ANALYZING TEXTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDONESIAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER AND AMERICAN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER.  
The Genre Analyses of Editorials of The Jakarta Post and New York Times on “Forest Fires” 

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ABSTRACT

The use of language is certainly very interesting and important to be analyzed, especially with regard to its use in different editorial. This simple research analyzes the use of discourse markers in the two editorials of the famous newspapers. The research shows that despite being informal, American English newspaper tends to touch the point, and be direct in its indicating the opinion, while Indonesian editorial tends to be circuitous in explaining and showing the attitudes. The other factor that makes American English newspaper more complicated is the use of some expressions, and idioms which are only known by certain English users, in this case, American natives. The use of this analysis can also be further followed up by directly analyzing which colloquial which is popularly used in American newspaper, thus helping who wish to write for international newspaper so that they can possibly prepare the above expressions prior to his/her assignment overseas.

Keywords: Analyzing, textual differences, Indonesian English newspaper, American English newspaper.

ABSTRACT

Penggunaan bahasa tentu saja sangat menarik dan penting untuk dianalisa, terutama yang berhubungan dengan penggunaan editorial yang berbeda. Penelitian sederhana ini menganalisa penggunaan penanda wacana dalam dua editorial dari Koran –koran terkemuka. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa walaupun bersifat tidak resmi, Koran Amerika cenderung menyentuh akar masalah, dan langsung dalam menyatakan pendapatnya. Sementara itu, Koran Indonesia cenderung berbelit-belit dalam menjelaskan dan menunjukkan sikapnya. Faktor lain yang membuat koran Bahasa Inggris cenderung lebih rumit adalah dalam penggunaan ungkapan, dan idiom yang hanya pengguna Bahasa Inggris tertentu saja, dalam hal ini para penutur asli Bahasa Inggris. Manfaat dari analisis ini dapat lebih lanjut
INTRODUCTION

Since there are various terminologies used to refer to the term discourse analysis. The writer tries to limit the search of finding such tremendous definitions, and only puts up some of highly relevant concepts, e.g. Stubbs’, (1983, p. 1) defining discourse as language above the sentence or above the clause, while Fasold’s (1990, p. 65) defining discourse as the study of any aspect of language use, and lastly Brown and Yule’s (1983) forward that the analysis of discourse, is necessarily the analysis of language in use, thus it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms, independent of the purpose or function which these forms are designed to serve in human affairs.

Gee (2014, p. 18) further elaborates that discourse is the sequence of sentence, the ways in which sentences connect and relate to each other across time in speech or writing. For instance; when a person speaks or writes he or she might choose what words and phrases he or she will put into or “package ”, namely, sentences. Thus, discourse concerns on how various sentences flowing one after the other relate to each other to create meanings or to facilitate interpretation. Finally, Fromkin, et.al. (1990) differentiate the two emerging concepts, namely, discourse and discourse analysis in which discourse is considered as the linguistic ability to manipulate medium for communication in a larger unit and discourse analysis as the study of the above concept.

From the above excerpt we can synthesize that discourse is related to the human’s capacity in manipulating language for the sake of human communication along with various relevant aspects such as; the use of textual and pictorial mode to support their purposes.

Discourse in the Media

The existence of discourse is certainly inseparable to the emergence of human’s facility invented for the sake of the improvement of their ways to communicate. This is because the existence of
discourse in different means might lead to relatively different characteristics, let say, the existence of discourse in written or spoken media. Specifically, Durant and Lambrou (2009) forward that the interesting aspect of media (in terms of communication media, e.g. TV, Newspaper, etc.) chiefly because of various possibilities of its relevant aspects to be analyzed, e.g. the capacity of media and its availability, necessary skill or aptitude associated to them, the aspect of cost which leads to the differences in communicating style, etc. In short, identifying different approaches to understanding language in its various connections allows us to focus on particular idioms, styles, and genres, as well as neologism (pp. 5-6). Specifically, Durant and Lambrou (2009) highlight some of the possible aspects to be analyzed such as; register, style, genre, etc.

Due to several constraints, in this analysis, the writer plans to analyze only the textual aspects of the text (e.g. the use of transition in the text, the use of synonym, the use of wise word, while ignoring other aspects which are also of importance to support the discourse, e.g. anaphoric/exophoric aspects of the text, etc.). The writer believes that this analysis can also be categorized as genre analysis of the text, just as what Durant and Lambrou (2009, p. 21) postulate that genre simply means a sort, or a type of text: thriller, horror, movie, musical, etc. The writer’s analysis is therefore considered as genre analysis of the text since it covers only specific texts (editorial of both, Indonesian English The Jakarta Post and American English New York Times) along with its words and the discourse markers.

METHOD

This research is simply conducted in qualitative by way of comparing the two different editorials in the view of specific features of texts from both Indonesian English writer (henceforth The Jakarta Post) and American English writer (henceforth New York Time) on a relatively similar issue.

Although, Kaltenbacher (in Renkema, 2009, p. 143-156) believes that the most relevant way to research textual differences or other aspects should involve a large amount of data in quantitative, especially regarding the two nationalities which are certainly very premature to be made conclusion. Due to time limitation and chance the writer believes the analysis which conveniently takes two samples (referring to Frankle & Wallen’s, 2006, on convenient sampling as the most possible subject to be accessed by researcher) is also acceptable.
The questions guiding the analysis are formulated as the followings;
1. What are the textual characteristics found in both editorials (The Jakarta Post and New York Time)?
2. What are the possible impacts on the above findings into pedagogical setting?

DISCUSSION
Since there are numerous tokens to be analyzed the writer uses several sources as references (first the one which states that the tokens analyzed as “discourse markers” as stated by Schiffrin, 1987; and the rest as “transition words” stated by University of Wisconsin, 2014). The use of both sources is due to the fact that both sources are credible sources, and secondly not all discourse markers are covered or discussed by the first source (Schiffrin, 1987), thus the second source/the other complementary sources (University of Wisconsin, McGrawHill, and Merriam-web ster) are also used as supporting sources to scientifically describe its existence. Further, the writer tries to discuss the findings as follows;

1. The use of verb in Indonesian English newspaper is indicated with a very common verb used as “repeat” instead of “recur” which is relatively different between each other (see Appendix IV). Thus the use of “repeat” added with “itself” is meant to indicate the essence of “recur” which is usually beyond the reach of a person, actually the real usage of “repeat” is clearly different e.g. “he repeats the sentence”, but not “he recurs”, but “cancer recurs in his body”, etc. In this case the use of “recur” is actually more pertinent than the use of “repeat” therefore the use of “annually recurring ..” is considered much better.

2. The use of discourse markers/transition is salient in both Indonesian English newspaper and American newspaper. Interestingly, there found to be difference in the use of discourse markers (transition). The use of addition is found to be more common in American editorial while in Indonesian Editorial it is the contrast discourse markers which are numerous. Undeniably, however, American newspaper is found to be less formal and varied. This is proven with the use of estimate (Mc GrawHill) or Exclamation (Oxford) “say” which is found in American editorial.

3. The use of modal, indicating advisability (should, ought to) is absent in Indonesian newspaper. The use of should only to indicate
possibility that is “this should be enough to force ............to declare bankruptcy”, while in American editorial the use of “should” is shown as “Should pause for a moment and try to imagine a future with even more devastating fires”. This can also indicate that forest fire which is faced by both countries is lexicalized differently or given meaning differently by both countries. Grammatically, it is certainly important to do or to give opinion about it, since this disaster has been regularly unwanted disasters, (Murphy, 2001, pp. 66-69).

4. The use modal “should” in the title “congress should give the government more money or wildfires” indicates something which is important to be done by the government in order to prevent the recurring quagmire thus showing firmness or directness of the editorial toward the issue, while in Indonesian English title, the writer only writes “justice for the forest burner” which is certainly not clear on what message to convey and what action deemed necessary to resort to. This is because the term “justice” can also be meant a fair trial for them, including the perpetrators who are in fact the mastermind of this problem. The use of “should” as in “this should be enough for a company to declare bankruptcy” is not an advise in fact it is a possibility which is actually not really significant to support the message in the editorial regarding with the use of modal “should”.

5. The use of wise word with a slightly revised term (the real one is actually to “rob Peter for Paul” is softened into to “borrow Peter to pay Paul”, Merriam-webster, 2015) indicates the text which necessitates the understanding of the historical and cultural aspect of the wise word, without which the beginning Indonesian English learners will find it hard to grasp its meaning.

6. The use of whopping increase (idiomatic expression, Merriam-webster on line, 2015) shows that the American text tends to be more natural as well as complex so that it can pose difficulty to the English learners who don’t get used to understanding their expressions.

CONCLUSION

Basically American English newspaper is more natural, complex, and more direct in conveying their message compared with Indonesian English newspaper. This conclusion is based on the followings, e.g. Firstly, the use of discourse markers in American
newspaper (New York Times) is found to be more varied than in Indonesian local newspaper. The use of exclamation/estimate “say” which shows less formal expression in North America and used in the above newspapers clearly indicates the informality yet touch the point. Secondly, the choice of words is also more complex (in terms of the use of idiomatic expression, and wise words shown with the use of “whopping increase” and “the borrowing of Peter to pay Paul”), Lastly is the clarity of the message shown by putting a more direct title “the senator should give the government ……..” instead of a mere vague or ambivalent title which doesn’t clearly show its real message just as “Justice for forest burners”.

1. The sample of only two pieces of editorials taken on-line is certainly not a reliable source to be concluded, however those who are interested in analyzing the difference between the two nations/countries, in terms of their language presentation in discourse media, might consider this preliminary finding interesting in order to be replicated or researched further.

2. Certainly, there are various aspects to be highlighted too, e.g. sociopolitical aspect which can also affect the certain media not to be outspoken to the incumbent, thus finding the ideal media to be researched is also a further challenge that should be considered wisely since the existence of the English media in Indonesia are not numerous. The decision of the writer to find a relatively similar topic in English coming from different countries is also not an easy attempt, thus several aspects is not considered for instance; the number of words of the editorial. Last but not least cultural aspect is also the thing that might affect the way certain media to communicate their idea differently compared with the other foreign media despite their similar language or topic.

3. In pedagogical setting, the use of discourse analysis as the main objective of English learning might also be of use to be considered, in that the students might know what language element/aspect (the use of modality, the use of words, etc.) to be used in order to make the production of their message more effective rather than accumulating a lot of words/phrases without ever touching the essence of the discourse aspect, just like the message that is shown in Jakarta Post itself (this certainly in need of further research whether or not the above concept should be the most important aspect in the students’ learning to prioritize). Last but not least, it is also a huge task to find the reason /motive behind the absence of
modality in conveying the above message and various reasons can be taken into account, e.g. the use of expressions which are more lenient so that it will not create havoc into Indonesian political/economic system, the close connection between the media owner and the incumbent, etc.

REFERENCES
APPENDIX I

Congress Should Give the Government More Money for Wildfires

Wildfires that have burned more than eight million acres and are still raging in the West are draining the budgets of federal agencies and forcing them to divert money from essential environmental and land conservation programs to fight the fires. That is why Congress needs to start budgeting for forest fires in a different way, treating them more like natural disasters rather than a continuing expense. The Agriculture and Interior Departments have been making this case for some time, and it’s a good one.

The Forest Service, a division of the Agriculture Department, says that 52 percent of its budget this year is dedicated to suppressing and managing fires, a whopping increase from 16 percent only 10 years ago. But even that has not been enough, and the agency has had to move $700 million from the rest of its budget just to deal with wildfires.

Agencies in the Interior Department like the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service have struggled with similar budget issues. This borrowing from Peter to pay Paul is an incredibly shortsighted way to manage the nation’s prized forests, parks and wilderness areas. Federal agencies should have sufficient resources to deal with wildfires without robbing programs designed to protect water quality, preserve and acquire open space and which, in some cases, are explicitly aimed at making forests more resilient to future fires.

The secretary of agriculture, Tom Vilsack; the secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell; and the director of the Office of Management and Budget, Shaun Donovan, sent a letter on Sept. 15 to members of Congress calling on them to treat wildfires more like other national disasters.
Annually recurring fires are obviously different from, say, a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina, but the idea is that the agencies would be allowed to tap emergency funds in bad fire years when costs exceed a certain percentage of their budgets. A recent report by the Forest Service shows in glaring detail how the growing cost of fighting fires has reduced its capacity to do everything else it’s supposed to do. As the number of employees involved in dealing with fires has increased by 114 percent since 1998, to more than 12,000 people, the number of employees managing the service’s lands has fallen by 39 percent, to less than 11,000. Meanwhile, the amount of money the Forest Service spends on watersheds, facilities and upkeep of roads, trails and other infrastructure have all dropped sharply. It is no surprise then that the service now has a deferred maintenance backlog that totals $5.1 billion. Congress needs to respond soon, because fires are only becoming a bigger burden. The Forest Service estimates that two-thirds of its annual budget could be dedicated to fire suppression and management by 2025. Climate experts are cautious about linking any single natural disaster — a major hurricane or flood, for instance — to global warming, and that reluctance extends to wildfires as well. And besides, forests fires have been a regular feature of the Western landscape for years. But scientists are widely agreed that climate change is creating the conditions that are likely to make fires bigger and more intense in years to come. Those members of Congress who reject or belittle the science of climate change should pause for a moment and try to imagine a future with even more devastating fires than the ones they see now on the evening news.

APPENDIX II

Justice for forest burners (source: The Jakarta Post)
Indonesia’s long fight against forest and land fires has taken a new twist after the Supreme Court found company Kalista Alam guilty of deliberately burning peatland in 2012, and fined it a record Rp 366 billion (US$25.8 million). This should be enough to force the oil palm plantation company based in the Aceh regency of Nagan Raya to declare bankruptcy. It is not an exaggeration to call the court ruling a landmark in the nation’s efforts to enforce the law against people and corporations whose acts have not only threatened many lives, but also inflicted huge
losses in the form of environmental degradation. Two children in Jambi died last week of respiratory infection, almost certainly due to constant exposure to smoke from forest fires. Haze from the fires has also prevented thousands of children from attending school, delayed or canceled flights and dragged economic and social activities to a halt in Sumatra and Kalimantan. In Sukabumi, West Java, a fire fighter died of exhaustion and smoke inhalation while battling a wildfire in Cikepuh sanctuary last week.

Increasing enforcement of the law is only one challenge among others that Indonesia must take on in its bid to protect its remaining forests. The existing legislation is more than sufficient to bring prosecutions to court, and there are abundant international treaties that forest and land burners are violating. Try naming any individuals or corporations who have come under investigation for starting forest fires over the past two decades, or since the worst fires scorched Indonesian forests in 1997. It’s difficult to prove the existence of bribery. However, what is certain is that the lack, if not total absence, of legal deterrents is partly responsible for Indonesia’s failure to settle the forest fire issue once and for all. The disaster repeats itself every year in the same regions, with the same modus operandi and perhaps the same masterminds behind it. On the other hand, the government’s attempt to educate communities living near forests to stop land clearing through burning remains ineffective. The fact that most perpetrators have escaped justice, or at most received light sentences, sends the message that Indonesia’s justice system does not take forest burning, or environmental conservation in general, into consideration.

The Supreme Court has set a good precedent with its Aug. 28 decision that turned down PT Kalista’s appeal. All district and high courts now have a clear reference when hearing cases involving forest and land fires that have had a negative impact on surrounding communities and ecosystems. Such judgments, however, will require investigators and state prosecutors to present all necessary evidence to convince the judges. Only law enforcers with a blend of integrity and competence can do that. The police have named 107 individuals and corporations suspects in environmental law cases, but the real test awaits in the court hearings.
## APPENDIX III
The tokens taken in text analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tokens/Transitions/Discourse Markers</th>
<th>The Jakarta Post</th>
<th>New York Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contrast</strong></td>
<td><em>But, But, However, However, However, On the other hand, On the other hand,</em></td>
<td><em>But, But, But</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Addition</strong></td>
<td><em>And, And, And, And, Also Not only, ..but also, Or, Or</em></td>
<td><em>And, And, And, And, And, And, And, Also, And, And, And, And, And, And, And, And, Besides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td><em>While, When</em></td>
<td><em>Meanwhile</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The use of different verb indicating relatively similar meaning referring to the theme</strong></td>
<td><em>Repeat .... The disaster repeats itself every year in the same regions</em></td>
<td><em>Recur .... Annually recurring fires are obviously different from</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimate/prediction/ (Mc GrawHill)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Say,</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclamation (oxforddictionaries.com)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modality: indicating advisability</strong></td>
<td><em>Should (?)</em></td>
<td><em>Should</em> pause for a moment and try to imagine a*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This should be enough to force ……. future with even more devastating fires Congress **Should** Give the Government More Money for Wildfires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wise word (Merriam-webster)</th>
<th><strong>This borrowing from Peter to pay Paul</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The use of idiomatic</td>
<td><strong>Whopping increase</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Merriam-webster)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of synonym referring</td>
<td><strong>Catastrophe, Disaster</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the theme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPENDIX IV**
Definitions on “Repeat” and “Recur”

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/recur

**Full Definition of RECUR**
intransitive verb
1: to have recourse: *resort*
2: to go back in thought or discourse &<on recurring to my letters of that date — Thomas Jefferson> &
3a: to come up again for consideration
   b: to come again to mind
4: to occur again after an interval: occur time after time &<the cancer recurred>

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/repeat

**Full Definition of REPEAT**
1
   a: something repeated: *repetition*
   b: a musical passage to be repeated in performance; *also*: a sign placed before and after such a passage
c : a usually transcribed repetition of a radio or television program
d : a duplication of genetic material (as a sequence of nucleotides) in which the duplicated parts are adjacent to each other along the chromosome
2: the act of repeating
See repeat defined for English-language learners

Examples of **REPEAT**
1. Most of the customers are repeats.
2. No, I don't want to watch that. It's a repeat.