

ABSTRACT

SIEGFRIEDA ALBERTI SHINTA MURSITA PUTRI. **Corruption Issues in Indonesia: A Linguistic Study on Modalities in Editorials Published in *The Jakarta Post* and *The New York Times***. Yogyakarta: English Language Studies. Graduate Program. Sanata Dharma University.

In our daily life the language we use and speak unconsciously reflects our way of thinking and how we perceive the world. Further, if our mind or our way of thinking is based on certain ideas or beliefs our language will present those influences. Those ideas or beliefs are presented through linguistic units such as choice of words, grammatical structure, speech acts and modal forms. Different people will have different ideas or beliefs in perceiving something. This also applies in mass media communication. Each mass media communication institution has its own belief in perceiving events and issues. Thus, their beliefs are presented in their news and reports. The most influential part of a newspaper is the editorial, whose perspective reflects their ideas and beliefs. The corruption issue is an interesting topic to discuss, and since it is very prevalent it has become a focus of local study. This research, based on those understandings, is to find out (1) what perspectives emerge in *The Jakarta Post* and *The New York Times* in response to corruption issues in Indonesia, and (2) how the modal forms express the perspectives of the editorial.

Sixteen editorials are collected in this study. Eight editorials were published before the Corruption Eradication Commission (the KPK) was established, and eight editorials were published after the KPK was established. The theory on modalities is significant in doing the analysis. The critical discourse analysis concept is also applied in the analysis.

The modal forms in the editorial help the editorial boards to express their perspectives on a certain issue or event. They are to express suggestions and advice, both in forms of obligation and suggestion, disappointment and support for certain institution or person, willingness from the addressee, conclusion, invitation, optimism and pessimism as a result of specified circumstances. Based on what the modal forms express, the perspectives of both newspapers are seen. Before the KPK was established *The New York Times* presented a disapproving attitude, a solution to the crisis and encouragement for the government in doing the reform. On the other hand, a confusing attitude is presented in *The Jakarta Post* as it presented no direct possible solution and has no trusted institution to eradicate corruption. After the KPK was established, *The New York Times*, as an “outsider”, presented a supportive attitude toward the Indonesian government in making reforms but shows an angry attitude toward Suharto. It also invited Indonesia to learn from the experience, instead of criticising the past. Whereas, *The Jakarta Post*, as an “insider”, showed no support for the government as it supports the KPK as the most appropriate institution to eradicate corruption. As an “insider”, *The Jakarta Post* displays a strong perspective, although it also displays doubt since corruption is prevalent in Indonesia.