

**The Comparison of Headline in Online Media Platform  
(Republika and Media Indonesia) a Lexical Functional Grammar Study**

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**Abstract**

The aim of this research is to compare the headline of two online media platform in Indonesia; the Republika and Media Indonesia. This research use qualitative descriptive analysis method. The data is analyzed using the Lexical Functional Grammar as an approach. The purpose of using Lexical Functional Grammar is to take a deep look on how the headline news is constructed, as Lexical Functional Grammar is also completed with Constituent Structure, Functional Structure, and Lexical Entry. This research found that there is a difference in the headline construction of Republika and Media Indonesia. Republika tends to use argument ellipsis or additional adjunct and complement. The use of adjunct and complement is to replace the use if the argument elapsed in the headline. Meanwhile, Media Indonesia tends to use complete and standard sentence as their headlines. Even when the headline uses adjunct, actually, without the adjunct the headline in Media Indonesia is already acceptable as Media Indonesia's headline use complete argument and predicate as the base of their headline.

**Keywords:** *lexical functional grammar, LFG, Constituent Structure, Functional Structure, Lexical Entry, headline news*

**Introduction**

Internet has become the basic things people need in this the present time and it has considerable effect over some aspects of people life, and one of them is the media. Nowadays, there are a lot of new online media platforms arise in

Indonesia, especially in the news field. There are a lot of online newspapers in Indonesia. In the news published in online newspapers, headline is the first thing to be noticed by the reader. The role of headlines is as the major constituents of

the news sections and often as the sole 'entry points' to the stories covered by the newspaper (Tattersall, 2008). Their function is to attract the readers and persuade them to click on the link and read the entire story. To gain the attention of the readers, headline mostly use different sentence structure with the standard language (Crystal, 2003). Different newspapers might have different sentence construction of headline when it talks about the same issue. Therefore, it becomes significant to investigate the stylistic and structural shape of online headlines and the strategies used in the construction of the titles. In specific, researcher wants to analyze the different sentence construction from two different online newspapers in Indonesia; *Republika* and *Media Indonesia*. The reason of choosing those two newspapers is because both of two newspapers are enough big newspapers known by Indonesian. It is also noticed by the researcher that those two online newspapers have different framing in the way they portray news. This research will compare the sentence structure of headlines from two online newspapers from the latest issue in Indonesia, Reuni

212. This research will use Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) as an approach.

The problem identified from the background above is how is the sentence structure of headline news in Online Media Platform (*Republika* and *Media Indonesia*) in Indonesia?

Furthermore, This study is to obtain these following objectives:

1. To identify the sentence structure found in headline news of Online Media Platform (*Republika* and *Media Indonesia*) in Indonesia.
2. To explain the headline news of Online Media Platform (*Republika* and *Media Indonesia*) in Indonesia by using LFG approach.

### **Previous Studies**

Some research related to headline news analysis has been done before. The first research was done by Maharani (n.y) with topic the syntactical analysis of newspaper headlines. As it is known that journalistic language is different from standard language, Maharani wanted to know the syntax of headlines, focusing on the types of headlines, especially the difference between sentential and non-sentential headlines and their structures. The data

was gathered from four different newspapers with English as the language of communication. Those newspapers are The International New York Times, China Daily, The Jakarta Post, and Bali Times. Two hundred headlines were gathered as the data. The data was then classified and analyzed using syntactic theory from Quirk et al, Crystal, Van Valin et al, and Swan. The research resulted that sentential headlines occurred more frequently (69.5%) and has the most frequent being the simple sentences with the basic structure S-V-O. This figure supports the statement that the headlines containing a verb form are regarded as more appropriate ones, as omitting verb within headlines construction obstruct the meaning perceived by the readers. In addition, the headlines were mostly statements, which acknowledge the essential function of a headline, namely to inform readers. In comparison to the common structure, distinctive syntactical features represented in the headlines are noun phrase, special tense systems, article drops, special use of passive voice, omission of auxiliary verb to-be, and omission of introductory.

The second research was done by Tereszkieicz in 2012. This research focused on the discourse, syntactic, and lexical properties of headlines in British and German online newspapers. The purpose of this research was to investigate whether the online headlines conform to the conventions traditionally associated with the shape of the newspaper headlines. The analysis covered headlines of news stories from selected British and German online newspapers, both hard and soft news headlines. The analysis investigated as well the relation between the homepage headline and the story headline in online newspapers. The analysis showed that online headlines follow selected conventions of traditional print headlines, but that they have also developed features of their own. The article discusses certain differences between the newspapers covered in the analysis as well.

The research has been done mostly focus on the analysis of headline news in general. Researcher noticed that the analysis of headline news by using LFG approach is still not common. By looking at this fact, researcher tried to complete the gap of the previous research by

conducting a research of headline news analysis from two different online media platform by using LFG approach.

A headline represents the most significant component of the news abstract (Tereszkiewicz, 2012). Its main function is to abstract the main event of a story and attract the reader (Reah 1998, Keeble 1994). The primary functions of headlines involve the informative and descriptive function, i.e. the headlines inform about an event and describe the content of the news story, as well as impressive, due to their role in influencing readers' views and attitudes (Keeble 1994, Reah 1998). It established the ideological principles for the interpretation of the content (Allan, 2004). There are some lexical properties include in the headlines, such as the use of semantic ambiguity, the use of word play, the use of emotive vocabulary, the use of short words – the so-called 'subs' words (probe, vow, tot, cop, hit, etc.). Meanwhile, the syntactic properties from the headlines are the use of active voice, the use of the present tense, omission of grammatical words, and omission of verbs and auxiliaries (Reah, 1998).

## **Review of Related Theories**

### **Headline of News**

#### **Lexical Functional Grammar**

Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) LFG was developed in the mid-to-late 1970s by Joan Bresnan and Ronald M. Kaplan. The aim of LFG is to create a theory that could form the basis of a realistic model for linguistic learnability and language processing. LFG has 3 kinds of analyzing sentence; lexical structure, constituent structure (C – structure), and Functional Structure (F – Structure) (Darlymple, 2010). Lexical structure or the lexical entry includes information about the meaning of the lexical item, its argument structure, and the grammatical functions (e.g. subject, object, etc.) that are associated with those arguments. Constituent structure (C – structure) encodes linear order, hierarchical groupings, and syntactic categories of constituents. Notation of C – structure identifies the grammatical functions that may occur in specific syntactic positions (Darlymple, 2010).

**Research Methodology**

**Method of Collecting Data**

The data is taken from two online media platform in Indonesia; Republika and Media Indonesia. The headline taken from two platforms are related to the *Aksi 212*. The researcher first looks at the website for both of the online media platform and

Republika

- Sejumlah Tokoh Sampaikan Tausiyah dalam Reuni 212 (Sabtu, 02 December 2017, 16:44 WIB)

Sejumlah tokoh	sampaikan	tausiyah	dalam Reuni 212
Argument	Predicate	Argument	Adjunct

- Reuni 212 Berakhir, Komando Aksi Ajak Kumpulkan Sampah (Sabtu , 02 December 2017, 11:39 WIB)

Media Indonesia

**Method of Analyzing the Data**

The data is analyzed by using Lexical Functional Grammar approach. The data is firstly analyzed from the sentence

then search for the news directory in December 2017. The headline news used by the researcher is the headline news published in the same day when the action happened, December 02 2017. The researcher then list some headlines related with *Aksi 212* published in both online media platform.

- Aksi Reuni 212 Bermuatan Politik (Sabtu, 2 December 2017 03:45 WIB)
- Amien Rais ingin Reuni 212 Menggema ke Seluruh Dunia (2 December 2017, 10:45 WIB)

structure, whether there is adjunct or not in the headline. The data is then analyzed by using Constituent Structure and Functional Structure of LFG.

**Findings and Discussion**

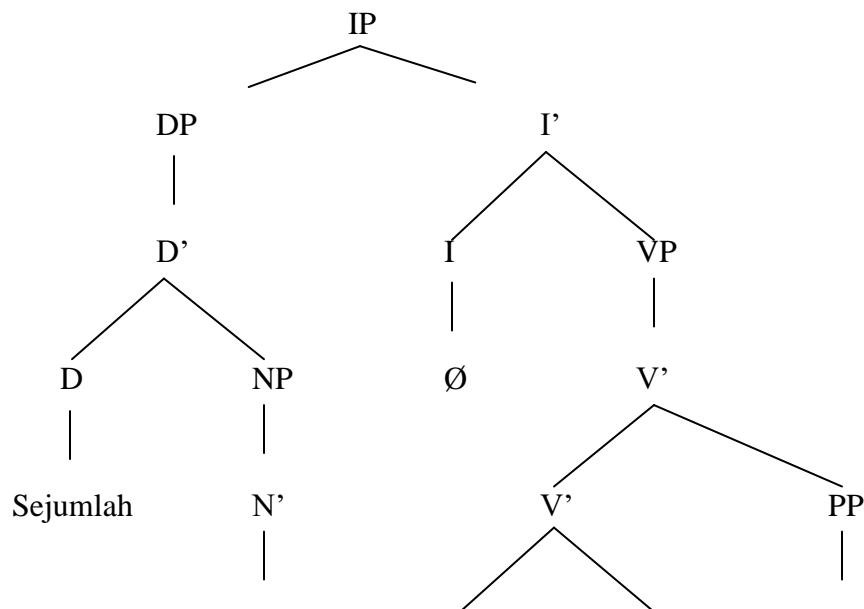
Republika

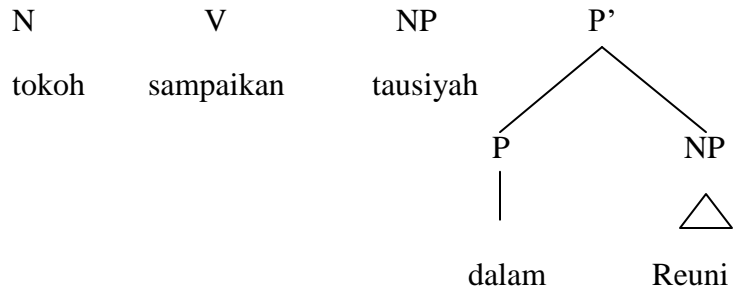
- Sejumlah Tokoh Sampaikan Tausiyah dalam Reuni 212 (Sabtu, 02 December 2017, 16:44 WIB)

The sentence structure of the headline can be explained as follow; The headline above can be explained to have one adjunct in phrase ‘dalam Reuni 212’. The reason is because the phrase ‘dalam Reuni 212’ is optional (non obligatory). In the data above, the predicate ‘sampaikan’ has to have two arguments; those are ‘sejumlah tokoh’ and ‘tausiyah’. If one of the arguments is

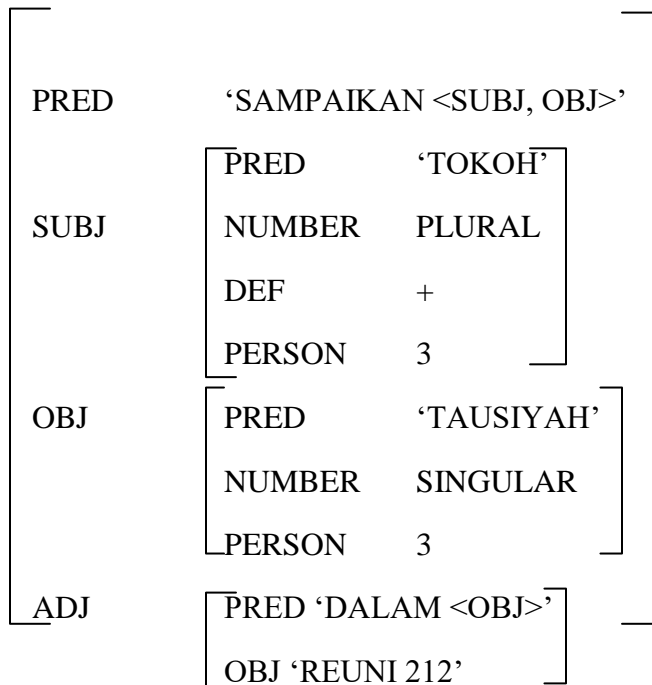
elapsed, the sentence will be unacceptable because the verb ‘sampaikan’ is a transitive verb which needs two arguments. Meanwhile, the adverb phrase ‘dalam Reuni 212’ is included to adjunct because when the phrase is elapsed, the sentence is still acceptable syntactically and semantically, as in the simple sentence in Bahasa Indonesia it only needs subject and predicate to build a sentence.

Constituent Structure





Functional Structure<sub>212</sub>



Lexical Entry

- |           |           |               |  |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|--|
| tokoh     | N (↑PRED) | = ‘tokoh’     |  |
|           | (↑NUM)    | = PL          |  |
| tausiyah  | N (↑PRED) | = ‘tausiyah’  |  |
|           | (↑PERS)   | = 3           |  |
|           | (↑NUM)    | = SG          |  |
| Reuni 212 | N (↑PRED) | = ‘reuni 212’ |  |
|           | (↑PERS)   | = 3           |  |

- (↑NUM) = SG  
 sampaikan V (↑PRED) = ‘sampaikan <SUBJ, OBJ>’  
 dalam P (↑PRED) = ‘dalam <OBJ>’  
 sejumlah D (↑PRED) = ‘sejumlah <SUBJ>’

Reuni 212 Berakhir, Komando Aksi Ajak Kumpulkan Sampah (Sabtu , 02 December 2017, 11:39 WIB)

Reuni 212 berakhir	Komando aksi	ajak	Ø	kumpulkan sampah
Adjunct	Argument	Predicate	Argument	Oblique

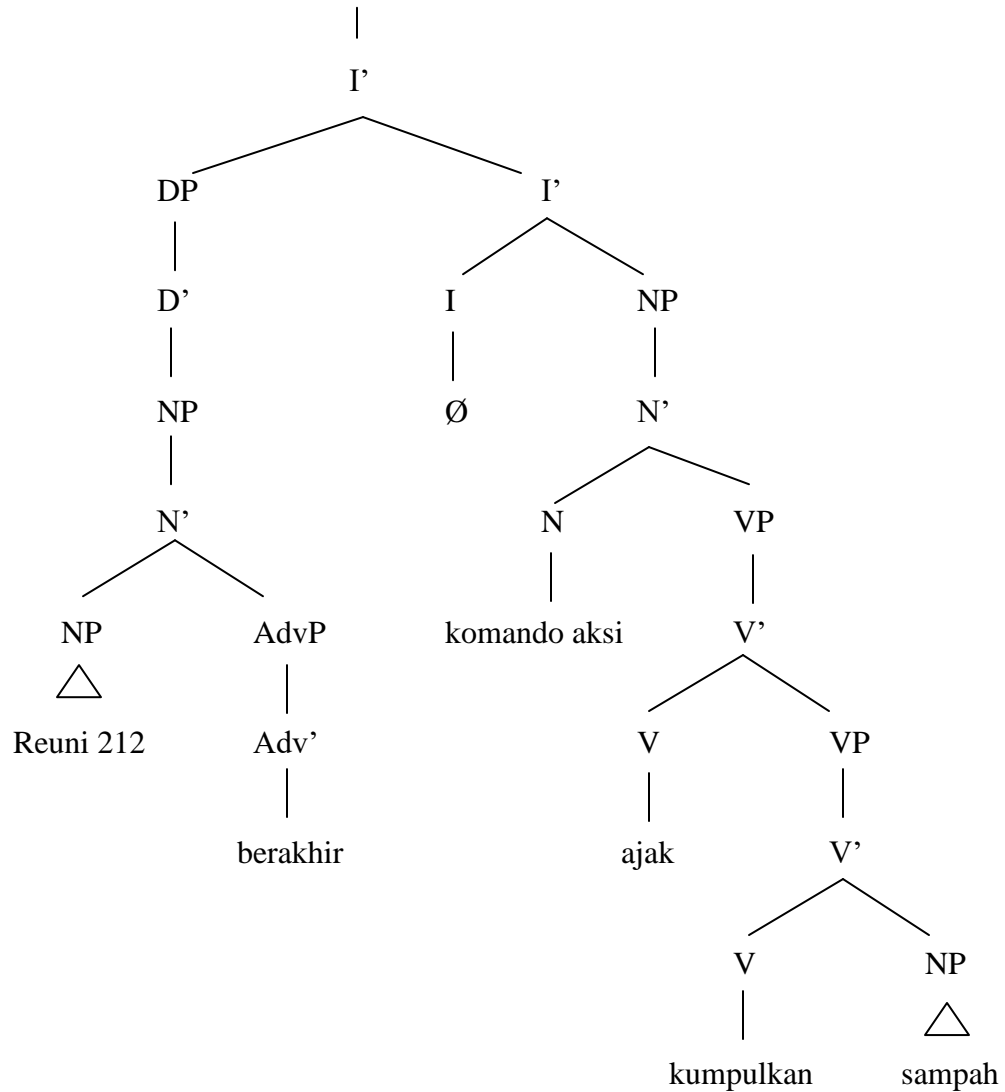
From the table above, it can be explained that the headline has one adjunct, which is ‘*Reuni 212 berakhir*’. The reason of choosing ‘*Reuni 212 berakhir*’ as the adjunct is because the existence of the phrase ‘*Reuni 212 berakhir*’ is optional. When the phrase ‘*Reuni 212 berakhir*’ is elapsed, the rest of the sentence ‘*komando aksi ajak kumpulkan sampah*’ is still acceptable syntactically and semantically. In the table above, it is shown that there is one predicate ‘*ajak*’. It is known that the predicate ‘*ajak*’ is a transitive verb, and it has to have two arguments; the agent and the affected. But, in the table it can be seen that there is the argument ellipsis after the predicate. There is only one argument before the predicate.

Meanwhile, in a complete sentence the predicate ‘*ajak*’ needs to have two arguments. It is known that the main argument in Bahasa Indonesia is subject and object, and a simple complete sentence in Bahasa Indonesia has to be at least in form of S – V – O. The ellipsis of argument which follows the predicate (in this case is object) is one example of argument ellipsis. The oblique occurrence is based on the predicate or verb before it. Therefore, the occurrence of ‘*kumpulkan sampah*’ is obligatory in this headline because the verb ‘*ajak*’ requires one adverb to complete the sentence in order to replace the argument elapsed. If the adverb which follows the predicate is elapsed, the headline will be unacceptable.

Constituent Structure

IP





Functional Structure

PRED	'AJAK <SUBJ, OBJ>'
SUBJ	PRED 'KOMANDO AKSI'
	NUMBER SINGULAR
	DEF +
	PERSON 3
OBJ	[PRED ∅]
PRED	['KUMPULKAN']
OBJ	['SAMPAH']
ADJ	[PRED 'REUNI 212']

ADV 'BERAKHIR'

Lexical Entry

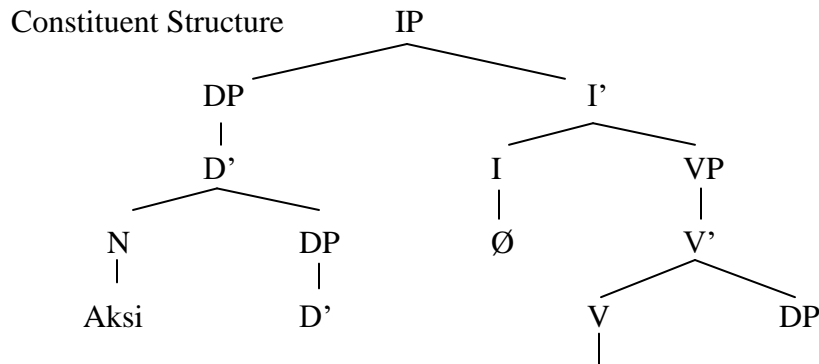
- reuni 212      N (↑PRED) = 'reuni 212'
- (↑NUM) = SG
- komando aksi N (↑PRED) = 'komando aksi'
- (↑PERS) = 3
- (↑NUM) = SG
- sampah        N (↑PRED) = 'sampah'
- ajak            V (↑PRED) = 'ajak'
- kumpulkan    V (↑PRED) = 'kumpulkan <OBJ>'
- berakhir       P (↑PRED) = 'berakhir <OBJ>'

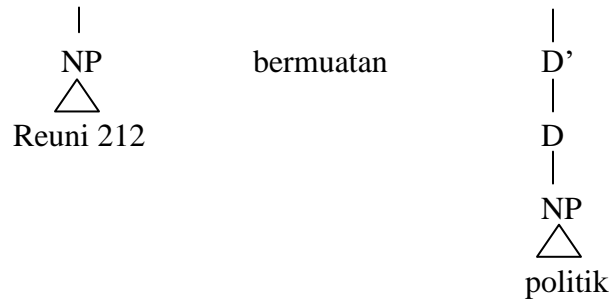
Media Indonesia

- Aksi Reuni 212 Bermuatan Politik (Sabtu, 2 December 2017 03:45 WIB)

Aksi Reuni 212	bermuatan	politik
Argument	Predicate	Argument

The headline above is the example of complete simple sentence. It has subject, predicate and object (S – V – O). It has the agent and the affected. It also has argument which acts as the subject argument and object argument. As a sentence, this headline has fulfilled the requirement to be categorized as a sentence.





Functional Structure

PRED	'BERMUATAN <SUBJ, OBJ>'	
SUBJ	PRED	'AKSI'
	NUMBER	SINGULAR
	DEF	+
OBJ	PERSON	3
	PRED	'POLITIK'
	NUMBER	SINGULAR
COMP	PERSON	3
	[PRED 'REUNI 212']	

Lexical Entry

- aksi            N (↑PRED) = 'aksi'
- (↑NUM) = SG
- politik        N (↑PRED) = 'politik'
- (↑PERS) = 3
- (↑NUM) = SG
- reuni 212      N (↑PRED) = 'reuni 212'
- bermuatan     V (↑PRED) = 'bermuatan'

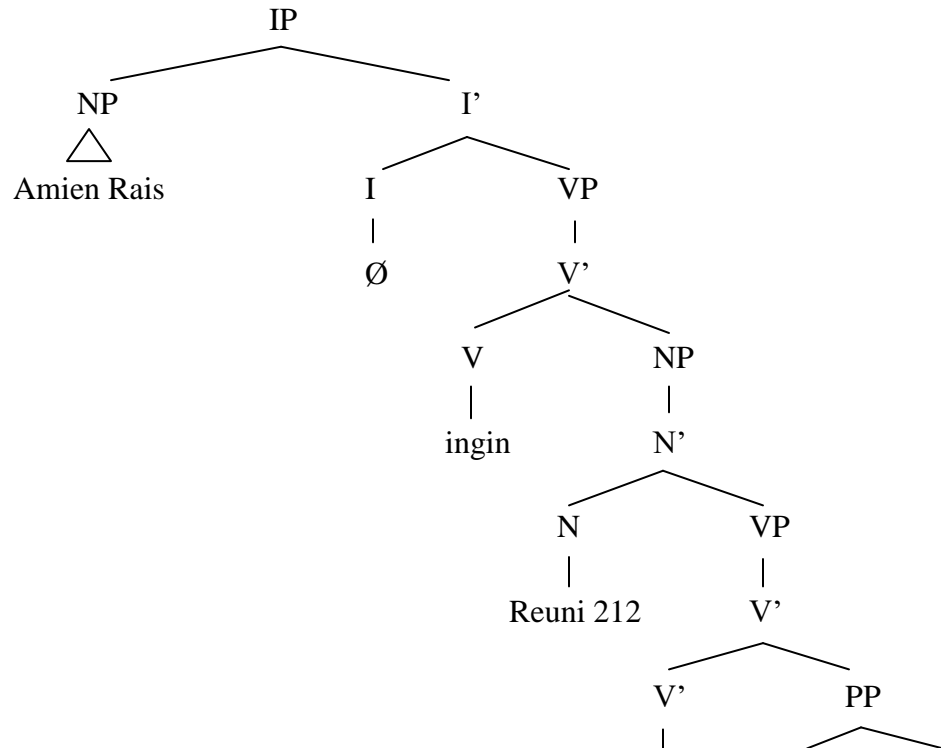
- Amien Rais ingin Reuni 212 Menggema ke Seluruh Dunia (2 December 2017, 10:45 WIB)

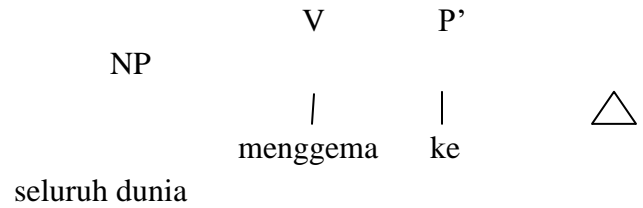
Amien Rais	ingin	Reuni 212	menggema	Ke seluruh dunia
Argument	Predicate	Argument	Complement	Adjunct

From the table above, it can be explained that the headline has one adjunct, which is ‘*ke seluruh dunia*’. The reason of choosing ‘*ke seluruh dunia*’ as the adjunct is because the existence of the phrase ‘*ke seluruh dunia*’ is optional. When the adverb ‘*ke seluruh dunia*’ is elapsed, the rest of the sentence ‘*Amien Rais ingin Reuni 212 Menggema*’ is still acceptable as a sentence. But, it is different when the word ‘*menggema*’ is elapsed. When the word ‘*menggema*’ is elapsed, the headline becomes ‘*Amien Rais ingin Reuni 212 ke*’ has produced a complete sentence.

*Seluruh Dunia*’. Syntactically and semantically, this headline will construct ambiguity. Therefore, ‘*menggema*’ is included into complement because when the word ‘*menggema*’ is elapsed, the sentence will not be acceptable. In the table above, it is shown that there is one predicate ‘*ingin*’. It is known that the predicate ‘*ingin*’ is a transitive verb, and it has to have two arguments; the subject and the object, the agent and the affected. Therefore, this headline

Constituent Structure





Functional Structure

PRED	'INGIN <SUBJ, OBJ>'
SUBJ	PRED 'AMIEN RAIS'
	NUMBER SINGULAR
	DEF +
	PERSON 3
OBJ	PRED 'REUNI 212'
	NUMBER SINGULAR
	PERSON 3
COMP	[V 'MENGHEMA <OBJ>']
ADJ	[ADV 'KE SELURUH DUNIA']

Lexical Entry

Amien Rais	N (↑PRED) = 'amien rais'
	(↑PERS) = 3
	(↑NUM) = SG
reuni 212	N (↑PRED) = 'reuni 212'
	(↑NUM) = SG
ingin	V (↑PRED) = 'ingin <SUBJ, OBJ>'
menggema	V (↑PRED) = 'menggema <DET>'
ke seluruh dunia	D (↑PRED) = 'ke seluruh dunia'

From the findings above, if we take a look at functional structure, the sentence structure of two online media platform is different. Republika tends to use argument ellipsis or additional adjunct and complement. Meanwhile, Media Indonesia tends to use complete and standard sentence as their headl

ines, as it can be seen from the data below.

Functional Structure Republika

PRED	'AJAK <SUBJ, OBJ>'	
SUBJ	PRED	'KOMANDO AKSI'
	NUMBER	SINGULAR
	DEF	+
OBJ	PERSON	3
	[PRED Ø]	
PRED	['KUMPULKAN']	
OBJ	['SAMPAH']	
ADJ	[PRED 'REUNI 212']	
	[ADV 'BERAKHIR']	

Functional Structure Media Indonesia

PRED	'BERMUATAN <SUBJ, OBJ>'	
SUBJ	PRED	'AKSI'
	NUMBER	SINGULAR
	DEF	+
OBJ	PERSON	3
	[PRED 'POLITIK']	
COMP	NUMBER	SINGULAR
	PERSON	3
	[PRED 'REUNI 212']	

**Conclusion**

From the findings above, it can be concluded that *Republika* and *Media Indonesia* has different structure to construct a headline from the same issue. It can be seen from the news published in their online media platform. *Republika* tends to use argument ellipsis or additional adjunct and complement. The use of adjunct and complement is to replace the use if the argument elapsed in the headline. Meanwhile, *Media Indonesia* tends to use

complete and standard sentence as their headlines. Even when the headline uses adjunct, actually, without the adjunct the headline in *Media Indonesia* is already acceptable as *Media Indonesia*'s headline use complete argument and predicate as the base of their headline.

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