
Analyzing the Use of Dictions in the Opinion Column of *Haluan* Newspaper

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Abstract

This study analyzed the use of diction in the opinion column in the November 1 to 5 2022 editions of the *Haluan* newspaper. The purpose of this research was to find and revise diction errors in the opinion column published in the newspaper. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative method. The technique used in data collection was the technique of observing and noting. The results of this study indicated that there were many diction errors in the opinion column of the November 1 to 5 2022 editions of *Haluan* newspaper. From the results of this study, it can be concluded that the writers of *Haluan* newspaper must be more careful when publishing their opinions. Writers must observe and correct the writing of opinions before being published. Errors in diction in opinions can have fatal consequences because of the different perceptions and meanings of each person, which results in misunderstandings that can offend some readers, causing conflict and division within society.

Keywords: Dictions, Opinion Column, Newspaper

Introduction

Language is a communication tool that contains the intention to convey something to others. What the speaker wants to express can be understood and understood by the listener or interlocutor through language which is expressed in symbols. According to Chaer (2003) as a human communication tool, language is a system that is both systematic and systematic. Systematic means that language is not one system, but consists of several subsystems, namely the phonological subsystem, morphological subsystem, syntactic subsystem, and semantic subsystem.

The language used has a different character. This happens because not everyone has the same social status. Social status affects the language used. The higher their social status, the language they use is the language of the upper class or the language of the students. Therefore, the use of language must be considered when communicating with other people in a social environment. In social life, we often encounter that when someone communicates with other people, because of an inappropriate choice, it is difficult for the other person to get information from the speaker. In fact, we often meet until misunderstandings arise due to the use of the wrong word. This is because the choice of words should not only question the accuracy of the words used, but also whether the words chosen are easy to understand. A precise word expresses a specific purpose.

Diction according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is the choice of words that are appropriate and aligned (in their use to express ideas so that a certain effect is obtained (as expected). The choice of words or diction is very influential on the aims and objectives to be conveyed. Errors in the use of diction can found in the mass media, one of which is in newspapers. Therefore, the use of diction in newspapers needs to be studied, because newspapers are one of the media in conveying information to the public. In Keraf (2001) the requirements for accuracy of diction are as follows: the use of structures that are not economical. The study of the accuracy of diction choices according to Lui Mintatang (1988) there are 3

conditions for the accuracy of diction choices, namely the use of uneconomical words, the use of redundant words, and the use of flowery words.

In printed media, especially newspapers, the use of words that are easy to understand helps readers more easily capture what is read and the content of the news to be conveyed. Because there are terms in newspapers that are easily understood by the general public. Can easily understand and understand what it means. Newspapers, especially print media, must use wording that is short, clear, concise, not ambiguous and difficult for readers to understand. However, it is also very descriptive and does not reduce the meaning and content of the news.

Talking about the use of words, of course, can not be separated from the use of words that are correct and logical. Siregar (in Isma Tantawi, 2013) explains that language is a way of expressing thoughts, feelings, and desires to other people. When the writer's or speaker's desire to express thoughts, feelings, and desires arises in the heart, it must be expressed in words. When expressing ideas, the writer or speaker must be able to choose the right words or phrases to represent the thoughts, feelings and desires that you want to convey to other people (speakers or listeners). This process is called word selection or dictionary.

Currently, there are many newspapers emerging both nationally and regionally. In this regard, the authors chose newspapers as a source of research data. The newspaper used by the author as a source of this research is Haluan newspaper. Haluan newspaper is a newspaper in West Sumatra. As mentioned above, language has different characteristics, and the use of language in the Haluan newspaper also has different characteristics, one of which is opinion. Opinions that are written and published in newspapers usually use a lot of inappropriate word choices so that the reader does not understand what is written.

The term opinion which is translated into "opinion" is defined by Cutlip and Center as the expression of an attitude regarding a conflicting issue. Opinion is also interpreted as an opinion or view on an issue. According to Thahar (2008: 144), opinion is opinion. In English it is called opinion, which means that according to the Thesaurus dictionary published by Harper Collins in 1992, it is defined as opinion, view, belief and persuasion. In other words, an opinion is written based on someone's opinion or theory, which of course everyone is free to disagree and must be challenged if necessary.

Relevant research in this research is Erma Rokhmawati's study in (2013) entitled "Analysis of the Use of Diction in 'Classic' Kompas Daily, Sunday edition, January-February 2013". There were two objectives of this study, namely (1) to describe the types of vocabulary used in the January-February 2013 Sunday edition of the Kompas newspaper, and (2) to describe the meaning of the vocabulary used in the "Classics". The results of the research on the Sunday January-February 2013 edition of Kompas Daily showed that the word forms in "Classical Kompas Daily Weekly" are (1) the use of special words, (2) the use of foreign words, (3) the meaning of the use of words A. The use of touch B. Use of sight C. Use of smell (4) Use of synonyms (5) Use of connotation of words Use of denotative words.

Furthermore, in Rifqi Faizah's research (2015) entitled "Use of Diction on Facebook Social Media and Its Impact on Learning Indonesian Language and Literature". The purpose of this study was to find out the use of words in the media, to find out the social facebook used by Indonesian language and literature education students and students, to find out the use of polite words when interacting on Facebook social media, to find out the use of polite words polite words when interacting on Facebook social media, to find out the use of the word Implications for learning Indonesian language and literature. The results of this study indicated that in terms of the use of words: (1) the use of synonyms and homophones, (2) the use of meaningful denotations and connotations, (3) the use of general words and special words. (3) Use of common words and special words, (4) Use of popular words and learned words. (5) Use of jargon, colloquial terms and slang.

The results of this study were expected to provide benefits for readers and especially for researchers. Viewed from a theoretical and practical perspective, the theoretical aspect was to add to the theoretical vocabulary in the field of language and the practical aspect of this research was expected by other researchers. The results of this study could be used as a reference for research related to the use of

diction. The purpose of this study was to describe the use of diction in the opinion column in the Haluan newspaper, November 1 to 5, 2022 editions.

Methods

The type of research used in this research was qualitative research. Moleong (2001) defines qualitative research as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken language from people or observed behavior. The method used in this research was descriptive method with observing and note-taking techniques. According to Ratna (2004), the descriptive method is a method that describes facts, then analyzed, understood and explained in full. The purpose of descriptive research is to describe or explain systematically, correctly and accurately the facts, characteristics, and interrelationships of the phenomena studied. In this study, it was described systematically, honestly, and accurately about the analysis of the use of diction in the opinion column in the Haluan newspaper. The data collection was carried out in the following steps: (1) collecting the opinion columns of the Haluan newspaper from 1 to 5 November 2022 editions, (2) identifying the data, namely by reading the opinion columns and marking parts of the text which include diction errors; and (3) inventorying data using the data inventory format. The data collected were analyzed through the following steps: classifying the data, describing the data related to the diction, analyzing data related to words that contain diction errors, and interpreting the data obtained. The last step was summarizing the data as a whole from the results of the study.

Results and Discussion

After the data were collected and grouped, the researchers performed data analysis by choosing the right words or diction in the opinion column in the Haluan newspaper. Results of data analysis in this study found that there were diction errors in terms of connotation, diction errors in terms of synonyms, diction errors in terms of the use of words that were not economical, diction errors in terms of the use of redundant words. The results are described below.

Diction Errors in terms of Connotation

Datum 1:

Marx menggunakan konsep alienasi untuk menyatakan sebagai hasil pengaruh dari produksi yang dihasilkan oleh kapitalis terhadap manusia dan masyarakat terkhusus masyarakat yang berada dalam cengkaman kaum kapitalis (kaum Protelar).

In this sentence, the use of inappropriate diction is found in the word *cengkaman*, which is a word that has a connotative meaning. The word *cengkaman* should be replaced with the word *pengaruh*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Marx menggunakan konsep alienasi untuk menyatakan sebagai hasil pengaruh dari produksi yang dihasilkan oleh kapitalis terhadap manusia dan masyarakat terkhusus masyarakat yang berada dalam pengaruh kaum kapitalis (kaum Protelar).

Datum 2:

Fenomena alienasi perlu diwaspadai karena menciderai dari nilai-nilai demokrasi seperti menciderai hak bagi setiap orang untuk bebas memilih.

In this sentence, the word *menciderai* is inappropriately used since it has a connotative meaning. It is better for the writer to replace the word *menciderai* with the word *merusak* and *membatasi*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Fenomena alienasi perlu diwaspadai karena merusak dari nilai-nilai demokrasi seperti membatasi hak bagi setiap orang untuk bebas memilih.

Datum 3:

Dugaan bahwa yang dijatuhkan kepada beliau sebagai orang yang menjual barang bukti terlarang sebesar 5 kg.

The word *dijatuhkan* is inaccurately used in this sentence, and it should be replaced with the word *ditujukan*. Therefore, the correct sentence is:

Dugaan bahwa yang ditujukan kepada beliau sebagai orang yang menjual barang bukti terlarang sebesar 5 kg.

Diction Mistakes in terms of Synonyms

Datum 4:

Marx believed that there are contradiction between human nature and the way humans work caused by capitalism.

The use of the diction *kontradiksi* in the above sentence is incorrect, and it should be replaced with the word *pertentangan*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Marx percaya bahwa terdapat pertentangan nyata antara sifat dasar manusia dengan cara manusia bekerja yang disebabkan oleh kapitalisme.

Datum 5:

Alienasi atau keterasingan adalah salah satu konsep penting pemikiran Karl Max (1818-1883M) dalam mengkritik sistem kapitalisme, dimana pada masa itu manifestasi sistem ini berlaku terkhusus dalam hal di dunia kerja industri.

In this sentence, the word *manifestasi* is incorrectly used. It should be replaced with the word *perwujudan*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Alienasi atau keterasingan adalah salah satu konsep penting pemikiran Karl Max (1818-1883M) dalam mengkritik sistem kapitalisme, dimana pada masa itu perwujudan sistem ini berlaku terkhusus dalam hal di dunia kerja industri.

Datum 6:

Pada realitas yang ada sejauh ini, memang terlihat bahwa adat seperti ini merupakan alat untuk mendikte sekelompok orang dengan tujuan agar mereka paham filosofi adat Minangkabau dan harus menyesuaikan diri dengan filosofi tersebut.

The use of diction that is found to be inappropriate is the word *mendikte*. It should be replaced with the word *menyuruh* so the correct sentence is:

Pada realitas yang ada sejauh ini, memang terlihat bahwa adat seperti ini merupakan alat untuk menyuruh sekelompok orang dengan tujuan agar mereka paham filosofi adat Minangkabau dan harus menyesuaikan diri dengan filosofi tersebut.

Dictional Errors in terms of The Use of Ineffective Words

Datum 7:

Sebab hewan sudahlah pasti apa yang ditangkap oleh panca inderanya dan nalurinya menginginkannya, pasti akan langsung dieksekusi oleh si hewan.

The use of dictions in this sentence is mostly incorrect since it was found that many words are repeated and ineffective like the word *-nya*, in *panca inderanya*, *nalurinya*, *minginkannya*, and the word *akan*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Sebab hewan sudah pasti apa yang ditangkap oleh panca indera dan nalurinya menginginkan, pasti langsung dieksekusi oleh si hewan.

Datum 8:

Dalam makan bajamba kita juga tidak boleh mengeluarkan suara, atau yang biasa disebut oleh orang Minang makan mancapak.

In this sentence, the word *yang* should be omitted because it contains ambiguity in the use of the word. The writer should choose a more correct and effective word. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Dalam makan bajamba kita juga tidak boleh mengeluarkan suara, atau biasa disebut oleh orang Minang makan mancapak.

Datum 9:

Akan tetapi dalam ia menciptakan sebuah karya ataupun sebagai filsuf yang dikeluarkannya adalah teorinya tidak akan bisa terlepas jua dari perasaan serta kemauannya.

The word *sebagai* and the use of suffix *-nya* in the word *dikeuarkannya* are incorrect and should be omitted because they make the sentence intricate. Thus, the sentence should be revised to:

Akan tetapi dalam ia menciptakan sebuah karya ataupun filsuf yang dikeluarkan adalah teorinya tidak akan bisa terlepas jua dari perasaan serta kemauannya.

Dictional errors in terms of Redundant Words

Datum 10:

Kebudayaan memiliki kekhasan tersendiri dalam proses memakan dan makanan ini, mulai dari dari menyiapkan bahan makanan, proses memasak, mengemas makanan, dan proses memakan.

The diction *dan makanan ini* in the above sentence is less accurate. These words should be omitted since they contain redundant elements. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Kebudayaan memiliki kekhasan tersendiri dalam proses memakan, mulai dari menyiapkan bahan makanan, proses memasak, mengemas makanan, dan proses memakan.

Datum 11:

Suara-suara yang kita timbulkan akan mengganggu selera makan yang lainnya.

An inappropriate use of diction in this sentence is found in the word *suara-suara* due to the redundancy, which is marked by the use of repeated words. This means that the writer should not repeat the word *suara*. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Suara yang kita timbulkan akan mengganggu selera makan yang lainnya.

Datum 12:

Jika kita tidak dapat menghargai tamu yang datang dan memperlakukannya tidak sebagaimana mestinya akan berdampak pada citra diri keluarga atau rumah tangga tersebut.

The incorrect use of diction in this sentence is found in the word *atau rumah tangga* due to the redundancy so it should be removed. Thus, the correct sentence is:

Jika kita tidak dapat menghargai tamu yang datang dan memperlakukannya tidak sebagaimana mestinya akan berdampak pada citra diri keluarga tersebut.

Table 1. Data of the Diction Errors Found in the Opinion Column of *Haluan* Newspaper

No.	Types of Errors	Frequency
1	Diction errors in terms of connotation	8
2	Diction errors in terms of synonyms	10
3	Diction Errors in terms of ineffective words	7
4	Diction Errors in terms of redundant words	12

Table 1 show the results of the study indicating that the use of diction includes diction errors in terms of connotation (8 errors), diction errors in terms of synonyms (10 errors), diction errors in terms of the use of ineffective words (7 errors), and diction errors in terms of the use of redundant words (12 errors).

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research conducted in this study, it can be concluded that the use of diction in the opinion column in the Haluan newspaper obtained data in the form of using diction according to the requirements for diction accuracy, namely, using diction in terms of connotations, using diction in terms of synonyms and according to the accuracy of diction choices, namely, using diction in terms of the use of words that are not economical and the use of words that are redundant. The use of diction contained in the opinion column in the Haluan newspaper is very dominant, there are diction errors in terms of the use of redundant words. This is evident from the findings of this study.

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