

# EXPERIENTIAL MEANINGS IN *WASPADA* EDITORIAL

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## ABSTRAK :

Kajian ini adalah kajian tentang experiential meaning pada editorial salah satu harian terbesar di Sumatera Utara, *Waspada*. Ada tiga hal yang diamati dalam kajian ini, yakni kategori-kategori experience meaning apa saja digunakan dalam teks., kategori apa yang dominan muncul, dan konteks sosial apa yang melatari teks ini. Data di analisis dengan menerapkan teori Sistemik Fungcional Linguistics (SFL). Dari hasil pengamatan ditemukan 5 process, yaitu material, mental, relational, verbal, dan existenatial process, dan 4 circumstances: location, manner, accompaniment, dan role. Material process dan Circumstances of location muncul dengan persentase 33,90 % dan 75,75%. Dalam teks media cetak, biasanya process verbal yang lebih dominan, namun dalam teks ini process verbal justru muncul pada urutan kedua, dengan persentase 30,51. Hal ini terjadi karena text editorial merupakan opini dari editor terhadap suatu isu yang muncul di masyarakat, penulis tidak terlalu mengutamakan bentuk laporan yang terimplementasi dalam proses verbal, penulis lebih mengutamakan menyampaikan pendapatnya. Hal ini dapat dimaklumi karena editorial bukan bentuk laporan peristiwa sebagaimana yang terdapat pada teks berita .

**Kata Kunci:** *experiential meaning, tajuk rencana, teks*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language arises in the life of the individual through an outgoing exchange of meaning with significant others. Language is the product of the social process. Language comes to life only when functioning in some environment. We do not experience language in isolation if we did we would not recognize it as language but always in relation to a scenario, some background of persons and actions and events from which the things which are said derived their meanings. This is referred to as the 'situation', so language is said to function in the contexts of situation.

Newspapers contain the news that is presented in a particular way. The news story related to the account of past events. It may to some extent relate to a factual account, but carries the implication of interpretation, elaboration, the creation of narrative. (Reah, 1998:5) The writer found that the readers are given various sources of information from newspapers. So, the readers should have good

criteria for evaluating news that they read. Otherwise, they will get exhausted in receiving information from local, national, or even foreign media. Through the understanding of experiential meaning, they will know whether the information is suitable for their needs or not.

In editorial, for example, the reader will get various information from the editor of the newspaper. The readers should know if the information in the editorial is suitable for them or not. That is the reason why the writer wants to observe the language in Newspaper text, particularly its editorial. The reader chooses one of *waspada* editorial entitled *Sekali Lagi, Jangan Lupa Membayar THR*. (October 6, 2007)

The problem of the study is (1) what categories of experiential meaning are used in *Waspada* editorial? (2)What is the dominant pattern of experiential meaning used in *Waspada* editorial?

The objectives of the study; (1) to describe experiential used in one of *Waspada editorial*, (2)

to discover the dominant pattern of the use of experiential meaning in *Waspada* editorial. Experiential meanings in this study are based on the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as developed by Halliday, Martin and other systemists.

Experiential meanings are used to describe experience. There are two categories of experiential meaning which are elaborated in chapter 2. firstly, the study deals with the application of SFL theories to the editorial of *Waspada* newspaper. Secondly, the study examines the pattern on the use of experiential meanings in one of *Waspada* editorial. Finally, the study provides explanatory motivations on the use of experiential meanings.

Theoretically, the findings of this study support or criticize SFL theories. the applications of SFL to Bahasa Indonesia adds further horizons and justification of the theories. Practically, findings of the study are beneficial to the newspaper industries. The findings are applicable for the news storywriters in developing newspaper articles. Halliday (1994) says that there are three functions of language for human beings, which are called metafunctions, namely, (1) to represent, (2) to exchange, and (3) to organize experience . technically these meta functions are respectively termed as **ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions**.

The ideational metafunctions divides into two subcategories: **experiential functions**, where language is used to describe experience and **logical functions**, where language is used to relate experience. As functual equals meaning it is said that language conveys four kinds of meaning, namely **experiential, logical, interpersonal** and **textual** meanings. Experiential meaning is related to experiential function.

## 2. Clause

A clause is defined not in formal or traditional sense rather the definition is based on functional grammar as grammatical unit which is constituted by three elements of (1) process, which is equivalent to verb in traditional sense or formal grammar, (2) participant, which is equivalent to subject or object in formal terminology and (3) circumstances, which more or less adverbs in traditional terminology. In the clause *the boy sent a letter yesterday*, *sent* is the process, both *the boy* and *a letter* are the participants and *yesterday* is the circumstances.

## 3. Process

Process is specifically categorized into six types namely material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential process. These categories are based on semantic or syntactic criteria or both. In the following example, the process with examples is presented in a table.

Material process usually occurs in narrative story, such as in short story, novel, and other literatures' works. Mental process occurs in propaganda, diplomatic document, etc, behavioural process in medical and sports, relational in science and technology, verbal and in journalism.

## 4. Participants

The core of the experience in a clause is the process. Consequently, the process itself determines the number of participants bound or attracted.

For practical purpose, the participants divide into one that does the activity (participant I) and one that the process is done to (Participant II). For example, the labels for participants in the material process are *actor* (participant I) and *Goal* (Participant II). Thus in the clause *my father bought a new house*, *My father* is Actor and *a new house* is Goal. With reference to the process types for participants are summarized in the following table.

## 5. Circumstances

Circumstances are general across process types (precisely because they are less centrally involved in the process than participants). In a clause *I bought a new house last week*, *last week* is the circumstance. Specifically, Circumstances divide into nine types. Each of which may also be delicately subdivided. In the following example, the Circumstances with example are presented in a table.

## 6. Social Context

Being different from context, non-linguistic context refers to anything, which is outside the linguistic unit under the study. Specifically, if a sentence is written or an expression is uttered, the context is not or a part of the sentence or utterance but it lies outside the sentence and clause. Thus, no-linguistic context is external in nature in the sense that it does not contain in linguistic unit under investigation. The non linguistic context may be physical in the sense that it refers to objects or thing around or social in the sense that it refers to human beings.

**Table 1 process and the examples**

Types of Process	Semantic criteria	Syntactic Criteria
1. Material	outside human being physical	Unmarked: V+ING run, walk, write, do...
2. Mental	psychological one human participant reversible in participant - Cognition  - Affection  - Perception  - Desire	that-clause (projection)   -know, realize, remember.. -like, love, hate, enjoy... -see, feel, hear.. want, wish, imagine..
3. Relational	Inside and outside -identification -attribution -possession	N $\wedge$ BE $\wedge$ N N $\wedge$ BE $\wedge$ ADJ N $\wedge$ BE $\wedge$ ADV BE (is, are, was..) become, sound, look, play...
4. Behavioural	Physiological	smile, laugh, sleep, bow, die...
5. Verbal	information human and non-human participant	that-clause (projection) say, tell, ask, order, instruct ...
6. Existential	existence of entity	There $\wedge$ BE ... There is a car in the park. BE, come, go...

In SFL theory the external contexts are subsumed under the term as *social context*. Thus, physical environment is seen and realized I social context of situation (*register*), culture (*genre*), and ideology (martin, in Saragih: 2006)

### 7. Newspaper

A newspaper is a printed publication, issued daily or weekly, with news, advertisement, on various subjects, etc. (Oxford Learns Advance Dictionary: 833:1989) newspaper is a publication devoted chiefly to presenting and commenting on the news. Newspapers provided an excellent means of keeping well informed on current

events. They also contain the information vital to the function of the market it serves.

Newspapers have certain advantages over the other major news media, television, radio, and news magazine. For example Newspaper can cover more news and in much greater detail than can television and radio news bulletins

Newsmagazines concentrate on the chief national and international events. But daily newspapers report local as well as national and international news.

Newspaper texts includes news story, editorials, features, letter the editor, advertisements, and classified texts such as

**Tables 2 labels of participants**

Process	Participant I	Participant II
1. Material	Actor	Goal
2. Mental	Senser	Phenomenon
3. Relational		
a. Identification	Token	Value
b. Attribution	Carrier	Attribute
c. Possession	Possessor	Possessed

condolence, wedding, tributary. In term of the content, the newspaper texts are classified into politic, economic, social cultural, sport, and miscellaneous one. Differently, in term of coverage the newspaper texts can be local, national, regional, and international. Editorial is special article in newspaper, etc, giving an opinion on some topical issue ( Oxford advanced Learners Dictionary:384: 1989).

This study is about editorial text. The editorial's text investigated in this study is entitled *Sekali Lagi, Jangan Lupa Bayar THR* (Once Again, Don't forget to pay the Bonus near Holidays).

### 8. Conceptual Framework

It is deduced from the previous theoretical frame accounts that language is functionally structured. It means that the structure of the text is determined by the function that participants set for language.

The structure of the text is determined by the aim of the text. This implies that there are certain characteristics of language used in the newspaper texts. Specifically, experiential function of the editorial text has its own features which are

distinguishable from the use of experiential function in other use of language.

Of the three languages Meta function, this study is concerned with experiential function. Experiential function results in experiential meaning. There are three types of experiential meaning, participant, process, and circumstances. Of the 6 types of process, there are only 5 types occur. While in circumstances, only 4 types occur of nine ones. This concept is based on the theoretical bases as developed by Halliday and other sistemists previously related. The dominant use of experiential meanings in one of the *Waspada* editorial is attributed to the social context in which editorial text is produced. This study is aimed at finding the dominant type and its social context.

### 9. Data Analysis and Findings

9.1. The experiential meanings in the sample text of *Waspada* editorial is analyzed with reference to the categories and theories of SFL. The data are elaborated in the following subsections in term of types and proportion of experiential functions. Further the social context of the text is treated to indicate explanatory aspects of their occurrences.

.Tables 3 Circumstances

Types of Circumstances	Subcategory	Probe	Example
Extent	temporal	for how long?	for three hours every two weeks
	spatial	how far?	for six miles
2. Location	temporal	when?	yesterday last week
	spatial	where?	here in the room
3. Manner	--	how?	quickly
4. Cause	--	why?	very much because of the rain for better result
5. Contingency	--	in what circumstances?	in the event of rain in the absence of proof
7. Matter	--	what about?	about this about economics
8. Accompaniment	--	together with?	with(out) friends instead of the man
9. Angle	--	says who?	according to weather forecast

### 9.1.1. Process

#### 9.1.1.1 Material

Material processes indicate activities or events, which happen in the outside the human beings. This process refers to physical experience of human beings. Syntactically the unmarked tense associated to material process is the present continuous tense. The experience meaning in the editorial studied occurs in 20 clauses. The following examples show the occurrence of material process.

- a. *dalam sebulan ini seorang pekerja dengan dua anak akan mengeluarkan*  
in a month this a worker with two child will release *biaya hidup lebih besar.* fare alive more big. 'in this month a worker with two children will spend a bigger cost of living.'
- b. *pekerja hanya menuntut THR sekali setahun, bukan tiga atau empat kali*  
worker only demand bonus once a year, not three or four times 'workers only demand the THR bonus once a year, not three times or four'.
- c. *harusnya kita bisa menganalisa .....*  
should it we can analyze 'it is prosper that we can analyze....'

#### 9.1.1.2 Mental

Mental processes refer to verbs indicating perception, cognition, and affection. Semantically a mental process involves sense, which is inside the human or conscious being. Mental process is related psychological matters. Syntactically the unmarked tense associated with this type of process the simple present tense. Mental process occurs 10 times in the studied editorial. The following examples show the occurrence of mental process.

- a. *kita juga berharap...*  
we also hope 'we also hope.....'
- b. *pengusaha perlu nurani*  
entrepreneur need lustrous 'entrepreneurs need inner self.'
- c. *atau mari kita kalkulasikan tentang hitungan-hitungan THR ini*

or let us calculate about counting bonus this 'or let us calculate about the counting of the bonus.'

#### 9.1.1.3 Relational

Relational processes construe being and relation among entities through identification, attribution and possession. Syntactically the process belongs to the "copula" construction. Relational process occurs 7 times in the studied editorial. The following examples show the occurrence of mental process.

- a. *keluhan pekerja sudah terlalu banyak.*  
Complain worker already too much 'the workers' complains have been too much.'
- b. *mereka juga berhak merayakan hari besar keagamaan*  
they also have right celebrate day big religious. 'they also have right to celebrate their religious holiday.'
- c. *sebenarnya THR yang dibayarkan pun tidak akan sanggup menanggung*  
actually bonus that paid then not will able responsible actually bonus paid will not guarantee
- beban hidup selama Ramadhan dan lebaran*  
burden life during Ramadhan and lebaran  
the burden of living during Ramadhan and lebaran day.

#### 9.1.1.4 Verbal

Verbal processes show related to information. Specifically, the process includes that of saying, commanding, asking, and offering. Syntactically, the process can project another clause. Mental process occurs 18 times in the studied editorial. The following examples show the occurrence of verbal process.

- a. *agar masalah hak ribuan karyawan tersebut dapat diselesaikan*  
so that problem right thousands worker called can finished 'so that the rights if thousands of workers can be settled'

Demikian papar menaker Erman Suparno.

Thus explain minister of labor Erman Suparno explained the Minister of Labour.'

b. *menjawab pertanyaan wartawan*  
answer question journalist  
'answered the journalists' question'

c. *dia sudah langsung meneriakkan*  
he already direct yelling  
'he has yield strightly'

### 9.1.1.5 Existential

Existential processes share features if relational process in the sense that the common verb is *BE* (is, am, are, was, were, have been, etc.) and other verbs such as *go, come, toil*. Syntactically the process is preceded by *there*. Existential processes occur 4 times in the studied editorial. The following examples show the occurrence of existential process.

a. *tapi ada 8 perusahaan*  
but exist 8 company  
'but there are 8 companies.'

b. *segera ada realisasi THR*  
soon exist realization bonus  
'there will be a realization of the bonus soon'

c. *jangan ada niat pengusaha menahan untuk membayar beberapa hari saja*  
no exist intention entrepreneur restrain to pay several day only  
'Don't have any intention from the entrepreneur to restrain the payment of the bonus for several days.'

### 9.1.2. Circumstances

Circumstances are general across process types (precisely because they are less centrally involved in the process than participants). In a clause *I bought a new house last week, last week* is the circumstance. Specifically, Circumstances divide into nine types. Each of which may also be delicately subdivided. The circumstances in the editorial studied occur in 33 clauses. The following examples show the occurrence of material process.

#### 9.1.2.1 Location

Circumstance of location consists of two things; temporal and spatial. Temporal shows the time of the situation happen in a clause. It answers the question 'when' and spatial show the

space of the situation it answers question 'where'.

The circumstances of location is the most dominant circumstances occurs in the object studied. it occurs 25 times. The following examples show the occurrence of circumstances of location.

#### I. spatial

- a. menjelang lebaran : circumstance:  
location; Spacial.
- b. menjelang lebaran : circumstance:  
location; Spacial
- c. Jakarta, Kamis (4/10 2007) :  
location Spatial.

#### II. Temporal

- a. sekarang (now)  
:location:temporal
- b. di bulan Ramadhan (in fasting month)  
:location:temporal
- c. minimal setahun (minimally a year) :  
location:temporal

#### 9.1.2.2 Manner

The circumstances of manner are not dominant in the object studied. it occurs only 4 times. The following examples show the occurrence of circumstances of

- a. sekali-sekali (sometimes) manner
- b. sebenarnya (actually) manner
- c. secara umum (generally) manner

#### 9.1.2.3 Accompaniment

The circumstances of accompaniment are also not dominant in the object studied. It occurs only 3 times. The following examples show the occurrence of circumstances of accompaniment

- a. dengan sedikit suntikan THR (with a bit injection): accompaniment
- b. dengan para pekerja (with the workers) : accompaniment
- c. berkomunikasi dengan pekerja (communicate with the workers): accompaniment

#### 9.1.2.4 Role

The circumstances of role is only found once in the object studied. The following example shows the occurrence of circumstances of a. jadi (so) : role.

The total number of processes and circumstances that occur in the object studied can be seen in the table below:

**Table.4 Experiential Function (Process)**

No.	Types of Process	Number	%
1.	Material	20	33.90
2.	Mental	10	12.30
3.	Relational	7	5.30
4.	Behavioural	-	0
5.	Verbal	18	30.51
6.	Existential	4	7.78
	<b>Total</b>	59	100

**Table 5. Experiential Function (circumstances)**

No.	Types of Circumstance	Number	%
1.	Location	25	75.75
2.	Extent	-	
3.	Manner	4	12.11
4.	Accompaniment	4	12.11
5.	Cause	-	
6.	Contingency	-	
7.	Role	1	3.03
8.	Matter	-	
9.	Angle	-	
	<b>Total</b>	33	100

**9.2. Social Context of *Waspada's* Editorial**

As summarized in table 4 the dominant type of process experiential meaning occurring in *Waspada's* Editorial is material process and circumstance of locations. Material process occurrence is 33.90 % of the total of nine types of Material process. Circumstance of location occurrence is 75.75 % in *Waspada's* Editorial.

As mention in the explanation above, tentatively it is concluded that the genre of Narrative is closely associated to Material Process and Circumstance of Location. In other words, grammatically telling a story is unmarkedly realized by the two grammatical aspects.

Generally, News report dominantly contains verbal process since the function of verbal process is to give information and verbal activities. However, in this editorial verbal process is the second dominant process occurs. It is can be understood that the analyzed editorial dominantly contents material process since the text is about the editor's opinion about a hot issue. The text is not fully about reporting information; it tends to show the writer's opinion. As the function of the newspaper is to give information to the readers, it is better that process verbal should be the dominant process in his/her writing

**10. Conlussion**

- a. There are five processes and four circumstances occur in one of *waspada* editorial. The most dominant process is material process, and the second one I verbal process. The most dominant circumstances occurs is circumstances of location.
- b. It is suggested that the editorials writers should apply the findings of the study . Especially they should proportionally apply the verbal process dominantly in their report.

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17. tetapi pihak manajemen kabur  
process: material
18. dan tersangkut hubungan industrial  
material
19. persoalannya sekarang para pekerja sangat berharap napas tambahan  
circ:loc:temporal mental
20. jangan sampai mereka harus mendapat kurangan finansial saat  
process:material
21. menghadapi lebaran  
circ:loc:temporal
22. keluhan pekerja sudah terlalu banyak  
process:relational
23. gaji yang tidak mengikuti upah minimum regional  
process:verbal
24. atau kenaikan gaji yang selalu tertunda-tunda.  
process:verbal
25. sampai masalah THR yang telat bayar  
process:verbal
26. jadi ada baiknya jangan sampai semua persoalan menumpuk  
process:verbal
27. sekali-sekali perusahaan mengertilah masalah kesulitan buruh  
circ::manner process:material
28. dan karyawan kecil
29. mereka juga berhak merayakan hari besar keagamaan  
process:relational
30. dengan sedikit sunikan THR  
circ: accompaniment
31. jadi bayarlah kewajiban itu sesuai ketentuan  
circumstance:role process:material
32. kita juga berharap  
process:mental
33. kalau kemudian ada perusahaan  
process:verbal
34. yang tidak memenuhi kewajibannya  
process:material
35. segera menerapkan sanksi  
process:material
36. sudah pasti jika perusahaan kesulitan  
circ::manner

37. jumlah THR bisa didiskusikan dengan para pekerja.  
process:material                      circ:accompaniment
38. jangan sampai mengambil tindakan sendiri  
process:material
39. apalagi tidak berkomunikasi dengan pekerja  
process:material                      circ:accompaniment
40. ketika perusahaan dililit persoalan  
process:material
41. semua bisa dikomunikasikan  
process:verbal
42. pengusaha perlu nurani  
process:mental
43. pekerja hanya menuntut THR sekali setahun, bukan tiga atau empat kali  
process:mental
44. atas dasar itulah semua pekerja di Indonesia ini berharap  
circumstance:matter                      circumstance:loc:spatial                      process:mental
45. segera ada realisasi THR  
process:existencial
46. memperlamanya sama dengan mengundang reaksi pekerja  
process:material
47. di bulan Ramadhan seperti ini  
circumstance:loc:temporal
48. ketika timbul situasi kurang kondusif  
process: relational
49. antara pekerja dan perusahaan akan lebih banyak mudharatnya  
process: possession
50. jadi sekali lagi
51. silkan semua perusahaan memenuhi kewajiban membayar THR  
process:mental
52. paling tidak dua minggu sebelum lebaran  
circumstance:loc:temporal
53. sebelum mengungkapkan 8 perusahaan itu  
circumstance:loc:temporal
54. menteri juga sempat mengeluarkan statement  
process:verbal
55. agar saat seminggu puasa  
circumstance:loc:temporal



