWS IN THE JAKARTA POST: A STUDY OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini mengkaji *Graduation* pada berita kriminal di *The Jakarta Post*. Enam teks diklasifikasikan dan penelitian metode campuran diterapkan dalam penelitian ini. Analisis data menggunakan *Appraisal System Theory*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui *Graduation* berita kriminal di *The Jakarta Post* dan mendeskripsikan perspektif penulis dalam menilai kekuatan pesan dalam berita kriminal. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa *The Jakarta Post* menyajikan 60% fokus secara dominan. Selain itu, para penulis *The Jakarta Post* menggambarkan berita kriminal menggunakan bahasa yang lebih besar dan lebih tajam.

Kata kunci: *Appraisal System, Focus, Force, Graduation*

Abstract: This study examined the Graduation systems on the crime news in The Jakarta Post. Six texts were classified and mixed-method research was applied in the study. The data were analyzed by using the Appraisal Systems Theory. The study aimed to figure out the graduation systems of the crime news in The Jakarta Post and to describe the writers' perspectives on assessing the power of the message in crime news. The findings show that The Jakarta Post presents 60% of focus dominantly. In addition, The Jakarta Post's writers portray crime news using larger, sharper language.

Key words: Appraisal System, Focus, Force, Graduation

1. INTRODUCTION

Language and the media are closely related. The use of language in the media varies according to importance. Language and media are often used as tools to seek power for certain interests to influence society. These interests include many aspects such as religious aspects, political aspects, educational aspects, economic aspects, and others. To gain access to information, language is needed as a means of communication. According to Halliday, "Language is a system of meaning". It can say that people use the language to show the meaning in its language. Language is used to fulfill one's interests and influences. Power can also be

gained by exerting influence. These influences are conveyed through language and continued through the media. Lots of media that have a very high level of persuasion have emerged. This is because, behind the high persuasiveness of the media, the interest factor is hegemony.

Currently, mass media is used as the most effective communication tool. A lot of information can be found in the mass media. Communication media can be in the form of print media (newspapers, magazines, journals, etc.), radio, television with various intermediary devices (antenna, cable, satellite dish), to online media in the form of websites/blogs. All types of media are used based on interests, ranging from promotion, intimidation,

provocation, persuasion, romance, etc. One of the mass media that is widely used by people is online mass media. One example of online mass media where many people look for news and information nowadays is The Jakarta Post mass media. Furthermore, The Jakarta Post is one of the English-language newspapers that can be accessed through digital mass media. The Jakarta Post is the popular digital mass media, and it provides various news for instance Economy, politics, Crime, etc. This study investigated the crime news topics. Referring to The Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2012), Crime is an act or commission of an act which is illegal or the neglect of a duty which is regulated by public law and which renders the perpetrator liable to punishment under that law.

This study applied the Appraisal theory. The appraisal is an evaluation for assessing the language, which explores the speakers' relationship with their listeners, and the writers' relationship with their readers. Martin & White (2005, p.1) notes that Appraisal is concerned with interpersonal language, with the subjective presence of writers/speakers in texts as they take views on both the material they convey and the persons they interact with. It is concerned with how authors and speakers accept and reject, excite and despise, praise and condemn, and how they position their readers and listeners to do the same. It is concerned with the formation of communities of shared sentiments through literature and ideals, as well as with language systems for the exchange of emotions, tastes, and formative judgments. Similarly, it is concerned with how writers/speakers build certain authorial identities or personae for themselves, how they align or misalign themselves with existing or possible responses, and how they construct an intended or ideal audience for their works. Appraisal is the process of

negotiating social interactions by informing listeners or readers how they feel about things and people.

Lots of previous studies found to focus on the appraisal systems to support this study. Chalimah, Djatmika, R. Santoso & Tri Wiratno (2018) carried out the first previous study entitled: "Evaluating Attitude in New Text: Appraisal in Critical Discourse Study". The second prior study, "Realization of Attitude Analysis on Male and Female Second-Year Students' Attitudes," was examined by Vivi Putriyantina and Iskhak Said (2018). Valentina Widya Suryaningtyas, Raden Arief Nugroho, Setyo Prasiyanto Cahyono, Mangatur Rudolf Nababan, and Riyadi Santosa (2019) performed the third prior study, "Appraisal in Bilingual Tourism Information Media: Developing an SFL-Based Translation Model." Those previous studies have the common with the present study which analyzed the text by exploring the appraisal systems.

The research explored the Appraisal Theory to analyze the graduation system in The Jakarta Post. By applying the appraisal system theory, especially on the Graduation system, the research examined the Graduation systems about the crime news in The Jakarta Post. The research questions of this study were: (1) What are the Graduation systems of crime news in The Jakarta Post?; and (2) How do the writers assess the power of the message in crime news in The Jakarta Post?. The objectives of this study: (1) To find out the Graduation systems of crime news in The Jakarta Post; and (2) To describe the writers' perspectives on assessing the power of the message in crime news in The Jakarta Post.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Appraisal Systems

Appraisal deals with assessment, the

types of attitudes negotiated in a text, the intensity of sentiments involved, and the methods by which values are sourced and readers aligned (Martin and Rose, 2007, p. 22). According to Martin and Rose (2007, p. 24), the appraisal system consists of three essential options for appraisal analysis. Attitude, involvement, and graduation were all part of that system. This follows Martin & White (2005, p. 35) study on Attitude is concerned with our feelings, including emotional reactions, judgments of behavior, and evaluation of things. Engagement deals with sourcing attitude and the play of voices around the opinion in discourse. Graduation observes the grading of phenomena where emotions are intensified and distinctions blurred.

2. Graduation

Graduation made by the writers or speakers related to increasing or decreasing the text also sharpens or blurs the text. Graduation is also about scaling up and scaling down. Based on Martin & White (2005, p. 135), graduation operates across two axes of scalability - that of grading according to intensity of amount (force), and that of grading according to prototypically and the preciseness (focus) by which category boundaries are drawn.

2.1 Force

Force describes the evaluations for the level of intensity and amount. It is stated by Martin & White (2005: 140), "in force, it has two types: Intensification and Quantification. Assessments of a degree of intensity can operate over qualities (e.g. slightly foolish, extremely foolish; it stopped somewhat abruptly, it stopped very abruptly), over process (e.g. This significantly hindered us, which massively hindered us), or by verbal modalities of probability, habit, tendency and duty (e.g. It's just possible that it's very possible that). This term is called 'intensification' which

refers to this scaling of qualities and processes. Intensification describes qualities, processes, and modalities. It is divided into two broad lexicogrammatical clauses: Isolating and Infusing. Isolating means that there is a separate lexical form conveying the sense of graduation. Infusion means that there is no separate lexical form conveying the sense of graduation."

2.2 Focus

Based on Martin & Rose (2007: 46), the focus is on resources for making something that is inherently non-gradable gradable. Sharpening and softening grading may be objects, such as sorts of attributes such as deep blue or bluish, or it can be categorical notions such as figures such as approximately three years or precisely three years, and so on. Focus is divided into two types: Sharpening and Softening. Sharpening describes intensifiers, boosters, and amplifiers. There is a tendency that explains attitudes in terms of the archetypal cline. It's possible to enlarge or 'sharpen' the specification. Martin & White (2005, p. 139) points out In sharpening, the effect is to imply the highest investment by the author's voice in the forward value position (either negative or positive) and thereby to closely match the reader to the forward value position. According to Martin & White (2005), the softening term in a positive one, the effect is not so straightforward and the softening term in a negative one, the effect is to indicate a lessening of the speaker/writer's investment in the value stance, and hence a conciliatory act aimed at retaining unity with others who hold opposing viewpoints.

2. METHOD

2.1 Subject Research

The information was obtained from The Jakarta Post's archives (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/archive> and www.thejakartapost.com/archive). Six

texts of crime news in The Jakarta Post can be seen below:

Table 1. Crime News titles

Text	Crime News Titles of The Jakarta Post
1	Crime lord gets 12 years for murder. (December 27, 2012)
2	Boy, 14, nabbed for slaying Bogor father, son. (July 20, 2012)
3	Female Journalist Assaulted and Raped. (June 21, 2013)
4	School Girl Gang-Raped in Cengkareng. (August 27, 2013)
5	Baby snatched from Bandung hospital. (March 27, 2014)
6	Baby Found, Kidnapper Attempts Suicide. (March 30, 2014)

2.2 Instruments

The data were analyzed using the appraisal system framework of Graduation systems (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007). Therefore, it can be found out the differences in the use of Graduation in each crime news article.

2.3 Data Analysis

The researcher applied descriptive methods in this research. In descriptive methods, she did the library research to gain the theory, and she used the references to support the analysis. The researcher conducted some steps to take the research. The steps that the researcher performs are as follows: firstly, the researcher investigated the clause in the six texts of crime news in The Jakarta Post. Then, she marked each clause following the Graduation. After that, she made notes and compared them. Lastly, she gave explanations about Graduation in the texts.

The researcher conducted mixed methods in the research. She used quantitative methods and qualitative methods. She applied the quantitative methods first, and then she continued with the qualitative methods. In the quantitative methods, the researcher analyzed the data

using numeric information. The researcher used qualitative methods, which used linguistic information as data especially in the appraisal system to find out the Graduations in The Jakarta Post about the crime news.

The research was qualitative and interpretative, in which the data were analyzed using the appraisal system framework (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007). The data and information were browsed on the internet. The technique of taking samples was total sampling because the data contained the appraising items, which became the data research. The researcher used the non-participant observation (Sugiyono, 2013) which the researcher was not involved as the subject of the study and was the independent researcher.

3. FINDING & DISCUSSION

3.1 FINDINGS

1. The Graduation systems of crime news in The Jakarta Post

The graduation systems on the crime news in The Jakarta Post can be seen in



the following figure:

Figure 1.

The Graduation systems in The Jakarta Post

To conclude based overall analysis of the Graduation systems on the crime news, figure 1 above illustrates The Jakarta Post shows the different numbers of Graduation. The Jakarta Post's force rate is 64 items (40%) and The Jakarta Post's focus

rate is about 95 items (60%). Therefore, we know that the crime news in The Jakarta Post dominates the Focus.

2. The writers' perspectives on assessing the power of the message in crime news

The writers' attitudes of grading the strength of the message in the crime news can be found out in the following tables: Table 2.

The perspectives of The Jakarta Post's writers on assessing the power of the messages in the crime news

Graduation	Number	Total	%
Force	Intense Up	36	64 40%
	Down	0	
Sharpen	Quant Up	28	
	Down	0	
Focus	Sharpen Up	76	
	Down	0	
	Soften Up	0	95 60%
	Down	19	

Table 2 above shows The Jakarta Post is dominated by the Focus. It is about 95 items (60%). From the focus, it is shown that the sharpening words have a bigger number than the softening number. The sharpening numbers show 76 items. Also, the sharpening words describe the focus as up-scaled. The total number is about 76 items of an up-scaled number for the sharpening words.

3.2 DISCUSSION

The following components will be covered in discussion: What is the Graduation systems of crime news in The Jakarta Post?; and How do the writers assess the power of the messages of crime news in The Jakarta Post?.

The following discussions are examples of Graduation systems in The Jakarta Post. They are found in the six texts. Here are the data:

1. Crime lord gets 12 years for murder. (Text 1)

Clause	Appraising item	Appraised	Type of appraising item	Graduation
<u>Crime lord</u> gets 12 years for murder.	Crime lord	Lord	Epithet	Focus: Sharpen (up-scaled)
	12 years	-	-	Force: Number

The underlined phrase 'crime lord' in the datum (1) belongs to the graduation of focus: sharpening. It shows the graduation of focus because the writer grades the attitude through the attitudinal assessment. It is assessed as 'lord' utilizing the negative assessment 'crime.' It is an up-scaled sharpening word because it is surprisingly presented such as the negative-evaluated character. Meanwhile, the underlined phrase '12 years' is included in the graduation of force: quantification. It presents the number of the murder, therefore it belongs to the force of quantification. Also, the writer presents the up-scaling of quantification by mentioning the specific number. So, the writer grades the message by using the quantifier.

2. John will file an appeal against the verdict. (Text 1)

Clause	Appraising item	Appraised	Type of appraising item	Graduation
John <u>will file</u> an appeal against the verdict.	Will file	John	Modulation of inclination	Force: process (iso-up-scaled-intensifier)

The underlined phrase 'will file' in the datum (2) belongs to the intensification of force. It shows the graduation of force because the writer grades the attitude through the assessment of the process. It is

shown by the *modality* 'will' and it describes the process of amplification in the data. Also, it belongs to the *force of intensification* because it shows the up-scaling voice to intensify the attitude through the *modality* as the intensifier.

3. *The boy, identified only as AD was arrested at his parents' home in Depok, West java, at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday with the consent of his parents, Rikwanto said. (Text 2)*

Clause	Apprais- sing item	Appr- aised	Type of apprais- ing an item	Graduatio- n
The boy, identified <u>only</u> as AD was arrested at his parents' home in Depok, West java, at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday with the consent of his parents, Rikwanto said.	only	-	-	Focus: soften (down-scaled)

The underlined phrase 'only' in the datum (3) presents the *graduation of focus: softening*. The phrase 'only' refers to the softening word, therefore it is called the *focus of softening*. Also, it describes the writer's evaluation through the blurring message.

4. *Both victims were struck in the head with blunt weapons (Text 2)*

Clause	Apprai- sing item	Appr- aised	Type of apprais- ing an item	Graduation
<u>Both victims</u> were struck in the head with blunt weapons	Both victims	Victims	Epithet	Force: number (inf-up-scaled-intensifier)

The underlined phrase 'both victims' from the information (4) higher than describes the *graduation of force: quantification* as a result of it presents the amplification. Also, it includes the *force of quantification* as a result of it is complete through the phrase 'both' because the quantifier and it is the raised angle. Thus, the author up-scales the attitude victimisation the quantifier.

5. *A female TV journalist was assaulted and raped by an unidentified man (Text 3)*

Clause	Apprai- sing item	Appr- aised	Type of apprais- ing an item	Graduatio- n
A <u>female TV journalist</u> was assaulted and raped by an <u>unidentified man</u>	Female TV journalist	TV journalist	Epithet	Focus: Sharpen (up-scaled)
	Unidentified man	Man	Epithet	Focus: Sharpen (up-scaled)

The underlined phrases 'female TV journalist' and 'unidentified man' confer with the *graduation of focus: sharpening*. The phrases describe the extreme words by victimisation sharpening words. Also, they are within the up-scaling voices. The sharpening voices are boosted through the *epithet*. Therefore, they are known as the *graduation of focus: sharpening*.

6. *only several hours after the girl met the boys. (Text 4)*

Clause	Apprai- sing item	Appr- aised	Type of apprais- ing an item	Graduatio- n
<u>only several hours</u> after the girl met the boys	Several hours	Hours	Epithet	Force: Number (inf-up-scaled-intensifier)

From the information (6) above, we are able see the underlined phrase 'several hours' belongs to the *graduation of force: quantification* because it demonstrates the analysis of quantity. The phrase refers to the number of

the attitude and it is enclosed with the *force of quantification*. Besides, the writer grades the attitude using the quantifier of variety and it is the up-scaling of variety.

7. *his office would strengthen hospital security.*
(Text 5)

Clause	Appraisin g item	Appr aised	Type of apprais ing an item	Graduation
his office <u>would</u> <u>strengthen</u> n hospital security	Would strengthe n	His office	Modula tion of inclinat ion	Force: Process (iso-up-scaled- intensifier)

The underlined phrase 'would strengthen' within the information (7) belongs to the *graduation of force: Process-intensification*. It presents the *graduation of force* as a result of it is ranked from the standard of the attitude. It is shown by the modality 'would', thus it describes the amplification of quality. Besides, it shows the up-scaling voice through the modality because the intensive.

8. *Lasmaria and her husband, Toni Manurung,*
26, expressed their gratitude. (Text 6)

Clause	Apprai sing item	Appr aised	Type of apprais ing an item	Graduatio n
Lasmaria and her husband, Toni Manurun g, 26, expressed their <u>gratitude</u> .	Gratitu de	Lasm aria and Toni	Attitud inal lexis	Force: quality (inf-up- scaled- attitudina l lexis)

The underlined phrase 'gratitude' within the information (8) belongs to the *graduation of force: intensification*. It is enclosed with the *graduation of force* as a result of the author grades the attitude through the assessment of the degree of intensity that refers to the scaling of quality of the attitude. The phrase 'gratitude' belongs to the force of intensification as a result of there is no separate lexical type conveyancing the scale. The author presents the attitudinal lexis for

the phrase 'gratitude' because the up-scaling intensive.

4. CONCLUSION

To conclude supported the general analysis of the Graduation, The Jakarta Post shows the various numbers of Force and Focus. The Jakarta Post dominates the Focus. The outstanding attitudes within The Jakarta Post are the non-gradable attitudes. The writers of The Jakarta Post describe the crime news mostly by sharpening words and boosting the strength of the messages. Moreover, the writers of The Jakarta Post specialize in the selection of the words in describing the articles.

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