

The generic structures of the editorials of the Jakarta Post published in August 2020

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Abstract

This study focuses on analyzing the generic structures and language features the editorials of the Jakarta Post to classify the type of exposition text and to know the appropriateness of being teaching material examples in studying a kind of text types. As the subject, there are six editorials of the Jakarta Post published in August, 2020 were chosen randomly. The object is the generic structures of the editorials. The researcher used documentation technique to get the data and analyzed it by using a book entitled "Text Types" written by Mark and Kathryn (1997), and a book entitled "English for Social Purpose" by Jenny Hammond (1997) to determine the appropriateness to be teaching material of genre. The results showed each editorial of the Jakarta Post consist of three generic structures, (1) a thesis that introduces the topic, (2) series of arguments, (3) summing up or recommendation as a conclusion that restate writer's point of view. Based on the features of the generic structures the two editorials belong to Hortatory Text and the rest belong to Analytic Text. All of the editorials also contain four features of a good argument, (1) clearly expressing point of view, (2) using reasons to support the argument, (3) using evidence to prove the argument, (4) showing cause and effect (conclusion) and appropriate to be teaching material.

Keywords: Genres; generic structures; editorials; the Jakarta Post.

INTRODUCTION

Specifically, understanding various English text types and its function through generic structures is a goal of studying English. People are put together the words to communicate each other or convey a meaning, purpose, and context will lead them to make peace of text types. The purpose and context determine what kind of text itself. Mastering grammatical rules, pronunciations, or structuring the paragraph only the equipment and media to know the text types (Genre), but the main goal is to recognize the genres. As a part of English language study, genres take an important role in presenting important goals about what people want to convey, so that communication can be digested and understood properly.

Trudgil (2000) stated that language is not simply a means of communication about the weather or any subject. Language takes an important role of establishing and maintaining relationship with others. Indeed, it is right that people use their language to convey their thoughts, ideas, messages, feelings, and also their expressions whether written or spoken, formal or informal situation, so that they may be able not only to keep in touch with others but also to survive. Kachru (1985) stated that there are so many people who speak in English as a first language, and many of them also speak in English as the second language.

English has been taught all around the world as a tool of communication. It has been used by many countries in communicating and conveying messages, thoughts, and ideas. It could be as a first language or a second language. Since the proclamation of Indonesia on 17th of August 1945, English language has been taught as the first foreign language in Indonesia (Ramelan, 1992). Nowadays, newspapers are still surviving to make an impact in shaping public discourse. They adjust to adapt to conditions amid the development of communication technology, which is easily accessible by developing digital portals and online news applications. Such as the Jakarta Post that has long posted its news online and easily accessible to anyone, paid or free access. Usually, learners used structures in texts called a generic structure as a target language (Hornby, 2015). A paragraph that consists of generic structures has a substantial meaning to recognize and to contribute learners or reader catching the topic deeply. The level of language we use should be not too simple or too complicated. Normally, too simple or short sentences will make the readers bored; they will feel uncomfortable to read. On the other hand, too difficult sentences likely cause unnecessary problems for beginner. It will lead them to find that the writer has written incomprehensible sentences. As a result, the goal of writing will completely fail (Bram, 1995).

There is a culture in social life that relates to text type how that culture exists. The events which text types or genres show are define the culture. They are conventional meanings; purposeful, goal-directed language activities, socially recognized text types, which form patterns of meaning in the social world (Kress, 1989). Furthermore, to produce, distribute, and consume goals or ideas in different ways can be implied through text types (Fairclough, 2019). They can be produced collectively or individually (a personal letter); they may be private or public. The reason for choosing the topic is to identify and understand the generic structures and language features in the newspaper editorials of the Jakarta Post. It is important to investigate the completeness somehow it can persuade readers especially students or English learners. As a material of examples in teaching and learning English subject the teacher require to understanding well about the sentence, paragraph, and text. Harmer (2015) stated that a teacher should also proficient to make a lively learning environment, as well as capable to transmit and transfer knowledge well.

The lively environment promotes active learning which, makes learning more meaningful. He also stated that teachers could be perceived as facilitators, because they need to assist with students' activities in class.

Paragraph

Paragraph consists of sentences that works together coherently and cohesively to develop a main idea. Paragraphs are organized differently depending on their purpose. There are three main paragraphs in English; Narrative, Descriptive, and Expository (Boardman, 2008). To write a good text and a good paragraph, the writer should understand well about what a text or paragraph is. Paragraph consists of sentences that elaborate a point of view or an idea. It has unity when all of sentences are related to the main idea (Bram, 1995).

There are three things that we have to consider about how to write a good paragraph. Those three things are as follow:

a. Unity

Basically, sentences that support each other will establish a paragraph. All sentences within a paragraph that are related to the main point are called as unity. The unity is synonymous with oneness. This unity means oneness to express the idea in one paragraph, all sentences; all of the sentences stick together (Bram, 1995).

b. Coherence

In writing, an important role to consider how to make good paragraph is coherence. It gives a crucial effect in making a paragraph contains of smoothly-connected ideas. There are many ways to build paragraph coherently. The use of linking verb is one of the ways that the writer can do. Coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, prepositions, and transitions are common types of linking words (Boardman & Frydenberg, 2008). They are useful to link sentences to one another.

c. Meaning and grammar

Although English is a foreign language (for us, Indonesia), we have a responsibility to express our ideas semantically and grammatically because a piece of writing or sentence, or even a phrase, must be semantically acceptable, and meaningful. To write a sentence become paragraph or a text is an activity that combines both physical and psychological aspects. There are three steps of writing, there are; pre writing, writing, and revising (Blanchard & Root, 2003). The writer should combine two aspects above works together to proceed a piece of paragraph

Text Types/Genre

Harmer (2015) stated that one of the reasons we can communicate successfully, especially in writing, is because we have some understanding of a genre. The definition or the concept of text types is clear enough, but none is comprehensive or generally accepted although many of categorizations have been proposed by the scientist. Although the basic part of text types is usually easy to identify, there is no implication that such text types with neatly define boundaries. Genres can be integrated. The important point is not knowing in some mechanical way which genre an example fits into, but knowing how the category can make a different to the way in which it is interpreted.

There are many kinds of writing depend on purposes. The three general purposes of writing and they can all occur in a single essay, although usually the purpose is dominant; to explain (educate, inform), to entertain, and to persuade. So, in order to communicate ideas writing is essential. However, not all kinds of writing are extremely formal. The choice of language and structure in a paragraph or essay may be deliberately less formal to facilitate communication with readers (Reid, 2000).

The ability to identify and compare text types is crucial. Mark and Kathryn stated that there are two main categories of texts- literary and factual. Robert A. Day & Nancy (2011) stated that there are two kinds of writing. Those are literary writing and scientific writing. As a kind of writing, text types can be used in many ways to express ideas. Each text type has a common way of using language. Some genres have developed for use in radio and television, a documentary, a soap opera, panel discussion, news broadcast, travel programmed, light entertainment and a quiz show. These examples emphasize that genres always change and evolve (Stubbs, 1996).

Generic Structures

A generic structure of text can be defined as the overall structure or organization of text itself. Analysis of generic structures of value more strategic, purpose-driven genres. In other words, it contributes to the process of power striving that can establish public opinion. As a part of text types, generic structures are used by learners in target language to identify. In this case, the Editorial of the Jakarta Post which is included in the category of exposition text has an important role in how it is able to convey ideas through seductive opinions that pursue to convince readers to believe in ideas written by using Analytical Exposition text.

Moreover, it also has the power to set public opinion to recommend readers to do something related to an important issue by conveying it through a text type

that is called as Hortatory Exposition Text. The two types of exposition text have the same of three generic structures, but the last generic structure in each text will determine which one it belong to. The generic structures of Analytical Exposition are (1) a thesis that introduces the topic and indicates writer's position in regard to the topic, (2) the arguments that support write's position, (3) a summing up about restatement of writer's position. Meanwhile, the generic structures of Hortatory Exposition are (1) Thesis that introduces issues and indicates writer's position related to the topic, (2) arguments that support writer's position, (3) recommendation that recommend an action.

Exposition Text

An exposition text is a piece of text that presents one side of an issue (Anderson, 1997). If someone tries to persuade others to believe something or have argued with someone else, then s/he has to use the exposition text type. The purpose of an exposition text is to persuade the reader by presenting one side of an argument. Exposition text has one side of an issue, it different and inversely proportional from discussion text that has more than one side of issues or arguments. It can be found from any sources as newspaper, television, radio, etc. Some examples of exposition text are; advertisements, editorial, and legal defenses. It has some language features as follows:

The use of words that show the author's attitude (modality).

- a) The use of words that express feelings (emotive words).
- b) Use a word to link cause and effect.
- c) The Use of verbs of being and having.
- d) Use verbs of doing.
- e) Focus on generic participants; human or non-human.
- f) The Use of specific participants in order to refer to the writer and audience, predominantly in the topic issue and recommendation.

METHOD

This study was descriptive qualitative that analyze the generic structure of the Jakarta Post's editorial published in August, 2020. The word "descriptive" means giving a picture in words or describing something without feeling and judging. The subject is the editorial of the Jakarta Post and the object is the generic structures of six editorials to use as documents to analyze. The technique used is by opening website through the internet to access the Jakarta Post online. Then, the researcher used keywords to search about the editorial published in August, 2020 and download it all of the editorials. The researcher has to be a premium member so that he can take all the editorials of one month.

Finally, he chose six editorials randomly. The data obtains from documentation will be used to overcome the statements of the problems. To achieve

objectivity in analyzing the generic structures, there should be a standard to assess the editorials. It was assessed based on several criteria that what make good arguments. In fact, an editorial is a piece of exposition text written by newspaper editor that express a point of view about an issue.

Firstly, to get the objectivity in assessing the data of the language features that can make a good argument is based on a book entitled “Text Types” written by Mark & Kathryn Anderson (1997).

No	Good argument	Language Features
1	A thesis with clearly expressing a point of view.	- Consist of statement what the writer belief. - Line of the argument.
2	Using generalization or reasons to support the argument.	- Common belief. - Express Broad statement, not specific examples. - Not always 100% correct (there may be an exception to the rule).
3	Using evidence to prove or support the reason.	- Using research. - Using expert opinions. - Using testimony.
4	Showing cause and effect (Conclusion)	- So, Result in, Consequently, Brings about, Leads to, Generates, Give rise to, etc.

Secondly, to analyze the generic structures in classifying the genre of the Jakarta Post’s editorial is by following a book entitled “English for Social Purposes” by Jenny Hammond and friends. According to Jenny and friends (1992), there are two kinds of exposition texts. The difference between those two texts or genre is in the last of each generic structure:

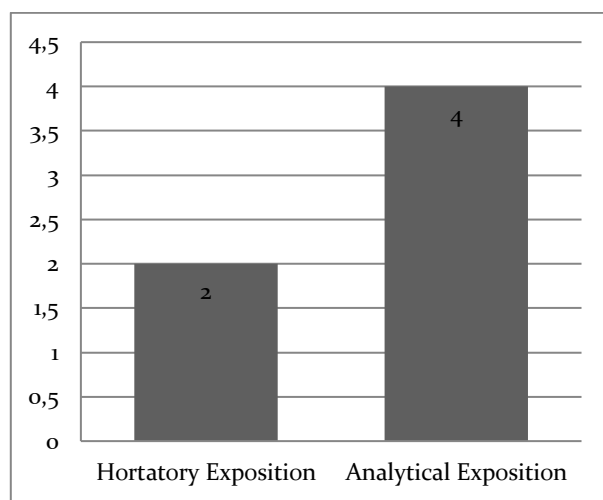
Genre	Analytical Exposition	Hortatory Exposition
The Generic Structures	(1) Thesis; introduces the topic and indicates writer’s position.	(1) Thesis; introduces an issue and indicates writer’s position.
	(2) Arguments; present to support writer’s position regarding to the topic.	(2) Arguments; present to support writer’s position regarding to the topic.
	(3) Summing up; a restatement of writer’s position.	(3) Recommendation; recommend an action.

This study decided that the editorial will be perfectly good and appropriate to be English teaching material of text types if the editorials contain all features above. Meanwhile, it will be fair if the generic structures consist of all three but miss one of

four language features. If there any editorial that fair, it means it can no longer classify as a good nor appropriate to be English teaching material of text types.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Chart 1.a showed about the finding of the Jakarta Post's editorials text analyzed based on the generic structures. The result classified the editorials into two kind of Exposition as stated below:



There are two hortatory exposition texts and four Analytical exposition texts. The two editorials of the Jakarta Post that belong to hortatory exposition texts entitled "Sense of crisis" and "Vaccine is not everything". Based on those two generic structures of the editorials that consist of recommendation to do the actions in the last in closing statements, it shows that the text is hortatory exposition. Hortatory exposition consists of three main generic structures; thesis, argument, and recommendation. Here are the results of the analysis of two editorials:

Title: Crisis of Sense

	Generic structures	Language features
Thesis	<i>It comes as no surprise that Indonesia's economy contracted in the second quarter of this year, although at minus 5.32 percent the rate is deeper than the government and economists had estimated and the weakest since the aftermath of the 1998 financial crisis.</i>	Clearly expressing writer's point of view
Argument	<i>-It is very disappointing, <u>however</u>, to see little contribution from government spending to at least soften the hard blow from the pandemic to the nation's economy. Government spending may be -The government <u>has increased</u> state spending by 7.9 percent to Rp 2.74 quadrillion (US\$188 billion), including Rp 695.2</i>	-Using reasons to support arguments. - Showing cause and effect.

	<i>trillion to contain COVID-19, from Rp 2.54 quadrillion in the original 2020 state budget.</i>	
Recommendations	<i>The government <u>needs to speed up</u> budget disbursement, ensure quality and accountability</i>	- Commons beliefs -Recommend an action.

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Fri, August 7, 2020 / 08:24 am

Title: Vaccine is not everything

Generic structures		Language features
Thesis	<i>It is admirable how the government has gone the extra mile to secure a COVID-19 vaccine amid a tight race among nations in their efforts to protect their citizens from the pandemic.</i>	Topic of the Thesis that indicates the writer's position.
Argument	<p><i><u>-Indonesian pharmaceutical giant Bio Farma</u> hopes to produce at least 150 million doses of a potential COVID-19 vaccine from China's Sinovac Biotech in the first quarter of 2021, <u>depending on the success</u> of the phase III tests now underway in Bandung, West Java.</i></p> <p><i>- <u>Retno said 20 million to 30 million doses</u> of the potential vaccine would be sent by the end of this year, with 80 million to 130 million doses coming in the first quarter of next year and 210 million doses for the remainder of 2021.</i></p> <p><i>- <u>The fact that the government is doing what it takes to secure a potential vaccine</u> is, therefore, a noble effort. But this is not a reason to put our minds at ease. The vaccines are still in clinical trials or in the form of commitments. People cannot rely on them as questions are still raised about their effectiveness.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use evidence to support the reason. - Common beliefs. - Using expert opinion.
Recommendations	<i>The government <u>should not forget</u> that a major part of slowing down the pandemic.....</i>	Recommended Action. It indicates that the editorial is "Hortatory Exposition Text".

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Wed, August 26, 2020 / 08:31 am

Moreover, the four editorials based on the generic structures' analysis belong to analytical exposition texts. The differentiation between analytical and hortatory can be identified in the last paragraph as a conclusion. The conclusion of analytical is a summing up previous arguments that restate writer's position while the hortatory text is recommendation that recommend an action. The results of the analysis analytical exposition can be seen below:

Title: Reforming the Police

Generic structures	Language features
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Thesis	<i>The ongoing probe into two police generals for allegedly accepting bribes to help fugitive tycoon Djoko S. Tjandra to avoid arrest is <u>by no means an ideal prelude to the succession</u> of the new chief of police,</i>	Topic of the Thesis that indicates the writer's position.
Argument	<p><i>-An internal investigation has confirmed the generals, Insp. Gen. Napoleon Bonaparte and Brig. Gen. Prasetyo Utomo, admitted to accepting money from Djoko. As head of.....</i></p> <p><i>- <u>Not all cops are bad, but the many officers who readily compromise</u> their integrity for money have resulted in a generalized perception that the police institution is corrupt. Public suspicion about the police's lack of commitment to anticorruption found an answer in a series of conflicts between the corps and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in the past.</i></p> <p><i>- <u>The public will continue to monitor the course of the investigation</u> into the two generals, although expectations of a credible process will be stymied unless it is entrusted to an independent team.</i></p>	<p>- use evidence to support the reason.</p> <p>- Using expert opinion.</p> <p>- using generalization.</p>
Recommendations	<i><u>The public does not care about who leads the police force, as long as the entire corps shows commitment to the spirit of reform</u>, which is expected to shape the culture of serving and protecting, rather than abusing and intimidating, the people.</i>	- a summing up that restate writer's position.

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Fri, August 28, 2020 / 08:20 am

Title: 75 years and counting

	Generic structures	Language features
Thesis	<i>The government has warned people against holding big and festive celebrations of the national day <u>for fear they would exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, which has infected more than 130,500 people, killing over 6,150 of them.</u></i>	Topic of the Thesis that indicates the writer's position.
Argument	<p><i>-.....presidents Megawati Soekarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, joined the ceremony <u>via video conference.</u></i></p> <p><i>In fact, in practice the Independence Day commemoration <u>went online.</u></i></p> <p><i>- <u>On Monday, the flag-hoisting ceremony to observe the momentous proclamation of Indonesia's independence was conducted at the Presidential Palace</u> in compliance with health protocols: only a small number of guests were invited, musical performances were pre-recorded and the national flag-hoisting squad was reduced to only eight – all members of last year's team.</i></p> <p><i>- <u>In fact, in practice the Independence Day commemoration went online.</u> Students, civil servants and other regular</i></p>	<p>- using expert opinion.</p> <p>- use evidence to support the reason.</p>

	<i>participants of the ceremony were asked to follow the event virtually from home.</i>	
Recommendations	<i>While the struggle to gain independence is already part of history, <u>the fighting spirit of our founding fathers is a long-lasting legacy</u> that will help us cope with today's challenges.</i>	- a summing up that restate writer's position.

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Tue, August 18, 2020 / 08:10 am

Title: Room for reform

	Generic structures	Language features
Thesis	<i>Reform may be easier said than done. However, <u>we agree with Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati's statement in a live broadcast interview with The Jakarta Post on Aug. 19 that the pandemic presents an opportunity for reforms in Indonesia</u></i>	Topic of the Thesis that indicates the writer's position.
Argument	<i>-The coronavirus <u>has exposed weaknesses</u> in Indonesia's healthcare system and social safety net database, which means there is plenty of room for reform. - <u>However, budget disbursement has been slow, with only 20 percent of the COVID-19 budget being spent as of Aug. 5. Only 39 percent of the overall state budget had been disbursed mid-year. Sri Mulyani said many ministers who were new to the Bureaucracies were having difficulties adjusting to the dynamics of the pandemic while still maintaining state budget accountability.</u></i>	- use evidence to support the reason. - use research to support argument.
Recommendations	<i>Although some have been forced to close shop, a lot more have quickly reformed their way of doing business, <u>swiftly pivoting toward digital platforms to survive the pandemic.</u></i>	- a summing up that restate writer's position.

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Mon, August 24, 2020 / 08:08 am

Title: School reopening risky

	Generic structures	Language features
Thesis	<i>Many fear that the prolonged closure of schools in an effort to contain COVID-19 will exacerbate already yawning inequalities, <u>but the government's plan to resume in-person education in areas where virus transmission remains unabated is dangerous.</u></i>	Topic of the Thesis that indicates the writer's position.
Argument	<i>-<u>This policy clearly defies international guidelines, which prescribe school reopening only if local transmission of COVID-19 is under control.</u> - <u>Over that period, however, infections in Indonesia have surged, although partly because of larger-scale testing and tracing. The decision to allow students in yellow zones to go back to school and meet their friends and teachers risks worsening local transmission, putting a heavier burden on the nation's limited healthcare facilities and workers and, in the long term, slowing the economic recovery.</u></i>	- use evidence to support the reason. - Using expert opinion. - using research to support argument.

	- <u>The stark difference between Indonesia and countries where students have returned to school – like Japan, South Korea and Israel – is that control of the virus continues to elude Indonesia. Even in the countries that have been able to manage infections, parents remain wary of letting their children attend in-person classes, regardless of strict health protocols. In certain cases, such as one in Israel, schools were closed again after reopening because students and teachers got ill.</u>	
Recommendations	<u>We might have already reopened schools and the economy if the government had responded quickly and effectively to the virus from the outset. But the government has now laid blame on everyday people and has deployed the military and police to discipline them.</u>	- a summing up that restate writer's position.

Editorial Board the Jakarta Post Jakarta / Mon, August 10, 2020 / 08:25 am

The result shows that the four editorials based on the generic structures and the language feature analysis related to theories that mention above are a kind of analytical exposition text. In addition, there are two editorials that belong to hortatory exposition and four editorials belong to analytical exposition. Both analytical and hortatory contain three generic structures and some language features. Analytical exposition sums up the paragraph by restate writer's position regarding to the topic issue, and hortatory exposition will end the paragraph by recommend an action to do.

CONCLUSION

To understand a message from texts is important, so that we can obtain information. The generic structures editorials of the Jakarta Post divided into three, an introductory statement or thesis or topic, a series of arguments to convince the readers, and conclusion that summing up the arguments or paragraph that recommend an action. Those three generic structures have constructed both hortatory and analytical exposition. The classification of the editorials is based on the purpose or the generic structures. The texts are belonging to analytical when the writer in the last paragraph of conclusion persuades the readers that something is the case or sums up the arguments. Therefore, the texts are belonging to hortatory when the writer of the editorial persuades the readers to recommend or take some action in the last paragraph as a conclusion.

This research revealed that the editorials of the Jakarta Post presented good argument both in convincing and persuading the readers about the topic that is to say it completely has strong power in controlling our mind and even takes some reaction of any case discussed. Indeed, most of all the arguments are really interest to readers. It also contains all aspects that what makes good criteria to use as a teaching material of text type especially exposition text. It can be said that the editorials of the Jakarta Post are appropriate and good to be teaching material of

exposition text. It can be identified from the result of this research that the generic structures consist of issue or an introductory statement, arguments, and a conclusion supported by clearly expressing a point of view, using generalization, common belief, broad statements, using evidence to prove the generalizations, showing cause and effect to connect an action and what it leads to, and a conclusion that summing up the argument or recommend an action. The present study has its limitation. One of the limitations is that this study did not analyze the grammatical error of each structure. It is suggested to the next researcher conduct a research related to this area and deeply analyzes both grammatically and completely of text types.

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