

Investigating Discourse on the Use of Metaphor and Modality in Newspaper: A Case Study on Political News in Jawa Pos Newspaper.

Ridwin Purba^{1*}, Nguyen Van Thao², Nurainun Hasibuan³, Suswati Hendriani⁴, Herman Herman⁵, Lusia Pebriyani Silaban⁶, Magi Melia Tangu Rame⁷

¹ Department of English Education, Universitas Simalungun, Indonesia

² Faculty of Foreign Languages, Industry University of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

³ Department of Islamic Education, Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Darul Arafah, Indonesia

⁴ Department of English Education, Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar, Indonesia

⁵ Department of English Education, Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar, Indonesia

⁶ Department of English Education, Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar, Indonesia

⁷ Department of Pharmacy, Universitas Citra Bangsa, Indonesia

Corresponding Author:

Nguyen Van Thao

Email: nguyenvanthao.09@juh.edu.vn

Abstract

This study analyzes at the use of metaphor and modality in political news discourse, specifically the December 2023 edition of the Jawa Pos newspaper. The study uses qualitative descriptive research methodologies to examine how language generates narratives and influences public perception in a democratic society. According to Sugiyono (2018), a sample must be representative of the population being studied; in this case, the sample comprises of language expressions found in political news, specifically metaphors and modalities. The data analysis follows Miles and Huberman's (1994) technique, which comprises data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drafting. The findings show that metaphors help to convey complex meanings and improve public comprehension of political issues, whereas modality reflects political players' goals and commitments. Phrases like "committed to ensuring" demonstrate a strong desire for public participation in decision-making processes, which promotes transparency and accountability. However, the study also highlights challenges in ensuring inclusive engagement, as some legislative processes may occur behind closed doors. Overall, the research underscores the significant role of language in political discourse, emphasizing its impact on shaping perceptions and facilitating communication within the framework of democracy. The insights gained from this analysis contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between language, politics, and public engagement, providing valuable implications for both scholars and practitioners in the field of communication.

Keywords: Communication, discourse, metaphor, modality

INTRODUCTION

Language owned by humans is a distinguishing feature from other creatures created by God. With language that has a unique linguistic structure, we are able to understand exactly what the universe expects, both material and metaphysical, and with language we are able to interact and communicate with other humans in the world so that with language we are able to maintain the world to remain balanced and harmonious (Saussure, 1988). These two things distinguish human language from the language of other creatures. The most reliable communication tool in the common life of a society is language. The system of human communication by means of a structured arrangement of sounds (or written representation) to form larger units, eg. morphemes, words, sentences (Richards, Platt & Weber, 1985: 153). Language is not only used to communicate, but also used to develop and maintain interpersonal relationships in society (Munthe et al., 2024). According to Widhiarso (2005), language is an unlimited medium that carries everything in it, that everything contained in it is able to create human understanding so that it is possible to understand forms that are understood by humans. Where the function of language is to understand each other's intentions and goals between interlocutors. Therefore, communication is a relational process in creating and interpreting messages that evoke responses Griffin (2012). Language mastery helps humans distinguish themselves from other living creatures. Language is essential in many aspects of life since it allows us to learn about everything that others have lived, comprehended, experienced, felt, and thought. Discourse is one of the studies in linguistics, which is part of the study of pragmatics. Discourse has a broader position than clauses and sentences, because discourse includes an idea and concept of a text (Herman, Purba and Saputra, 2024). Discourse in English is called discourse is defined as an expression in an interaction

communication (Herman et al., 2025). Discourse is linguistic communication seen as a transaction between speaker and hearer, as an interpersonal activity whose form is determined by its social purpose. Text is linguistic communication (either spoken or written) seen simply as a message coded in its auditory or visual medium (Mills, 1997; Sutikno et al., 2025). Discourse is a series of related sentences, which connect one proposition with another in a unity of meaning in unity of meaning (Moeliono in Junaiyah & Arifin, 2010). Discourse is the most complete language unit, ranking first in linguistics and having the highest and largest grammatical units (Herman et al., 2024). Discourse is a complete unit in terms of meaning unity since its elements are interconnected with others (Jahrir et al., 2025). As a result, discourse is the most comprehensive unit of language since it consists of more than clauses and sentences with cohesion and coherence, a definite beginning and finish, continuity, and consistency. A clear, continuous conclusion, both vocal and written. One type of discourse presented by the mass media.

Mass media is a means of disseminating information to the public. Mass comes from the English mass which means group or collection. Thus, the definition of mass media is an intermediary or tool used by the masses in relation to each other. Mass media is a means of mass communication where the process of delivering messages, ideas, or information to the public simultaneously. A medium can be called mass media if it has certain characteristics. according to Bungin (2006: 72) mass media is defined as communication and information media that disseminate information massively and can be widely accessed. in terms of meaning, mass media is a tool or means to disseminate information to the public. mass media is a tool or means to disseminate news content, opinions, comments, entertainment, and so on. According to (Cangara, 2010: 123,126) mass media is a tool used in conveying messages from sources to audiences using communication tools such as newspapers, films, radio, and television. The rapid development of information and communication technology has greatly contributed to the development of mass media. Conventional mass media is no longer considered capable of fulfilling people's needs for the latest information from the aspect of speed and ease of access anytime and anywhere which is what online mass media offers. One of the mass media that has changed with the times is newspapers, which have become digital newspapers.

Newspapers are a sort of mass media that largely depends on written language to transmit information to the audience, according to Vivian (2008), newspapers are the main mass media for people to obtain news. Newspapers are printed sheets that carry news, articles, literary works, and ads. They are produced in huge quantities or on a regular basis and sold to the general public. Newspapers have a variety of content categories, including news or events, essays (opinions, articles, short tales, poetry, and so on), and commercial advertising or promotions. However, with the advancement of the internet, traditional newspapers have evolved into digital newspapers. Digital newspapers are newspapers that have gone through a digitalization process to become paperless and can be read on digital devices. Newspapers are published on a regular basis, perhaps daily, weekly, or monthly. Digital newspapers are not only conventional newspapers that combine themselves with internet technology, typical media such as portals that provide information independently are also digital newspapers (Fuady, 20002).

In addition, when newspapers are produced, they often express a variety of issues, including politics, economics, social issues, culture, and so on. Jawa Pos is a popular newspaper in East Java. The existence of the Jawa Pos newspaper, which publishes news about the state of affairs in Java, keeps readers informed about the latest developments in Java. Readers are updated on the latest developments in East Java and parts of Central Java. Political news is one of the many types of news presented in this newspaper. Politics is an activity that collectively regulates human actions in a condition of social conflict (Nimmo in Zen, 2004). Politics begins with a difference between humans and one another that stimulates conflict. The use of language in political news has characteristics, making the language in political news different from other news languages. One of the characteristic features in political news is the use of metaphor and modality in it.

Metaphor is a semantically-based linguistic phenomena. Semantics is a discipline of linguistics that focuses on meaning. Metaphor refers to the link between one word and another in generating a meaning (Sinambela et al., 2024). Metaphors are seen as a distinct form of language, and they can be unusual because the word relations in metaphors exceed the bounds of literal language relations that have been established in everyday conversation. Metaphor is the transfer of the image, meaning, or quality of an expression to another expression (Classe, 2000 : 941). Journalists purposefully utilize certain metaphors to justify a particular opinion or idea to the public. Journalists employ public trust, colloquial idioms, proverbs, antique words, and scripture to promote their core message. According to (Eriyanto, 2011: 59), a journalist not only conveys the main message through text, but also figures of speech, expressions, metaphors that are meant as ornamentation or seasoning of a news story. However, the use of a particular metaphor may be the main clue to understanding a text.

Modality is a part of language that expresses possibility, hope, certainty, doubt, and the opposite of that (Kridalaksana in Markhamah, 2009). The expression of modality in a language is related to the structure of the language itself, and it sometimes differs from other languages According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), modality interprets the region of uncertainty that lies between 'yes' and 'no' (Setiawati et al., 2024). Thus, the

selection of modality places the attitude or position speaker on the boundary between positive and negative polarities in expressing polarity between positive and negative in expressing truth and actualisation of events. According to Fowler (in Puspito, 2018: 35) it is understood as a comment or perspective, which comes from the text, either explicitly or implicitly given by the author to the thing reported, namely circumstances, events, and actions. Modality as a comment or perspective of the author contained in the text can be divided into four types, namely (1) truth, (2) necessity, (3) desire.

Language not only functions as the main source of information, but also as a method to manipulate the target audience through the right choice of words. In Jawa Pos, metaphors and modality are widely used to represent political events and figures. The use of metaphors in political news can help to paint a good picture of the representation of various parties, while modality has the purpose of conveying subjective and unclear facts. The use of metaphors and modality can influence political perception. Therefore, this study will evaluate the use of metaphors and modality in Jawa Pos political news and their influence.

Based on the phenomenon found by researchers the problem formulation that will be developed in this debate is to examine the modality and metaphor of political news contained in the December 2023 edition of Jawa Pos newspaper. The researcher wants to examine the modality and metaphor in the Jawa Pos newspaper's December 2023 edition. Because the subject of this investigation has never been studied. Furthermore, the examination of news sentences can contribute to a better understanding of phrases in particular and language in general.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research employs a qualitative descriptive approach, as defined by Creswell (1994), which focuses on understanding social or human problems through a comprehensive, holistic picture formed with words. The study aims to gather complete information about the use of language in political news, particularly metaphors and modalities, to highlight their role in shaping perceptions and facilitating communication within a democratic context. Data collection involved documentation and note-taking methods, with the population consisting of political news from the December 2023 edition of the Jawa Pos newspaper. The sample was selected to be representative of the population, focusing on language expressions used in political discourse. Data analysis followed the three steps proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994): data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, ultimately leading to a descriptive text presentation of the findings.

Research Design

According to Creswell (1994), qualitative research as “...an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting (Purba et al., 2023)”. The writer used descriptive qualitative research. This method aims to obtain complete information through explanations made in the form of words and language (Herman et al., 2021). Overall, the research design is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the language used in political news, highlighting its role in shaping perceptions and facilitating communication within the context of democracy.

Data Source

Population

The population is all subject being studied. According to Creswell (2008: 151) population is defined as a group of individuals who have the same characteristic. The population refers to a group of things or persons having specific qualities that researchers analyze and draw conclusions about. Moreover, the population of this study is political news in Jawa Pos newspaper December 2023 edition (<https://pubhtml5.com/bookcase/rppwk/>)

Sample

A sample is part of the population that is being studied. According to Sugiyono (2018, p. 81) the sample is part of the number and characteristics possessed by the population, the sample taken from the population must be truly representative or represent the population under study. The sample taken from the population must be truly representative or represent the population under study. The sample of this study is the form of language expression of political news discourse, namely metaphor and modality in the Jawa Pos newspaper.

Instruments

The author's instrument is a tool needed or used to collect data. In this study, researchers used digital Jawa Pos newspaper, to facilitate the authors in conducting research, the authors needed supporting instruments such as laptop and notebook. Together, these instruments enabled the researchers to effectively gather, analyze, and interpret data related to the use of language in political discourse, contributing to a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Data Analysis

The data analysis technique in this study used the data analysis technique proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994). Miles and Huberman (1994) stated that in analysing data there are three steps. Namely: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The first step is data reduction. After gathering data using the documentation method and note-taking methodology, the data will be reduced and classified based on the form of language expressions used in political news discourse. Because the data was acquired during the qualitative research method, it will be presented in the form of descriptive text. Following the presentation of the data, conclusions will be reached.

Data	Metaphor	Modality
Data (01/12/2023) "Pemimpin masa depan harus memiliki keberanian untuk menghadapi tantangan global yang semakin kompleks."	"Keberanian untuk menghadapi tantangan global" This metaphor depicts courage as a fundamental instrument or force for overcoming 'global challenges,' which are symbolic of huge and complex problems. This term emphasizes the value of courage as a critical element in navigating global transformation.	"Harus memiliki" This statement shows the obligation modality, expressing the requirement or urgency of possessing the quality of courage. This highlights the need of future leaders meeting society's expectations in addressing important challenges.
Data (2 Desember 2023) "Para legislator mempercepat revisi Undang-Undang Mahkamah Konstitusi secara tertutup."	"Mempercepat revisi" This metaphor presents the legislative process as one that can be rushed or hastened. The phrase "rush" implies a lack of thoroughness or due diligence, meaning that lawmakers are rushing through the amendments with insufficient openness or public oversight.	"secara tertutup" The phrase suggests a high level of exclusivity and secrecy in the legislative process. It reflects an exclusive mode of operation, highlighting that conversations and decisions are made without public participation or oversight, which may raise issues about accountability and democratic values.
Data (03/12/2023) "Janji politik yang diusung haruslah nyata dan dapat diukur, bukan sekadar retorika belaka."	"Janji politik yang nyata dan dapat diukur" This phrase uses metaphors to distinguish concrete political promises from "mere rhetoric." "Real and measurable" describes political promises as something that can be visualized and evaluated, so that they are not just empty words.	"Haruslah nyata" This modality describes an absolute necessity (<i>obligation modality</i>) to ensure that political promises can be realized and assessed for their effectiveness, giving the impression of public demands for transparency and accountability.
Data (6 Desember 2023) "Megawati dan Prabowo kemungkinan akan bertemu pada hari Kamis: Puan."	"kemungkinan akan bertemu" This phrase uses the metaphor of a "meeting" to symbolize a potential collaboration or reconciliation between Megawati and Prabowo. The term "likely" indicates a high probability, suggesting that the meeting is anticipated but not yet confirmed.	"pada hari Kamis" The specific mention of "on Thursday" reflects a temporal modality, indicating a planned or expected event within a defined timeframe. It conveys a sense of scheduling and anticipation for the upcoming meeting.
Data (7 Desember 2023) "Jokowi dalam mode 'blusukan' di tahun terakhir kepresidenannya, melakukan"	"mode 'blusukan'" The term "blusukan" is a Javanese word meaning impromptu visits to local areas. Describing Jokowi as	"Melakukan serangkaian kunjungan" The use of "melakukan" ("conducting") indicates a deliberate

<i>serangkaian kunjungan ke Indonesia timur."</i>	being in "'blusukan' mode" metaphorically suggests he is actively engaging with grassroots communities, emphasizing a hands-on and approachable leadership style.	and ongoing action, reflecting Jokowi's commitment to directly connect with various regions. It conveys a proactive approach in his leadership during his final year in office.
Data (9 Desember 2023) <i>"Pemerintah berkomitmen untuk memperkuat demokrasi dengan memastikan partisipasi aktif dari semua elemen masyarakat."</i>	"Memperkuat demokrasi" This metaphor likens democracy to a structure that can be reinforced or fortified. The term "memperkuat" ("strengthen") suggests that democracy requires support and enhancement to remain robust, implying ongoing efforts to maintain its integrity.	"Berkomitmen untuk memastikan" The phrase reflects a strong intention modality, indicating the government's firm resolve to guarantee active participation from all societal elements. It conveys determination and assurance in their democratic initiatives.
Data 10/12/2023 <i>"Jokowi mengalihkan perhatian ke Prabowo setelah PDI-P menutup pintu untuk rekonsiliasi."</i>	"Menutup pintu untuk rekonsiliasi" This metaphor describes the possibility of reconciliation which is likened to a door that can be opened or closed. The phrase "close the door" implies that the opportunity for reconciliation is over, indicating the closure of the opportunity to improve relations between the parties concerned.	"Beralih ke Prabowo" The phrase " <i>beralih</i> " indicates a future-oriented modality, indicating that Jokowi is considering or planning to cooperate with Prabowo going forward. This reflects efforts to seek support or collaboration after the failure of reconciliation with the PDI-P.
Data (11/12/23) <i>"Menurut Ganjar, korupsi harus diberantas sampai akar-akarnya. Koruptor juga perlu diberi efek jera."</i>	"Diberantas sampai akar-akarnya" This metaphor likens corruption to a plant with roots. "Down to its roots" implies that corruption needs to be completely eliminated, addressing its deepest and most fundamental aspects, not just the surface symptoms.	"harus" The phrase indicates deontic modality, expressing necessity or obligation. In the sentence "corruption must be eradicated," it implies that eradicating corruption is seen as a moral duty or an essential action.
Data (12/12/2023) <i>"Wakil Kepala Satgas Preventif Penyelenggara Pemilu Polri Brigjen Rudi Antariksa mengatakan, pihaknya sudah siap melakukan peng-amanan hingga ring 3."</i>	"Sudah siap" This expresses epistemic modality, indicating certainty or assurance that the authorities are prepared to carry out the security measures.	"Hingga ring 3" This metaphor compares security levels to concentric rings or zones, with "ring 3" indicating an outer or third level of security.
Data (13/12/2023) <i>"Kepastian dan penegakan hukum adalah problem utama yang harus dibereskan di Indonesia. Jika problem itu beres, maka separuh persoalan bisa selesai."</i>	"Kepastian dan penegakan hukum adalah problem utama" The phrase uses modality to emphasize the necessity of solving these key issues. It highlights that addressing these problems will significantly ease other challenges.	"separuh persoalan bisa selesai" This metaphor for a significant improvement, symbolizing how solving one major issue can lead to substantial progress in multiple areas. It represents the interconnected nature of legal certainty to other economic and social problems.
Data (14/12/2023)	"Jangan" This indicates deontic modality,	"Jangan mau di kotak-kotakkan" This metaphor compares being

“Provokasi adalah penyakit demokrasi yang harus kita hapus. Jangan mau di kotak kotakkan.”	expressing prohibition or a strong suggestion not to allow oneself to be divided or categorized.	limited or divided into categories or groups to being physically placed in a box, suggesting a restriction of freedom or identity.
Data (15/12/2023) “bayangkan dimana lagi lagu kebangsaan kita dikumandangkan dan negara lain hormat sam bendera kita, kan di ajang olahraga.” Jelas prabowo.	“lagu kebangsaan kita dikumandangkan dan negara lain hormat sam bendera kita” This metaphor emphasizes the symbolic act of national pride and recognition, particularly in the context of international sports events. It highlights the respect and honor shown by other nations.	“ lagu kebangsaan kita dikumandangkan dan negara lain hormat sam bendera kita” This metaphor emphasizes the symbolic act of national pride and recognition, particularly in the context of international sports events. It highlights the respect and honor shown by other nations.
Data (16/12/2023) “Menurut Adi, yang tertuang dalam lembaran program itu adalah akumulasi jeritan rakyat dari ujung barat hingga timur Indonesia. Dia mengatakan, masyarakat harus yakin dengan apa yang dicanangkan Ganjar Pranowo dan Mahfud MD.”	“Akumulasi jeritan rakyat” This phrase is a metaphor depicting the collective voices, grievances, or aspirations of the people. The word "jeritan" ("cries") conveys an emotional connotation, symbolizing the people's struggles or dissatisfaction. It implies that the program is rooted in addressing the challenges faced by Indonesian society.	“Harus yakin” This phrase employs obligation modality, expressing a strong necessity or requirement for the public to trust the program initiated by Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD. The use of "must" conveys a persuasive and authoritative tone.
Data (18/12/2023) “Calon presiden (capres) nomor urut 3 Ganjar Pranowo menilai kelompok penyandang disabilitas harus dipandang setara. Mantan gubernur Jawa Tengah (Jateng) itu melontarkan ide membentuk kementerian khusus yang bertugas melakukan pemberdayaan mereka.”	“kelompok penyandang disabilitas harus dipandang setara” This phrase uses a conceptual metaphor that frames people with disabilities as being on an equal footing with other societal groups. The term "viewed as equals" symbolically highlights the need to eliminate discrimination and create equal opportunities for everyone.	“harus dipandang setara” This reflects obligation modality, as the word "harus" (must) emphasizes that equality is not optional but a moral and social imperative. It conveys a sense of urgency and responsibility.
Data (19/12/2023) “Pra- bowo memastikan, dalam me- lanjutkan program tersebut, pihaknya akan membangun strategi terobosan yang disusun berdasar analisis bersama para ahli terkait dengan kondisi di tanah air.”	“Strategi terobosan” The term "strategi terobosan" uses metaphorical language. "Terobosan" (breakthrough) symbolizes innovative and forward-thinking approaches that break past barriers or limitations. It evokes the idea of significant progress or transformative change. This phrase implies a departure from conventional strategies to address pressing issues effectively.	“memastikan” (ensure) The word reflects to high certainty modality. It communicates a strong commitment or assurance that the continuation of the program will be carried out. It leaves little room for doubt, emphasizing confidence and reliability.
Data (21 Desember 2023) “Jokowi memimpin peletakan batu pertama untuk pembangunan kantor polisi	“Peletakan batu pertama” This metaphor symbolizes the initiation of a significant project or development. The term "peletakan batu pertama" conveys the idea of laying the foundation for future	“Memimpin” The word "memimpin" reflects a high modality of authority and responsibility. It indicates that President Jokowi is taking a leading role in the event, emphasizing his

<i>senilai Rp 160 miliar di Nusantara."</i>	progress, indicating the commencement of the police station's construction in the new capital.	active involvement and leadership in the development of the new capital's infrastructure.
Data (22 Desember 2023) <i>"PDI-P dan Gerindra sepakat membentuk koalisi untuk Pemilu 2024."</i>	"Membentuk koalisi" This metaphor likens the political alliance to the act of forming a coalition, symbolizing the coming together of different entities to achieve a common goal. It conveys the idea of uniting forces to strengthen their position in the upcoming election.	"Sepakat" The word "sepakat" reflects a high modality of consensus and commitment. It indicates that both parties have reached a mutual understanding and are committed to the coalition, emphasizing the certainty and seriousness of their agreement.
Data (23 Desember 2023) <i>"Calon presiden nomor urut 2 mengunjungi pasar tradisional untuk mendengarkan aspirasi masyarakat."</i>	"Mengunjungi pasar tradisional" This metaphor symbolizes direct engagement with the grassroots level of society. The act of visiting traditional markets conveys a sense of accessibility and a willingness to listen to the common people, highlighting the candidate's approachability and concern for public opinion.	"Mendengarkan aspirasi" The phrase "mendengarkan aspirasi" reflects a modality of receptiveness and openness. It indicates that the candidate is actively seeking and valuing the opinions and desires of the public, emphasizing a participatory approach to leadership.
Data (24 Desember 2023) <i>"Pemerintah mengumumkan rencana pembangunan infrastruktur senilai Rp 500 triliun."</i>	"Rencana pembangunan infrastruktur" This metaphor frames the government's initiative as a strategic plan, symbolizing a structured approach to enhancing the nation's physical and economic framework. It conveys the idea of laying down the groundwork for future growth and development.	"Mengumumkan" The word "mengumumkan" reflects a modality of declaration and transparency. It indicates that the government is making the plan public, emphasizing openness and the intention to inform and involve the public in the development process.
Data (25 Desember 2023) <i>"Partai X mengusulkan revisi undang-undang untuk memperkuat sistem pemilu."</i>	"Memperkuat sistem pemilu" This metaphor portrays the electoral system as a structure that can be fortified, symbolizing efforts to enhance its robustness and reliability. It conveys the idea of making the electoral process more resilient and effective.	"Mengusulkan" The verb "mengusulkan" reflects a modality of suggestion and initiative. It indicates that the party is putting forward a proposal, emphasizing a proactive approach to improving the electoral system.
Data (26 Desember 2023) <i>"Pemerintah mengumumkan rencana pembangunan infrastruktur senilai Rp 500 triliun."</i>	"Rencana pembangunan infrastruktur" This metaphor frames the government's initiative as a strategic plan, symbolizing a structured approach to enhancing the nation's physical and economic framework. It conveys the idea of laying down the groundwork for future growth and development.	"Mengumumkan" The word "mengumumkan" reflects a modality of declaration and transparency. It indicates that the government is making the plan public, emphasizing openness and the intention to inform and involve the public in the development process.
Data (27 Desember 2023)	"Memperkuat sistem pemilu"	"Mengusulkan"

<i>"Partai X mengusulkan revisi undang-undang untuk memperkuat sistem pemilu."</i>	This metaphor portrays the electoral system as a structure that can be fortified, symbolizing efforts to enhance its robustness and reliability. It conveys the idea of making the electoral process more resilient and effective.	The word "mengusulkan" reflects a modality of suggestion and initiative. It indicates that the party is putting forward a proposal, emphasizing a proactive approach to improving the electoral system.
Data (28 Desember 2023) <i>"Presiden Jokowi mengunjungi daerah terdampak bencana untuk memberikan bantuan."</i>	"Mengunjungi daerah terdampak bencana" This metaphor symbolizes direct engagement with communities in need. The act of visiting disaster-affected areas conveys a sense of empathy and a commitment to providing support to those facing hardships.	"Memberikan bantuan" The phrase "memberikan bantuan" reflects a modality of support and action. It indicates that the president is actively offering help, emphasizing a responsive and responsible approach to disaster management.
Data (29 Desember 2023) <i>"Calon presiden nomor urut 3 mengadakan debat publik untuk menyampaikan visi dan misinya."</i>	"Mengadakan debat publik" This metaphor represents the exchange of ideas and policies in a public forum. The act of holding a public debate conveys transparency and a willingness to engage with the electorate, symbolizing the democratic process of open discussion.	"Menyampaikan visi dan misi" The phrase "menyampaikan visi dan misi" reflects a modality of communication and commitment. It indicates that the candidate is articulating their plans and objectives, emphasizing clarity and dedication to their proposed agenda.
Data (30 Desember 2023) <i>"Pemerintah mengumumkan penurunan tarif pajak untuk mendukung sektor usaha kecil dan menengah."</i>	"Penurunan tarif pajak" This metaphor symbolizes easing the financial burden on businesses. The act of reducing tax rates conveys relief and support, representing a strategic move to stimulate economic growth and encourage entrepreneurship.	"Mendukung sektor usaha kecil dan menengah" The phrase "mendukung sektor usaha kecil dan menengah" reflects a modality of assistance and empowerment. It indicates that the government is actively fostering the growth of SMEs, emphasizing a nurturing and facilitative role in economic development.

Table 1. Analysis of the data by metaphor and modality

RESULTS

1. Patterns of Metaphor Use in Political News

The analysis of political news published in the December 2023 edition of *Jawa Pos* reveals that metaphor is used systematically to represent political actions, institutions, social problems, and relationships among political actors. Rather than functioning merely as decorative language, the metaphors identified in the data provide conceptual frames through which political events can be understood by readers. The expressions analyzed frequently transform abstract political processes into more concrete experiences, objects, physical actions, or social situations.

One prominent pattern is the representation of politics as a process of construction, strengthening, or transformation. Expressions such as *"memperkuat demokrasi"* (strengthening democracy), *"memperkuat sistem pemilu"* (strengthening the electoral system), *"strategi terobosan"* (breakthrough strategy), and *"peletakan batu pertama"* (laying the first stone) conceptualize political development as something that can be built, strengthened, improved, or transformed. For example, *"memperkuat demokrasi"* presents democracy as if it were a physical structure requiring reinforcement. Similarly, *"memperkuat sistem pemilu"* constructs the electoral system as a structure whose stability and effectiveness can be enhanced.

A second pattern involves the representation of political problems as physical objects, living organisms, or obstacles that must be removed. The expression “*diberantas sampai akar-akarnya*” is particularly significant because corruption is conceptualized as a plant with roots. The metaphor therefore suggests that eliminating corruption requires addressing its fundamental causes rather than merely dealing with its visible manifestations. This representation gives the political statement a sense of completeness and urgency because the problem is not presented as something that can be solved superficially. A similar conceptualization appears in “*jangan mau di kotak-kotakkan,*” where political or social division is represented through the physical image of being placed into boxes. This expression constructs categorization and polarization as forms of restriction. Consequently, the metaphor communicates not only separation but also a negative evaluation of political practices that limit people's identities or affiliations.

Another important metaphorical pattern concerns political relationships and cooperation. The expression “*menutup pintu untuk rekonsiliasi*” conceptualizes reconciliation as an opportunity that can be opened or closed. The metaphor creates a clear image of political possibility: an open door represents an opportunity for reconciliation, whereas a closed door represents the termination of that possibility. This makes an otherwise abstract political relationship more concrete and accessible to readers. The data also show metaphors associated with grassroots engagement and political accessibility. The expression “*mode blusukan*” constructs political leadership through the image of direct movement into local communities. Likewise, visiting traditional markets is interpreted as a representation of direct engagement with ordinary citizens. These expressions construct political actors as physically and socially close to the public rather than distant institutional figures.

The metaphor “*akumulasi jeritan rakyat*” represents the experiences and grievances of citizens as collective cries. The lexical choice “*jeritan*” carries an emotional dimension and frames political programs as responses to people's difficulties and dissatisfaction. Thus, metaphorical language can also give political discourse an affective dimension by presenting political issues through images associated with suffering, aspiration, and public expectations.

Overall, the metaphorical expressions identified in the data can be grouped into several dominant conceptual patterns:

Table 2. Overall Pattern of Metaphor Use

Metaphorical pattern	Examples	Main representation
Politics as construction/strengthening	<i>memperkuat demokrasi;</i> <i>memperkuat sistem pemilu</i>	Political institutions require improvement and reinforcement
Political problems as organisms	<i>diberantas sampai akar-akarnya</i>	Problems have deep causes that must be eliminated
Political opportunities as physical spaces	<i>menutup pintu untuk rekonsiliasi</i>	Political possibilities can be opened or closed
Politics as movement/action	<i>blusukan;</i> <i>melakukan kunjungan</i>	Leaders are represented as active and engaged
Public concerns as physical/emotional expressions	<i>akumulasi jeritan rakyat</i>	Citizens' grievances are represented collectively
Political development as breakthrough/construction	<i>strategi terobosan;</i> <i>peletakan batu pertama</i>	Political initiatives are framed as progress or transformation

These patterns indicate that metaphorical language in the analyzed political news does not operate randomly. Instead, it repeatedly converts abstract political concepts into concrete images that enable readers to conceptualize democracy, corruption, political cooperation, leadership, and public concerns in more accessible ways.

2. Patterns of Modality in Political News

The analysis also demonstrates that modality plays an important role in expressing certainty, obligation, commitment, expectation, and possibility in political news. Whereas metaphor primarily contributes to the representation of political events, modality provides information about the degree of commitment or certainty associated with propositions and political actions. The most prominent tendency in the data is the use of obligation and necessity modality. Expressions such as “*harus memiliki,*” “*haruslah nyata,*” “*harus,*” “*jangan,*” “*harus yakin,*” and “*harus dipandang setara*” establish political actions or values as necessary rather than optional. For example, “*harus memiliki keberanian*” constructs courage as a required characteristic of future leaders, while “*haruslah nyata*” presents measurable political promises as an essential requirement.

The repeated use of “*harus*” is particularly meaningful because it gives political statements an authoritative and normative character. In “*korupsi harus diberantas sampai akar-akarnya*,” for example, the modality does not simply describe corruption; it establishes its eradication as an obligation. Similarly, “*penyandang disabilitas harus dipandang setara*” constructs equality as a social and moral requirement rather than merely a desirable condition. A second pattern is certainty and commitment modality. Expressions such as “*berkomitmen untuk memastikan*,” “*memastikan*,” “*sudah siap*,” and “*sepakat*” indicate a relatively strong level of commitment by political actors. The expression “*berkomitmen untuk memastikan*” presents the government as strongly committed to guaranteeing public participation. Likewise, “*sudah siap*” represents the authorities as prepared to undertake security measures, while “*memastikan*” communicates confidence that a particular action will be implemented. At the same time, the data contain expressions associated with uncertainty and possibility. The statement “*kemungkinan akan bertemu*” indicates that the meeting between the political figures was anticipated but had not yet been confirmed. This type of modality creates a different discursive position from expressions such as “*memastikan*” or “*sepakat*.” The former leaves room for uncertainty, whereas the latter communicates stronger commitment or certainty. The data also demonstrate the presence of proposal and initiative-oriented modality, particularly through expressions such as “*mengusulkan*.” Such expressions position political actors as proposing possible changes rather than presenting those changes as already established facts. The distinction is important because it allows political discourse to represent an issue as open to negotiation or future decision-making. Therefore, modality in the data can broadly be organized into the following patterns in Table 3.

Table 3. Overall Pattern of Modality Use

Modality pattern	Examples	Discursive function
Obligation/necessity	<i>harus, haruslah, harus dipandang</i>	Establishes political or social actions as necessary
Prohibition	<i>jangan</i>	Restricts or discourages particular behavior
Commitment/certainty	<i>berkomitmen, memastikan, sudah siap, sepakat</i>	Establishes confidence and commitment
Possibility	<i>kemungkinan akan</i>	Indicates uncertainty or future possibility
Proposal/initiative	<i>mengusulkan</i>	Opens space for negotiation or future action

The findings therefore suggest that modality is used to position political actors in relation to their statements and proposed actions. Strong modality tends to construct political actors as decisive, committed, and responsible, whereas weaker or possibility-oriented modality leaves greater space for uncertainty and negotiation.

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate that metaphor and modality function as important linguistic resources in the construction of political news discourse in *Jawa Pos*. Rather than serving merely stylistic purposes, metaphorical expressions help readers conceptualize abstract political issues through more familiar physical or social experiences, while modality establishes degrees of certainty, obligation, and commitment. This supports the view that political discourse is not simply informational but also participates in constructing particular interpretations of political reality (Herman et al., 2024; Munthe et al., 2024).

1. Metaphor and Political Representation

The metaphorical expressions identified in the data reveal several recurring conceptualizations. Expressions such as “*memperkuat demokrasi*” and “*memperkuat sistem pemilu*” represent political institutions as structures that can be strengthened, while “*diberantas sampai akar-akarnya*” conceptualizes corruption as a deeply rooted organism requiring comprehensive intervention. Similarly, “*menutup pintu untuk rekonsiliasi*” represents political reconciliation as an opportunity that can either be opened or closed. These patterns indicate that metaphor does more than simplify political concepts. It also provides an evaluative frame. Corruption is constructed as a deeply embedded problem, while political division is represented negatively through expressions such as “*jangan mau di kotak-kotakkan*.” Thus, metaphor can guide readers toward particular interpretations of political problems and the actions considered necessary to address them.

2. Modality and Political Commitment

The analysis also demonstrates the importance of modality in representing political commitment. Frequent expressions such as “*harus*,” “*berkomitmen*,” “*memastikan*,” “*sudah siap*,” and “*sepakat*” construct political actions as necessary, certain, or strongly intended. In particular, the repeated use of “*harus*” gives political

statements a normative force by presenting particular actions as obligations rather than optional choices. At the same time, expressions such as “*kemungkinan akan bertemu*” demonstrate that political discourse also accommodates uncertainty. The contrast between strong expressions such as “*memastikan*” and weaker expressions such as “*kemungkinan*” enables political news to communicate different degrees of certainty and commitment.

3. The Interaction of Metaphor and Modality

The central finding is that metaphor and modality frequently operate together. Metaphor establishes how political reality is conceptualized, whereas modality indicates how strongly an actor is positioned toward that reality. For example, “*memperkuat demokrasi*” constructs democracy as something requiring improvement, while “*berkomitmen untuk memastikan*” presents the political actor as strongly committed to achieving that objective. This interaction suggests that political meaning is produced through more than individual lexical choices. Metaphor provides the conceptual frame, while modality adds interpersonal force. Together, they contribute to the representation of political actors as committed, responsible, uncertain, or decisive.

4. Implications for Political Media Discourse

Overall, the findings indicate that *Jawa Pos* political news is not merely a neutral channel for transmitting political information. Through metaphorical framing and modal positioning, political discourse can influence how readers conceptualize political institutions, problems, actors, and possible solutions. This finding highlights the importance of critical media literacy: readers need to consider not only what political news reports, but also how linguistic choices construct the reported reality. Thus, the study demonstrates that the combination of metaphor and modality provides a useful analytical lens for understanding how political news constructs meaning, evaluation, and political positioning.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the use of metaphor and modality in political news in the December 2023 edition of *Jawa Pos* shows that language has an important role in shaping narratives and public perceptions of political issues. The metaphors used, such as ‘strengthening democracy’ and ‘eradicated to its roots,’ not only convey information, but also create a strong image of the government’s commitment in addressing social and political issues. For example, the metaphor ‘strengthening the electoral system’ describes efforts to improve the reliability and integrity of the electoral process, which is crucial in a democratic context. In addition, the use of modality in political news reflects the attitudes and intentions of the speakers. Phrases such as ‘committed to ensuring’ and ‘proposing revisions’ indicate a strong desire from the government and political parties to involve the public in the decision-making process. This creates the impression that there is a real effort to increase public participation and transparency in government, which are key elements in a healthy democracy.

However, there are also indications that the legislative process may be conducted behind closed doors, as seen in the phrases ‘expedite revisions’ and ‘behind closed doors.’ This raises questions about accountability and public engagement in the process. Thus, despite efforts to strengthen democracy and participation, challenges remain in ensuring that all elements of society have an equal voice in the political process. Overall, the use of language in political news in *Jawa Pos* serves not only to convey information, but also to shape narratives that can influence public opinion. Through this analysis, it is seen that metaphor and modality play an important role in creating a deeper understanding of political dynamics, as well as the challenges faced in maintaining integrity and accountability in a democratic system.

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