
Metaphor of Covid-19 in Kompas Daily as a Means of Learning Indonesian Language of PGSD Students

Poetri Mardiana Sasti *

* Balai Bahasa Provinsi Jawa Tengah, Ungaran, Central Java, Indonesia
sasti.fauzi@gmail.com

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to describe the type of conceptual metaphor in Covid-19 news in Kompas daily between December 2021 to February 2022. This research is qualitative research using semantic and cognitive approaches. A semantic approach is used to parse linguistic units in metaphorical expressions. Meanwhile, cognitive approaches are used to parse the conceptualization of metaphors. The data collected with documentation, observation, and note taking. The observation was carried out by examine at news related to Covid-19 using metaphorical expressions. The note taking technique carried out by writing down the metaphorical expressions used in Covid-19 news in Kompas daily. Data analysis was carried out using the matching method followed by technique of critical element segment and technique of same interrelational. The technique of critical element segment is used to determine the lingual elements in metaphorical expressions. Meanwhile, the technique of same interrelational is used to determine the correspondence of the source domain of metaphorical expressions. The results of this study show that in the Covid-19 news in Kompas daily from December 2021 to February 2022, three types of conceptual metaphors were found that are often used by journalists. The three metaphors include ontological metaphors, structural metaphors, and orientational metaphors

Keywords – Covid-19; Conceptual Metaphors; Learning Platform



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1. Introduction

The Language is one of the main elements needed by humans to interact with others. As a means of communication, both orally and in writing, language has a very important role. Language skills need to be taught to every individual from childhood. That's because someone who has good language skills are able to communicate very well.

Language is not a static science that never undergoes change. However, language is a dynamically developing science. Language develops with the times and adapts to the development of science and technology. A person's language mastery will also continue to grow with the time and level of education.

In Indonesia, Indonesian language subject is taught to children from grade 1 elementary school to college. At the elementary school level, Indonesian language learning usually focuses on language competence, language skills, and literature. Linguistic competence usually focuses on linguistic structure and vocabulary. The language skills include listening, reading, speaking, and writing (Rohana & Syamsuddin, 2022). Elementary school teachers have a very important role in mastering students' language so that students will be able to communicate well when they are at school and in the community. Therefore, the competence of elementary school teachers in teaching Indonesian also needs to be prepared since teachers are still students in elementary school teacher education (PGSD).

Preparing PGSD students to become professional teachers who can teach Indonesian properly and correctly is not an easy thing. That's because not all PGSD students take language specialization while in high school. Many PGSD students also previously came from science and social studies majors. Thus, PGSD lecturers who teach Indonesian need to consider the background factors of student interest when they are in Senior High School (SMA) as well as various internal and external factors that influence student learning success.

In relation to the factors that affect student success in learning, (Ruseffendi, 1991) state there are ten factors that influence student success in

learning, namely: (1) intelligence, (2) learning preparation (3) talent, (4) willingness to learn, (5) interest, (6) way of presenting learning material, (7) teacher personality and attitude, (8) learning atmosphere, (9) teacher competence, and (10) environment. By paying attention to the factors that affect student success in learning, lecturers must be able to condition their students to have a spirit of learning. Lecturers must be able to present material in an interesting way so that student learning motivation increases. This is supported by the opinion (Shah, 1995) that states that low student motivation will cause a decrease in student enthusiasm to learn at school or at home. Therefore, lecturers need to make various efforts so that student learning motivation is always high. The monotonous lecture model that only focuses on theory and practice questions is of course not in accordance with the needs and ways of learning of students today.

A PGSD student is required to be ready to teach Indonesian well after they study at PGSD. Therefore, students must have good and correct language skills and be able to keep up with the times so that the material delivered to students is more contextual. However, efforts to prepare PGSD teachers who have good and correct Indonesian language skills and the ability to keep up with the times are not easy.

One of the main obstacles faced by PGSD lecturers in preparing their students to become professional teachers is the low interest in reading PGSD students. This is in line with the results of research showing that the reading interest of PGSD students is still very low. An indicator of low student interest in reading is the low level of visits by PGSD students to visit and borrow book collections in the library. Based on the number of PGSD students, every day only about 5% of students visit the library and about 4% of students borrow books in the library. The development of technology, especially communication and network technology (ICT) which is characterized by the internet and devices, does not guarantee to increase student literacy. The presence of the internet and devices should be a potential means to increase student reading interest/literacy.

However, the existence of social media and online games are a major challenge in improving student literacy because students spend some of their time playing social media and online games all the time (Sudrajat, 2014).

Lecturers should be able to take advantage of the existence of the internet and devices to increase students' reading interest by making the internet and devices as learning media. The internet and devices have the ability to present material in various forms / formats that can be adjusted to student learning styles, both audio, visual, and kinesthetic. The use of visual learning media such as newspapers has proven to be able to increase reading interest and cognitive abilities from elementary school students to university level.

The study of (Syakila, 2019) showed that the use of newspaper media can improve writing skills in Indonesian lessons for students. (Parupalli, 2019) revealed that every day, newspapers can provide updated information to students so that they can improve their language skills. Newspapers have great potential to develop their reading, writing, and speaking skills. When students read, their intuition to read is higher. The influence motivates students to get news and choose reading that suits their interests. According to (Preethi, 2020), a college student's curiosity for a particular news content can help them learn the language. The habit of reading newspapers will automatically increase students' understanding of vocabulary, phrases, and sentence construction. Through newspaper media, lecturers can train various students' language skills, one of which is teaching language styles that are often used by newspaper journalists.

One form of language style that journalists often use to attract interest in reading is the use of metaphors. Metaphors appear as human responses in the form of thoughts to phenomena that occur around them then actualized in language expressions. In other words, man conceptualizes what happens in his life and reflects on his behavior and understanding through metaphorical expressions (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Metaphors used by journalists usually aim to increase the effect of comparing a concept with the use of diction in language that is rarely used or even unrelated to the scope of information being conveyed

(Haula & Nur, 2019). The use of journalist language usually tends to be short, concise, clear, and interesting (Anwar, 1991). It must be admitted that it is journalists who have contributed greatly to disseminating various information with various dictions and new language styles. This is in line with the statement of (Laksana, 1994) which states that journalists prefer to use metaphors rather than other figures of speech in delivering news. This is because metaphors help journalists to express themselves in delivering news by using new words or terms.

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit the world starting at the end of 2019 has changed people's lives all over the world. With the rapid outbreak of Covid-19 and followed by various variants, it has changed people's lives both from economic, educational, cultural, and various other aspects. The role of newspapers in reporting the Covid-19 pandemic phenomenon both through print and electronic newspapers is very important. The widespread impact of the pandemic that affects all aspects of life will certainly provide its own challenges for journalists in writing news so that readers are interested in reading the news they write. The use of metaphors in news about the Covid-19 pandemic will certainly attract more readers. The use of this metaphor can be a good learning medium for students. According to (Evans & Melanie, 2006) metaphor, it is one form of human cognitive process that arises based on phenomena encountered in everyday life and then realized based on the experience of its speakers. By following the development of news about the Covid-19 pandemic, students indirectly learn the process of forming metaphors and how to present these metaphors into interesting sentences. On the other hand, students will also learn how to analyze the meaning of metaphors linguistically. This research is focused on the study of conceptual metaphors. Learning metaphors can help students learn the process of forming metaphors based on various events experienced, felt, and thought by humans / journalists related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The objective of this study is to describe the type of conceptual metaphor in Covid-19 news in Kompas daily for the period December 2021 to February 2022. The expected benefit of this research is to become a learning resource/learning media

so that students can learn the process of forming metaphors based on various events experienced, felt, and thought by humans/ journalists related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Method

This research is descriptive research that aims to describe the types of conceptual metaphors used in Covid-19 news. This research is qualitative research using semantic and cognitive approaches. A semantic approach is used to parse linguistic units in metaphorical expressions. Meanwhile, cognitive approaches are used to parse the conceptualization of metaphors.

Meanwhile, in providing data, the method used is the documentation method followed by observation techniques and note taking techniques. The observation technique is carried out by examine the news related to Covid-19 using metaphorical expressions. Meanwhile, the recording technique is carried out by writing down the metaphorical expressions used in Covid-19 news in *kompas daily*.

The method used to analyze data is the matching method because in this study the expression metaphor is associated with other things outside the language, including experience, environmental observation, and context. (Sudaryanto, 1993) states that the matching method is a method of data analysis determined outside, detached, and not part of the language itself. The use of this method is followed by basic techniques, namely the determining element sorting technique by technique of critical element segment and advanced techniques, which is the technique of same interrelational. The technique of critical element segment is used to determine lingual elements in metaphorical expressions. Meanwhile, the technique of same interrelational is used to determine the correspondence of the source realm of metaphorical expressions.

3. Result and Discussion

Based on the results of data analysis, three types of conceptual metaphors were found to be used in Covid-19 news in Kompas daily. The three types of conceptual metaphors are structural metaphors, orientational metaphors, and ontological metaphors.

a. Structural Metaphors

Structural metaphor is one type of metaphor that describes a concept using other concepts to make it easier to understand a metaphorical expression. Structural metaphors show the structure of the source domain has the similarities with the target domain (Kovécses, 2010). Thus, the concepts which are abstract or difficult to understand can be easily digested when associated with other concepts that are more real or concrete in everyday life.

The following is a structural metaphor found in the Covid-19 news published in the Kompas daily.

- (1) Vaccination also remains a fortress to prevent disease severity or death if contracting the coronavirus (Kompas, 7 December 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (1) is indicated by the word 'fortress'. Data (1) is categorized as a structural metaphor because the data contains the transfer of concepts from the source domain to the target domain. The source domain in the metaphorical expression in data (1) is a fortress, while the target domain is vaccination.

The word fortress means 'a building where shelter or defense (from enemy attacks; walls (walls) to withstand attacks; and something used to strengthen or defend positions and so on'. The word fortress in the data above is a metaphorical lexicon used to describe objects or things that can protect. The object is conceptualized to have sturdy properties that can provide protection.

Such is the case with vaccination which also has a similar function with the fortress. In the above data the concept of fortifications is used to explain the concept of vaccination. The features on the fortress have

similarities with the characteristics of vaccinations. The fortress can protect itself from enemy attacks. Likewise, vaccination also protects the body from disease. The concept transferred from the use of the word fortress in data (1) is that vaccination can provide immunity for someone from being infected with the Covid-19 virus.

(2) At the household level, if the deceased is the backbone of the family, those left behind bear a multiplied burden (Kompas, 18 December 2021).

The metaphorical expression in data (2) is shown by the use of the backbone phrase. Data (2) is categorized as a structural metaphor because the data contains the transfer of concepts from the source domain to the target domain. The source domain of the data is the 'backbone'. The target area is the family leader or someone who has an important role in the family. The concept of 'backbone' has similarities with the concept of the head of the family or someone who is main role in the family.

The phrase 'backbone' lexically means the main bone that supports the body so that the body can stand upright. As the main bone in the human body, the backbone has a very important function. This is because of the existence of a healthy backbone, humans can stand upright, can walk, and can move normally.

In data (2) the concept of backbone is used to explain the concept of the head of the family. That's because the backbone has the same function as the head of the family. Both have an important role as a pedestal. The concept transferred from the use of the word backbone in data (2), which is to describe someone who has an important role for other family members. A family that does not have a backbone then the family will have difficulty surviving.

(3) Celebrity Rachel Vennya, who avoided quarantine after returning from abroad by bribing officials, may not be the only case (Kompas, December 18, 2021).

In data (3) metaphorical expressions are indicated using the word 'bribery'. The word bribe lexically means 'eat with hands; feed by putting food into the mouth that is fed'. The word bribe in the data above is a metaphorical lexicon used to describe an activity, which is the activity of someone who gives something to others.

Data (3) is also a structural metaphor because in this data there is a movement of concepts from the source domain to the target domain. The source domain of the data above is bribery, and the target domain is to give something (money or valuables) to others. The concept transferred from the word bribery, which is to give money or valuables to others so that their affairs are facilitated or launched. The similarity of the concept between the source domain and the target domain is that they both make a person feel full.

(4) Resident doctors are spearhead in type A hospitals (main referral) so they have a vital role, especially the service function in this pandemic era (Kompas, February 9, 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (4) above is characterized using 'spearhead' phrases. The metaphor in data (4) is a structural metaphor because the phrase resident doctor is the spearhead of the hospital indicates a transfer from one concept to another, namely the spearhead concept to the resident doctor concept. The source domain in the metaphorical expression of data (4) is spearhead. Meanwhile, the target domain is resident doctors.

The phrase spearhead means 'the pointed part of the spearhead'. The spearhead is part of a spear that has a very important function because the spearhead is used to hunt or spear game. A spear that has a pointed tip will certainly make it easier for hunters to get their game. The phrase spearhead refers to the main position that has the ability to move, direct, and guide others so that goals can be realized.

Meanwhile, resident doctors are doctors on duty at a health center or hospital. Resident doctors have a very important position in a hospital. Especially when Covid cases increase in an area, the presence of a resident doctor is very important because the presence of a resident doctor can help treat Covid patients. In addition, resident doctors have the authority to mobilize, direct and provide guidance in treating Covid patients.

In the above metaphorical expression, the concept of spearhead is used to explain the concept of resident doctor. The similarity of function between the spearhead and the resident doctor is what is used as the basis for the use of metaphor. The spearhead is the most important part of a spear because it serves to paralyze the game. Meanwhile, resident doctors also have a very important function in handling Covid-19 patients.

b. Ontology Metaphor

The ontology metaphor conceptualizes thoughts, experiences, and other abstract things to something that has a physical nature. The metaphor of ontology considers abstract nouns as concrete nouns based on experience. Humans then identify their experiences into an entity or substance by categorizing and grouping objects or experiences around them (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980).

The following is an ontology metaphor found in the Covid-19 news in the Kompas daily.

- (5) However, in a matter of days, the regulation was also aborted by the government, and PPKM level 1 was set in several regions (Kompas, December 18, 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (5) is indicated by lexical markers aborted. The word aborted is the source domain. While the target domain is rules. The metaphorical expression in data (5) is an ontological metaphor because the word aborted expresses an action, i.e., nullification.

The word aborted has the lexical meaning 'born prematurely, collapse; void, unfinished; die in battle; lost, and fell out'. In that word there is a process that can be visualized by the human sense of vision. The objects are also concrete because they can be seen using the eyes. For example, in the phrase fallen leaves, there appears to be a process of detaching leaves from tree branches or branches and falling to the ground. The process can be seen using the human sense of vision.

Meanwhile, the word rule means 'the result of the act of regulating; the prescribed manner to be obeyed; and the act or deed to be performed. The word rule is abstract. In data (5) the word aborted which is concrete is used to explain the word rule which is abstract in nature. The word aborted is used to conceptualize the rule. The conceptual meaning of this metaphorical expression is a rule that is canceled or not applied.

(6) Israel became one of the first countries to give the green light for the fourth Covid-19 vaccine booster injection for its citizens who experience immune disorders (Kompas, December 31, 2021).

The metaphorical expression in data (6) is indicated by the phrase the green light. The source domain of the metaphorical expression is the green light. Meanwhile, the target domain of the metaphorical expression is permission or approval. Data (6) is an ontological metaphor because the phrase green light is a concrete form used to describe the abstract form of licensing.

The phrase green light lexically means 'light that is green'. Green light is synonymous with approval. As in traffic lights, green is a symbol of being able to walk, yellow is a symbol of caution, while red symbolizes prohibition. In data (6) the phrase green light has the meaning of 'approval or permission'. In data (6) Israel became the first country to give approval or permission for the administration of the fourth vaccine for its citizens who are immunocompromised.

(7) In this case, the implementation of restrictions on community activities (PPKM) can be a solid brake if the level is applied according to the conditions of each region (Kompas, February 5, 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (7) is indicated by the phrase solid brake. The source domain of the metaphorical expression, namely solid brake. Meanwhile, the target domain of the metaphorical expression, namely restrictions on community activities. The word solid brake lexically means 'a device to resist movement or a mechanism by friction; tools to slow down or to stop movement or rotation'. The word solid brake also has a figurative meaning, i.e., inhibitor, restraint, and barrier'. The word brake is usually used side by side with a moving vehicle or engine. However, in data (7) the word brake is used as a metaphorical form side by side with PPKM (enforcement of restrictions on community activities).

Data (7) is an ontological metaphor because the phrase solid brake expresses an action, that is, control. The word brake which is a physical form is used to describe abstract things, namely PPKM.

(8) Meanwhile, the Government of Denmark reports, the BA.2 substrain donate for almost half of the country's cases and is rapidly replacing BA.1, the initial Omicron strain (Kompas, February 22, 2022)

The metaphorical expression in data (8) is indicated using the word donate. Lexically the word donate has the meaning of 'giving something to a person who is having a party and so on as support; help with energy, thoughts, and so on'. When viewed from its lexical meaning, donate is an activity carried out by humans. However, in data (8) the word donate is no longer in its lexical meaning because it is used together with a variant of the Omicron virus, namely Substrain BA.2.

In data (8) the word donate is used as an ontological metaphor. This is because the metaphorical expression in data (8) expresses an action

as an entity. The concrete form of the word donate which is the source domain is used to describe the abstract form contribute which is the target domain.

(9) Omicron has forced Hong Kong to kneeling (Kompas, February 25, 2022)

The metaphorical expression in data (9) is indicated by the word kneeling. The word kneeling is the source domain of metaphorical expressions of data (9). As for the target domain, it is to surrender. The metaphor in data (9) is an ontological metaphor because it expresses action as an entity. The word kneeling, which is the concrete form, is used to explain the more abstract word surrender.

Lexically the word kneeling has the meaning of 'folding the knee as a pedestal to stand'. The word kneeling also has the figurative meaning of 'kneel down, surrender defeat'. In data (9), the word kneeling is used as a metaphor to express that Hong Kong is experiencing a slump due to the Omicron outbreak in the country.

c. Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphor is one type of metaphor that deals with spatial orientation or space related to human experience in everyday life. The space forms an interconnected group of metaphors that include top-down, inside-outside, front-back, inside-shallow, inti-peripheral (Lakoff & Mark, 2003). This orientation of space arises because we have a functioning body in the physical environment. Orientational metaphors can vary from culture to culture because orientational metaphors reflect concepts of space that vary based on the physical or cultural experiences of the people. The orientational metaphors found in Covid-19 reports in Kompas daily are as follows.

(10) There are still very many dark things related to this Omicron (Kompas, December 29, 2021).

The metaphorical expression in data (10) is indicated by a dark linguistic marker. The source domain of the data is dark and the target

domain is Omicron. The word dark means 'no light, dark, night, and no light'. The word dark is usually used to express things related to light or light.

In data (10), the word dark is used as a metaphor to describe one of the Covid-19 variants, namely Omicron. There are still many things that are not known by humans about the nature, characteristics, and character of the Omicron variant. This ignorance is one of the obstacles for the government in determining policies to suppress the transmission and spread of Omicron.

In the data above, the use of the word dark as a metaphor is used to explain bad conditions because there are no clues at all that can be used as a solution to overcome the pandemic due to the Covid-19 Virus. Dark words correlate with bad things, while light words correlate with good things.

(11) Through the IPC score we can see the resilience of the community during the pandemic, which down to its lowest point, then slowly rise again. (Kompas, 31 December 2021).

The metaphorical expression in data (11) is shown by the use of the words down and up. The source domain of the metaphorical expression is to down and up. The target domain is community resilience. Metaphors in data (11) include orientational metaphors. It is because of the use of the words down and up in relation to human physical experience.

The word down means 'to move down; move to a lower place'. Meanwhile, the word up has the meaning of '(1) wake up (from sleep, sit) and then stand up; (2) get up (live) again; (3) arise or arise (about anger); (4) relapse (about the disease); (5) flying into the air (about dust and so on); (6) begin to expand (about the dough)'.

The words down and up in the data above are used to conceptualize the resilience of the community which was originally

slumped due to Covid-19. However, over time people's resilience begins to form and move through changes that lead to improvement. The metaphorical phrase down correlates with a bad thing, while the word up correlates with a good thing.

Oriental metaphors in Covid-19 news are also found in the following expressions.

(12) Covid-19 cases have been rocketing again these days (Kompas, February 5, 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (12) is indicated by the word rocketing. The word rocketing means 'soaring like a rocket, soaring rapidly, soaring high, and soaring upwards'. The word rocketing is usually accompanied by the word rocket. However, in the data above, the word rocketing is compared to the Covid-19.

The source domain of metaphorical expressions in the data (12), namely rocketing and the target domain, namely Covid-19 cases. The concrete source domain, namely rocketing, is used to explain Covid-19 cases. The metaphorical expression in data (12) is an orientational metaphor because the word rocketing expresses a process of increase, namely the increasing number of Covid-19 cases.

(13) The shock of the third wave of Covid-19 can have a negative impact on middle-lower society who are vulnerable to falling into poverty (Kompas, 14 February 2022).

The metaphorical expression in data (13) is indicated by the falling into poverty. The phrase falling into poverty has the meaning of 'to be poor'. The metaphorical expression in data (13) is an orientational metaphor. This can be seen from the use of the phrase fall into poverty. Poor conditions are associated with the word fall. Meanwhile, the condition of being rich or being is associated with the word rise.

The phrase falling into poverty which is a metaphorical expression in data (13) is used to describe the condition of people who turned into poor because of the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia.

(14) Three waves of transmission accompanied the tidal of pandemic control in the country. (Kompas, March 2, 2022).

The metaphorical expression in the data (14) is indicated by the word tidal. The source domain of the metaphorical expression data (14) is tidal. Meanwhile, the target domain is up and down conditions. The word tidal has the meaning of 'rise and fall of the water level'. The word low tide is usually used to describe things related to water. However, in data (14) the word tide is used to describe the condition of pandemic control in Indonesia.

The metaphorical expression in data (14) above is an orientational metaphor because the word tide describes the state of rise and fall of an event. The word rise has the same concept as the word tide. As for the word down, it has the same concept as receding. The ups and downs in data (14) refer to the condition of handling Covid-19 in Indonesia by the government. The government sometimes tightens regulations to prevent an increase in Covid-19 cases in Indonesia. However, at other times the government again relaxed the rules with various considerations.

4. Conclusion

Covid-19 reports in Kompas daily from December 2021 to February 2022, three types of conceptual metaphors were found that are often used by journalists. The three metaphors include ontological metaphors, structural metaphors, and orientational metaphors. Meanwhile, in the world of education, the results of this research can be used as a learning resource to introduce the types of conceptual metaphors and how to conceptualize these metaphor expressions to PGSD students.

These are considered as preliminary research. Therefore, further studies still need to be done by comparing metaphorical expressions used in several other mass media. In addition, this study also only discusses the types of conceptual metaphors used to report Covid-19 in written language. In this regard, it is necessary to study further the conceptualization of the metaphorical expression of Covid-19 news in spoken language to complement previous studies.

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