A Comparative Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning on Editorial Texts Concerning Phone Tapping to Indonesian Leader Published by The Jakarta Globe and The Australian (Systemic Functional Linguistics Approach)

Zein Akbar Syah

Abstract - This research examined interpersonal meaning in two editorial texts which concerned telephone tapping issue to Indonesian leader. The texts were published by international media from Indonesia and Australia, namely The Jakarta Globe and The Australian. The analysis was also carried out to discover the similarities and differences of interpersonal meaning between the texts covering status, affect and contact. This research related the interpersonal meaning to media study which focused on media influence theory. The interpersonal meaning is interpreted through the lexicogrammar, including MOOD system, mood structure, theme, transitivity system, lexis system, clause system, and nominal group. Analysis of modality, text structure, and genre are also added. This research results several findings. The first finding is the realization and similarities and differences of interpersonal meaning in both texts consisting status, affect and contact. The Jakarta Globe employs unequal status to the participants inside the text. However, The Australian applies equal status to participants inside the text. In terms of affect, The Jakarta Globe exploits negative affect to the participants inside the text. In contrast, The Australian has positive affect to the participants inside the text. In terms of contact, both texts employ good readability and familiar language to the readers. The second is the relation between interpersonal meaning on the texts and media influence theory. By using particular status, affect, and contact, editorial text can create attitude change and cognitive change toward the readers and societies. But interpersonal meaning in a text does not always build an influence to the readers.

Keywords: interpersonal meaning, editorial, media

I. INTRODUCTION

This research analyzes interpersonal meaning in editorial texts published by thejakartaglobe.com and theaustralian.com.au. Editorial text is chosen as source of data because it is a comment about a pressing issue in the society (Moji, 2011). Therefore, there should be strategy of the writer to influence the behavior of the readers through the text.

The comparative analysis of editorial of The Jakarta Globe and The Australian is expected to exploit more view about how media influence society especially through editorial text.

Furthermore, the sources of data are two texts which have similar genre, which is editorial text. In addition, the analysis provides comparison between editorial texts from Indonesia and Australia which discuss telephone tapping issue. It is because the previous researches concerning interpersonal meaning lack focus on the genre text especially editorial texts from different context of culture (Tjahyani, 2006; Ayoola, 2013; Sriyono, 2009).

The aim of the research is to find out interpersonal meaning in terms of status, affect, and contact of the editorial from Indonesian and Australian newspapers. The interpersonal meaning is interpreted through the MOOD system, theme system, transitivity system, and lexis system. Analysis of proposition and proposal, polarity, modality, nominal group, cohesion, text structure, genre, and clause system will also be added. Lastly, this research relates interpersonal meaning to media influence theory.

This research is a qualitative study applying descriptive method. It was based on Systemic Functional Linguistics approach, focusing on the analysis of interpersonal meaning. In addition, it applied total sampling technique and content analysis method in collecting and analyzing the data.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Interpersonal Meaning

The interpersonal meaning’s roles are to set up and maintain social relations and indicate the roles of the participants in communication (Halliday, 2002). It is about the purposes when language is used to interact. It can be a tool to influence other people’s attitude or behaviour, to give information, to explain our own attitude, to make people do some actions, and so on (Thompson 2000; Simon, 1997). Interpersonal meaning deals with tenor as its situational context. According to Martin (1992), tenor has three aspects, namely status, affect, and contact. Status manages social status and social role of the participants. It can be equal or unequal. Affect comprises assessment, evaluation, and judgment between participants in a text. It is divided into positive and negative. Contact investigates the use of language in a text. It explains the
familiarity of the language whether the language can be easily understood by all the participants or not.

B. Media Theory

News media are concerned to show the face of the enemy (Burton, 2005). It is because the media is influenced by environment and the owner's interest. Therefore, media has particular power and ideology to influence society. Media may be seen as a site of struggle for the dominance of one set of ideas over another or as a kind of ideological state apparatus, and a trojan horse for the dominant ideology (Gramsci, Althusser, in Burton, 2005).

Furthermore Burton (2002) describes the influence in terms of types of change, and broader effects on society and on social groups. They are attitude change, cognitive change, affective (emotional) change, agenda setting, moral panics, socialization, reality formation, social control, and endorsement of ideology.

III. METHODS

A. Materials

This research employed two editorial texts which were published by www.thelakartaglobe.com on November 19, 2013 and www.theaustralian.au on December 14, 2013. Editorial is chosen as the source of data because editorial functions to help readers make sense out of the news and conclusion about topic of important to contemporary society (Gamble and Gamble, 1989). Therefore, in society, editorial has several roles and impact. It can stimulate anger, satisfaction, sympathy, empathy, sadness, happiness, and other feelings (Rivers & Mc Intyre, 1994). So, editorial must contain linguistic data which are used to influence the readers.

The primary data of this research were the linguistic data which are related to interpersonal meaning. They are mood structure, MOOD system, transitivity system, lexis system, thematic structure, clause system, and nominal group.

B. Design

This research conducted a qualitative research applying descriptive method. Furthermore, Systemic Functional Linguistics theory specifically interpersonal meaning was employed as the approach of this research.

In collecting the data, total sampling technique was used. Thus, the whole sample or clauses in the two editorial texts were examined to realize the interpersonal meaning.

Lastly, the data were analyzed qualitatively through content analysis. Content analysis is employed to interpret the content of the data by using systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns emerged in the data (Wahyuni in Briliani, 2014).

C. Procedure

There are four stages of content analysis, namely domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis, and finding cultural values (Spradley in Santosa, 2012). Thus, the procedure of data analysis in this research is as follows.

1. Applying Domain Analysis

Domain analysis in this research was carried out by investigating the whole clauses in both editorial texts published by The Jakarta Globe on November 19, 2013 and The Australian on December 14, 2013. The analysis are in terms of mood structure, MOOD system, transitivity system, lexis system, thematic structure, clause system, and nominal group.

2. Applying Taxonomic Analysis

In taxonomic analysis, the data were classified based on its category. The data will be classified into transitivity, lexis system, clause system, thematic structure, mood structure and nominal group.

3. Applying Componential Analysis

The data, which were got from domain and taxonomic analysis, were tabulated in componential analysis. This analysis explained the relation of the data based on its categories or component. The relation of each component realized interpersonal meaning of the editorial texts covering status, affect and contact.

4. Finding Cultural Values

This stage was applied to discover why the speakers employ a certain interpersonal interaction with the audiences. Besides, it was linked with related theories and previous researches.

IV. RESULTS

A. Interpersonal Meaning Realized in Both Editorial Texts

1. Status

The realization of status can be investigated from the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texts</th>
<th>Mood</th>
<th>Transitivity</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Lexis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pt</td>
<td>Pl</td>
<td>Ma</td>
<td>Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLB</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1 Status in mood structure, transitivity system, thematic structure, and lexis system.
In *The Jakarta Globe*'s editorial, the status between the writer and the participant inside the text is unequal. It is because the writer expresses many criticisms and evaluations to the participants. The writer also shows his authority towards the participant. In this case, the participant is Australian government since the writer positions himself in Indonesian side. The unequal status is realized in the use of mood structure, transitivity, lexis system, theme, and modality.

In terms of mood structure, there are four proposal clauses as demanding goods and services which are devoted to Australia. The writer demands Australia to apologize to Indonesia. It is written explicitly. One of the proposal clauses is equipped by “will have to” (Cl. 18). It is a high modality. It indicates the authority of the writer. The mood structure is also supported by the transitivity system. The writer uses several material processes to report the tapping action. As a matter of fact, some of the processes are included as attitudinal lexis. It indicates that the writer reports the telephone tapping action by also attaching his judgment. Those processes portray Australian action negatively. The examples are *has gone too far* (Cl. 1), *has crossed the line* (Cl. 5), and *has been violated* (Cl. 16a). It means that Australia is criticized continuously by the writer. Therefore, it can be concluded that Australia is positioned as subordinate.

However, in The Australian’s editorial, in terms of mood structure, the whole clauses are declarative proposition clause functioning as giving information. There is also no high modality which is directed to participants. It keeps the status equal.

In transitivity systems, attributive relational process appears mostly in the text. The process is used to give attribute or judgment to the participant by the writer. The judgment is based on the writer’s belief. The judgment of the writer can be positive or negative. It is based on the attitudinal lexis which is employed in the text. In judging Indonesian government, *The Australian* uses lexes which tend to show respect to Indonesian government. The examples are, *significant, autonomous political player*, *most important advisor, senior, great president*, and *great friend* (Cl. 7). Those lexes are used by the writer, who represents Australia, to construct equal status with Indonesia even though Australia intercepted Indonesian leader’s phone. This equal status becomes the foundation of the writer to deliver reasons and arguments about the telephone tapping issue. By applying equal status, it can be said that Australia hopes to get compromise from Indonesia to defuse the issue. That also becomes the purpose of the editorial text.

### 2. Affect

The realization of affect can be seen from the table 4.2 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Te</th>
<th>Mood</th>
<th>Transitivity</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Lexis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Ma</td>
<td>Ve</td>
<td>IR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>U</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4.2 Affect in mood structure, transitivity system, thematic structure, and lexis system**

Notes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GLB: The Jakarta Globe</th>
<th>MB: Mental behavioural process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUS: The Australian</td>
<td>VB: Verbal behavioural process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co: Congruent lexis</td>
<td>Ex: Existential process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl: Proposal</td>
<td>TU: Topical unmarked theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt: Proposition</td>
<td>TM: Topical marked theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma: Material process</td>
<td>In: Interpersonal theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me: Mental process</td>
<td>Te: Textual theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ve: Verbal process</td>
<td>D: Descriptive lexis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR: Attributive relational process</td>
<td>A: Attitudinal lexis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR: Identifying relational process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The writer of *The Jakarta Globe* gives negative judgment or affect to the participant inside the text. The negative judgment can be identified from the MOOD system, lexis system, and modality.

There are many lexes which describe telephone tapping issue negatively such as *emotion, running high, doubly, damaging lies in tatter, violated, spiral downhill, quickly, and damage*. The attitudinal lexes contain negative meaning toward the issue. It is because attitudinal lexis contains the judgment or opinion of the writer (Santosa, 2003).

In the MOOD system, there are four proposal clauses which directed to Australian government (Cl. 2b, 18a, 18b, 18c). The clauses forced Australian government to apologize to Indonesia. It indicates that the writer positions Australian government in subordinate position. It is supported by modality such as *will have to and need*.

In *The Australian*, the writer employs positive affect to the issue and Indonesian government. The positive affect is realized from the attitudinal lexis. The writer judges Indonesian government positively. Furthermore, the positive affect is also realized through the theme system.

From the lexis system, the writer judges the issue and Kristiani Herawati with lexes which have positive meaning such as *responsibly, significant, and autonomous*. Those lexes
are used to judge Australian spies and Kristiani Herawati which are positioned as unmarked topical theme in the clause. The clauses are below.
1. Our spies acted responsibly
2. The chief of those was that she was a significant, autonomous political player in her own right. (Cl. 6)

3. Contact
The interpretation of the contact which is about the readability and familiarity of the language can be examined through several categories in the following table 4.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Clause system</th>
<th>Nominal group</th>
<th>Lexis system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minor Simplex Complex</td>
<td>Simplex Complex Congruent Incongruent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLB</td>
<td>0 12 7 47 14 109</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS</td>
<td>0 15 5 42 27 183</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0 27 12 89 41 292</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.3 Contact in clause system, nominal group, and lexis system

Based on the table 4.3, The Jakarta Globe and The Australian employ dominant simplex clause. It is followed by complex clauses. Both writers deliver the message in a simple way. In terms of nominal group, both texts also have more simplex nominal group than complex nominal group. The examples of simplex nominal group are a senior figure, phone intercept decisions, the first lady’s personal phones, and economic ties. The simplex clauses and simplex nominal groups make the texts have good readability in delivering the message.

In the lexis system, congruent lexis is more dominant than incongruent lexis. In addition, there are some abstractions in the texts such as spying, relation, cooperation, and cementing ties. These abstractions do not reduce the readability of the texts since the texts employ reference. Therefore, the language of the text is familiar with the readers.

B. The Relationship of the Interpersonal Meaning with Media Influence Theory
There are three responses (comment) which is produced by the readers toward the editorial text. The two responses are stated in Twitter and a response is found in comment column of The Jakarta Globe editorial. The whole response deals with The Jakarta Globe’s editorial. The response and comment are presented below.
1. Ken Jobling
2. 
3. Lindsay

From the responses above, it can be seen that some of the responses are in accordance with the editorial text. They are Ken Jobling’s and Lindsay’s response. In Ken Jobling’s comment, it is clear that he agrees with The Jakarta Globe’s argument. He writes that Australian government should apologize to Indonesia. This argument corresponds with The Jakarta Globe’s aim which forces Australian government to apologize to Indonesian. It can be seen from the sentence There is no doubt that if Australia wishes to limit the damage from the fallout of the spying scandal, it needs to apologize to the Indonesian government and the Indonesian people (Clause 2) and It will have to own up to its actions, apologize as demanded by Indonesia and promise not to carry out such espionage in the future (Clause 18).

Furthermore, Lindsay’s comment has similar point with The Jakarta Globe’s editorial. Lindsay positions herself in the same side with The Jakarta Globe. Her response deals with the sentence Indonesia’s sovereignty has been violated and relations can spiral downhill very quickly (Clause 16). That clause uses a material process, violated, which contains attitudinal lexis. The lexis gives negative impression toward the actor of the process. It shows the writer’s negative affect to Australian government.

The response from Ken Jobling and Lindsay can be categorized as attitude change and cognitive change. Attitude change is effects on people’s orientation towards or against certain ideas or behaviours. Meanwhile, cognitive change is effects on people’s value and beliefs - how one thinks about a subject (Burton, 2002 in Burton, 2005). Ken Jobling and
Lindsay stand in *The Jakarta Globe*’s point of view although they are Australian citizens.

In the other response, however, there is no indication of influence from the editorial text. The comment, which is published by an account named good, bad, and ugly, does not focus on the message of the editorial text. It means that the interpersonal meaning does not always build influence to the reader.

V. DISCUSSION

As seen in the result, *The Jakarta Globe* applies unequal status to participant inside the text. Meanwhile, *The Australian* employs equal status its participant inside the text. The status is realized through the MOOD system, lexis system, and modality. *The Jakarta Globe* uses particular proposition mood functioning demanding good and services which is directed to Australian government (participant). It also uses attitudinal lexis and high modality. *The Australian* employs mostly proposition mood functioning as giving information, attitudinal lexis, and low modality.

In terms of affect, *The Jakarta Globe* exploits negative affect to the participant inside the text. Meanwhile, *The Australian* applies positive affect to its participant. *The Jakarta Globe* criticises the participant through the attitudinal lexis which has negative meaning such as emotion, running high, doubly, damaging lies in tatter, violated, spiral downhill, quickly, and damage. However, *The Australian* shows positive judgment through attitudinal lexis such as as responsibly, significant, and autonomous.

The status and affect indicate the communicative purposes of the texts. *The Jakarta Globe* aims to make readers make sense out of the news and conclusion about topic of important to contemporary society (Gamble and Gamble, 1989). Furthermore, media are concerned to show the face of the enemy (Burton, 2005). It means that *The Jakarta Globe* text aims to force Australian government and guide society to have negative perception about Australia’s tapping action. It is supported by the hortatory exposition genre employed by *The Jakarta Globe*. Meanwhile, *The Australian* aims to clarify and reduce the telephone tapping issue. Therefore, it employs positive affect to the participant.

In terms of contact, both texts have good readability and familiar language to the readers. It is due to the dominant of simplex clause, simplex nominal group, and congruent lexis. By using particular status, affect, and contact, editorial text can create attitude change and cognitive change toward the readers and societies. However, based on the comment and response from the audience, interpersonal meaning in a text does not always build an influence to the readers.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the three elements of interpersonal meaning in both texts, the similarity sits in the contact. Both texts have good readability and familiarity to the readers.

On the other hand, the differences lie on the status and affect. *The Jakarta Globe* exploits unequal and higher status to the participant inside the text, meanwhile *The Australian* exerts equal status. In terms of affect, *The Jakarta Globe* employs negative affect to the participants inside the text. It is used to force Australian government in order to apologize to Indonesia. The Australian gives positive affect to participant inside the text. It is the way of the writer to clarify and reduce the issue.

The relation of the interpersonal meaning and media influence theory can be seen from the comment and response of the viewer on internet. Based on the comments and responses presented in Chapter IV, particular status, affect, and contact can create attitude change and cognitive change toward the readers and societies. However, interpersonal meaning in a text does not always build an influence to the readers.

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Open University Press


Continuum International Publishing Group.


