



## A Critical Discourse Analysis on *Antara English* News Reports About Bullying in Education Institutions in Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Bullying of children in the school environment in Indonesia is still common. Online news channels become one of the shapers of public perception related to the cases that occur. One of them is *Antara English*, which is one of the online news channels that is read and trusted by many people because of its high credibility. This study aims to investigate Antara English representations on bullying victims to see whether *Antara English*, in its reporting, sided with certain parties or is neutral. This study uses Fairclough's three-dimensional framework of critical discourse analysis including description, interpretation, and explanation. Furthermore, for analyzing the linguistic properties, Halliday's systemic functional grammar will be applied in terms of transitivity and modality to get the ideational and interpersonal metafunction of the news reports. The data were taken from three news reports published in 2022. The result of the study showed that *Antara English* represents bullying victim as the one who suffered and extremely impacted by the bullying. From the result, it is suggested that online news readers can be more critical in reading news reports in order to get the right interpretation of the news.

**Keywords:** critical discourse analysis, systemic functional grammar, bullying, *Antara English*

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## INTRODUCTION

The development of internet technology has led to changes and developments in mass communication. People seek information through online media which is considered easier accessible and real time. To be able to continue to compete as a source of public information, the printed media also innovates by transforming online. One of the newspapers which has been transformed online in the form of a website is *Antara*.

The mass media, such as online newspaper, has various roles. One of which is to affect attitudes and behavior of a person or a group of people or society (Waziz, 2012). Media influences the community in the process of forming opinion or point of view. Mass media can be said to be a weapon that is powerful for the seizure of the image (Bungin, 2001).

Coban (2016) said that the media is a tool capable of translating a phenomenon to be easily digested by the public.

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power (Ghani, et.al., 2020). In fact, there is still a lot of bullying cases that occurs in educational institutions where a child should enjoy his childhood by learning and getting new experiences with his peers. *Indonesian Child Protection Commission* data in 2022 there are 226 cases of physical, psychological violence in Indonesia, including bullying. One of them is a case of bullying in Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java. The victim of this case is a initials F, 11 years old. Victims experience physical, sexual and psychological violence. From the results of the medical examination, the victim was suspected of having typhoid depression, and encephalopathy or brain inflammation until his life could not be saved.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) serves as one of the tools to analyze the linguistic and the social. According to Van Dijk (2004), Critical Discourse analysis is a type of discourse analysis research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in social and political contexts. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) views language as a social semiotic resource people use to accomplish their purposes by expressing meanings in context (Halliday, 1994). Besides, language bears three meta functions, involving ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. The systems and functions work simultaneously to unfold the meanings in the hierarchically different systems to reach the ultimate meaning.

Li (2010) investigated *The New York Times*' and *China Daily*'s representation on the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia in May 1999. Two dimensions of clause grammar, transitivity and lexical cohesion, were examined. The same as Li, Wang (2021) tries to compare two big news portals, *The New York Times* (TNYT) which comes from the United States and *People's Daily* (PD) which comes from China, in presenting news reports on Covid-19. It uses Halliday's analysis tools within Fairclough's three-dimensional framework in terms of lexical classification, transitivity, and modal verbs.

In the Indonesian context, there are quite a few studies which use CDA and SFG. One of them is a study from Fitriani et al. (2021) which investigates *The Jakarta Post* representation on the 212 rallies by focusing on transitivity and metaphor aspects. The result of this study shows that *The Jakarta Post* tends to stand on the side of the one being protested, and oppose the rallies. Another study is conducted by Eklesia and Rido (2021) who take *The Jakarta Post* and *The Jakarta Globe* as the objects focusing on the representation of people with HIV/AIDS. However, this study only investigates the transitivity aspect to support the CDA. The finding reveals that people with HIV/AIDS are represented as a discriminated and threatened group.

From the studies above, it can be summarized that the use of SFG as an analytical tool in CDA is important and valuable. Therefore, this study also applies SFG in order to get the bullying victim representation in *Antara* English news reports. This investigation is conducted to extend empirical research on CDA and SFG as well as bringing more of their appliance in Indonesian context. Different from previous studies which only investigate the ideational and interpersonal or ideational and textual aspects, this study investigates ideational and interpersonal metafunction by investigating transitivity and modality. Thus, to get the objective of the study, the researchers propose a question: "How are bullying victims represented in *The Jakarta Post* news reports?"

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by Fairclough**

Critical discourse analysis of Fairclough is centered on three-dimensional framework. Fairclough (1992) states that every communicative event comprises three dimensions: first, it is a text (speech, writing, visual images or a combination of these). Secondly, it is a discursive practice which involves the production and consumption of texts. Thirdly, it is a social practice. Corresponding to the three levels of discourse, Fairclough developed three stages of CDA; description, interpretation and explanation. For him, discourse is a kind of social practice, which is the embodiment of social structure.

### **Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG)**

#### **1. Transitivity**

In Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), the system of Transitivity is a common means by which to analyze both isolated clauses as well as clauses in context. Halliday's Transitivity is a part of the Ideational function of language. Halliday has mentioned three Meta-functions of language. Textual function, Interpersonal function, and Ideational function. There are three components in the Transitivity System, those are Material process (process of doing and happening), Mental process (process of sensing), and Relational process (process of being and having). There are other processes which are located at each boundary, Behavioral process, Verbal process and Existential process. Behavioral process is located between Material and Mental which shows the process of physiological and psychological behavior. The process which occurs between the Mental and Relation process is the Verbal process which shows the process of saying. Existential process is the process that represents something that exists or happens. This process comes between the Relational and Material process.

#### **2. Modality**

In Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), Eggins (1994) in Yu and Wu (2016) states that modality covers the semantic space between 'yes' and 'no' and provides different ways 'in which a language user can intrude on his/her message, expressing attitudes and judgements of various kinds'. The role of Modality in an exchange is closely related to the speech functions of the clause, that is, what the speaker is doing through language. Modality is 'a form of participation by the speaker in the speech event' (Halliday, 2004) and creates various intermediate degrees between the categorical extremes of unqualified positive and negative. It can be categorized according to the functions of the clause as a proposition or proposal.

Modality in propositions is termed as modalization, and is about how probable or frequent the information is valid. Modality can be realized in the form of modal auxiliaries, modal adverbs, or separate clauses. Moreover, the value of Modality can be graded as low, median or high according to the strength of the assessment. Interpersonally, Croft (1994) in Yu and Wu (2016) explains that the more certain the speaker is about the proposition, the more likely he is expecting assent from the hearer; and the higher the value of obligation, the more likely the speaker is expecting the hearer to respond.

### **Relationship Between CDA and SFG**

Butt et al. (2003) and Flowerdew (2008) mention that the meaning of a text can be seen through the analysis of three macro functions: ideational (experiential) function (language as an expression of an individual's experience of the world), interpersonal function (how individuals relate to each other through language at the level of social), and textual function (how linguistic forms are used to relate to each other and situational contexts). Such analysis can reveal social actions such as representation, exercise of power, and others. For

some reason, CDA cannot be separated from Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). First, like CDA, the focus of SFG is to identify the dialectical relationship between language and social context (Flowerdew, 2004) by analyzing the grammatical properties of a text. Second, SFG provides a valuable analytical tool for CDA (Fairclough, 2003; Wodak, 2009) that helps media researchers such as Fairclough to look at the meaning of texts comprehensively and to conduct quantitative discourse studies whenever relevant. Therefore, there is no doubt between CDA and SFG as stated by Wodak (2009).

### **Bullying in Education Institutions in Indonesia**

Cases of bullying against children continue to emerge in Indonesia. In 2020, the KPAI recorded 119 cases of bullying against children. This number has increased from previous years which ranged from 30-60 cases per year. Based on KPAI data in 2022 there are 226 cases of physical, psychological violence, including bullying.

One of the cases that has shocked the public in recent days is the case of bullying with the initials F, 11 years old, a boy from Singaparna District, Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java. According to KPAI, it is classified as heavy and complex because it is a victim of physical, sexual and psychological violence. On that basis, KPAI believes that the case must be brought to court so that it does not happen again in the future. The West Java Regional Police stated that they had examined 15 people related to the bullying incident which was accompanied by this immoral act. Allegations of bullying the boy were widely circulated on social media. In the 15-second video, the victim is seen committing immoral acts against a cat. From the results of the medical examination, the forgotten victim had typhoid depression, and encephalopathy or brain assessment. Suspected typhus, encephalopathy, and suspected episodes, according to him, were caused by psychological pressure from the previous victim, because of these complications the victim's life could not be increased. Moreover, according to family statements, the victim had been the target of bullying by his friends. It should also be a hard note for the government that child service agencies in Indonesia are not too strong for families to access and report incidents of bullying so they have to fend for themselves.

### **METHOD**

In order to acquire the data for this study, the documentation technique is used, gathering bullying news articles from *Antara English* that are published around 2022 to gain the novelty. Furthermore, a deadly bullying case in Tasikmalaya will be the main object that is being investigated to get the representation of bullying victim. By setting these two criteria, there are three relevant articles entitled *Ministry approaches family of victim of deadly bullying* (A1), *Parents must teach children to prevent violence: Ministry* (A2), and *Everyone's responsibility to prevent bullying against children: Jokowi* (A3).

After that, the data are coded by using the letter A which refers to "Article" and number 1, 2, 3 refers to the number of the article. Each article, then, is divided into sentences. Each sentence is symbolized using the letter S refers to "Sentence" and number 1, 2, 3, etc refers to the order in which the sentence appears.

In data analysis technique, Fairclough's (2003) three-dimensional model of description, interpretation, and explanation for analyzing the data corpus is employed because the goal of CDA is to examine the dialectical interaction between language and society. Regarding the description or text analysis, Halliday's (2004) systemic functional grammar, which involved examining the language elements (transitivity and modality) that *Antara English* employed to represent bullying victims. The finding of transitivity, then, is presented quantitatively using a percentage table in order to know the proportion of each process. Beside, some of the findings will be displayed in tables adopted from Butt et al.

(2003) to make it easier for readers to see the data. For the modality, Halliday's (2004) modality theory which divides it into high-value, medium-value, and low-value is used. After the description step, the interpretation step will be done to further investigate language as a discursive process by uncovering the meaning of the identified linguistic elements. The last step is the explanation step where the social analysis explanation in which the result of the interpretation is linked to the actual social context of bullying cases in Indonesia.

## FINDING

### Transitivity in the News Texts

After conducting the analysis, there are 31 clauses from three news reports which contain the transitivity process. The biggest proportion is material process with 20 times occurrence (64,5%) followed by verbal and relational process with 4 times occurrence (12,9%) of each. The last is mental process where it found 3 times or 9,7%. The existential process and behavioral process are not found in the news texts.

| No | Process     | Frequency | Percentage |
|----|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Material    | 20        | 64,5%      |
| 2. | Verbal      | 4         | 12,9%      |
| 3. | Relational  | 4         | 12,9%      |
| 4. | Mental      | 3         | 9,7%       |
| 5. | Existential | 0         | 0%         |
| 6. | Behavioral  | 0         | 0%         |

### Modality in the News Texts

Meanwhile, for modality, there are 6 clauses that contain modal verbs from the three news reports. The most used modal verb is high-value modality with 5 times occurrence and followed by low-value modality that occurs once. The medium-value modality is not found in the news texts.

| No | Type         | Frequency | Kind of Modals          | Percentage |
|----|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. | High-value   | 5 times   | must, must not, have to | 83,3%      |
| 2. | Medium-value | 0         | -                       | 0%         |
| 3. | Low-value    | 1 time    | can                     | 16,7%      |

## DISCUSSION

The discussion will be provided in three parts based on Fairclough's three-dimensional framework that consists of description, interpretation, and explanation.

### Description (text analysis)

Description is the stage which is concerned with formal properties of text (Fairclough, 1989). It is used to reveal the patterns of the linguistics features in the text and to find the meaning of the patterns. Thus, the findings of the previous transitivity and modality analysis are described in this section more detail.

#### 1. Transitivity

##### a. Material Process

In this process, the researchers found that *Antara English* does not bring much attention to the bullying victim since the news is taking the perspective of government, in this case is The Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

Ministry, the West Java Regional Police, and Joko Widodo. It is shown by 20 clauses, 10 of them are putting the government as Actor.

*Datum 1* (A1S1)

| Actor                                                    | Process    | Goal                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| The Women's Empowerment and Children Protection Ministry | approached | the family of a victim of bullying |

The material process in the datum above is "approached" means that the Women's Empowerment and Children Protection Ministry has come to the family of victim bullying to investigate the case.

Nevertheless, *Antara English* still represents the bullying victim as the one who suffered and seriously impacted by the bullying. It is shown in *Datum 2* and *Datum 3* as follow.

*Datum 2* (A2S7)

| Actor                                              | Process           | Circumstance                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| The elementary student from Tasikmalaya, West Java | (reportedly) died | due to trauma and depression caused by bullying |

*Datum 3* (A1S9)

| Goal       | Process     | Actor    | Circumstance                                      |
|------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| The victim | was bullied | by peers | who forced the child to act indecently with a cat |

b. Verbal Process

The verbal process occurs in *Antara English* describe some verbal actions used by government side to show their affection to the deadly bullying cases or what they have done toward the case. There is no verbal actions from parents, witnesses, or other sides that give more representation of the bullying victim. It is shown in *Datum 4* and *Datum 5* as follow.

*Datum 4* (A1S2)

| Sayer                                                                                                            | Process | Projected Clause                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The deputy of special protection for children at the Women's Empowerment and Children Protection Ministry, Nahar | said    | that his administration was currently working towards solving the case through the local women and children protection technical unit |

*Datum 5* (A3S4)

| Sayer         | Process         | Verbiage        | Projected Clause                                                            |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The president | (also) conveyed | his condolences | to the family of the student, a victim of bullying, who died in Tasikmalaya |

c. Relational Process

The researchers found both of identifying relational and attributive relational in the news texts, in which there are two data of each. The example of relational process that occurs is presented as follow.

- Identifying relational

*Datum 6* (A1S7)

| Identified               | Process    | Identifier                                 |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| This [the bullying case] | has become | a warning prior to National Children's Day |

The datum describes the circumstance that the bullying case is a warning to immediately create a child-friendly environment, especially because the cases happened around National Children's Day.

- Attributive relational

*Datum 7 (A1S12)*

| Carrier    | Process | Attribute                           |
|------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| The victim | was     | in a state of trauma and depression |

The datum denotes the victim representation where he gets trauma and depression after the bullying.

d. Mental Process

In this process, *Antara English* describes that the victim has a decreased health condition, shown in the *Datum 8* below.

*Datum 8 (A1S11)*

| Senser       | Process   | Phenomenon                      |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| [the victim] | continued | decline in the health condition |

The mental process in the datum is identified by the verb "continued" that means the victim suffered a keep existing or happening without stopping of the decline in his health condition.

2. Modality

In terms of modality, the researcher found 6 clauses where 5 of them have high-value modality and one of them has low-value modality. The detail is presented below.

a. High-value modality

| No | Code            | Clause                                                                                               |
|----|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Datum 9</i>  | we <b>must not</b> tire of ensuring that preventive efforts are made as best as possible             |
| 2. | <i>Datum 10</i> | children <b>have to</b> be informed about ways to avoid things which can endanger them               |
| 3. | <i>Datum 11</i> | (they <b>must</b> be) taught about what is violence and things which can be done to prevent violence |
| 4. | <i>Datum 12</i> | we <b>must not</b> tire of ensuring preventive efforts are done as best as possible                  |
| 5. | <i>Datum 13</i> | we <b>must</b> take care together                                                                    |

From the data, the use of "must", "must not", and "have to" show a firm stand on the notion that bullying is a shared problem and can be prevented as long as all parties involved work together.

b. Low-value modality

| No | Code            | Clause                                  |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Datum 14</i> | violence <b>can</b> take place anywhere |

The clause above shows low-value modality by the modal verb "can" which represents low probability and dubious connotation.

**Interpretation (processing analysis)**

Fairclough (1989) assumes that interpretation is examined through the combination of situational context and intertextual context. In other words, this stage is conducted to reveal the representation in the clauses by connecting the pattern of transitivity process, the situational context and intertextual context.

In terms of transitivity, the finding shows that the biggest proportion is in material process with 20 times of appearances, followed by verbal process and relational process

where each process has 4 times of appearances, and mental process in the last position with 2 times of appearances. It is in accordance with the studies of Utami (2018) and Lihan (2020) where material process is the most frequent process, followed by verbal process, and relational process.

Related to the representation, *Antara English* does not put too much emphasis on the description of the victim, but rather the responses of relevant figures (government) such as president of republic Indonesia, The Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Ministry or other institutions. This is indicated by the emergence of the government as the Actor 10 times out of 20 material process. One of the example is in *Datum 1*. The verbal process also reflects that *Antara English* tend to highlight government responds. The instance is in *Datum 4* and *Datum 5*. There is no verbal action from victim's parents, witnesses, or other sides that could represent more about the victim. However, *Antara English* still describes the bullying victim as the one who suffered and seriously impacted of the bullying, both physical and mental, that lead to a death. The representation is shown by material process in *Datum 2*, and 3; attributive relational process in *Datum 7*, and mental process in *Datum 8*.

In modality analysis, as it deals with interpersonal metafunction, 5 occurrences of high-value modality which are shown in *Datum 9*, *Datum 10*, *Datum 11*, *Datum 12*, and *Datum 13* show that *Antara English* stands firmly on the notion that bullying cases is something that must be handled and prevented seriously by all parties.

#### **Explanation (social analysis)**

Fairclough (1989) states that explanation stage is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context with the social determination of the process of production and interpretation, and their social effects". In other words, it requires the researchers to connect what have been found in the interpretation to the social contexts.

From the interpretation stage, we can see that *Antara English*'s tendency is to display the government's response and role in handling cases of deadly bullying in Tasikmalaya. The representation of the bullying victim is not described in detail and placed at the end of the news section. It may happen because *Antara* has a close relationship with the government. Nurhayati (2021) reveals that *Antara* is a news agency which since 2007 has been incorporated as a Public Company (Perum) and is under the coordination of the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN). Furthermore, it has historical relationship with Orde Lama government (1945-1965) and Orde Baru government (1965-1998) where it tends to become the mouthpiece of the government.

Cases of bullying that often occur in the world of education in Indonesia are increasingly concerning. *Indonesian child protection commission* (KPAI) noted that in a period of 9 years, from 2011 to 2019, there were 37,381 complaints of violence against children. For bullying in both education and social media, the number reached 2,473 reports and the trend continues to increase. For the 2016-2020 period, KPAI received complaints from 480 children who were victims of bullying at their schools. Throughout 2021 there were 17 cases of bullying involving students and educators. KPAI's data in 2022 shows that there are 226 cases of physical, psychological violence, including bullying. According to KPAI, this bullying problem needs to be tackled together by many parties, starting from parents, families, including teachers at schools.

#### **CONCLUSION**

From the discussion above, the study shows that both transitivity and modality occurs in the news texts. In the transitivity, the most occurrence is material process, followed by verbal process, relational process, and the last is mental process. Meanwhile, high-value

modality is used the most. Furthermore, *Antara English* gives smaller attention to the description of the bullying victim and tends to highlight the government responses about the case. Nevertheless, the bullying victim is represented by *Antara English* as the one who is suffered and extremely affected by the bullying, both mentally and physically, that lead to a death of the victim. *Antara English* also constructs the idea that bullying is a shared problem and can be solved and prevented as long as there is togetherness from the society.

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