ENGLISH VERBS IN LIFESTYLE ARTICLES IN THE JAKARTA POST: A CORPUS BASED ANALYSIS

Zanuar Anggun Pramesti

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

Corresponding Email: zanuar.enjunt98@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Verb is one of the most important word classes in Linguistics construction due to its prominent role and dynamic nature. Interestingly, the use of verbs in different Linguistics contexts might be various because the context can limit or allow certain verbs to occur more frequently than other verbs. It is compelling to study further the use of verbs in a particular Linguistics context. This research thus aims at examining the use of verbs in lifestyle articles in The Jakarta Post to figure out the frequency of verbs and how it relates to the characteristics of lifestyle articles. This study compiled The Jakarta corpus comprising news articles belong to the category of soft news (*lifestyle* articles) from October 5th, 2018 until November 3rd, 2018 with total size of 29.195 words. This study used qualitative method to classifying verb types used in this study refer to those compiled by Scheibman (combining Halliday's verb taxonomy and Dixon's verb types). This study also used quantitative method to find the frequency of verb types with help of *LancsBox* tool (for *Windows*). Based on the analysis, it is obvious that material verb is the most frequent verb type, followed by verbal and relational. As for the least frequent ones, there are cognition and perception/ relational types. It is plausible that material type occupies the most frequent position because it denotes concrete actions that are related to the events being reported and verbal type occupies the second most frequent position since the nature of news is to deliver information; both are vital in constructing news text. Meanwhile, cognition and perception/ relational types are least frequent because cognition deals with cognitive activity (e.g. thinking, remembering, etc.) and perception/ relational shows subjectivity. Both verb types are rather insignificant concepts in news writing. Based on the result of analysis, it is obvious that there is a firm relation between frequency of verbs used in news text and characteristics of the text: Linguistics units that are not in accordance with the function of the text are not really needed and thus infrequently used.

Keywords: *verb types, corpus, frequency, lifestyle articles*

1. INTRODUCTION

Verb is the second greatest frequent in English (Chafe, 1970). There will be no grammatical construction if there are no verbs on them. Moreover, there will be no meaning without verbs in the sentence or clause. The use (or the choice) of verbs, might be influenced by several factors, such as the characteristics of the medium or the intention of the speakers or the writer, the content of the text genre. The representative examples of written language source is newspaper. The Jakarta Post newspaper is chosen because it is the pioneer of English language newspaper published in Indonesia. The first issues was printed on April, 25th 1983. *Lifestyle* articles are light to read everyday. Since life change dynamically as millennial nowadays read lifestyle articles are must because there are all new information or trends that they always keep following them. The *lifestyle* articles

includes entertainment, art and culture, technology, health, food, books, videos, parents, and people. Based on both interesting topic, the researcher wants to find out the type of verbs used in *lifestyle* section of the newspaper in further details and which verb type is most frequent in *lifestyle* section of the newspaper. Moreover, this research has connection with the characteristics/ nature of *lifestyle* section. There have been some previous relevant studies. Levin (1993) classifies English verbs generally and the book has been the references for many more current studies. Some other significant and current studies done to describe the relation of verb types with the subjecthood (Scheibman in Bybee and Hopper, 2001), to find out the use of reporting verbs in students' paper (Bayyurt and Marti, 2015; Yilmaz and Ertürk, 2017), to identifies the use of verbs in the subtitles for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (Abrahão, 2014), and to study the use of phrasal verbs in legal domain using corpus (Bilić, 2018).

2.   RESEARCH METHOD

This research conducted two types of method: qualitative method and quantitative method or called as mix method. The subject of this research is verbs. The data collecting method in this research was taking from lifestyle articles on *The Jakarta Post* start from October 5th, 2018 until November 3rd, 2018 by copying two articles each day and making into a document. The result, there are sixty articles in total and contains 29,195 words. This research also using *LancsBox* tool (for *Windows*) to load the document and finding the frequent of main verb and verb types that use the most in *lifestyle* articles in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. The next investigation is classifying of the verbs into verbs type that was compiled by Scheibman (in Bybee and Hopper, 2001).

Table 1. The verb types compiled by Scheibman (in Bybee and Hopper, 2001)

Verb Types	Description	Example
Cognition	Cognition activity	know, think, remember, figure out
Corporeal	Bodily gestures, bodily interaction	eat, drink, sleep, live, smoke
Existential	Exist, happen	be, have, sit, stay, happen
Feeling	Emotion, wanting	like, want, feel, need, bother, enjoy
Material	Concrete and abstract doings and happenings	do, go, take, teach, work, use, play, come
Perception	Perception, attention	look, see, hear, find, notice
Perception/Relational	Perception (subject not senser)	look, smell, sound
Possessive/ Relational	Possession (x has a)	have, get

Relational	Processes of being (x is a, x is at a)	be, get, be like (descriptive), become
verbal	saying, symbolic exchange meaning	say, talk, mean, tell, ask, go (quotative), be like (quotative)

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table 2. Percentage of Verb Types

Rank	Verb Type	Frequency	Percentage
1	Material	628	40,84%
2	Verbal	315	18,81%
3	Relational	136	8,12%
4	Corporeal	116	6,93%
5	Perception	105	6,27%
6	Feeling	92	5,49%
7	Existential	80	4,78%
8	Possessive/ Relational	75	4,48%
9	Cognition	39	2,33%
10	Perception/ Relational	33	1,97%
Total		1675	100%

Form the result we can see the most verb used in *lifestyle* articles in *The Jakarta Post* is material verbs with 40,84% (628 occurrences), then verbal verbs with 18,81% (315 occurrences), and relational verbs with 8,12% (136 occurrences). The less frequent verbs used in *lifestyle* articles in *The Jakarta Post* are corporeal verbs with 6,93% (116 occurrences), perception verbs with 6,27% (105 occurrences), feeling verbs with 5,49% (92 occurrences), and existential verbs with 4,78% (80 occurrences). The least frequent verbs used in *lifestyle* articles in *The Jakarta Post* are possessive/ relational verbs with 4,48% in the eighth position, then in the ninth position is cognition verbs with 2,33%, and the least is perception/ relational verbs with 1,97%. This research also identifying the relation between verb type with the characteristic of *lifestyle* articles. The result are is follows.

Table 3. The relation between verb type with the characteristic of *lifestyle* articles

Most frequent verb types	The nature of the verb types	Why the verb types are needed in *lifestyle* articles
Material	To state concrete actions	In the delivery of the news, the authors need to be as concrete as possible, so concrete verbs are necessary and significantly used
Verbal	To deliver message	To assist the delivery of the news

Relational	To state process of being	It helps the author write the news that relate the background of events and from resource persons' detail explanation
Corporeal	To express bodily gesture or bodily state	To make other people understand what the resource persons' are doing
Perception	To state how we perceive something	In news text, perception verb sometimes is important to express
Feeling	To state emotional aspect	The news are often interfered with the personal view of the authors in which the personal view involves the feeling of the authors
Existential	To state the place or time of an event, to show existence	In delivering the news, the author need talk about the events to help the readers understand the situation or new information
Possessive/ Relational	To denote possession	it is not quite necessary because the news/ articles should inform the real condition rather than contains whole the writers own thought
Cognition	To state cognitive activity (thinking, remembering, etc.)	Cognition verbs are needed to express the cognitive activities of the writers, but it is not very frequent
Perception/ Relational	To express perception of thing	Lifestyle articles consists of news on factual phenomena so the authors attempt to make the news make sense (or plausible), and the use of perception/relational verb is irrelevant, thus infrequent

4. CONCLUSION

This study identifies that there are ten verb types used in *lifestyle* articles in *The Jakarta Post*; they are cognition (e.g. '*know*' and '*think*'), corporeal (e.g. '*hold*', '*wear*', '*hit*', etc.), existential (e.g. '*remain*', '*spend*', '*happen*', etc.), feeling (e.g. '*want*', '*feel*', '*need*', etc.), material (e.g. '*make*', '*come*', '*work*'. etc.), perception (e.g. '*see*', '*find*', etc.), perception/ relational (e.g. '*look*' and '*face*'), possessive/ relational (e.g. '*have*', '*get*', and '*keep*'), relational (e.g. '*include*', '*become*', etc.), and verbal ('*say*', '*tell*', etc.). Among several verb

types there are three most frequent verb types; they are material, verbal, and relational. Material verb is used the most because it is denote concrete actions that are related to the events being reported and verbal type occupies the second most frequent position since the nature of news is to deliver information. In other words, news in lifestyle articles reports what has happened or what is happening and thus used both material verbs and verbal verbs to convey the information. The relational verb is third mostly used in this *lifestyle* articles, because it help the authors write the news that relate the background of events and from resource persons' detail explanation. In short, material verb, verbal verb, and relational verb are definitely important in constructing news in lifestyle articles, so that the text can fulfill its role. Besides the most frequent verb types, there are some less frequent ones including corporeal, perception, feeling, existential types, and possessive/ relational, and the least ones are cognition and perception/ relational. It is also evident that cognition and perception/ relational types are least frequent because cognition deals with cognitive activity (e.g. thinking, remembering, etc.) and perception/ relational express the impression of thing of which both are two unimportant, irrelevant concepts in news writing. To sum up, it is clear that frequency and text characteristics are strongly related; and that frequency is important to take into consideration in linguistic analysis, including in the text analysis.

REFERENCES

Abrahão, M. (2014). A Corpus Based Analysis of Verbs in Subtitles for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and Audiodescriptions,

Bayyurt, Y., & Marti, L. (2015). A Contrastive Corpus-based Analysis of Reporting Verbs in Research Articles on Foreign Language Education by Native and Turkish Nonnative Writers of English.

Bilić , M. (2018). A Corpus-Based Analysis of English Phrasal Verb in Legal Domain.

Bybee, J., & Hopper, P. (2001). *Frequency and The Emergence of Linguistics Structure.* Philadelpia: Jhon Benjamins Publishing Company.

Chafe, W. (1970). *Meaning and The Structure of Language.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Levin, B. (1993). *English Verb Classes and Alternations.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Yilmaz, M., & Ertürk, Z. (2017). A Contrastive Corpus-based Analysis of the Use of Reporting Verbs by Native and Non-native ELT Researchers *. *Novitas-ROYAL (Research on Youth and Language)*, 112-127.

BIOGRAPHY OF AUTHORS

This research conducted by Zanuar Anggun Pramesti, the student of English Teacher Training at Universitas Ahmad Dahlan to complete *S1 thesis*. This research purpose are to find the type of verbs used in *lifestyle* section of the newspaper in further details and which verb type is most frequent in *lifestyle* section of the newspaper. Moreover, this research has connection with the characteristics/ the nature of *lifestyle* section. The researcher hopes that this research can help the students of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan to study more about verbs and corpus Linguistics.