

## **EXPLORING COMPLEX SENTENCES AND METAPHORS IN ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT COVID-19 IN ASIA TIMES**

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**Abstract:** This research aims to find the use of complex sentences and metaphors in online news article about Covid-19 in Asia Times. This research employs descriptive qualitative approach to examine five online news articles about Covid-19 in Indonesia containing complex sentences and seven news articles about Covid-19 in Indonesia containing metaphors posted in Asia Times. The writer uses the Verspoor's and Azar's theories to examine complex sentences and Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphor theory to examine metaphors. The result shows that in 5 news articles writing the authors used 115 complex sentences and 40 or (34.8%) of which are modified by noun clauses, 36 sentences (31.3%) are modified by adjective clauses, 32 sentences (27.8%) are modified by adverbial clauses, and 7 sentences (6.1%) are modified by multiple subordinate clauses. This implied that teachers should emphasize on the use of noun clauses in complex sentences when teaching writing. Secondly, the result demonstrates that in seven news articles the authors used 95 metaphors categorized into three types of metaphors: 64 or 67.3% are ontological metaphors, 16 or 16.8% are orientational metaphors, and 15 or 15.9% structural metaphors. In addition, this implied that teachers should be aware of the use of metaphors in various reading text genres specifically online articles.

**Key Words:** Complex sentences; Metaphors; Covid-19; Indonesia; News Articles; Asia Times.

### **Introduction**

English has been extensively used in education, economy, and social sectors. According to Riel (2000: 2) the 21<sup>st</sup> century education requires dynamic teacher-student interactions around an integrated course of knowledge and skills, with the structure influenced by forces in the economy, academy and community with the help of communication technology where educational dialog can be performed extensively among teachers, students, and professional that results in learning community that extend beyond individualized learning and classroom teaching. Since the first case of Covid-19 confirmed in Indonesia, it has changed many aspects of life such as economic and education. The growth of economy of Indonesia is slowing down and would be severe, multi billion business enterprise to small scale enterprises are affected (Suryahadi,2020: 1). Long distance learning and online learning become the most favourable option because people are now more aware of their health. The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed access to education in Indonesia. According to Klomp (2020) the existence of traditional classroom in universities will saturate more quickly than anticipated. Extensive information regarding the Covid-19 presented by media especially online media gives both good and bad effects. On one hand, it gives useful knowledge

about how to deal with the virus and take necessary action to control the pandemic. On the other hand, it can spread fears and confusion in society.

Media refers to mass media which traditionally defined as the channels that carry mass communication; mass communication is any form of communication transmitted through a medium (channel) that simultaneously reaches a large number of people (Wimmer, 2013: 2). Media functions as a channel of information, education and entertainment in the form of print such as newspaper and magazine and electronic such as television and radio (Singh, 2017: 127). There are a lot of theories related to the virus, some believed it is fabricated, or it is part of global conspiracy due to environmental, geopolitics and economic issues. These theories have not been proved yet, nevertheless many people perceived them as the truth. As reported by [www.bbc.com/news](http://www.bbc.com/news) on 18 June 2020, media especially social media plays important role in spreading the news, whether it is valid or fake (a hoax). Based on studies published in the journal *Psychological Medicine* done by Kings College London research team suggest social media news site may need to regulate misleading content such as spreading conspiracy theories about coronavirus that resulted in people who take the news from social media sources are likely to break the lockdown rules (Allington et.al, 2020:2). Studies related to misleading information published on media are also conducted by McManus et al (2020:1) which highlighted publication issued by *Newsweek* (2020) with headlines. Misinformation related to Covid-19, as reported by Brennen et al. (2020:7) involves three major social media: Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook. Social media platforms have responded to a majority of the social media posts rated false in the research and have taken steps to try to limit the spread of misinformation about COVID-19.

In order to obtain objective and reliable information, readers should be more critical and selective in choosing the source of information and newspaper is in the option. Newspaper provides important message to people which is considered as actual news. According to Smith (2005: 2) Newspapers have a tradition of seeking, gathering, processing, and producing news in a one-way daily delivery, but the Internet can give users the ability to make the reporting process more transparent if site visitors can see, hear, or read the sources reporters relied on. Tanikawa (2017: 3519) stated that newspaper keeps people updated with whatever happened on a given day and present it on their doorstep the next day, informing them of important events of the day. Stebbins (2006:43) also stated that newspaper articles often report on current topics, including summaries of the results of recent research. The story presented should be up-to-date, factual and objective. The information should not be contradictory to public interest and insensitive to condition happens in society.

Now that less people read printed newspaper, the producer of printed newspaper shifts the format into digital one to cut printing cost and to adhere with the technology. Several studies have suggested that online newspapers are complementary to print editions, not competitive (Smith, 2005: 18, Dutta-Bergman, 2004: 58). However, the State of the News Media 2005 survey by the Project for Excellence in Journalism indicated that online news is beginning to cannibalize traditional media forms and that online news is likely to draw even more users away from newspapers in the future because Web users are far younger than newspaper readers and the number of online news readers are increasing time to time compared to the printed ones.

Media language has attracted interests in the fields of linguistics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, semiotics, communication studies, sociology and social psychology. Crystal (2003: 106) stated that there are 57% of the world's newspapers are published in English. Newspaper plays an important role to expose English to the people although their mother tongue language is different. It is supported by Cabansag (2011: 82) who found out that reading newspaper in English has helped to increase the students' communication skills. In addition, Ng (2013) suggests that reading news is beneficial for it helps readers build their critical mind, improve language skills, distinguish truth from falsehood, enhance creativity and it is a source of inspiration, knowledge, and finding solutions. Teachers can make it resourceful materials for language analysis, reading comprehension, a good model for writing composition and critical literacy.

Reading news articles in English is quite tactful. Readers should be aware of the language features used such as sentence structure and vocabulary meanings. Sentence is a unit of speech whose grammatical structure conforms to the laws of the language; it serves as a chief means of conveying the thought (Aliyeva, 2016: 1762). Similarly, Verspoor and Sauter (2000: 33) defines sentence as a grammatically self-contained speech unit consisting of a word, or a syntactically related group of words that expresses an assertion, a



question, a command, a wish, or an exclamation. Based on its complexity, sentences are structured into 4 categories: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences (Andersen in Subekti (2017:2)). Language features we often see in news article is complex sentence. According to Oshima and Hogue (2007:101) complex sentence is a combination of one independent clause and one (or more) dependent clause (s).” Accordingly, Phillips (2001: 199) and Fowler (2015:735-736) stated that some sentences in English consists of one clause and many other sentences have more than one clause. Complex sentence consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. As the name suggests, a dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete form of a sentence, it relies on independent clause to form a full meaningful unit of sentence. Aitchison (2003: 83-84) stated that a dependent clause looks like a sentence which is embedded to independent clause structure using a connective device. Verspoor and Suter (2000:37) identify this connective device as subordinator. Azar and Hagen (2009), furthermore, explained that a dependent clause must be connected to an independent clause. The dependent clauses of complex sentences can be in the forms of noun clauses, adjective clauses and adverb clauses.

Bram (1995: 40) stated one must find the sentence structure that establishes the proper thought relationship of ideas where the emphasis lies on independent clause and less important or deemphasized ideas in suitable subordinate constructions, so the flow of thoughts will run much more smoothly, compared with series of ideas expressed in simple sentence. Potential problem that may arise regarding the use of complex sentence is highlighted by Zipoli (2017:219-220) that complex sentence can be confusing because of adverbial with temporal and causal conjunction, center embedded relative clause and sentence with three or more clauses. Center-embedded relative clauses can pose processing difficulties when students remain reliant on a word-order strategy or a Subject + Verb + Object strategy.

Another key point in understanding the information in news articles is by vocabulary mastery, especially in word meaning. According to Cruse (2000: 199) meaning of words can be divided into literal and non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is basic or original meaning of a word while non-literal meaning is the extensions of meaning. Metaphor is categorized as the latter.

Kennedy (2007), quoting Aristotle, stated that “A *metaphorical meaning was always the literal meaning of another expression*”. According to Kovecses, (2010: ix) metaphor is figure of speech in which one thing is compared with another by saying that one is the other. According to Newmark (1988: 85) metaphor can be defined as an indirect comparison between two or more apparently unrelated things or subjects. The point of similarity may be physical but often it is chosen for its connotations. Foley in Pariasa (2017: 139) states that all metaphors are the construal of something as part of the features of something else. Lakoff and Johnson (2003: 3) stated that metaphors are pervasive in everyday life, not just in language, but also in thought and action. A common definition of a metaphor can be described as a comparison that shows how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in another important way, and metaphor is a simply understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another.

The most relevant theory to study the use of metaphor in news articles is the conceptual metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson. Lakoff (1993: 203) emphasis that the locus of metaphor is not in the language at all, but in the way to conceptualize one mental domain in terms of another. Metaphors link two conceptual domains, the source domain and the target domain. The source domain provides frameworks for target domains: these determine the ways in which think and talk about the activities and entities to which the target domain refer, and even the ways in which behave of carry out activities, as in the case of argument. Kovecses (2002: 16) stated that the conceptual metaphors are at the level of thought processes, which are used to understand a conceptual domain by associating it to a different conceptual domain. According to Ortony (2012:208-209) the foremost principle of cognitive theory by Lakoff and Johnson is that the metaphor takes place in the level of thought process. Unlike other figurative language that are more established, understanding metaphor require more thoughtful activities to interpret the meaning.

Lakoff and Johnson (2003) classify metaphors into three types: structural metaphors, orientational metaphors and ontological metaphors. Structural metaphor refers to a concept which is formed metaphorically by using another concept. The structural metaphor is based on a systematic correlation in the experience and everyday life. This metaphor is an abstract metaphorical system that in overall complex

mental concept that is structured in the sense of several other concepts (Hurford, 2007:333). This structural metaphor is based on two domains, the source domain and the target domain. Lakoff and Johnson (2003: 26) defines ontological metaphor as entity and substance metaphor. Ontological metaphor is not as comparison of two concepts but as a transfer of the nature of the source domain to the target domain. The structure of human understanding of abstract concepts and experiences with physical objects and substances in the reality helped by conceptualizing this metaphor (Huford, 2007: 336). Orientational metaphor is a metaphor that reflects the different spatial concepts and it is based on the physical experience of humans with the orientation of space. The spatial orientation such as up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off, deep-shallow, central-peripheral is related to orientational metaphor (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003: 15). Metaphors are not only used ornamentally as figurative language in literature but also used extensively in many other text genres including newspaper.

The explanations above encourage me to investigate the use of complex sentences and metaphors in online news articles about Covid-19 in Indonesia in Asia Times. Previous study conducted by Kongsokorn et al. (2017) also highlights the use of complex sentences in news articles. I select news articles posted in Asia Times for it is has special column that report social, economy, and political condition in Southeast Asia especially Indonesia. Founded in 1995 as a printed broadsheet newspaper, Asia Times has relaunched and developed its form into the world's only multi-language, pan-Asia digital news platform and is now one of the fastest growing news media sites in the world. Asia Times proclaims that its fast, accurate, news, commentary and analysis is now read by more than 12 million people in 30 different countries, and since February 2019 Asia Times has launched a new interactive site at [www.asiatimes.com](http://www.asiatimes.com). It claims to write independent and authoritative pan-Asian news, analysis, opinion, and geopolitical commentary. Asia Times presents their news in multi-language including English.

This research aims to promote descriptive analysis research on authentic materials and linguistics particularly on news articles, complex sentences, and metaphors to give contribution and improvement to the education process in Indonesia. Moreover, this research is expected to increase learners' ability to understand and use complex sentence properly and improve their reading and writing skills by studying the meaning of metaphors used in news articles. Likewise, this research is also expected to reinforce teachers to use more authentic materials available in vast numbers in their teaching. Hopefully this research can serve as the starting point for other researchers to conduct further and more comprehensive research related to news articles, complex sentences, and metaphors.

## Method

This study used a qualitative approach, in which it is a type of social science research approach in conducting the research. Creswell (2012 :16) states that in a qualitative research a researcher analyzes the data for description and themes using texts analysis and interpret them to answer the research question and gives broad understanding of the research focus. In addition to Creswell, Ary (2010:424) states that the qualitative research deals with data that are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers and statistics.

The design of this study used a content analysis to identify the data by the type of complex sentences and metaphors, to analyze and interpret data to answer to the problem statements, and to draw a conclusion. Content analysis is a research in which focuses on analyzing the content of a document or textual data. According to Krippendorff (2004:30), content analysis is a research technique replicable and inferences from texts (or other meaningful matters) to the context of their use. The techniques of data collection and analysis are done through reading the selected articles several times, listing the complex sentences and metaphors appear in the selected articles, extracting the complex sentences and metaphors used in selected news articles based on their types, collecting and gathering data which are supporting data through reference books and the internet that are relevant to the object of the research, concluding the result from the data provided, and writing a report on the result of the study in the form of a thesis. The report is organized clearly in order to make the readers easier to understand the result of the study.

In descriptive qualitative research, researchers have the right to be the observers of the research since human has the capability to understand the real condition of the research subject (Moleong, 2011: 9). Documentation sheet is needed to get the data clearly. From the statement, the researcher will have a role



as a planner, an implementer, a data collector, an analyst, an interpreter of the data, and a reporter of the research. This will also be assisted by documentation sheet for example a field note to get the data clearly. In addition, another instrument used is an electrical media in the form of computer.

In analyzing the headlines, the writer focuses only on the complex sentences and metaphors used in the headlines which lead to the understanding of the context. Then, the writer analyzes each type of complex sentences and metaphors and categorizes them based on their occurrence in the news articles.

The data that analyzed in this study are the complex sentences and metaphors found in the Online News Articles in Asia Times which were available at the official website of Asia Times at <http://www.asiatimes.com> and published between March to September 2020. To collect the data, it used a documentation from the online news articles in Asia Times. There were 5 online news articles which contained complex sentences and 7 online news articles which contained metaphors are analyzed.

## Results and Discussion

### 1. The Use of Complex Sentences in Online News Articles About Covid-19 in Asia Times

The writer has investigated 5 online news articles and clustered the complex sentence from other sentence structures such as simple, compound and compound complex sentences. The table below shows the number of complex sentences found in five articles compared with other structures.

Table 1. Types of sentence structure

No	Types of sentence structure	Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1	Simple	98	41.5%
2	Compound	7	3.0%
3	<b>Complex</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>48.7%</b>
4	Compound-complex	16	6.8%
	Total	236	100%

The table shows that complex sentence structure is used in 115 or 48.7% of the total 236 sentences. This finding then serves as the basis for further analysis. Based on the analysis writer found that there are four types of complex sentences used in the news articles; they are (1) complex sentences modified by noun clauses, (2) complex sentences modified by adjective clauses, (3) complex sentences modified by adverbial clauses, and (4) complex sentences modified by multiple subordinate clauses. The table below shows the distribution of types of complex sentences based on subordinate clauses modified the main clauses.

Table 2. Types of complex sentences

No	Types of complex sentences	Number of occurrences	Percentage
1	Complex sentences modified by noun clauses	40	34.8%
2	Complex sentences modified by adjective clauses	36	31.3%
3	Complex sentence modified by adverbial clauses	32	27.8%
4	Complex sentences modified by multiple subordinate clauses	7	6.1%
	Total	115	100%

The table demonstrates than complex sentences modified by noun clauses are the most frequently used counted with 40 occurrences or 34.8%. The second is complex sentences modified by adjective clause which counted 36 or 31.3%. Slightly below are complex sentences modified by adverbial clauses that appears 32 times or 27.8% and the least frequently used are complex sentences modified by multiple subordinate clauses which only 6.1% or 7 times occur in the news articles.

**a. Complex sentences modified by noun clauses**

Noun clauses functions similarly to nouns in a sentence. It can be the subject of the sentence, subject complement, the object of verb, and the object of preposition.

Table 3. Functions of noun clauses

No	Function of noun clause	No of occurrence	Percentage
1	Subject of sentence	1	2.5%
2	Object of verbs	30	75%
3	Complement of subject	2	5%
4	Object of preposition	7	17.5%
	Total	40	100%

The table shows that most noun clauses functions as the object of verbs which counted 30 or 75%, followed by their functions as object of prepositions which counted 7 or 17.5%, then as complement of subject which counted 2 or 5%. Noun clause functions as subject of sentence only appear in 1 complex sentence or 2.5%. The following examples are taken from the selected online news to demonstrate how the complex sentences are modified by noun clauses based on their functions.

**b. Complex sentences modified by adjective clauses**

Adjective clauses have the same role as adjectives in a sentence, they modify nouns. The adjective clauses are categorized into defining, which define or classify nouns, and non-defining, which add information about nouns.

Table 4. Functions of Adjective clauses

No	Type of adjective clause	Number of occurrence	Percentage
1	Defining	18	50%
2	Non-defining	18	50%
	Total	36	100%

The table shows that both defining and non-defining noun clauses occur in equal number to modify the complex sentences or 50% each. The use of defining adjective clause to modify complex sentences is demonstrated in: (1) “It left more questions than answers,” remarked one senior diplomat, pointing to the difficult relations *which he says exist between the ministry and the World Health Organization (WHO)*. (News Article1) and (2) According to friends, it is those years *which raised her profile and have helped the country gain access to funds that, as one said, “are critical to the country in times of stress.”* (News Article 2). The use of non-defining adjective clause can be seen in: (1)That, say Indonesian banking sources, is normally a reflection of loan growth, *which has slipped significantly in the first two months*. (News Article1) and (2) Two Bali tourists – a Japanese and a Chinese — tested positive for the virus after returning home last month, as did a 60-year-old New Zealand woman, *whose flight had stopped on the popular tourist island in route from Tehran to Dubai*. (News Article 1)

**c. Complex sentences modified by adverbial clauses**

Adverbial clauses are used to show relationship of time, reason, contrast, and condition.

Table 5. Functions of Adverbial Clause

No	Function of adverbial clause	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1	Indicating Time	20	62.5%
2	Indicating Reason	4	12.5%
3	Indicating Contrast	5	15.6%
4	Indicating Condition	3	9.4%
	Total	32	100%

The table shows that in 32 complex sentences 20 or 62.5% adverbial clauses functions as time modifiers that indicated by *subordinator after, before, when, while, and as*. Four or 12.5% adverbial clauses function to indicate reason, shown by subordinators *because and as*. Adverbial clauses indicate

contrasts, shown by subordinator *although*, *whereas*, and *while*, are used in 5 or 15.6% complex sentences, and 3 or 9.4% adverbial clauses are used to indicate conditions (if clause).

**d. Complex sentences modified by multiple subordinate clauses.**

This research found that there are 7 complex sentences modified by more than one type of subordinate clause. It is 6.1% from all of the total data. These sentences are either modified by the combination of noun clause and adjective clause, noun clause and adverbial clause, or modified by adjective clause and adverbial clause.

The result of this finding is in accordance with the previous research conducted by Kongsokorn et al. (2017). Their research studied the use of complex sentence in selected Thai political news in online Bangkok Post and found that 44 % of the complex sentences are modified by nominal or noun clauses. The previous research also confirms that noun clauses used in news articles function mostly as an object of verbs in quoted speech such as say, tell, suggest, advise. These verbs required a complement or an object to completely convey an idea. Their research also found that the second type is complex sentences modified by adverbial clauses. Here this type of complex sentences ranked the second in frequency because the situations reported in the news happened in different times, places and to different persons, so it was natural to report the incidents using different types of adverbial clauses. The third type of complex sentence is the one that modified by adjective clause. It can be said that adjective clauses modifying function is unlimited so, this type of clause can be used as long as the writer wish (Kongsakorn et. al, 2017: 27). However, the overuse of adjective clauses in a sentence can risk readers' confusion and comprehension towards the sentence. According to Kongsokorn et al. (2017: 26), the use of complex sentence in writing is essential to convey the message uninterruptedly because interruption can lead to incomplete and clumsy idea that being referred.

Different result is shown in the research conducted by Subekti (2017). In her research on the use of complex sentences in report writings, complex sentences modified by multiple subordinate structures are the highest in frequency which counted 384 or 31.0% and complex sentences modified by adverbial clauses are the lowest which counted 251 or 20.1%.

There are some aspects that this research does not cover such as the use of non-finite adverbial clause is not discussed comprehensively. Moreover, this research is still limited to investigating the use of complex sentences in five news articles. Understanding a complex sentence, which is relatively longer than any other sentence structures, can be problematic especially for novice users of English. It is likely that the communication goal is not achieved since the receivers fail to comprehend the message convey in complex sentence. However, no matter how difficult it is to comprehend complex sentence, English learners, especially in tertiary education, must cope with this problem because they are expected to do more challenging tasks such as reading long passages found in textbooks and research reports in their respective studies, and another authentic material such as news reports or news articles.

The result of this research implied that in teaching writing, teachers should put more emphasize on the use of complex sentences, particularly complex sentences modified by noun clauses. Understanding a complex sentence, which is relatively longer than any other sentence structures, can be problematic for learners. Therefore, teachers should conduct their teaching gradually from simple sentence, compound sentence, then complex sentence.

## **2. The Use of Metaphors in Online News Articles About Covid-19 in Asia Times**

The research found that there are 97 metaphors used in seven online news articles about Covid-19 in Indonesia. These metaphors are categorized as (1) ontological metaphors, (2) orientational metaphors, and (3) structural metaphors. The research finding regarding the use of metaphors is described in the table below.

Table 6. Types of Metaphors

No	Types of metaphor	Number of occurrences	Percentage
1.	Ontological	64	67.3%
2.	Orientalional	16	16.8%
3.	Structural	15	15.9%
	Total	95	100%

The table shows that the most frequently used metaphor is ontological metaphor which hit 67.3% or 64 of total metaphors. Following are orientational metaphors with 16.8% or 16 usage, and the last is structural metaphors, which is 15.9% or 15 of the total metaphors.

### a. Ontological Metaphors

There are 64 or 67.3% ontological metaphors found in seven news articles that consists entity and container metaphors. Entity metaphors are conceptualized based on our experience with physical objects either those of living things or non-living things. In this concept events, ideas or concept are manifested as human that possess humanity aspects such as feeling, intention, and behavior or action or as a machine that can be operated in certain ways. The concept used in this metaphor is The Pandemic is An Adversary like in sentence “*Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati has warned that the fallout from the virus will be much more difficult to tackle than the 2008 financial crisis, which she steered Indonesia through relatively unscathed.*” In this sentence the virus as the cause of the pandemic is visualized as a strong opponent in a fight and potentially injured the weaker (the national economy). It requires some efforts and strategies to beat this opponent. This is shown by the use of phrases *will be much more difficult to tackle*. Another concept used is A Nation is A Machine. This concept is found in sentence “*But President Joko Widodo’s recently announced “New Normal” policy, intended to reboot Indonesia’s slumping economy, is being rolled out alongside deliberate efforts to mislead and obscure the scale of the epidemic’s risk.*” In this sentence the economy aspect of Indonesia was not in a good state (slumping) that could impact the whole nation and needed to be refurbished. It is conceptualized as a computer that needed to be restarted or rebooted in order to work properly, manifested in phrase ‘*reboot Indonesia’s slumping economy*’.

Container/substance metaphors are derived from the concept that represented as having an inside and outside and capable of holding something else or the substance that can fit into a container for example People Are Container Substance and A Ship is A Container. These concepts appear in sentences “*All the while, Chinese tourists continued to pour in for the New Year holiday, with thousands left stranded when all flights to and from China were halted on February 5*” and “*Although last year’s 30 million cruise ship passengers paled in comparison with the 4.5 billion air travellers, health experts say the fact that they eat, swim and dance together over sustained periods makes the big ships ideal incubators for the disease.*” The explanations for this are firstly Chinese tourists are conceptualized as substance of container and the container is tourist spots in Bali manifested in the use of phrase ‘*to pour in*’. Secondly people who travel by cruise ship are aware they will spend longer journey than any other types of transportation. It can take days even weeks. The number of people who travel using this type of transportation is not as many as those who travel by air. However, the risk of getting infected by the Covid-19 is much higher because the passengers interact in much longer duration and intensity. For this reason, the author conceptualized the ship as a place to nurture the virus by using the metaphor *ideal incubators for the disease*.

### b. Orientalional Metaphors

There are 16 orientational metaphors found in this research or 16.8% of the total number of metaphors in selected online news articles. This type of metaphors is based on the concept of spatial orientation such as Up-Down, Big-Small, and Wide-Narrow. The Concept Bad is Down is shown in



sentence “*The surprise order caused the Jakarta Stock Exchange to suspend trading as **bank stocks in particular tumbled.***” The word “tumbled” describes drooping postures that can be interpreted as being in worse condition or decreasing values and qualities. The concept Good is Up is shown in sentence “*..., the Covid-19 crisis has had an impact across all sectors but particularly hit small and medium enterprises which helped **keep the economy afloat through the turmoil** of the post-Suharto period.*” In this sentence the concept of Good Is Up manifested in the phrase **keep the economy afloat through the turmoil**. The word *afloat* which means on the surface of water or not being drowned represents good or safe position for the economy of Indonesia while *turmoil* represents monetary crisis.

### c. *Structural Metaphors*

This is the last category of conceptual metaphors found in the seven news articles which is counted 15 or 15.9% occurrences. In this category, a concept is metaphorically structured in terms of another. The present study has identified and analysed several structural metaphors concepts such as The Pandemic Is War, Argument Is War, Politics Is Money, and Politics Is Music. These metaphor concepts are derived from mapping process from source domain (where the concept is originated) to target domain (the extended use of concept). The concept Pandemic is War is found in sentence “*President Joko Widodo, as befits his humble beginnings in the Java hinterland, has made clear from the start his government’s focus would be on the lower echelons of society, both to curb social unrest and **to shield vast legions of informal sector workers***”. In this metaphor the source domain is War and the target domain is The Pandemic. In a war, soldiers are using armours such as shield to protect soldiers from the enemy’s attack that may cause severe injured and this concept is manifested in the use of prepositional phrase **to shield vast legions of informal sector workers**. *To shield* means to protect and *the vast legions of informal sector workers* is the manifestation of soldiers fighting in a battlefield. The concept Argument is War is found in sentence “***Doctors quickly shot down that idea**, but Health Minister Putranto, a devout Christian, had already set the tone with several inappropriate comments, including the premature assertion that the power of prayer was keeping the virus away.*” In this metaphor the source domain is War and the target domain is Argument. In a war two opposite sides are attack each other to win the battle. That concept is manifested in the use of phrases **under fire** which means Health Minister Terawan is being the subject of many criticisms from the media and diplomatic community, and phrase **shot down the idea** which means discredit the idea.

## Conclusions

This research has found that in news article writing, the author tends to use complex sentence more than any other sentence structures. This is proven by 115 complex sentences are used in five online news articles about Covid-19 in Asia Times. The complex sentences are modified by noun clauses, adjective clauses, adverbial clauses, and multiple clauses or the combination of noun clause and adjective clause, noun clause and adverbial clause, or adjective clause and adverbial clause. Complex sentences that modified by noun clauses are the most frequently used which counted 41 times or 35.7 %. These noun clauses mostly function as the object of the verbs such as *claim, warn, say, ensure, reveal, seem, report, concern, estimate, discover, confirm, found, note, and decide*. The second in rank is complex sentences that modified by adjective clauses which is counted 35 sentences or 30.4%. Ranked third as modifiers of main clauses, adverbial clauses are used in 28 sentences or 26.17% of total complex sentences analysed in the present study. Adverbial clauses function like adverbs in a sentence; they modify a sentence, a verb, or an adjective that indicate time, reason, and place.

In addition, the least frequently used is complex sentence modified by multiple subordinate clause structure which is counted 7 sentences or 6.1%. This type of structure only appears only once in News Article 1 and News Article 2, twice in News Article 5, three times in News Article 3 and none was found in News Article 4.

Furthermore, the writer found 95 metaphors which are categorized into three types: (1) ontological metaphors, (2) orientational metaphors, and (3) structural metaphors. The ontological metaphors are the

most frequently used which counted 64 or 67.3%. The metaphor concepts used are mostly *The Pandemic is An Adversary*, *A Nation is an Entity*, and *A Nation is a Machine*. Orientational metaphors secured the second place with 16 metaphors or 16.8% occurrence in this research. The metaphor concepts used are *Good IS Up*, *Bad is Down*, *Significant is Big*, *More is Wide*, and *Being The Subject To / Object Of Control Is Down*. In the last place are structural metaphors which is counted 15% of occurrences. The mapping results in the concepts of *The Pandemic Is War*, *Argument Is War*, *Politics Is Money*, *Time Is Money*, *Politics Is Music*, and *Life Is A Game*.

This research is limited on the use of complex sentences and metaphors in online news articles. Thus, it opens the opportunities for other researchers to investigate the use of complex sentences and metaphors in other discourses or genres such as features articles, short stories, novels, movie scripts or journal articles.

After conducting this research, the writer wants to make some suggestions for those who might be benefited from the result of this study: the students, the teachers, and the next researchers. To be able to write an article, students need to learn more about complex sentence for this type of sentence are found in many news articles. Students can learn more about metaphors to enrich their vocabulary mastery. In teaching writing, teachers should emphasize on complex sentences particularly complex sentence with noun clauses as modifiers. Complex sentence can be tricky for students especially those with low proficiency in English so the teachers should carefully structure their teaching methods. Teachers can start with teaching simple sentences before teaching complex sentences. Teacher should be aware of the use of metaphors in written discourse. This study covered only online news articles and this is a limitation that should be acknowledged. Further research should pursue the same issue – both the use of complex sentences and metaphors – with a larger number of data sources. It is suggested that more comprehensive analysis on the use of complex sentence and metaphors in diverse genres of discourse or texts such as feature articles, advertisements, short stories, novels, film scripts, or journal articles.

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