

Media Representation of Indonesian Presidential Candidates in The Jakarta Post: A Corpus-Based Critical Discourse Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Media is important in society since it provides the readers with the latest information and simultaneously attains a particular purpose by using specific words to shape an ideology. Therefore, this research attempted to investigate the lemma candidate used in news articles, published by The Jakarta Post in February 2024, using Sketch Engine as the corpus tool to uncover how the media portrays the presidential candidate. Collocation and concordance feature was utilized, and it employed Halliday's (2004) transitivity analysis to examine how presidential candidates are described and Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis as the approach to interpreting how the discourse presents such a representation. The result shows that the media portrayed the candidate's general profile by labelling the candidates and their political agenda, as seen through the nouns and adjectives that modified the lemma candidate and the role of the lemma candidate as an actor in the clause. The candidate is also put as a recipient, which exposes the political issue. The analysis shows that the media attempts to engage the public discussion, providing readers with information that encourages critical consideration. Thus, this study contributes to the discussion of media and discourse studies by combining Critical Discourse Analysis and transitivity and utilizing a corpus tool in analysing the data.

Keywords: corpus linguistics; critical discourse analysis; media representation; presidential candidate; the Jakarta Post

INTRODUCTION

This study attempted to reveal the coverage of the president and vice-president candidates as depicted by The Jakarta Post based on corpus linguistics using critical discourse analysis. Indonesia is a democratic nation, as stated in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia, 2022) in the fourth paragraph,

“Therefore, the independence of Indonesia is formulated into a constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which is built into a sovereign state based on a belief in the One and Only God, just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, and democratic life...”

Indonesia's 2024 election, including the presidential election, is a foundation of the democratic system that shapes the trajectory of the nation, reflects the society, and acts as the lifeblood of the system by encapsulating the public's aspirations and voices (Aspinall, 2005).

Specifically, a president in a democratic nation plays a crucial role in sustaining political stability since a president serves as both the Head of State and Government, as well as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and the highest authority over the National Police (Singh, 2024).

In other words, a president holds a significant role in ruling the government. It leads media, one of which is The Jakarta Post, a leading media in Indonesia (Tarrant, 2008), compiled the news regarding the presidential election in a dedicated column titled 'Presidential Race.' This column featured reports on key issues and developments surrounding the election process, in which the main purpose of this initiative was to disseminate information and serve as a strategic move by The Jakarta Post to uphold its reputation as a reliable source for the latest news. However, the use of language in these articles presented a challenge for the public, as specific words such as phrases might contribute to shaping particular ideologies in presenting the candidate (Prayudi & Hendariningrum, 2017). Moreover, the media often employs framing techniques to contextualise a topic, such as a person and their personality, events, or issues within a text that can be understood (D'Angelo, 2017). Therefore, this research attempted to investigate the lexeme *candidate* used in the news articles published by The Jakarta Post utilizing Corpus Linguistics where collocation and concordance features were used to uncover how the media portrays the candidate by applying Critical Discourse Analysis. In other words, this study is conducted to answer (1) how the lemma *candidate* is used in the articles and (2) how it contributes to the coverage of the presidential *candidate* in Indonesia's 2024 presidential election.

A corpus is "a collection of texts" (Stefanowitsch, 2020, p. 22) while corpus linguistics is "the study of language based on examples of real-life language use" (McEnery & Wilson, 2011, p. 1). That real-life language use is depicted in the text in which a text carries an authentic language use, and the collection of the text is a representative of language that might contain information about paralinguistics aspects, linguistics properties such as part of speech, and syntactic structure also it might expose the demographic information about the speaker or writers (Stefanowitsch, 2020). Therefore, a compilation of news reports that had been published by The Jakarta Post is a specialized corpus, a corpus of a particular type of text that functions as a representative of that given type of text (Hunston, 2002), since it was related to a particular situation.

Since corpus deals with linguistic properties such as part of speech and syntactic structure, it led to analyzing collocation and concordance. Words that come together and their relationship is statistically significant are called collocates and this phenomenon in which those words that frequently appear near each other is called collocation (Baker, 2006). Looking at how the words appeared together brought a deeper understanding of the meaning and association between words which can be undergone through the collocation feature (Baker, 2006). Corpus Linguistics as the method was integrated with Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis to uncover the underlying interests or ideologies in media language. Fairclough (1995) initiated the three-dimensional model involving text, discourse practice, and social practice. At the text level, it requires a description of the structural features of the text, while an interpretation is needed to see the process of discourse formation and the relationship between discourse and society are explained at the social practice level (Fairclough, 1995).

In this research, Corpus Linguistics was applied at the text level to analyse how the lemma *candidate* appears in the discourse. Transitivity analysis, a part of Systemic Functional Linguistics proposed by Halliday (2004), was employed since it sees the process in an utterance involving participants in a particular circumstance (Thompson, 2014). To see

the process that occurs in an utterance, a verb is observed to determine the type of each process (Rahmasari, 2021). The processes are material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process (Downing, 2015). The analysis led to the interpretation of discourse practice and social practice. At the stage of discourse practice, the production of news articles was examined to provide insight into media strategies for presenting candidates. According to Li et al. (2023) “social practice dimension explains the relationship between the discourse practice and the social context.” The analysis of social practice considered the broader context by studying the related influences that shape the discourse.

This research combined corpus linguistics to gather the information from the lens of linguistic aspects and Critical Discourse Analysis was employed to interpret the way linguistic aspects were used; the research method was then called Corpus-based Critical Discourse Analysis. The key point of utilizing these combinations is using corpora as repositories of natural language to examine particular patterns for enhancing discourse analysis (Gabrielatos & Baker, 2008). This method was utilized by Yu et al. (2021), Wang and Ma (2021), Putri and Mardiah (2024), Deng and Lin (2024), and Fajri (2020), who they employed Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Fairclough (1995) or Van Leeuwen (2008) to examine the representation of particular issues or specific social actors involved in an event. It showed that the media tends to represent an actor or issue in a more positive or more negative frame while comparing it to others, depending on the time and what was behind the event.

Some scholars have also combined transitivity analysis with Critical Discourse Analysis to reveal the representation. It was observed that Rehman and Arslan (2023), Utama et al. (2020), and Rahardi et al. (2019) utilised ideational metafunction combined with either Fairclough’s or Van Leeuwen’s to analyse the representation of particular social actors in various media, including The Jakarta Post. It was found that the language used can generate political ideology by representing an actor as a more positive or negative figure. On the other hand, Rahardini (2023), Abidah and Sutrisno (2023), and Az-Zahra and Roselani (2024) utilized Fairclough’s Critical Discourse Analysis while Basri and Rohmah (2024) employing Van Dijk (2015) to find out the representation of particular actors in The Jakarta Post. The research exemplified that the news is constructed by language, which creates a public perception through the use of language features to describe the actor involved in the event.

It was observed that Tanto and Tanusy (2024) also attempted to see specific presidential candidates, such as Prabowo Subianto, on foreign media. It was concluded that Prabowo is pictured negatively by evaluating the language used. Meanwhile, Thahara et al. (2024) tried to see the attitude and political ideology of the 2024 Indonesian presidential candidate in The Jakarta Post by employing an appraisal system. It showed that journalists tend to show their emotional side and tend to assess Prabowo more than Anies and Ganjar, which led to bias where positive evaluation indicates the author’s bias and support for the evaluated participant.

Reviewing the prior studies, the scholars applied corpus-based Critical Discourse Analysis, where they utilized the keyword feature on the corpus software as the initial stage to examine the highest frequency of a particular term and the collocation and concordance were used to find out how it was used in context. Unlike the previous studies that seek the highest frequency through keyword analysis, in this study, a particular term has been determined, which is the lemma *candidate*. Hence, it uses the Word Sketch feature that allows us to see the collocation; still, the concordance feature is used to see the context. This study also applied Critical Discourse Analysis, particularly Fairclough’s (1995) three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis, in which ideational metafunction from Halliday (2004) is utilized to scrutinize the linguistic aspects to discover how The Jakarta Post

represented the presidential candidate. Therefore, this study contributes to enrich the study on media framing through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis as well as the discussion on the Indonesian Presidential Candidate.

METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research focuses on exploring and understanding the complexities of human behaviors, and social phenomena where the data is non-numerical and it intends to seek underlying meaning, motivation, and cultural context (Dehalwar & Sharma, 2024). Dehalwar and Sharma (2024) explained that by using qualitative research, the data is not necessarily large data, thus, it allows us to “seek the perspective of a sample group” (Nayar & Stanley, 2015). A sample group used was a purposive sample group where a specific group or units were taken for the analysis. In this research, news articles uploaded in February from The Jakarta Post were the specific unit that represented the whole entity. Using this method, the analysis results were presented in an explanatory text. Therefore, this research is descriptive qualitative research where it took non-numerical data from a small sample size data that is explained descriptively.

DATA COLLECTION

The objects were clauses from the articles published by The Jakarta Post uploaded in February 2024 where the general election was conducted. Only the articles, including hard and soft news, with the tag presidential race were chosen to gather the data. Eighty-three articles were downloaded and cleaned by eliminating the pictures, captions, and advertisements, resulting in 48.147 words. The words, then, are described as tokens, the smallest units including words and nonwords, which begin with a letter of the alphabet, making punctuations excluded in the compilation (*Token | Sketch Engine*, 2016; *Word | Sketch Engine*, 2020). This research employed specialized corpora, referring to a small-sized corpus that collects texts focusing on a discourse aiming to study language used in context (Paltridge, 2012). Sketch Engine was used as the corpus tool and the Word Sketch feature was used in which a lemma *candidate* was inputted to find out the collocation. Collocation is when two or more words associate with each other to convey meaning (Brookes & Chalupnik, 2023). To measure the strength of the collocation, LogDice is used as a statistical tool. The LogDice score allows us to evaluate the degree of association between two lexical items, with the highest possible score being 14, and a score above 5 indicates a significant co-occurrence between those (Gablasova et al., 2017; Suhandano et al., 2023). Hence, this study only included the words that scored at least 7. In addition, to find out how a word or a keyword is used in context, it can be seen through the concordance feature, in which a few words are presented to the left and the right of the search term in order to give an exact reference (McEnery & Hardie, 2012). The collocation feature enables the researcher to make a quantitative analysis since it deals with the number frequency. In contrast, the concordance feature facilitates a qualitative analysis because the researcher is expected to conduct an interpretation of the context based on the data that appeared. In addition, the limitation of three words on the left and right sides (3L-3R) was applied to examine the closest lemma that collocates, which represents an immediate lexical relationship that brings the most relevant meaning for understanding the context.

DATA ANALYSIS

Within the Word Sketch feature, several categories were presented to show the words that

collocate with the lemma *candidate* and were classified based on the grammatical categories. Since this research only focused on the transitivity process that occurred in an utterance, the modifiers of the lemma and verbs that precede and follow the lemma were merely taken. It observed the verbs to classify the transitivity process that appears in the discourse and the modifiers of the lemma to analyze how it represents the participants involved in the process. Furthermore, to understand the representation of the *candidate*, the concordance feature was used to scrutinize the collocation patterns with the co-text (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001). The analysis was the description of structural features of the text, which occurred in the first three-dimensional model. In the stage of discourse practice, it observed the process of discourse formation by looking at the event that brought the news up, for instance. This analysis was the foundation for interpreting how The Jakarta Post represents the presidential candidate. In addition, the description of the interpretation analysis then was related to the social process that reflects the *candidate* in the media, which is called social practice in Fairclough's (1995) three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the *word sketch* feature is presented in this section, which displays the collocation of the lemma *candidate*. Collocation entails interrelated patterns of words and their structures, producing meaning (Hunston, 2002). Two words that appear together more often than expected also constitute a definition of collocation (Crawford & Csomay, 2016). Therefore, the following tables indicate the collocations of candidate lexemes that serve as content words; thus, the function words that were on the list were left out.

TABLE 1. Verbs with *candidate* as the object

Collocation	Frequency	logDice
endorse	3	10.7
back	3	10.4
be	12	10.2
support	3	10.2
demand	2	10.1
benefit	2	9.95
set	2	9.95
urge	2	9.91
expect	2	9.83
become	2	9.64
say	4	9.21

Transitivity analysis observes the relationship between a process, which is marked by the distinctive type of verbs, and its participants and circumstances (Banks, 2019). Those types of verbs lead to the classification of the transitivity process. The processes are material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential. Table 1 exposes the verbs that precede the lexeme *candidate*. The material process is the most frequent process marked with verbs that show the process of happening or doing. The verbs are *endorse*, *back*, *support*, *demand*, and *urge*. The mental process is the second dominant process marked with the verbs *set*, and *expect*. The verb *be* and *become* indicate that the process is classified as a relational process and *say* marks the verbal process.

TABLE 2. Verbs with *candidate* as the subject

Collocation	Frequency	logDice
contest	5	10.8
need	5	10.7
get	3	10.1
have	13	9.93

play	2	9.53
want	2	9.52
offer	2	9.5
promise	2	9.39
win	2	9.35
say	2	7.48

On the other hand, Table 2 presents the verbs that follow the *candidate* functioning as a subject. It is found that *contest*, *offer*, and *win* are the verbs that mark the material process. Meanwhile, *need* and *want* mark the mental process. The relational process is marked with the verbs *get*, *have*, and *play* while the verbal process is indicated by the verb, *say* and *promise*. Overserving those two tables, the verbs can also be classified into categories in which the *candidates* are supported, described, and expected.

TABLE 3. Words modifying the lemma *candidate*

Collocation	Frequency	logDice
presidential	47	12.2
certain	7	10.9
vice	9	10.8
continuity	5	10.5
horse	3	9.74
preferred	3	9.72
dark	3	9.72
anti-establishment	2	9.17
Wednesday	2	8.98
legislative	2	8.94
rival	2	8.94

Table 3 shows the words that modify the lexeme *candidate* which come from various word classes. Presidential, certain, preferred, dark, anti-establishment, and legislative are adjectives. Meanwhile, vice, continuity, horse, and rival are nouns. The adjectives and nouns that proceed a noun construct a noun phrase. It shows that this phrase is used to describe the candidate(s). How the candidate(s) are described as a particular person by employing proper nouns can be seen in the following table. The nouns presented in Table 2 are the names of the president and the vice president which modify the lexeme *candidate*.

TABLE 4. Nouns modified by *candidate*

Collocation	Frequency	logDice
Baswedan	22	11.5
Pranowo	15	11.1
Subianto	16	10.8
Md	10	10.8
Ganjar	3	9.45
Prabowo	4	9.41
Raka	2	9.2

The textual analysis revealed that the verbs show how the candidates are described, supported, and expected, in which it was used in the material, mental, relational, behavioral, and verbal processes. The *candidate* also was modified by nouns and adjectives that describe them as a presidential candidate in this presidential race. In order to get a deeper analysis of the social context, the concordance feature was used to observe. The following table shows the result of the concordance feature.

TABLE 5. The result of the concordance feature.

No.	Left Context	KWIC	Right Context
1.	Prabowo, an ex-special forces commander, is one of three	candidate	contesting the Feb. 14 election.

2.	In addition to <u>being</u> a vice presidential	candidate	in the 2024 election, Mahfud is a constitutional law professor at the Indonesian Islamic University.
3.	14 general election in Gambir, Central Jakarta, where he is registered as a voter, while the three 2024 <u>presidential</u>	candidate	are scheduled to cast their ballots in their respective hometowns.
4.	"I come with goodwill. I think all three	candidate	just <u>want</u> the best for the people of Indonesia. If, say, there were things we said or did that were displeasing, I would like to apologize," he said.
5.	with activists who had a better grasp on the challenges migrant workers faced, while Prabowo <u>said</u> all	candidate	shared "the same commitment" to the protection of migrant workers.
6.	activities, the law will be enforced against it, and [the allegedly unlawful conduct] must be proven in court." The	candidate	also <u>promised</u> not to engage in arbitrary dissolutions of organizations under his government. He would let the courts decide...
7.	Last year, tax returns reached Rp 2.15 quadrillion, with the tax-to-spending ratio hovering at 10.21 percent.	candidate	offered 'normative' education, health solutions in final debate.
8.	Jokowi has not explicitly <u>endorsed</u> any	candidate	and has said he will not campaign for any candidate. Gibran is Prabowo's running mate, owing to a last-minute decision...
9.	Jokowi has reached his limit of two terms and had not explicitly <u>backed</u> a	candidate	but he made highly publicised appearances with Prabowo at state events, prompting a storm of criticism that he has...
10.	candidates in the middle of the electoral process, the alleged misuse of government resources to <u>benefit</u> certain	candidate	and the KPU's series of recent ethics violations were evidence of an unjust election.
11.	A run-off will be held in June if no candidate gets more than 50 percent of votes. Anies was the <u>preferred</u>	candidate	of 24.1 percent of respondents, while 19.6 percent opted for Ganjar, with about 4.5 percent undecided.
12.	The former education and culture minister is now the <u>dark horse</u>	candidate	expected to face frontrunner and Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto in any potential second-round runoff vote.
13.	But his political clout is now crumbling after as Jokowi betrayed his own party and started tacitly campaigning for <u>rival</u>	candidate	and former military hardman Prabowo Subianto.
14.	Former Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan has portrayed himself as the <u>anti-establishment</u>	candidate	in the presidential campaign, climbing to second place in polls on the back of a message that includes opposing a costly...

The way the language is used, and its context has been presented in the result column. That analysis is the foundation of the interpretation to describe how the *candidates* were covered in the Jakarta Post. Through the analysis, it is seen that the media illustrates the profile of the candidates, their campaigns, the issue, and the labels.

THE CANDIDATES' PROFILE

In reporting the news, the media tried to picture who the *candidates* were. The *candidate* collocates with the verbs such as *being*, *contesting*, and *presidential* to present that those people are the presidential candidates. It can be seen through the clause number 1, 2, and 3 in Table 5. Clauses 1 and 2 are classified as a relational process that carries a concept of being and having. It employs Token and Value as the participants in the process. In clause 1 the *candidate* plays as Value which defines the Token, Prabowo. Meanwhile, in clause 2, the *candidate* is situated in a circumstance of matter where it gives more information to the process. Therefore, in clause 1, the media attempts to illustrate who Prabowo is as well as in clause 2, which describes Mahfud as the vice-presidential candidate who is also a professor at a university. It also illustrates how the presidential candidates voted on election day, which is

depicted in clause 3. It is observed that the *candidate* is in the form of a plural noun referring to all the candidates. It is a passivation function to point to the *candidate*.

The general structure of hard news articles employs the inverted pyramid in which the most important information, in the form of a summary of a particular event, is presented at the beginning of the article and the supporting aspects come after (Thomson et al., 2008). The general information is used to answer and give supporting facts to the main information that has been presented. It usually brings information about the background details of the events such as the people who are involved, and the things they do that lead to the explanation of why the event is significant. Therefore, the general information regarding the candidate's profile is used to give background details as well as to support the context.

THE CAMPAIGN

It is not only a general description of the election but also an attempt to picture the *candidate* specifically which campaign the candidate spoke about. It is depicted in clause numbers 4, 5, and 6 in Table 5. The candidate collocates with the verb *want* (clause 4) indicating the mental process depicting the future government's projection. The same idea is also pictured in clause number 5 where the *candidate* is preceded by the verb *said* indicating a verbal process. The verbal process is also depicted in clause 6 in which the candidate declares to assure that he will refrain from arbitrarily dissolving organizations once he gets elected. Those clauses are expressed in the presidential debate in which the *candidate* is the subject and acts as the sener and the sayer. The presidential candidate is expected to present their ideas and also challenge the opponent in order to shape public opinion and influence the voters to decide what candidate suits their preference (Melinda et al., 2024). The debate can be the medium to present their political agenda (Melinda et al., 2024) which brings the idea that presidential debate is another form of political campaign. Therefore, those two clauses depict the political ideas that they propose to the voters.

A similar nuance is also pictured in clause number 7 showing that the *candidate* is represented as the agent that promotes themselves. It employs verbs *offer* that collocate the *candidate*. By employing verbs that denote a material process in which the *candidate* is the actor, it describes that the *candidates* have a particular aim by clearly stating it. Since the *candidate* is the actor, it brings the idea of promoting themselves. However, The Jakarta Post includes its subjectivity by utilizing the adjective, *normative*, to describe the solution as the goal, a participant to whom the process is directed (Eggins, 2004). In addition, the use of single quotation marks emphasizes subjectivity which emerges from an idea of belittling the *candidate* even though they do not point toward a certain candidate reflected in the use of the plural form.

Material and mental processes, that are realized in the verbs *offer* and *want*, create a framework that allows the candidate to narrate and describe their internal thoughts. This facilitates an interaction and engagement with the reader by uttering these ideas directly. Consequently, it constructs such expectations for the reader, as they describe the future of their governance. These ideas are also supported using a verbal process, which provides the candidate with the opportunity to speak their opinions, thereby reinforcing the previously stated facts. The verbal process comes in the form of a quotation which is used to validate the facts and keep objectivity.

THE ISSUES

In this general election period, one of the vice-presidential candidates, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, is the current president's son. The Jakarta Post employs several verbs such as *endorse*, *back*, and *benefit* to describe the relationship between the president and the candidate. The verb *endorse* and *back* have a similar meaning which are to support as well as *benefit* to picture a real support. In the governance of Joko Widodo, the Constitutional Court (MK) under the Chief Justice, Anwar Usman, made Constitutional Court Decision Number 90/PUU-XXI/2023 concerning General Election regarding material review of the minimum age requirements for President and Vice President candidates as regulated in Law Number 7 Year 2017 Article 169 letter q (Astuti & Setyarini, 2024). There was a change within the article that previously read that the candidate was "at least 40 (forty years of age)" to "at least 40 (forty) years of age or has/is currently holding office who are elected through general election including regional head election." (Nainggolan & Zainab, 2024). The decision caused chaos among the public in which it shows a political interest pointed to a particular candidate knowing that Anwar Usman is Gibran Rakabuming Raka's uncle as well as President Joko Widodo's brother-in-law, who is alleged to be giving him ease to be able to participate in the 2024 general election as Vice-President (Putri & Khasyi'in, 2023). Therefore, clauses (8) and (9) exhibit Joko Widodo as the actor who does something to the *candidate* which refers to Prabowo-Gibran as a presidential pair. Employing a negative sentence emphasizes that Joko Widodo did not support a particular *candidate*. However, there is an adverb that modifies the verbs *endorse* and *back* which is *explicitly*. The adverb comes to construe the way the process in which it is an example of circumstance of manner (Halliday et al., 2014). There is a presupposition that Joko Widodo might support the *candidate*. A similar description appears in clause (10). Looking at the context, the *candidate* is the participant who is affected by the process in which he is accused of having an advantage over the law that has been decided. Clauses 8, 9, and 10 expose the issue of a problematic *candidate* involving several parties as an actor that creates that idea.

LABELING THE CANDIDATE(S)

It is not only the verbs that collocate the lexeme *candidate* but also some adjectives and nouns that modify the lexeme. The adjectives and nouns that precede the lexeme create a noun phrase functioning as the participant within the clauses. An adjective modifies the *candidate* in clauses (11) and (12) which describe a particular candidate, Anies Baswedan. The copula in clause (11) indicates that it is a relational process that links two entities with one of their characteristics (Banks, 2019) which is also depicted in clause (12), marked with the copula *is*. Both clauses are identified as a relational process where the *candidate* is the Value, the thing that defines the Token that refers to Anies Baswedan, the former education and culture minister. Anies is the *preferred candidate* since he got a higher number compared to another candidate. It leads him to be an unexpected candidate who might run to the second round. The use of the adjective *preferred* and the noun *dark horse* creates a positive description of the candidate for giving an illustration of who he is.

A similar illustration of who the *candidate* is can be seen in clause (13). The use of a noun *rival* that modifies the *candidate* provides a picture of who the candidate is. In the previous general election in 2019, Prabowo Subianto and Joko Widodo were the presidential candidates and Joko Widodo won the race. In this general election, Prabowo Subianto participates again as the presidential candidate inviting Joko Widodo's son as the vice president. However, in this clause, the *candidate* appears in the circumstance where they are described to present more information towards the context. The *candidate* also appears in

circumstance in clause (14). The adjective *anti-establishment* modifies the *candidate* and gives a description specifically of the ideology of the candidate.

THE IMPLICATION

The articles collected were published only in February 2024, the D-day of the election. There were three candidate pairs in the race, Anies Baswedan-Muhaimin Iskandar, Prabowo Subianto-Gibran Rakabuming Raka, and Ganjar Pranowo-Mohammad Mahfud Mahmodin. The candidates are the politicians—ministers, a former mayor, or a former governor—who are placed as the subject and object. In placing the candidate as the subject or the object, it is observed that it is not only a proper name referring to the candidate, but also a noun phrase that is constructed to describe the candidate. The dataset of modifiers shows that adjectives and nouns, including a compound adjective and a compound noun, construct the noun phrase, functioning to identify, describe, and label the candidate (Durán-Muñoz, 2019). Besides, the noun *candidate* is also employed as a pre-modifier to classify, specify, and show the purpose of the headword, where it is widely used in newspaper articles (Biber & Gray, 2011).

From the perspective of transitivity analysis, the verbs that are employed show the way the candidates are presented in the news. The processes are material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioural, and existential processes. The relational and material processes are mainly used to describe the *candidates* in general and to highlight a specific issue. It is observed that mental and verbal processes are used to outline their political agenda during the campaign period. Hence, it aligns with a previous study, which suggests that the verbal process is predominantly employed in hard news genres to deliver information, whereas the material process is more commonly exploited in building an opinion in feature articles (Oktavianti & Adnan, 2020).

The collocation and concordance features that have been presented show that the Jakarta Post attempts to expose the candidates' profiles as well as their agenda in developing their future governance. The Jakarta Post describes the candidate more specifically, such as by who they are and their past work. It is because The Jakarta Post, as a news media, serves as a source of reliable information for the public. In addition, since one of its target audiences is international readers (Tarrant, 2008), providing background information about the candidate is essential. The Jakarta Post also narrates the candidates' campaign that they uttered in the presidential debate. The presidential debate is believed to be one of the platforms for candidates to address key issues and expose their competencies as a promotion of their accountability (Bidwell et al., 2020). Bidwell et al. (2020) also mentioned that the presidential debate can be a source to inform the voters but also to make the voters aware of the candidates' promises. Taking the presidential debate as the topic of the news article, The Jakarta Post attempts to reiterate what the candidates have explained. It was observed that a direct quote was also used, strengthening the intention to keep the originality of the utterance and encourage the readers to keep their eyes on the commitments once one of the candidates is in the office.

Boydston (2013) stated that there are variables that drive issue coverage in the news. It is an institutional setup, the events, the policymaker's attention, the public concern, the diversity of discussion, the agenda congestion, the context, and the prior attention (Boydston, 2013). The Jakarta Post discusses the political agenda stated by the candidate and issues concerning a particular candidate since it is relevant to the real-world event that becomes a public concern. One of the issues is related to Gibran Rakabuming Raka as the vice-presidential candidate who is alleged to have practiced a political dynasty, a member of the same family holds a political position, creating a situation where political power is passed down through generations (Aspinall, 2013). Hidayat (2024) asserted that this issue creates a

phenomenon called political enthusiasm, which is aroused by individual anxiety that encourages them to seek out and investigate developed political behaviour. Furthermore, news outlets, particularly The Jakarta Post, brought these issues to fulfil public interest.

The Jakarta Post responded to the public trend where Anies Baswedan-Muhaimin Iskandar got more attention, proven by several analyses. (Sandra et al., 2024) found that the credibility of the presidential pair number 1, Anies-Muhaimin, is the highest seen through the physical attraction, trust, and expertise categories compared to other presidential pairs based on their survey on a particular area, as well as the public opinion after the first presidential debate in December 2023 (Mukhroman et al., 2024). It is because, from the electability survey conducted in November-December 2023, Anies-Muhaimin were in third place, showing that this presidential pair was not that preferable (Mukhroman et al., 2024). Therefore, The Jakarta Post uses terminology such as dark horse and preferred, indicating the opinion shift and as a practice of taking public concern in their news.

The analysis reveals that language, directly and indirectly, is very dependent on everything that happens to the speaker (Mualafina & Ulfiyanti, 2025), where the speaker has control and power to utilize language to convey what they intend. Here, the media is the one which has the power to influence public perception by the use of ideology and its narrative control (Elsoufy, 2024; Nilamaida & Sumanti, 2022). Hence, applying CDA in evaluating the discourses, The Jakarta Post attempts to engage the public discussion, providing readers with information that encourages critical consideration.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Through the word sketch feature on Sketch Engine, this research found that nouns, adjectives, and a noun phrase modify the candidate. In addition, the *candidate* acts as a subject and an object that is followed and preceded by verbs that show a description, support, and expectation towards the *candidate*. The transitivity analysis is conducted to fulfil the text analysis in the three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis. It is found that material, mental, relational, and verbal processes are used to report the presidential election involving the presidential pairs as the participants. The Jakarta Post depicts a general description of the candidate as well as labels the candidates, discusses what the candidates offer to citizens, and exposes the issues related to the candidate. It is informed by current circumstances, particularly the result of political polling and electability surveys, and also the time at which the news was published, in February, the D-day for the presidential election. It implies that The Jakarta Post attempts to engage the public discussion, providing readers with information that encourages critical consideration. For further research, it is suggested to scrutinise more articles before and after the general election. In addition, it is also recommended to utilize not only ideational metafunction but also others, such as interpersonal and textual metafunction. In terms of the approach, the Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Theo van Leeuwen, specifically discusses how social actors are represented in a discourse, can be used to enhance the analysis.

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