

Discourse representation on Indonesian socio-political situation in the Instagram posts of an English-speaking Indonesian community

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Abstract

This study aims to explore the discourse representation that is used in the Instagram posts of an unofficial news account for the English-speaking Indonesian community. The studies about discourse representation are mostly done in a formal setting and comparative setting. Hence, this study intends to show the discourse representation that is used in an unofficial news account that focuses on the Indonesian socio-political situation. This study used qualitative research to collect and analyze the data. The data was taken from 50 Instagram posts. The data were analyzed by identifying the sentences based on the discourse representation theory. The finding shows that both in direct and indirect discourse, the reporting verbs are mostly used. The reporting verbs in the direct discourse is 69% and indirect discourse 78%. Meanwhile, indirect discourse is the mode and form of discourse representation that is mostly used in Instagram posts with a percentage of 82%.

Keywords: *Discourse Representation, Instagram, Socio-Political Condition*

Introduction

Social media is widely spread and used around the world. With the growth of technology, people have come to depend on it. One of the social media that are quite popular is Instagram. Instagram has a huge impact on people's lives as it relates to social interaction, people's culture, politics and even education (Caliandro & Graham, 2020). Instagram first emerged in 2010 and has gradually changed. It changes to follow the need of the users. Instagram offers the facility to share pictures, videos, and stories through the Instagram feed, Instagram reels, and also Instagram stories. Hence, it can be suitable for them. Based on the Indonesian digital report 2022 that was released in February, it can be seen that Instagram holds the second place as the social media that is highly used in Indonesia. The number of people that are using Instagram is estimated to be 99,15 human beings. Hence, it shows that Instagram has become a place for many people to interact with each other. Not only it is used for communication between individuals but also communities.

There are lots of communities that have a platform on Instagram as there are lots of people who use it nowadays. The platforms are mostly used by the community for the sake of exchanging information. These platforms are built by several people who have the same interest. The communities are also varied, for example, health-related communities, social-related communities, and beauty-related communities. Therefore, the

information on the platform is usually centred around their interest. It is the same as the concept of affinity spaces which means the place both online and offline where people gather together because of the same interest (Carpenter, Morrison, Craft, & Lee, 2020). Hence, the followers of the platforms are also people who have the same interest. Al-Kandari, Al-Hunaiyyan, & Al-Hajri (2016) state Instagram followers can be family, friends, or strangers. In this case, the people who follow the platform vary from people who know about each other in real life to people who do not know about each other in real life. They become one in the online community because of their interest. The interest is different from one community to another such as celebrity, economy, politics, etc.

WIUI is one of the online communities on Instagram. WIUI stands for “What is up, Indonesia?”. It is an unofficial news platform that is managed by a few people. Besides, this platform has 102.000 followers. This platform is used to share information about the Indonesian socio-political situation. Further, the people behind the platform try to give information to the English-speaking Indonesian people. These people are Indonesian who are raised internationally. Prayitno & Lie (2017) add that the minimum input in the first language can also impact the ability to use the first language. Hence, they are either more comfortable using English or not very fluent in Indonesian. However, there are lots of followers from the account that are speaking good Indonesian. They are mostly following the platform to get information about the socio-political situation in Indonesia while also learning English. The people behind the platform found that many English-speaking Indonesian do not know about the Indonesian socio-political situation despite their desire to know it due to the language barriers. Therefore, the content in the WIUI platform uses English as the agent in delivering the information. Besides, it can also be the place for Indonesian who speak the Indonesian language to learn more about English while also knowing many topics that are related to their interest. It is supporting the study (Erarslan, 2019) which found that Instagram is favoured by students for educational and language learning. So, despite the negative effect of Instagram addiction that is mentioned by Ponnusamy, Iranmanesh, Foroughi, & Hyun (2020), Instagram as a social media can bring a positive outcome for the youth.

Discourse representation is usually used in text analysis. Therefore, discourse representation concerns the context-dependence of the meaning of the text (Kamp, Van Genabith, & Ryle, 2011). Hence, each of the sentences is responsible for the meaning of the context. The meaning of the text is analyzed using the semantic model in understanding the text itself. As this study is concerned with the representation of the socio-political situation in the posts of a community with English-speaking Indonesian people, therefore the analysis will use the discourse representation based on the language use.

There are few studies about discourse representation. A study conducted by Syafryadin (2019) focuses on the discourse representation used in the newspaper. The study found that both English and Indonesian newspapers are more dominated by indirect discourse. Another study conducted by Rafatbakhsh & Jafari (2015) focuses on the discourse representation used by Indonesian and Iran newspapers. This study found that both in Indonesian and Iran newspapers mostly use reporting verbs. Studies conducted by Rahbari, Longman, & Coene (2019) on the discourse analysis represented women’s bodies in official online outlets in Iran discuss the discursive articulation on the online outlets about women’s bodies and national identity. Mitchell & Garcia (2020) also did a study with the same variable as Rahbari, Longman, and Coene, yet they are slightly different. The study which is conducted by Mitchell & Garcia focuses on the shifting of the gendered discourse in presidential leadership. Another study is conducted by Rakhmawati in 2017. She focuses on the discourse representation of ‘Mukidi’ on Indonesia’s news media platform. She found that the message on ‘Mukidi’ is not ordinary and can represent social and cultural values through Indonesian news media platforms. Therefore, the researcher of this study urges to find the discourse representation in the different platforms that is closer to Indonesian youth especially English-speaking Indonesian who are concerned to know about the Indonesian socio-political situation. Not only that, as this platform is not only followed by English-speaking Indonesian people but also by lots of Indonesian who speak the Indonesian language but are interested in the Indonesian socio-political situation while also learning English, it can be seen that these people can learn English through the context that they like. It is supporting the finding from the study that is done by Stojanović, Bogdanović, Despotović-Zrakić, Naumović, & Radenković (2019) that Instagram can act as a learning facility. Furthermore, Saud (2020) mentions that youth

who participate in the public sphere can impact the better community's life. It means that getting interested in Indonesian socio-political conditions through Instagram can impact the better community's life.

Literature Review

Representation Verbs

According to Syafryadin (2019), there are a few types of representation verbs. Those types can be differentiated as follows:

1. Reporting verbs: The reporting verbs can be "tell", "say", etc. These verbs are used by the reporter to explain the context which has been mentioned by the source or the authority. Un-udom & Un-udom (2020) add that reporting verbs are used by the reporter or the author to take control of delivering uncertain news or giving words to the readers.
2. Mental verbs: Mental verbs are rarely used in news reports. Mental verbs are varies from "believe", "wonder", and "recall". Fairclough (1995) mentions about mental verbs are used to represent the inner condition of the source authority. In addition, Goyak, Muhammad, Khaja, Zaini, & Muhammad (2021) mention that mental verbs "do not involve physical actions" (p. 223).
3. Manner-of-speaking verbs: Manner-of-speaking verbs are verbs that explain the physical action which is used by the source authority. Further, Unuabonah & Gut (2018) add that manner of speaking verbs functioned as the view to the style of speaking an utterance.
4. Speech act verbs: It is used by the reporter to explain something. Ansari & Gupta (2021) state that speech act verbs are not only used to explain but also to show the condition that prompts the utterances. Examples of speech act verbs are "claim", and "warn".

Mode of Discourse

There are several types of discourse, direct discourse, and indirect discourse. Fairclough (1995) further mentions the differences between direct discourse and indirect discourse. Direct discourse has a few characteristics, such as 1) It is used to describe something while also emphasizing it, 2) It is produced directly by the authorities, 3) It is used to associate with the context, and 4) the report has spaces to add. It means that direct discourse is the use of the precise form of the sentences from the speaker. Hence, direct discourse usually uses an apostrophe or quotation mark. Meanwhile, indirect discourse also has a few characteristics, such as 1) the use of reporting-clause, 2) the use of 3-person pronouns to change the 1 and 2-person pronouns, 3) the use of deictic, and 4) the use of back-shift tense. Indirect discourse can also mean the summary of the provided sentences by the speaker or the writer (Richardson, 2007). In summary, Dancygier (2021) describes direct discourse as the authentic quotation and indirect discourse as reported by the author or other character.

Methods

This study employs qualitative-descriptive analysis to know the discourse representation of Indonesian socio-political situation news in the Instagram posts of an unofficial platform for the English-speaking Indonesian community. The sources of the data are from the Instagram posts of an account called WIUI that concerns with delivering news of the Indonesian socio-political situation to English-speaking Indonesians. There were 50 posts analyzed. The data were collected from the postings on April 2021-March 2022. In addition, the data were collected and read thoroughly one by one. The postings that consist of limited information was removed. This research used 50 posts to know the discourse representation and the mode of discourse that was used in the post of the WIUI. Further, the data were gathered based on the qualification of the representing verbs. The data was put in a table based on the qualification. The next step was to change the data into percentages on the table. After that, the data were analyzed using the theory of discourse representation and the mode of discourse. Finally, the description and generalisation based on the representing verbs and mode of discourse were made.

Results and Discussion

Representing Verbs used on the Instagram posts of WIUI to portray Indonesia's socio-political situation

Representing Verbs in Direct Discourse

There are variously representing verbs in direct discourse that are used on the Instagram posts of WIUI to portray Indonesia's socio-political situation. The representing verbs in direct discourse is reporting verbs (97); states (3), say (4), said (52), argues (1), explained (3), saying (5), mentioned (3), told (4), note (1), adds (1), argued (1), says (3), stated (9), quoting (2), responded (1), added (2), state (1), wrote, speech act verbs (9); satisfied (1), claimed (2), agreed (4), concluded (1), commented (1), mental verbs (34); explore (1), believe (7), believes (6), recall (1), believing (1), know (8), believed (2), and manner of speaking verb (1); wished (1). Those verbs are categorized based on the four basic categories of representing verbs, such as reporting verbs, speech act verbs, mental verbs, and manner of speaking verbs. The frequency of the representing verbs in direct discourse is shown in the table.

Table 1: The frequency of representing verbs in direct discourse used in the Instagram posts of WIUI

Representing Verbs	Total	Percentage
Reporting verbs	97	69%
Speech act verbs	9	6,3%
Mental verbs	34	24%
Manner of speaking verbs	1	0,7%
Total	141	100%

Based on the analysis of 50 posts from the Instagram platform of an online community that focuses on the socio-political situation in Indonesia, it was found that the reporting verbs are the most like verbs that are used in the direct discourse. It shows that the writers use 97 words from the reporting verbs with a percentage of 69% of the total 141 words use. The reporting verb that is mostly used on the posts of WIUI is "said". The word "said" has been used 52 times on the 50 posts on the platform. Besides, the reporting verbs are followed by the mental verbs with a percentage of 24% with a total of 34 words, speech acts with a percentage of 6,3% with a total of 9 words, and the manner of speaking verbs with a percentage of 0,7% or only 1 word.

Representing Verbs in Indirect Discourse

There are variously representing verbs in indirect discourse such as reporting verbs, speech act verbs, mental verbs, and manner of speaking verbs. The representation verbs used in the Instagram posts of WIUI are reporting verb (213); released (32), said (81), emphasize (3), emphasizing (2), emphasized (4), noted (5), notes (1), asserted (1), revealed (14), announce (1), announced (18), announcing (2), explained (4), explains (2), says (5), saying (11), declared (3), points out (1), point out (1), pointed out (1), reveals (3), mentioned (13), added (5), adds (1), speech act verbs (25); passed (2), outline (1), outlines (15), assured (4), admitted (10), criticized (7), proposed (1), stressed (1), ensured (1), raised (1), claim (2), claimed (40), reminded (1), confirmed (1), claims (2), showed (6), shows (7), denied (1), classified (4), asked (2), agreed (1), argued (2), argues (2), state (3), stated (27), states (22), reported (6), demanded (2), affirms (1), reports (1), criticized (1), warned (3), stating (6), reassured (1), argue (5), outlined (2), mental verbs (34); promised (2), worries (1), believed (5), expressed (4), believe (1), believes (2), know (8), believed (2), and manner of speaking verb (1); wished (1). The frequency of the representing verbs in indirect discourse is shown in table 2.

Table 2: The frequency of representing verbs in indirect discourse used in the Instagram posts of WIUI

Representing Verbs	Total	Percentage
Reporting verbs	213	78%
Speech act verbs	25	9,2%
Mental verbs	34	12,4%
Manner of speaking verb	1	0,3%
Total	273	100%

Based on the analysis of the 50 posts, it can be seen that the reporting verbs are also the verbs that are mostly used in the indirect discourse representation with a percentage of 78% with a total word used 213 words. The words on the reporting verbs also vary by 24 words. In addition, the order has changed. So, the reporting verbs which are found in the 50 Instagram posts of WIUI are followed by mental verbs with a percentage of 12,4% with 34 words, speech act verbs with a percentage of 9,2% with 25 words, and manner of speaking verb with a percentage of only 0,3% with only one word.

Mode of Discourse

Direct Discourse

- a) “This is a good regulation. With this regulation, *we* hope that victims can speak up and that sexual violence in education can be stopped”, *said* Yaqut.

The sentence above is one example of direct discourse. It suits the characteristics of direct discourse that concern the use of apostrophes to show that it is directly taken from the source authorities. Hence, the voice is very clear in that sentence. It also shows that objectivity is maintained. The neutral verb “said” is also used in the sentence. This means the writer of the Instagram post represents discourse from the direct source.

- b) Fickar then *added*, “This shows that our judges have no sense of crisis when it comes to law enforcers misusing their authority. This should be a warning, that as it turns out, our law enforcers are not enthusiastic about eradicating corruption. For them, it is just another case. This should be a huge wake-up call to the urgency to eradicate corruption”.

The sentence above is also one example of direct discourse. In the sentence above, the use of apostrophe symbolizes the use of the precise form from the source authorities, in here, Fickar. Therefore, the voice is very clear and the objectivity is maintained. Besides, the use of a neutral word such as “added”, also symbolizes the direct discourse. The difference with the first example is the placement of neutral words. Here, the writer of the post also represents discourse from the direct source.

- c) “If the palm oil moratorium isn’t extended and strengthened, the deforestation rate will ramp up again,” *said* Trias Fetra, program officer for palm oil management at Madani.

The sentence above is also direct discourse because there are represented and reporting clauses. In addition, quotation marks are used. The voice is maintained because the objectivity is clear. The word “said” is used. It symbolizes a direct discourse sentence.

- d. One seller in Tanah Abang *told* Kompas, “Why should I be scared? A lot of people come and go here without masks every day and I’m fine. Most people only use their masks when there’s an officer to avoid a fine”.

The sentence above is direct discourse. It can be seen from the quotation mark that is retained. The voice is very clear in the sentence. Therefore, objectivity is maintained. “Told” is an example of the neutral reporting verb in the sentence. It can be concluded that the reporter represents the discourse from the direct news source, who in this case is the seller in Tanah Abang.

Free Direct Discourse

- a) “In the context of regional politics, the presence of this new defence equipment system will make Indonesia more likely to be taken into account and may also be able to exert pressure on other countries in the region”. The sentence above does not have reporting clause. Hence, quotation marks are retained. Thus, the representation of whose voice is not clear. So, it can be concluded that the sentence above is free direct discourse.
- b) “Because if they don’t respond fast, it won’t have to go viral”. The sentence above is also one the examples of free direct discourse. The reporting clause does not exist. Besides, quotation marks are used. In addition, the voice is not clear.
- c) “InsyaAllah, Jakarta will be the focus of the entire world’s camera/media”. The reporting clause does not show in the sentence above. In addition, quotation marks are retained. Yet, whose voice is not clear. So, the sentence above can be considered as free direct discourse.
- d) “People use electricity, LPG, motorbikes and motorcycle taxis. These are all subsidized (by the government from tax money). Therefore, a strong tax system exists to protect the people themselves, not to trouble the people”. The sentence above is considered as free direct discourse. It shows from the quotation marks that are used in the sentence. Yet, the voice is not clear. Further, there is no reporting clause seen in the sentence.

Indirect Discourse

- a) Governor of West Java Ridwan Kamil also *admitted* that his province did not have the funds to provide welfare if another PSBB were to be implemented again. He *said* that much of the province’s budget has already been spent on masks and personal protective equipment (PDE) for health workers. The sentence above is an example of indirect discourse. It suits the characteristics of indirect discourse. First, there is no apostrophe in the sentence. It means that it is not a direct quotation from the source authority. Besides, there is also reporting clause. In addition, the speech act “admitted” is used to show an illocutionary force.
- b) *Fadjroel Rachman*, Jokowi spokesperson rebutted the many speculations and *claimed* that this merger was made purely to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of the government. The sentence above is the second example of indirect discourse. There is no apostrophe used in that sentence. It means the sentence does not come from a direct source of authority. There is a speech act used in the sentence to show the illocutionary force. Besides, the sentence also uses the reporting clause. Therefore, this sentence is considered an indirect discourse.
- c) Kotz *claimed* that the data was retrieved from Indonesia’s Healthcare and Social Security Agency (BPJS Kesehatan), the agency that manages Indonesia’s universal healthcare programs. The sentence above is indirect discourse. There is no quotation mark used. Besides, the reporting verb can also be seen in the sentence.
- d) Kominfo representative Samuel A. Pangarepan *informed* the media that registration of private ESOs would be done through an Online Single Submission-Risk Based Approach (OSS-RBA) system developed by the ministry of investment (BKPM). The sentence above is indirect discourse. There is no quotation mark used in that sentence. Besides, the sentence used the reporting verb. Hence, it can be seen as indirect discourse.

Free Indirect Discourse

- a) They may not even want to move to Nusantara. The sentence above is one of the examples of free indirect discourse. The sentence is one of the examples of free indirect discourse. The sentence describes something from the perspective of the third person.

- b) This is where things get from bad to worse. This sentence also describes the situation from the third-person perspective. Hence, this sentence is considered as free indirect discourse.

Table 3: The frequency of modes and forms of discourse used in the Instagram posts of WIUI

Mode	Total	Percentage
Direct discourse	80	15,7%
Free direct discourse	9	1,7%
Indirect discourse	417	82%
Free indirect discourse	2	0,3%
Total	508	100%

Table 3 shows that indirect discourse is the mode and form of discourse that is mostly used in the Instagram posts of WIUI. The percentage of the use of indirect discourse is 82%. This percentage is obtained from the 417 sentences on the Instagram posts of WIUI. Further, it is followed by direct discourse with a percentage of 15,7% with 80 sentences, free direct discourse with a percentage of 1,7% with 9 sentences, and free indirect discourse with a percentage of 0,3% with only two sentences.

The result of this research is supporting similar studies about discourse representation. The other studies that are familiar with this study are the studies by Syafryadin (2019) and Rafatbakhsh & Jafari (2015). The study that is conducted by Syafryadin (2019) shows the discourse representation that is used in English and Indonesian newspapers. It appears that indirect discourse representation is the mode and form of discourse that is used in both newspapers. Besides, Rafatbakhsh & Jafari (2015) also conducted a contrastive analysis study of the discourse representation from the Persian and English online newspapers. It appears that both of the online newspapers mostly use reporting verbs. Hence, this research focuses on another object which is the unofficial news report on Instagram with the aim of the English-speaking Indonesian youth community. Yet, the account is also followed by lots of Indonesian who speak the Indonesian language but are interested in Indonesia's socio-political situation while also learning English. This study shows that the mode and form of discourse that is mostly used in Instagram posts is indirect discourse. Besides, both direct and indirect discourse in this study appears to use reporting verbs as the verb that are mostly used in Instagram posts.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of this study, shows that indirect discourse is mostly used in the 50s Instagram posts of an unofficial platform for English-speaking Indonesian people. Therefore, in the sentences, there are reporting verbs, mental verbs, speech acts, and manner of speaking used. However, the reporting verbs are mostly used compared to the other verbs. This study also shows that discourse representation can even be learned from the post of an account on Instagram. It means that discourse representation can be found in many other media. In addition, this study shows that Instagram can be a promising tool for the media of learning. Besides, bringing positive topics or news to the youth seems more approachable. It is because many people use Instagram daily to share their life and interest. However, as with many research, the study also had some limitations that can be things to be considered. First, this study was based on the post of a single account on a community on Instagram. Future studies can research discourse representation in another object or area. Future studies can even do a comparing study about discourse representation between one community from the others. Second, the data source was limited to 50 posts. Future studies can obtain more data from their object of study.

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