

# THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SPIONAGE ISSUE IN THE JAKARTA POST AND ABC NEWS USING TEXTUAL METAFUNCTION

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## Abstract

This study is aimed at investigating the representation of two different newspapers, The Jakarta Post and ABC news, as seen from textual metafunction concerning the issue about the spionage of Australia-Indonesia. Qualitative in terms of document analysis related to discourse analysis was employed in this study. This study used functional grammar framework due to reveal the representation appeared in the media. It was found that both articles favored in representing the issue. The Jakarta Post consists of 60% as topical theme and 40% as textual theme. Whereas, ABC news consists of 62.26% topical, 35.84% textual, and 1.88% as interpersonal themes. This means that both favored the representation of the issue with a signal of what is to be understood as the framework as what the readers want to assume (Mc Charty,1991). The relationship of the theme to the rest of the sentence is viewed as part of communicative dynamism, that is the assessment of the extent to which each element contributes to developing the communication.

*Keywords: Spionage issue, systemic functional grammar, textual metafunction*

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2013, the spionage issue which had implicated in several countries in the world, including Indonesia, was released. Secret documents released by former US intelligence contractor, Edward Snowden, show that Australia's intelligence efforts against Indonesia involving a massive penetration of its phone networks and widespread data collection, and they are not only just targeting suspected terrorists but also key political figures.

The documents firstly reported in The New York Times have disclosed new details of how the Australian Signals Directorate offered its US counterpart surveillance of an American law firm representing Indonesia in trade disputes with the US. The documents shown the level of co-operation between the US National Security Agency and the Australian Signals Directorate, and for the first time reveal the Australian electronic espionage agency's comprehensive access to Indonesian's national communications systems. Even though Indonesian government does not discussed secret information by phone, tapped the phones of Indonesian President and his inner circle was not fair. The issue shocked Indonesian since both country are good neighbour. All Indonesian protested about this issue at that time because

there was no any clarification which made them satisfied from the Australian Prime Minister.

Cross country situation made the media, especially from both countries, has a big role in conveying and showing their perspective toward the issue by representing it on the media. This became remarkable since the two countries are in the different point of view. They plausibly produced different language uses and styles that might influence the issue itself.

In explicating the use of language or representing the world meaningfully could refer to the term ‘representation’ (Hall, 1997; Freddi, 2004; Emilia, 2005; Emilia, 2014). Associated with representation, an article can represent author perspective since it is the final result of the selection, editing and personal preferences (Sukyadi and Ambarwati, 2008). Therefore, we can discover the newspaper position through analysing the article.

## METHODOLOGY

This study devoted qualitative in terms of document analysis since the data were taken from two different newspapers; The Jakarta Post and ABC News. In analysing the data, systemic functional grammar was employed, particularly using textual metafunction. Textual meaning was utilised to discover the way how the ideas were developed in a text. It is divided into two; theme and rheme. Theme can be identified as that or those elements which comes first in the clause (Gerot and Wignel, 104:1995). The represents the point of departure of this message from the previous one, whereas the rest is rheme. Specifically, this study focused only in the theme of the clause. Theme can be understood as what the clause is going to be talked. Theme is divided into a number of categories; ideational or topical, textual and interpersonal. First, topical theme usually comes at the first nominal group in the clause. It can be nominal group complexes, adverbial groups, prepositional phrase or embedded clause.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part covers the representative analysis of the theme involving topical theme, textual theme, and interpersonal theme from two different newspapers.

This part is the illustration of textual metafunction analysis on the article occupied from The Jakarta Post.

Table 1. Clause 1 in The Jakarta Post

Indonesia-Australia relations	have been damaged by the turn of events these last few days
TOPICAL	RHEME
THEME	

Table 2. Clause 2 in The Jakarta Post

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	has recalled his ambassador in Canberra in response to fresh media revelations
Topical	RHEME
THEME	

Table 3. Clause 6 in The Jakarta Post

The newly elected Abbott	said	<b>he</b>	did not see any need to apologize
Topical	Rheme	Textual	Rheme
Theme		Theme	
THEME		RHEME	

Table 4. Clause 10 in The Jakarta Post

The thousands of Indonesian students in Australia	will continue to study
Topical	RHEME
THEME	

In relation to the simplification of the analysis, the topical theme found in the article are listed below.

Table 5. The highlights of topical theme in The Jakarta Post

No	Clauses
1	<b>Indonesia-Australia relations</b> have been damaged by the turn of events these last few days
2	<b>President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono</b> has recalled his ambassador in Canberra in response to fresh media revelations
3	<b>he, his wife and eight other members of his inner circle</b> have been the target of Australia’s phone-tapping activities
4	<b>Indonesia</b> has been aware of this surveillance
5	<b>Yudhoyono</b> singled out Prime Minister Tony Abbott for not showing any guilt
6	<b>The newly elected Abbott</b> said <b>he</b> did not see any need to apologize
7	<b>Abbott</b> also insisted that <b>all governments</b> spy one another
8	<b>a claim Indonesia</b> quickly denied <b>it</b> is doing to any of its friends
9	Besides government-to-government ties, <b>there</b> are other dimensions in this relationship, including people-to-people and business-to-business contacts to consider.
10	<b>The thousands of Indonesian students in Australia</b> will continue to study,
11	<b>Australian tourists</b> will continue to vacation in Bali
12	<b>our business leaders</b> will continue to invest and trade with each other as opportunities arise
13	<b>Relations between Indonesia and Australia</b> have broadened and deepened to such an extent

14	it is difficult to see them being rolled back over personal disagreements between our leaders.
15	<b>The Bali bombing in 2002, the Aceh tsunami in 2004 and the growing perceptions that the two countries face similar security challenges</b> are just some of the episodes
16	<b>The cordial relations that Yudhoyono established with successive prime ministers since 2004</b> have facilitated and strengthened relations even further
17	<b>This week</b> is one of those downturns in the relationship.
18	If <b>President Yudhoyono</b> now decides to review overall cooperation with Australia
19	<b>he</b> helped build.

From the figure above, it is found that there are 21 topical themes in The Jakarta Post newspaper. The highest number of appearance of the subject of topical theme frequently about Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yodhoyono with 5 times appearance.

Table 6. Clause 10 in The Jakarta Post

<b>but</b>	President Yudhoyono	must have been hurt personally
Textual	Topical	RHEME
THEME		

Table 7. Clause 10 in The Jakarta Post

The two countries	have gone through so much together	<b>because</b>	we	are destined to be neighbors
Topical Theme	Rheme	Textual Theme	Topical Theme	Rheme
THEME		RHEME		

This have been found that the number of appearance of textual theme is 14 (but, and, if, although, when). The highest appearance is conjunction *but* with 4 times appearances. It is followed by conjunction *and* and *when* with 3 appearances and others.

The following analysis is the illustration of textual metafunction analysis on the article reserved from ABC News.

Table 8. Clause 1 in ABC News

In diplomacy	<b>the rules</b>	are pretty simple: be nice, be friendly, be tough when necessary
Textual	Topical	RHEME
THEME		

Table 9. Clause in ABC News

Make sure	<b>you</b>	don't get caught
Interpersonal		RHEME

THEME
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Table 10. Clause in ABC News

Over recent times	<b>Indonesia</b>	has been listening and watching with concern the Coalition's policy pronouncements on asylum seekers
Textual	Topical	RHEME
THEME		

Table 11. Clause 10 in ABC News

<b>The list of who Australia had spied on in 2009</b>	was made public
Topical	RHEME
THEME	

Table 12. The representative of Topical theme on ABC News

No	Clause
1	In diplomacy <b>the rules</b> are pretty simple: be nice, be friendly, be tough when necessary.
2	Make sure <b>you</b> don't get caught
3	<b>The Prime Minister's big mistake in the Indonesia-Australia standoff</b> has been in not realising earlier
4	Over recent times <b>Indonesia</b> has been listening and watching with concern the Coalition's policy pronouncements on asylum seekers
5	Rightly or wrongly, <b>Indonesia</b> wants to feel listened to and respected.
6	if <b>it</b> felt pushed
7	<b>The Indonesian Government</b> can't afford to allow its voters to get the impression that <b>Australia</b> is dictating terms on the asylum issue.
8	<b>Indonesia's answer</b> was no.
9	<b>Flashpoint 3</b> came this week
10	<b>The list of who Australia had spied on in 2009</b> was made public.
11	<b>At the top of the list</b> were President Yudhoyono and his wife.
12	<b>This</b> was the tipping point.
13	<b>Indonesia</b> was always ready to whack Australia if <b>it</b> felt it was necessary or worthwhile to show its will to its domestic audience

Put differently from The Jakarta Post, there are higher number appearance of topical theme with 37 appearances. It is 10 appearance Indonesia as the subject which is followed by Australia with 7 appearance and others. Additionally, the number of textual theme is also higher with 19 emergences (but, and, if, ). Further, the existance of interpersonal theme is shown on ABC News's article with 2 emergences.

Table 13. The distribution of Theme types on The Jakarta Post's article

No	Types of theme	Number of Appearances	Percentage
1	Topical theme	21	60%
2	Textual theme	14	40%
3	Interpersonal theme	0	0
	Total	35	100%

Figure 23. The distribution of Theme types on ABC News' article

No	Types of theme	Number of Appearances	Percentage
1	Topical theme	37	63.79%
2	Textual theme	19	32.75%
3	Interpersonal theme	2	3.45%
Total		58	100%

Based on the distribution table above, it was found that the Jakarta post consisted only two themes; topical theme and textual theme. The Jakarta Post consisted of 68.11% of the article is topical theme and 31.03% textual theme. ABC news consisted 62.26% of the article is topical, 35.84% is textual, and 1.88% is interpersonal themes. This means that both favored the representation of the issue with a signal of what is to be understood as the framework within which what we want to say is to be understood (Mc Charty, 1991). the relationship of the theme to the rest of the sentence is viewed as part of communicative dynamism, that is the assessment of the extent to which each element contributes to the development of the communication (Firbas, 1972 in Mc Charty, 1991).

The absence of interpersonal theme on the Jakarta Post's article plausibly becomes the indication that the involvement of the jakarta post in delivering the information is neutral. However, the existance of the number of interpersonal theme on the article of ABC News might be still tolerated. This condition can be categorised as neutral since the number of its appearance is not more than 10% from total theme appearance.

Additionally, the topical themes utilized in the articles show who involved, what happened as well as how the circumstance was related to the issue. Meanwhile, the existence of textual themes in both articles reflects the cohesiveness and the unity of the ideas of the texts.

## CONCLUSION

To conclude, both newspapers favored in representing the issue. It is shown by the existence of functional grammar framework of textual meaning. In this case, the Jakarta post emphasizes in delivering the message that Indonesia is still patient in waiting for Australian good manner toward the issue to Indonesia since Australia neither gave any diplomatic clarification nor apologized. Meanwhile, in ABC News, the clauses tend to deliver the awareness of Australian that they need to mend the relationship between Indonesia-Australia since they are good neighbor. Therefore, both newspaper represent it in a neutral position which means they didn't over use many favor in representing the issue.

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