

ABSTRACT

Benedicta Budi Krismastuti. 1998. *A Study on the Content Words Used in the Editorials of The Jakarta Post and Their Comparisons with Those in Michael West's Word List.* Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Programme. Sanata Dharma University.

The objectives of this study are to find out the frequency of content words in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* and the words which appear most frequently. This study is also intended to find out the comparisons of content words in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* with those in *A General Service List of English Words* by Michael West and to find out the characteristics of content words in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post*.

The method used in this study was a descriptive one. The data were taken from the editorials which were published in September 1997. They consisted of 26 titles. The procedures to collect the data were as follows. Firstly, the content words in each title were classified into their categories and their frequencies of appearances were recorded. Secondly, the content words from five titles were combined into one and the total frequency of each content word in each category was tallied. Thirdly, the words which appeared most frequently in each category were identified. Fourthly, the content words in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* were compared with those in Michael West's word list.

The result of the study indicates that all the four categories of content words, namely nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs appear in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post*. They appear 5,763 times. In these appearances, nouns appear 3,119 times; Verbs 1,145 times; adjectives 1,061 times; and adverbs 438 times. The three words which appear most frequently in the noun category were **country**, **government** and **people**. The words **say**, **make** and **come** appear most frequently in the verb category. The words **new**, **economic** and **political** appear most frequently in the adjective category. The words **only**, **also** and **still** appear most frequently in the adverb category. After those content words were compared with those in *A General Service List of English Words*, the results show that most of them have the same meanings that rank the highest frequency in both sources. In general, the characteristics of content words in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* could not be separated from the events that become the focus in each edition. The nouns cover words used in special fields such as economics, politics and military. In term of form of inflections in verbs, the active voice, the perfective aspect and the past tense were often used. Adjectives appear mostly in attributive position. And adverbs which most frequently appear indicate focusing adverbs, adverbs of time, adverb of place, adverbs of frequency, and adverb of manner.

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan frekuensi *content words* (kata pokok) dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post* dan kata-kata yang seringkali muncul. Penelitian ini juga dimaksudkan untuk menemukan perbandingan antara kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post* dan yang terdapat dalam *A General Service List of English Words* oleh Michael West serta untuk menemukan karakteristik kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post*.

Metode yang dipergunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif. Data diambil dari tajuk rencana yang terbit pada bulan September 1997. Tajuk rencana tersebut terdiri dari 26 judul. Prosedur yang dipergunakan dalam pengumpulan data adalah sebagai berikut. Pertama, kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tiap-tiap judul diklasifikasikan ke dalam tiap-tiap kategori dan frekuensi kemunculannya dicatat. Kedua, kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tiap lima judul dijadikan dalam satu kolom dan total frekuensi dari tiap kata dalam setiap kategori dihitung. Ketiga, kata-kata yang seringkali muncul dari setiap kategori diidentifikasi. Keempat, kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post* dibandingkan dengan yang terdapat dalam daftar kata Michael West.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keempat kategori kata pokok yaitu kata benda, kata kerja, kata sifat dan kata keterangan muncul dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post*. Kata-kata tersebut muncul sebanyak 5.763 kali. Kata benda muncul sebanyak 3.119 kali. Kata kerja muncul sebanyak 1.145 kali. Kata sifat muncul sebanyak 1.061 kali dan kata keterangan muncul sebanyak 438 kali. Tiga kata yang sering muncul dalam tiap-tiap kategori yaitu kata **country**, **government** dan kata **people** dalam kategori kata benda. Kata kerja yang sering muncul yaitu **make**, **have** dan **come**. Kata sifat yang sering muncul adalah **new**, **economic** dan **political** dan kata keterangan yang sering muncul adalah **only**, **also** dan **still**. Setelah kata-kata tersebut dibandingkan dengan yang terdapat dalam daftar kata Michael West, hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa hampir semua kata tersebut memiliki arti yang sama serta menempati frekuensi tertinggi. Secara umum, karakteristik kata pokok yang terdapat dalam tajuk rencana *The Jakarta Post* tidak dapat dipisahkan dari kejadian yang menjadi fokus dalam setiap edisi. Kata benda yang digunakan meliputi bidang-bidang khusus seperti bidang ekonomi, politik dan militer. Dalam kata kerja, *active voice*, *perfective aspect* dan *past tense* sering digunakan. Kata sifat yang sering digunakan adalah kata sifat attributive dan kata keterangan yang sering muncul

menunjukkan keterangan penekan, keterangan waktu, keterangan tempat, keterangan frekuensi dan keterangan cara.

