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Modality In Covid-19 Articles of Social And Political Academic Journal

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Abstract

This research aims to identify the types and values of modality and to analyze how the modality realized in Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal by applying the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory. This research used qualitative descriptive research method and also employed the theory proposed by Halliday [9]. The data was the clauses from six Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal in different aspects, such as in the field of (social, economy, political, health, communication, and tourism) Written by Indonesian writer that published in Universitas Gajah Mada from July until November 2020. The data were collected through documentary technique. The findings of this study showed that there were two types of modalities used in Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. There were 173 clauses categorized as modalization type and 87 clauses categorized as modulation type. Furthermore, there were found three values of modality consisting of high, median and low. Yet, median value was the most popular value in Covid-19 articles. This study also found the realization of modality as modal operators generally used in Covid-19 articles as it is found 238 clauses categorized as modal operators from the analysis.

Keywords: Modality; Covid-19 Articles; Academic Journal

1. Introduction

The world community was faced by a new virus Corona or the term Covid 19. The Covid-19 outbreak was occurred in the city of Wuhan; China in November 2019 declared a global pandemic by the world Health Organization (WHO) On March 11th, 2020. The reporting of the disease was done on June 16th, 2021, there have been 176, 480, 226 confirmed cases of Covid-19, include 3,825, 240 deaths (The World Health Organization, 2021).

Pandemic Covid-19 influences aspects of social life, such as in the field of social, economy, political, health, communication, and tourism. Since March 2020, the implementation policies of Covid-19 have been applied among people, such as forbidding the people to gather, doing activities outside, and asking to stay at home. Indonesia will implement new normal although this Covid-19 has not ended yet. Even though, there is the health protocol in every institution or place while it does not mean that we can avoid Covid-19.

This fact makes many researchers who write their observations about this phenomenon into various forms of text, such as in the article which is useful as a guide for the government and the public to understand and provide information about Covid-19 and the reader can make wise decisions to deal with this phenomenon. Article is a research report which is based on the fact and data found in the text, in the form of clauses. Martin stated that a scientific text is factual because it is written based on the empirical fact [13]. Writers use theories to write articles which are the data gained from their study that are called article or research report. The report is submitted to a journal as a home or a compiling book.

One of the functions of language, as a social phenomenon that has different function as proposed by Halliday is interpersonal function [9]. One of the realizations of interpersonal function is called modality. Modality is a way of the writers to express their attitude toward certain issue. According to [16] Modality is defined as a particular way to express the attitude of the speaker or the writer about what must be done, what should be done, what may be done, and what would be done. It is necessary to understand the writer's attitude or personal judgment behind the texts. The truth meaning in the text can change depend on the modality used by the writers.

Modality is common used in spoken and written text. But, without doing research, no one knows the types of modality and values are realized in academic writing texts. The academic writing role is to convince the existence of the language in the Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. The use of the modality types, whether modalization or modulation by knowing the types of modality and the value, the writers can improve their knowledge about modality. The data mainly from the source of Covid-19 articles because it discusses about the current issue and the fact happened, the readers know the purposes of the writer in expressing their ideology through modality. The researcher decided to choose the topic about Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal which are written by Indonesian writer that published in *Universitas Gajah Mada* from July until November 2020, Scopus indexed.

This study about modality in writing had been conducted by several researchers. [11] analyzed modality in academic articles and employed theory proposed by Quirk (1985). The result showed that there was no significant difference in the use of modality used by male and female authors in academic writing articles. Hardjanto conducted the use of modal in research articles [10]. He investigated modal auxiliary verb as the principal of hedging in English academic discourse. In analyzing the data, he used Hyland's theory (1996). Even though similar researches have been done before, this research is still worth to be conducted as it has different theory. In this research used the theory proposed by (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004).

From the previous study above, it helps the researcher to develop the idea of how the modality realized in Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. The main issues addressed in this study are the modality of social and political academic journal found in their articles. The inquiry towards these issues is formulated in the following research question:

1) What are modality types and values used in covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal?
2) How is the modality realized in covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal?

2. Literature Review

Modality is the intermediate degrees between yes and no and between positive and negative poles [9]. Halliday categorizes some ways in realizing modality. They are finite modal operator, modal adjunct, expansion of predicator, combination of finite modal operator and modal adjunct. Halliday divided modality into two types, they are modalization and modulation Each of those two types is also divided into two types. The modalization is divided into probability and usuality, while modulation is divided into Obligation and Inclination. The two categories of modalization and modulation have three values, they are high, median and low.

Modality is particularly useful in academic writing where it is trying to indicate to the reader what extent aligns with evidence we are reporting, quoting or paraphrasing. The term academic writing refers to the forms of expository and argumentative prose used by university students, faculty, and researchers to convey a body of information about a particular subject. Research article is one of a list of documents where academic writing is used. Research journal article in this study is a kind of scientific text. Scientific text is simple. Writers write their ideas and findings in simple clauses to make readers understand the text easily. Cresswell research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase understanding of an issue [7]. Martin states that a scientific text is factual because it is written based on the empirical fact [13]. Hartley (2008) stated that research journal article is precise, impersonal, and objective. Precise means representative in presenting their findings to readers.

3. Research Method

This research applied qualitative research. According to Bogdan and Biklen, qualitative research is descriptive which means the data collected are in form of words or pictures rather than numbers [2]. The data of this research is a clause that contained of modality that has been analyzed. The main sources of the data in this research is Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal which conducted by *Universitas Gajah Mada* from https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/ that written by Indonesian writer from July until November 2020, has been indexed Scopus.

The data of this research will be collected by using documentation method. Documentary technique is a method for collecting the data which is kept in the form of documentation [5]. To collect the data, the researcher downloaded the Covid-19 articles from social and political academic journal https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/ , read the articles, divided into clause and classify the clauses into the types and value of modality. All clauses will be given numbering in order to get easier to identify and analyses the data.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1. Types and Values of Modality in Covid-19 Articles

Modality correspondingly has two types: modalization and modulation. Modalization involves the validity of information and modulation is associated with the responsibility on the speaker and reader in suggestion, command, and willingness. There are three values of modality; they are high, median, and low. In this analysis, the researcher analysed six Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. They were:
1) Partisanship in Crisis: public response to covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia
2) Does the covid-19 pandemic affect the stock market in Indonesia
3) Assessing the Papuan government's policy for tackling the Spread of coronavirus (Covid-19)
4) Indonesian government's Covid-19 measures, January-May 2020: Late response and public health securitization
5) Pandemic crisis in online media: Quantitative framing analysis on detik.com's coverage of covid-19
6) Pandemic international travel: Does risk perception and stress-level affect future travel intention

4.1.1. Modalization

Type of modality used to determine the probability and usuality of a proposition. Probability type occurred when someone stated a situation or condition and something as a prediction that would happen in the future [9]. The first analysis discussed in high degree of probability, then median degree and low degree of modality.

Table 1. Types and Values of Probability

Article 4	President Jokowi instructed that all Covid-19 data **must be** open for access	High Degree of Probability
Article 2	Indonesia **would** have a higher impact if foreign investors left the domestic financial market	Median Degree of Probability
Article 5	We **can** see after February 21st and especially in March, the average tone of reporting about the government becomes repeatedly negative	Low Degree of Probability

Usuality is a type of modalization that expresses the frequency of occurrences stated in the statement [9]. The use of usuality aimed to express something that they did most of the time. There were two degrees of usuality found in Covid-19 articles, they were high degree of usuality and median degree of usuality.

Table 2. Types and Values of Usuality

Article 5	Indonesian government as the main source of information almost **always** occupy the top and dominant position	High Degree of Usuality
Article 5	The government is **often** used as the main source of information	Median Degree of Usuality

4.1.2. Modulation

Modulation is the intermediate range of proposal. There are two ways of realizing modulation, consisting of obligation and inclination.

Obligation is something that must be done. It expresses a necessity of doing something [9]. There were three degrees of Obligation found in Covid-19 articles they were high, median, and low degree of modality.

Table 3. Types and Values of Obligation

Article 2	The government **must** apply a policy to prevent and mitigate the economic decline and deep recession, especially on the financial market	High Degree of Obligation
Article 5	The government **should** be most responsible for prevention, mitigation and other measures	Median Degree of Obligation
Article 6	Many other strategies **could** be developed to appeal to social risk perception such as individual travelling	Low Degree of Obligation

Inclination is used when someone has a desire to do something for others [9]. Inclination means the intention or willingness of someone to do something and the capability from his/her own feeling. There were two degrees of Inclination found in Covid-19 articles they were median and low degree of inclination.

Table 4. Types and Values of Inclination

Article 3	"The authors **will** discuss the correlation between national policy regarding large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) towards provincial policy analysis"	**Median Degree of Inclination**
Article 6	Tourists are still **willing** to spend to travel"	**Low Degree of Inclination**

In this analysis there were found 260 clauses which contained modality in Covid-19 articles. The recapitulation of types and values of modality in six Covid-19 articles can be seen in the following table.

Table 5. Modality Types and Value in Covid-19 Articles

Modality						
Types		**Frequency**	**%**	**Value**	**Frequency**	**%**
Modalization	Probability	159	61.1%	High	45	17.3%
	Usuality	14	5.4%	Medium	113	43.4%
Modulation	Obligation	54	20.8%	Low	102	39.3%
	Inclination	33	12.7%			
Total		**260**	**100%**		**260**	**100%**

The result of this study showed that there were two types of modality in Covid-19 articles. They were modalization and modulation. Modalization took the largest proportion in Covid-19 articles. There were 173 clauses categorized as modalization. There were found 159 clauses which expressed probability. The writers used modality to persuade the readers by giving the possibilities that would happen in future. There were some clauses categorized as modalization because the writers used modality to express usuality.

Furthermore, there were also found modulation type used by the writers in the articles. There were 87 clauses categorized as modulation. There were two ways in expressing modulation type. They were obligation and inclination. In this analysis found that the writers used modulation to ask the readers to do something. They gave suggestion, command, advice, and willingness to the readers in the articles.

Modality values also used by the writers in Covid-19 articles. It could be concluded that median degree was the dominant degree of modality. Median degree indicated that the statement was in the range of yes or no [9]. The use of median degree was mostly found in probability. Median degree of probability indicated that the prediction could

be happened or not. Clauses were categorized as median degree since the use of modal will, will not, would, would not, probably, and others.

4.2. The Realization of Modality in Covid-19 Articles

Modality can be realized in the form of finite modal operators, modal adjunct, and adjective predicator in covid-19 articles.

4.2.1. The Realization of Modality in Covid-19 Articles

The unmarked type of modality is expressed in such overt modal operators as *must, can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, ought* and semi modals *need* and *dare*. It can be an obligation, probability, ability, or permission depending on the context.

Article 4:

*"Covid-19 pandemic **can** be characterized by late response due to initial de-securitization of the issue"*

The clause realized modal operator *can* give the information to the reader and be aware by understanding the character of Covid-19 pandemic. *Can* is realized in the clause shows the writer tells the information about Covid-19. Modal can express that a speaker feels something is ability, necessary, information, permission, possible, probable.

4.2.2. Modal Adjunct

Modality may also be expressed by adjuncts such as certainly, definitely, probably, possibly, perhaps, maybe, always, usually, often, obviously.

Article 5:

*"Indonesian government as the main source of information almost **always** occupy the top and dominant position"*

The realization of modal adjunct *always* showed the usuality about how frequently the proposition or statement is true. In this example, *always* refers the frequency of occupying the top and dominant position of Indonesian government as the main source of information.

4.2.3. Expansion of Predicator

Article 3:

*"Tourists are still **willing** to spend to travel"*

The realization of adjective *willing* in the clause was presented that the tourists still have a hope to travel internationally. It can support the tourism industry will revive and amass their economic that losses in time. Adjective *Willing* showed willingness of the tourists to pay the intention to travel internationally.

4.2.4. Combination of Modal

Article 2:

*"The government **has to** make sure foreign investor **can** replace and build their factory in Indonesia to have more capacity and capability in labour, capital and other resources."*

From the example above, it realized modal operator *has to* and modal operator *can* in one clause. Modal "has to" showed an emphasize that the government required to convince the foreign investor that can replace the country loss, the writer added modal *can* showed the ability of the foreign investor to build their factory in Indonesia better.

Table 6. Typical realization of modality found in Covid-19 Articles

Typical Realization	Positive	Frequency	Negative	Frequency
Modal Operator	Can	47	Will not	3

Category	Modal	Count	Modal	Count
	Will	41	Might not	1
	Would	39	Can not	2
	Could	26	May not	2
	Should	18	Should not	1
	Must	16	Could not	1
	Might	16		
	Need to	14		
	May	9		
	Has to	1		
	Had to	1		
Modal adjunct	Often	9		
	Always	3		
	Usually	2		
	Certainly	1		
	Possibly	1		
	Possible	1		
	Probable	1		
Adjective Predicator	Willing	1		
Combination Modal	Has to	1		
	Can			
	Must	1		
	Willing			
	Might not	1		
	Willing			
Total		**260**		

Based on the table above, it is found that the clauses in Covid-19 articles articles of social and political academic journal above realized finite modal operator such as can, *could, will, would, may, might, has to, need*, modal adjunct such as often, *usually, always, often, possibly,* and also found adjective predicator such as *willing*. In this analysis found that the writers generally used finite modal operators in their articles as there were 238 modal operators found and followed by modal adjunct with the number of 18. Otherwise, passive verb and adjective predicator were rarely used by the writers as it was found only 1 adjective predicator and there were 3 clauses used combination of modal.

5. Discussion

Pandemic Covid-19 influences some aspects, such as in the field of social, economy, political, health, communication, and tourism. Indonesia announced implementation new normal that contain health protocol in every institution or place. This fact makes many researchers write their observation about this phenomenon into various forms of text. Articles are products of human minds reflecting ideas and opinion of the writer. It can be seen in six articles about Covid-19. The writer tries to describe how their observation can influence the reader about what must be done, what should be done, what may be done, and what would be done.

From the results, there were found out in the articles of social and political academic journal "probability" of modalization was the most dominant type in six Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. Probability with the finite modal operator "will" has a total frequency of 41 clauses. Probability type also dominates in article 1,

article 2, article 3, article 4, and article 6. "will" in probability expresses something that would happen in the future. In the table, we can see the type of probability is the most occurrences. It expresses the information of the articles delivered by the writer is possible to be happened in time or future. As far as it is concerned, probability has been used by the writers when they want to express judgments to the probability with which something happening or being.

Furthermore, finite modal operator was the most common using to the realization of modality in Covid-19 articles. There were some top finite modal operator used, such as can, *could, will, would, may, might, has to, need*, modal adjunct such as often, *usually, always, often, possibly,* and also found adjective predicator such as *willing*. The fact that the use of certain modal operator was more frequent than other is contextually deployed to achieve specific communication intents. Modal operator was a very useful to convince or persuade the reader to understand the other side of the argument to support a new belief or idea. The used of modal operator in Covid-19 articles as strong evidence to express what his believe toward being likely to be happened.

6. Discussion

There were six Covid-19 articles in social and political academic journal consist of 260 clauses. The findings got two types of modality used in social and political academic journal. there were modalization and modulation. These types have two types of intermediacy on each, probability and usuality for modalization and for modulation there were obligation and inclination. Modalization has 66.5% and modulation has 33.5%. Moreover, there were found three values of modality consisting of high, median, and low. The writers mostly used median value in six Covid-19 articles and tend to use finite modal operator, modal adjunct, adjective predicator, and combination of modal in the Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal.

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