

English in Local Newspaper: Will It Ruin Bahasa Indonesia?

Aisyah Hamidiyah

Abstract

A language can be globally spread out to whole parts of an area in the world by the power of media. Media helps English to be globally accepted by the people in the world. New terms related with technology and innovation are usually written in English and inserted in the articles and news. *Radar Banten* is a local newspaper in Serang written in Bahasa Indonesia. It inserts English in one of its articles. The article is written for readers in their teens. What kinds of words inserted in the article, the categories of English words, and the effect of inserting the words will be discussed in the paper.

Keywords:

English, local newspaper, bahasa Indonesia

1. Introduction

Many countries use English to communicate with others at national and international levels. English is also used to access various knowledge and innovations on technology. Why is English used by many countries in the world and is very important? This is due to the fact that English is used as a global language. Crystal mentions the role of English as a global language and the use of English in many areas.

“A global language is a language that achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a *special role* (with many facets) that is recognized in every country. Such a role will be most evident where a large number of people speak the language as a mother tongue (the USA, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, several Caribbean countries, etc.).”
(Crystal, 2003)

A language can be globally spread out to other parts of the world by the power of media. Media is used as a means of transferring ideas, news, and information in the form of communication. Spitulnik stated that “media is understood as a channel or conduit for the transmission of some kind of

communication” (in Duranti, 2001). It is with the help of media that people in the world can globally accept English. New terms related with technology and innovation are usually written in English and inserted in the articles and news. In the introduction and popularizing of new words, journalism has been a factor of steadily increasing importance (Baugh and Cable, 1997).

A local newspaper in Serang inserts English words, phrases, and sentences. The articles are specifically targeted for teenagers. Thus, the writers tend to freely insert English words in the articles because teenagers tend to be sensitive to new things due to their curious nature.

Research question:

1. What English words are found in the articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper?
2. In what categories are the English words inserted in the articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper?
3. What are the effects of inserting English words, phrases, and sentences in the local newspaper toward the existence of Bahasa Indonesia?

The aims:

1. To find the English words inserted in the articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper.
2. To find the categories of English words inserted in the articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper.
3. To investigate the effect of inserting English words in the local newspaper toward the existence of Bahasa Indonesia.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Newspapers

Since the new printing technology and new methods of mass production and transportation were introduced, newspapers had reached the peak of its progress in the 19th century (Crystal, 2003: 92-93). It plays a very important role and has grown in the midst of society. As in America in the eighteenth century, the growth

of newspapers in the American colonies was of course tied closely to cultural, economic, and political circumstances (DeFeur and Dennis, 1985: 41).

The role of newspapers cannot be alienated with the spread of language (the standard or even non-standard language). The language used in the newspapers abreast with the audience or readers. What happens in the society (the audiences' or the reader's life), that is what will be written in the newspapers. As stated by Spitulnik that "it talks about the social life of language and the production of culture, ideology, and identity" (in Duranti, 2001: 144).

Language used in the newspapers shoots the targeted audiences. Spitulnik said that "the choice of topic, code, register, and style will be the consideration of producers and media audiences in construction the social identities" (in Duranti, 2001: 145). The words chosen are lexical words, as Biber, Conrad, and Leech (2002: 20) stated, "Newspaper writing has the highest density of lexical words." It is to convey information because "lexical words are generally the words that are stressed most in speech" (Biber, Conrad, and Leech, 2002: 16).

2.2 Words

Biber, Conrad, and Leech explain the definition in more of its function that "words are relatively fixed in their internal form, but they are independent in their role in larger unit." (2002: 14). They grouped words into three families according to their main function and their grammatical behavior. These families will be the principle of this research to categorize the English words inserted in the articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper.

1. Lexical words

- Lexical words are the main carriers of information in a text or speech act.
- They can be subdivided into the following word classes (or parts of speech): nouns, lexical verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.
- Of all the words families, lexical words are the most numerous, and their number is growing all the time. In other words, they are members of open classes.
- They often have a complex internal structure and can be composed of several parts; e.g. unfriendliness = un + friend + li + ness.

- Lexical words can be heads of phrases; e.g. the noun completion is the head (or main word) of the noun phrase [the completion of the task].
- They are generally the words that are stressed most in speech.
- They are generally the words that remain if a sentence is compressed in a newspaper headline; e.g. Elderly care crisis warning.

2. Function words

- Function words can be categorized in terms of word classes such as prepositions, coordinators, auxiliary verbs, and pronouns.
- They usually indicate meaning relationships and help us to interpret units containing lexical words, by showing how the units are related to each other.
- Function words belong to closed classes, which have a very limited and fixed membership. For example, English has only four coordinators; *and*, *or*, *but*, and (rarely) *nor*.
- Individual function words tend to occur frequently, and in almost any type of text.

3. Inserts

- Inserts are found mainly in spoken language.
- Inserts do not form an integral part of a syntactic structure, but tend to be inserted freely in a text.
- They are often marked off by a break in intonation in speech, or by a punctuation mark in writing; e.g. Well, we made it.
- They generally carry emotional and discoursal meanings, such as *oh*, *ah*, *wow*, used to express a speaker's emotional response to a situation, or *yeah*, *no*, *okay* used to signal a response to what has just been said.
- Inserts are generally simple in form, though they often have an atypical pronunciation (e.g. *hm*, *uh-huh*, *ugh*, *yeah*). Examples are: Hm hm, very good (CONV), Yeah, I will, Bye (Conv), Cheers man (CONV). (Biber, Conrad, and Leech, 2002: 15-16).

3. Methodology

- a. Source of data: articles in *Radar Banten* newspaper.
- b. The data are the English words inserted in *Radar Banten* newspaper.
- c. Research methodology: the data is analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method.
- d. Instrument:
 - Articles documentation from September to November edition, randomly taken.
 - Questionnaire given to students of Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University.
- e. Research procedure:
 1. Collecting articles
 2. Analyzing the articles
 3. Grouping English words, phrases and sentences in the articles to answer research question number 1 and 2
 4. Distributing questionnaire to readers of the articles to answer research problem no 3
 5. Verifying the data
 6. Reporting the result

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1 Data Classification

The data is taken from the articles in *Radar Banten* Newspaper. It was selected randomly from September to November. The classification of the data can be seen below.

Table 1. Data Classification

Lexical	Function	Insert
<i>just kidding</i>	<i>or</i>	<i><u>Omiygudness,</u></i>
<i>So, why not</i>	<i>Coz</i> <i>(=because)</i>	<i>Well</i>
<i>'want you, need you, love you...'</i>	<i>So</i>	<i><u>Omigod (= oh my God)</u></i>
<i>happy ever after.</i>	<i>And</i>	<i><u>Omigot (= oh my God)</u></i>
<i>so sweet</i>		<i>As we know</i>

<i>Sweet</i>		
<i>Show off</i>		
<i>Miscall</i>		
<i><u>Suwer</u> (= Swear)</i>		
<i>Blouse</i>		
<i>public figure</i>		
<i>Vintage</i>		
<i><u>Tren</u> (= trend)</i>		
<i>Follower</i>		
<i>Follow</i>		
<i>And <u>than</u> (= and then)</i>		
<i>Sometime</i>		
<i>trend setter</i>		
<i>Creator</i>		
<i>eighties,</i>		
<i>Seventies</i>		
<i>hang out</i>		
<i>no comment</i>		
<i>Be calm</i>		
<i>and say good bye</i>		
<i>Smart</i>		
<i>positive thinking</i>		
<i>Browsing</i>		
<i>Transletter</i>		
<i>Annoying</i>		
<i><u>pliss</u> go to hell (= please go to hell)</i>		
<i>End</i>		
<i>Snap</i>		
<i>Love it</i>		
<i>down to earth</i>		

<i>cool,</i>		
<i>Ifill (= derived from ill and feel, but it is meant 'ilang feeling = lost feeling, no feeling)</i>		
<i>Stay cool</i>		
<i>Be your self</i>		
<i>Read</i>		
<i>limited edition</i>		
<i>Angry</i>		
<i>Slow</i>		
<i>Piss (= peace)</i>		
<i>urgen (= urgent)</i>		
<i>Please</i>		
<i>Be positive thinking</i>		
<i>Someone</i>		
<i>Chat</i>		
<i>Two thumbs up</i>		
<i>Wait</i>		
<i>Fear play (= fair play)</i>		
<i>Sportif (= sportive)</i>		
<i>He talk, that's because (= he said that because)</i>		
<i>Dont try at home</i>		
<i>Bullying</i>		
<i>Komen (= comment)</i>		
<i>Fair</i>		

4.2 Questionnaire

The questionnaire was randomly distributed to 12 students in Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University. The respondents were 18 to 20 years old. Below is the result of questionnaire.

1. The students answered *yes* for the question about ‘the meaning of English language inserted in the articles.’ 50% of the respondents answered *Ya* or ‘yes’ for understanding all of the English language in the articles, 50% answered *beberapa* or ‘some’, and 0% answered *Tidak* or ‘no.’
2. a. 33.3% of the respondents answered *yes* for ‘inserting English words in the articles,’ because:
 - To introduce English words, to interest readers to read the articles.
- b. 66.6% of the students answered *no* for inserting English words in the articles, because:
 - The articles were written in bahasa Indonesia. They should use the systems of bahasa Indonesia (2 respondents).
 - It is formal.
 - Because bahasa Indonesia provides the words (2 respondents).
 - Inserting English words is only to mingle.
 - Ruin bahasa Indonesia.
3. 58.3% of the respondents answered ‘know *some* equivalent words in bahasa Indonesia to replace some English words in the articles.’ 41.6% of the respondents answered ‘know *all* equivalent words in bahasa Indonesia to replace all English words in the articles.’
4. 90% of the respondents answered ‘the writer inserted the English words so that the readers understand the articles. 10% of the respondents answered the writer inserted the English words because they could not find the equivalent words in bahasa Indonesia.
5. a. 50% of the respondents answered ‘the insertion will cause the death of bahasa Indonesia,’ while 50% answered no.
- b. 91.6% of the respondents answered ‘the insertion is because English is used as a global language,’ while 8.3% answered no.
- c. 80% of the respondents answered that ‘English is the language which has *power*’, while 20% answered no.
- d. 90% of the respondents answered that ‘the insertion will affect the identity of bahasa Indonesia in the international world,’ while 10% answered no.

5. Conclusion

The finding above shows that the words that were mostly used were lexical words. As for the function words, *so*, *coz / cos*, *or* and *and* were mostly used. The articles also had inserted words from English language.

Most respondents answered that they know some of the English words inserted in the articles (50%) and know the equivalent words in bahasa Indonesia (58.3%) because English is used as a global language (91.6%) and has power in the international world (80%). However, they disagreed to putting the English words into the articles (66.6%) because it ruined bahasa Indonesia and will affect the identity of bahasa Indonesia in the international world (90%).

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