

IMPLEMENTATION OF LANGUAGE RULES IN THE NEWSPAPER

Hermandra, Zulhafizh

*Language and Literature Indonesia Education Study Program
Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Riau University
E-mails: hermandra2312@gmail.com, zulhafizhss@gmail.com*

Abstract: The objectives of this research are to carry out a study on the implementation of language rules in newspapers. This research is qualitative research. The sample of this research there are three newspapers is Riau Pos, Koran Riau, and Pekanbaru Pos. The data were gathered by using documentation techniques and were analysed by descriptive approach. The data show that some mistakes are found in newspapers, such as name of a person writing, name of place writing, title writing, abbreviations, dashes, prepositions, standard words, syllables, names of month, foreign language words, loanwords, misspelling and added or omitted words. In conclusion these mistakes may gradually be considered as an implementation of correct language rules by the readers that are unaware of the mistakes. Therefore, those who concern about languages should promote the use of correct language rules.

Keywords: *Rules, Language, Mistakes, Newspapers*

Information can be conveyed through a lot of kinds of media. One of the media that is quite popular to convey it is newspaper. Newspaper could be used to convey various kinds of information needed by readers or the public. It also plays an important role in documenting information. In addition, in linguistic studies, newspaper can function as a social icon in disseminating a language. Someone can convey information and disseminate a language through newspaper.

A reader can know the development of language through newspaper. Words derived from a current colloquial language or slang language, such as 'cious', is used to replace the word 'serious' (serious). Such colloquial language term can be popular after it is published in newspaper. In addition, language rules, especially in the context of Indonesian-conventional language may also appear in newspaper. It is possible that writers of newspaper do not use language rules to convey all information correctly, such as capitalization and misspellings. Such condition can affect the quality of writing and information conveyed in the newspaper.

Newspaper writers need to concern with and obey the Indonesian language rules. Mistakes can bring negative impact for readers of newspapers on identifying the language rules correctly. Readers may think that anything written in newspaper is true. Thus, readers may follow the way of the newspaper writers. If it happens continuously, newspapers can drive readers to the use of correct language rules incorrectly.

This study aims to find out the use of language rules in newspapers. This study is important to be carried out since newspapers are read by the public. The incorrect use of language rules can also drive an assumption of readers because newspapers are media used for dissemination and publication of a language. A way that newspaper writers can use to present objective and actual information is taking into account the use of the language rules correctly.

A correct use of a language is based on its context and linguistic principles. As a systemic language, there are rules governing the use of language in order that the use is on the right track. The rules control the use of the language so that communicative interactions can run. Communication cannot run properly if the language rules are ignored. It is important for language users to build a harmony in language in order that communication is not interrupted and in order to avoid disputes and controversy. Sutiawati (2016: 44) said that the use of correct language rules is a must. In addition, Hidayat, 2002: 2 said that the use of correct language rules enables readers to understand what that they read easier. Furthermore, Tshotsho, 2013: 39 said that the use of correct language rules meets the expectations and needs of readers or language users. This is what is expected from newspaper as a media.

Newspapers are mass media that contribute greatly to language development. They present various information needed by people. An instrument used in newspapers is a language. The use of language in newspapers can affect readers or language users. Gani (2001: 34) affirmed that contents of newspapers can influence readers and even change attitude and behavior of readers. In addition, Nasriah (2012: 162) said that newspapers have the power to mobilize or stimulate people.

A well-written newspaper can indirectly provide both information and good understanding for its readers, especially the use of language and its rules. Understanding the use of language rules by readers can be driven through the writings in the newspaper. Newspapers that do not concern with using the correct use of language rules can bring negative impacts on the readers. The readers may think that everything dealing with language rules in newspapers is correct. Dominick in Ardianto (2005: 16) affirmed that newspapers play an important role in encouraging readers to broaden their insights. However, Moe (2014: 82) argued that newspapers are very limited and regulated by time and space. Dealing with language rules, a positive image of readers will stand if newspapers are well-written based on language rules. On the other hand, a negative image of readers will stand if newspapers are not written in accordance with the rules.

The highest concern is that when readers believe that everything written in newspapers is correct and the newspapers meet the standard of language rules. Reah (1998: 55) admitted that the content of newspapers is conveyed through a language. He also said that language in newspapers could be influenced by emotional and cultural nuances. In addition, Galantomos, Andreou, & Gourgoulanis (2011: 1) affirmed that language used in newspapers creates a language variety. The quality of writing in newspapers highly depends on the writers of newspapers. If the writer concerns with and obeys the correct use of language rules, they will write the content of the newspapers well. On the other hand, the quality of language will be bad if the writers of the newspaper ignore language rules. Therefore, Timuçin (2010: 104) affirmed that a writer must have good understanding on the use of language.

Fowler (1991: 4) said that newspapers that use a correct linguistic approach are very helpful for the readers in understanding information conveyed. He reaffirmed that newspapers shall be subject to the critical linguistic principles. Fowler's statement suggests that newspaper writers should concern with language rules. The application of language rules can help readers to understand information critically. In addition, newspapers guide readers to use language rules correctly based on the convention of the language.

Bagnall further said that a language will not be considered bad if it is in accordance with the language rules. Furthermore, multi interpretations will not occur. So, in order to avoid mistakes and misinterpretation of meanings in newspapers, the writer of a newspaper shall concern with and obey language rules. Obeying the language rules can guarantee the continuity of transfer of knowledge and the application of linguistic theories. Correct use of language rules will make readers understand the correct use of language rules. The readers, in addition, will not have wrong assumption about the language rules. Therefore, Tiono (2003: 50) said that it is important for writers to concern with language functions and language issues.

It is written in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper, June 20, 2001 edition 'Gus Dur, Megawati menghadiri peringatan' (Gus Dur, Megawati attend the memorial) (in Tiono, 2003: 55). If the headline is carefully analyzed, a person will know that the writer of the newspaper removed the conjunctions 'and' by replacing it with a comma (.). If the mistake is ignored, it will, day by day, bring the reader's opinion that 'dan' (and) can be replaced with a comma (,) to state the sum or together which consists of two parts. Such issue needs to be taken into account so that this mistake will not appear in the future.

Method

This study uses the descriptive research. Sugiyono (2011: 207) said that the descriptive method is a method that aims to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. This method also aims to provide an explanation of the various linguistic mistakes contained in newspapers, especially in *Riau Pos*, *Koran Riau* and *Pekanbaru Pos* newspaper of Tuesday, May 22, 2018 edition. In principle, this research is categorized as qualitative research. Data of this research are collected with documentation techniques from available sources. The

collected data are analyzed and described by connecting the data with various theories and previous studies.

Results and Discussion

Name of a Person

- (1) ... pahlawan budi utomo ... (Koran Riau)
(budi utomo, the hero...)

A mistake in Text (1) is dealing with the name of a person writing rules. In the underlined text, the name of the person is not written in capital letters. In the Indonesian spelling rules, Zulhafizh (2018: 41) affirmed that the initial letter of a name of person word shall be written in capital letters or the whole words of the name of a person shall be written in capital letters. It confirms that the name writing in Text (1) is incorrect. The correct writing of the name of person can be written as follows:

- (1a) ... pahlawan Budi Utomo ... (Koran Riau)
(... Budi Utomo, The Hero)

Name of a Place

- (2) ... SMA/SMK ada di Kabupaten dan baru tahun 2017 dialihkan ke Provinsi
(Senior and Vocational Schools belong to Regency and since 2017 they have been transferred to Province)

From Text (2), it can be seen that the initial letters of the word 'kabupaten' and 'provinsi' are written in capital letters. Theoretically, the writing of these two words can begin with capital letters if they are followed by geographical names. The issue of name writing, especially name of a place writing often becomes a topic of discussions (Helleland, 2012: 98). He suggests that there are several writers who write 'Regencies' and 'Provinces' in capital. Based on the Indonesian language rules, the initial letters shall not be written in capital letters. This provision is supported by the example of 'Menyeberangi selat' 'Crossing the strait) and 'Berlayar ke teluk' (Sailing to the bay) (Zulhafizh, 2018: 45). Based on this argument, it is clear that the initial letter of the words 'Kabupaten' (Regency) and 'Provinsi' (Province) shall not be written in capital letters. The correct writing of the sentence is as follows:

- (2a) ... SMA/SMK ada di kabupaten dan baru tahun 2017 dialihkan ke provinsi (Koran Riau)
(Senior High Schools/Vocational Schools belong to regency and since 2017 they have been transferred to province)

Academic Titles

- (3) Drs Arifin SH M HUM (Pekanbaru Pos)
(4) H Adan Hidayat SH MH (Koran Riau)
(5) Prof Dr H Eddy Jusuf SP MSi MKom (Riau Pos)

A writer shall concern with academic title attached to someone. Writers of certificates sometimes do not concern with the correct title writing. As a result, titles written on the certificates are not correct. This can affect the quality of the certificates. In Text (3), (4), and (5) some mistakes regarding title writing are found out. The mistakes regarding the title writing deal with the use of punctuation and capitalization. If the mistakes are ignored by the writers of the certificates, they may be followed by other people. People will confuse to identify which title writing is correct and incorrect. The academic title should be written as follows:

- (3a) Drs. Arifin, S.H., M.Hum. (Pekanbaru Pos)
(4a) H. Adan Hidayat, S.H., M.H. (Koran Riau)
(5a) Prof. Dr. H. Eddy Jusuf, S.P., M.Si., M.Kom. (Riau Pos)

Abbreviations

(6) ... PT_ Anugrah Sumner Makmur ... (Koran Riau)

Mistakes dealing with abbreviations are also found in newspapers. In the case of Text (6) there are mistakes that are often ignored. 'PT' may stand for either *Perseroan Terbatas* (Limited Liability Company) or *Perguruan Tinggi* (university). The abbreviation of PT is not followed by a period (.) and written in capital letters. UU RI (Law of the Republic of Indonesia) No. 40 of 2007 concerning with limited liability companies reveals that Limited Liability Company (PT) is not written with a period (.) after the abbreviation. Zulhafizh (2018: 58-60) said that a period (.) is used for the abbreviation of name, title, position, rank, and terms of address as well as abbreviations for general expressions. However, a period (.) is not used after abbreviations referring to institutions, organizations, chemical symbols, units of measure, doses, scales and currencies. Therefore, the correct abbreviation writing for Text (6) is written as follows:

(6a) ... PT Anugrah Sumber Makmur ... (Koran Riau)

Dash

(7) ... periode 1 di tanggal 15 Mei _ 15 Juni 2018. (Pekanbaru Pos)

The use of a dash in a text is bound to the rules. Dash is different in shape and use from a hyphen. A dash is longer than a hyphen. In addition, there is no space before and after a dash. In Text (7) there is a mistake regarding a spacing. A dash can be used to express 'sampai dengan pada pertanggalan' (up to a certain date) (Zulhafizh, 2018: 67). Based on this explanation, Text (7) must be written as follows:

(7a) ... periode 1 di tanggal 15 Mei–15 Juni 2018. (Pekanbaru Pos)
(...period 1 dated on 15 May–15 June 2018)

Preposition

(8) ... narkoba jenis shabu diareal Los Pasar Desa Padang Sawah ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(9) ... dinas lainnya berada dikelas jabatan 14 ... (Koran Riau)

In Text (8) and (9) there are some mistakes regarding preposition. Tetreault & Chodorow (2008, 1-8) affirmed that mistakes regarding the use of prepositions often occurs in writing. He further said that the prepositions such as *di* (in) and *ke* (to) are written apart from words that refer to places. In text (8), the word 'areal' refers to a place and in Text (9) the word 'kelas' (class) also refers to a pace. Thus, the text must be wrtten as follows:

(8a) ... narkoba jenis shabu di areal Los Pasar Desa Padang Sawah ...

(9a) ... dinas lainnya berada di kelas jabatan 14 ...

Standard Words

(10) ... narkoba jenis shabu diareal Los Pasar Desa Padang Sawah ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

Standard words are words deriving from an official Indonesian language. In Text (10) the word 'shabu' is not a standard word. The word is not available in a official Indonesian dictionary. The correct writing for the word is *sabu-sabu*. In KBBI (The Official Indonesian Dictionary) (2008: 1239) *sabu-sabu* is a chemical substance that can create hallucinations. Thus, Text (10) must be written as follows:

(10a) ... narkoba jenis sabu-sabu di areal Los Pasar Desa Padang Sawah ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
(... narcotics of amphetamine in the area of Pasar Desa Padang Sawah Lot...)

Syllables

(11) Peru Jose Paolo Geurrero Gonzales bermain di Piala Dun-ia 2018 di Rusia ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(12) ... gen-erasi kita mencatat bahwa tak sedikit anak muda kreatif ... (Koran Riau)

(13) ... kemenangan match kes-eluruhan sudah di tangan Indonesia. (Riau Pos)

In Text (11), (12), and (13) there are mistakes regarding syllables. Correct syllables enable readers to understand the content of a writing well. On the other hand, incorrect syllables make readers difficult to understand what is meant by a writer. In linguistic contexts, incorrect

syllables impacts the meaning of the words. Chetail&Mathey (2009: 955) affirmed that syllable has a functional unit in the lexical approach. Therefore, a writer must concern with correct syllables. The correct syllables for Text (11), (12) and (13) are written as follows:

- (11a) Peru Jose Paolo Geuerrero Gonzales bermain di Piala Dunia (du-nia) 2018 di Rusia ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
- (12a) ... generasi (ge-ne-ra-si) kita mencatat bahwa tak sedikit anak muda kreatif ... (Koran Riau)
- (13a) ... kemenangan *match* keseluruhan (ke-se-lu-ruh-an) sudah di tangan Indonesia. (Riau Pos)

Name of the Month

- (14) ... pembayaran itu juga disesuaikan dengan bulan sebelumnya seperti untuk bulan maret dan April ... (Perpos)
- (15) ... tanggal 11 hingga 18 mei 2018. (KR)

The names of the month writing in the Text (14) and (15) are incorrect. The initial letter of the names of the month must be written in capital letters or all words in a sentence can be written in capital letters. In the texts, the initial letter of names of the month is not written capital letter. Zulhafizh (2018: 44) said that the initial letter of the name of the year, month, day, holidays and historical events must be written as capital letters. So, the correct texts are as follows:

- (14a) ... pembayaran itu juga disesuaikan dengan bulan sebelumnya seperti untuk bulan Maret dan April ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
- (15a) ... tanggal 11 hingga 18 Mei 2018. (Koran Riau)

Foreign Language Words

- (16) ... pembangunan jembatan flyover Simpang SKA ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
- (17) ... menyelesaikan fly over ... (Koran Riau)

Provisionns on foreig lnguage word writing have been written in a lot of Indonesian books. In text (16) and (17) foreign language words are not italicized. Based on Indonesian language rule, any words taken from another language must be either italicized or underlined. Italicizing and underlining alien words aims to reveal that they are not standard words in Indonesian. Term (2014: 21) told to italicise words or phrases derived from another language, including Latin language. Based on this explanation, the correct texts can be written as follows:

- (16a) ... pembangunan jembatan *flyover* Simpang SKA ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
(... construction of flyover of SKA Crossroad...)
- (17a) ... menyelesaikan *flyover* ... (Koran Riau)
(...complete the flyover ...)

Loanwords

- (18) masjid-masjid dan musola di Rohil tidak memiliki gedung Tempat Pengajian Al-Qur'an (TPQ) ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
- (19) Mari perbanyak membaca alquran dalam bulan suci ... (Koran Riau)

A lot of loanwords are used in Indonesian, such as muslim, akhirat, doa, and so on. Once, the words came from a foreign language, the spelling is, then, adjusted to the Indonesian rules. If a writer shall keep using a loanword, he must italicize the word. In Text (18) and (19) the underlined words are loanwords because they are not italicized. Zulhafizh (2018: 56) said that there are two types of loanword processing; keeping the original spelling and pronunciation of the loanwords and adjusting the spelling and pronunciation of the loanwords with the Indonesian language rules. Based on KKBI, Text (18) and (19) must be written as follows:

- (18a) masjid-masjid dan *musala* di Rohil tidak memiliki gedung Tempat Pengajian *Alquran* (TPQ) ... (Pekanbaru Pos)
- (19a) Mari perbanyak membaca *Alquran* dalam bulan suci ... (Koran Riau)

Misspelling

(20) Semangat Buedi Oetomo yang lahir ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(21) ... dihibahkan oleh Penprov dengan cara berkelompok. (Koran Riau)

Misspelling is the failure to write a word correctly in terms of the spelling. In Text (20) there is a mistake in writing the spelling of 'BuediOetomo' which must be written 'Boedi Oetomo'. In the text, [u] must be written as [oe] not [ue] in the Indonesian old spelling. Then, in Text (21), a mistake is made in which the word written is 'penprov' (the provincial government). The correct spelling is 'pemprov'. Thus, Text (20) and (21) must be written as follows:

(20a) Semangat Boedi Oetomo yang lahir ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(21a) ... dihibahkan oleh Pemprov dengan cara berkelompok. (Koran Riau)

Added and Omitted Letters

(22) Timsel mengeluarkan kertas pengumuman daftar nama ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(23) Dari beberapa nomor pertandingan ya g akan diikuti ... (Riau Pos)

(22) Timsel issues a announcement paper name list ...

(23) From some match numbers, you will be followed ...

Mistakes regarding added and omitted words are common in writing. To avoid the mistakes, editors should edit writing carefully. Sometimes, a writer is not aware of mistakes he makes in writing. Therefore, an editor or editorial team should check what is written by the writer. The editor or the editorial team must be eligible and expert in the language. He must read the writing carefully so that mistakes regarding the added and omitted words can be identified and then revised. In Text (22), there is the addition of letters [m] and in Text (23) there is an omission of letters [n]. Added or omitted letters can bring different meaning. For instance, the word 'massa' can mean a large group of people. However, the meaning will be different from 'masa' that has single [s] referring to a period of time. Therefore, it is important for a writer to write carefully in order to avoid such mistakes. Text (22) and (23) must be written as follows:

(22a) Timsel mengeluarkan kertas pengumuman daftar nama ... (Pekanbaru Pos)

(23a) Dari beberapa nomor pertandingan yang akan diikuti ... (Riau Pos)

The Comparative Table

No.	Problems	Newspapers		
		Pekanbaru Pos	Koran Riau	Riau Pos
1	Name Writing		√	
2	Name of Place		√	
3	Title Writing	√	√	√
4	Abbreviation		√	
5	Dash	√		
6	Preposition	√	√	
7	Standard Words	√		
8	Syllables	√	√	√
9	Name of Month Writing	√	√	
10	Alien Words	√	√	
11	Loadwords	√	√	
12	Misspelling	√	√	
13	Added or Omitted Words	√		√
Total		10	10	3

Based on data analysis, there were 13 language problems found in the newspapers. The dominant mistake lies in academic title writing and syllables. Of the three newspapers observed, Riau Pos newspaper made 3 mistakes. Pekanbaru Pos and Koran Riau made 10 mistakes. If these mistakes are ignored, they can bring a negative impact on the quality of the writing of the

newspapers. One of the impacts is that readers may think that the mistakes are not mistakes. In fact, the mistakes are not in accordance with the language rules.

Conclusion

Newspapers are media for disseminating and publishing languages. Without language, of course the information cannot be conveyed. A problem that often comes out is that newspapers often make various mistakes. In the newspaper cases such as Pekanbaru Pos, Koran Riau, and Riau Pos, some mistakes regarding language rules are found. The data shows that there are 13 problems of language mistakes, namely: name of a person writing, name of a place writing, academic title writing, abbreviations, dashes, prepositions, standard words, syllables, names of month, foreign language words, loanwords, misspelling, and added or omitted words.

All of the newspapers made mistakes in various issues. Riau Pos newspaper made 3 mistakes. Pekanbaru Pos and Koran Riau made 10 mistakes. Newspapers need to concern with these mistakes and avoid making mistakes in the newspapers. If not, people may have wrong perception after reading newspaper containing mistakes because readers usually believe that what is written in newspaper is correct. In fact, the mistakes are, of course, not in line with the language rules.

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