

## A SCRUTINY OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE: BARACK OBAMA'S AND JOKOWI'S SPEECHES

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### ABSTRACT

Discourse grammar (DG) can be applied in analyzing political discourse including the public speech, in which the speaker wins the response from the audience. This paper, based on Collocation theory in Discourse Grammar (DG), analyses the presidential speeches of Obama (US) and Jokowi (Indonesia). From the result, we can learn that both presidents avoid ambiguous meanings in their speeches.

**Keywords:** Discourse Grammar (DG), collocation, adjective, noun, verb, adverb.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The discussion of sentence-based analysis in grammar has moved to the discourse-based analysis in recent years. In discourse grammar (DG), the central question concerns the status of discourse act as the minimal unit of discourse organization and its relation to units of grammatical structure (Paltridge, 2006).

Discourse analysis is a study in linguistics of a text or a conversation. It does not study sentences, but the entire text or conversation. The text or conversation is known as discourse. On the other hand, Discourse Grammar (DG) is a grammatical

structure from spoken and written linguistic discourse. They relate each other as spoken and written discourses always have grammatical connections between individual clauses and utterances.

Specifically, discourse analysis is a general term for a number of approaches to analyze written, vocal, or sign language use, or any significant semiotic event. Although many approaches used in discourse analysis, view language as social interaction, and are concerned with the social contexts.

President is the elected head of a Republican state. The 44th president of the US, Barack Obama is the first African American to

assume the presidency in U.S. history. He had served from 2009 to early 2017 before Donald Trump replaced his place. In Indonesia, JokoWidodo, also known as Jokowi, is the seventh and current President of Indonesia since 2014 up to now.

Having analyzed critically the speeches given by President Barack Obama and President JokoWidodo, writers apply the theory of Hausmann about collocation in this critical discourse analysis. Writers collected the collocations they used in their speeches to be analyzed by using Hausmann's theory.

## II. THEORETICAL BASES

In recent years, according to Paltridge (2006), discussion of grammar had moved from sentence-based perspective to a discourse-based perspective because it has been proven that some linguistics items show quite different patterns of use when looked at discourse perspective. Patterns of grammar and vocabulary that combine to make meanings in the text together and connect the text to social context become more interesting as they

make the text cohesive and give it a unity of texture.

A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong". Collocation also relates to both grammar and vocabulary. There are several different types of collocation made from combinations of verb, noun, adjective, etc. Some of the most common types are:

- adjective + noun
- adverb + adjective
- noun + noun
- noun + verb
- verb + noun
- verb + expression with preposition
- verb + adverb

Hausmann (1989) in Seretan (2011) classified collocation into 5 types; Verb+Noun, Noun+Verb, Adjective+Noun, Adverb+Adjective and Adverb+Verb. The examples are as follows:

1. Verb+Noun, e.g., give a ring, make the bed, give compliment, etc.
2. Noun+Verb, e.g., pig's squeal, arguments raised, etc.
3. Adjective+Noun, e.g., pretty woman, young lady, rich guy, etc.
4. Adverb+Adjective, e.g., highly recommended, extremely high, etc.
5. Adverb+Verb, e.g., spontaneously scream, frantically jump, etc.

### III. INTRODUCTION TO SAMPLE SPEECHES

#### A. *The Introduction of Barack Obama*

Barack Obama was the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, launched himself into the history books as the first black President. From his early life, few people would have foreseen his future leadership and vision; however, his early life helped shape his political career. He was born on August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii. In Swahili, his name "Barack" means "one who is blessed." He was the

first President to be born in the State of Hawaii.

In 1979, Obama began attending Occidental College in Los Angeles. It was here that in 1981 he first made his appearance in the public eye giving a speech, stating that his college should not invest in South Africa and, instead, should support the abolishment of apartheid in South Africa. In 1981 he transferred to Columbia University in New York City. He majored in political science. His biography continues with his graduation from Columbia University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in 1983, after which he took a five-year break from school to work as a market researcher and then as a community organizer. In 1988, he returned to school, attended Harvard Law School and received his law degree in 1991 with a magna cum laude. Obama's selection as the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review gained a publisher's attention and he was asked to write a book on race relations, which was published in 1995 as his autobiography *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* which details the

joys, frustrations, and regrets of his days as a high scholar in Honolulu. Other books written by Obama include 1. *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* (2006) 2. *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* 3. *Change We Can Believe In: Barack Obama's Plan to Renew America's Promise*.

#### *B. The Introduction of Joko Widodo*

Joko Widodo (born 21 June 1961), also known as Jokowi, is the seventh and current President of Indonesia, in office since 2014. Previously he was Mayor of Surakarta from 2005 to 2012 and Governor of Jakarta from 2012 to 2014. He is the first Indonesian president without a high-ranking political or military background. Jokowi was nominated by his party, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), to run in the 2012 Jakarta gubernatorial election with BasukiTjahajaPurnama (often known as Ahok) as his running mate. Jokowi was elected as Governor of Jakarta on 20 September 2012 after a second-round runoff election in which he defeated the incumbent

governor Fauzi Bowo. During his governorship, his characteristic "blusukan" habit and highly-publicized field visits increased his popularity across the country.

As president, Jokowi's domestic policy has focused on infrastructure development across the archipelago in accordance with a "Global Maritime Axis" policy, following cuts in fuel subsidies and a tax amnesty program. On foreign affairs, his administration has emphasized on "protecting Indonesia's sovereignty", with the sinking of illegal foreign fishing vessels and prescription of capital punishment for drug smugglers, despite foreign criticisms.

#### *C. Speeches for analysis*

##### **Sample speech 1: Obama's Inaugural Address**

On November 4, 2008, Obama gave a victory speech in Grant Park of Chicago to appreciate his supporters and celebrated the success of elections. About 400,000 Americans got there and witnessed the happy moment.

##### **Sample speech 2: Jokowi's Address at The**

**Annual Session of The People’s Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia 2017**

On August 2016, Jokowi delivered a speech of encouragement for the Indonesian to collaborate and perform collective work to materialize social justice for the Indonesian.

**IV. DETAIL STUDY ON SAMPLE SPEECHES**

*A. General Analysis*

There are few tables in this analysis. From table 1, we have the general view of the two speeches; Obama’s and Jokowi’s. We can see that the total number of words in sample 1 is 2,398 words, whereas, in sample 2, there are 2,519 words.

Table 1. Statistic Of Sample Speeches

Statistical Item	Statistic	
	Sample 1	Sample 2
Words	2,398	2,519

Paragraph Characters (With Space)	75	68
	13,281	16,088

*B. Collocation Analysis*

As cited in Seretan (2011), Hausmann (1989) classified collocation into five types; Verb+Noun, Noun+Verb, Adjective+Noun, Adverb+Adjective, and Adverb+Verb.

Table 2. Overview Of Collocation (Hausmann, 1989)

Collocation Types	Example
Verb+Noun	Give A Ring
Noun+Verb	Pig’s Squeal
Adjective+Noun	Pretty Woman
Adverb+Adjective	Extremely Mad
Adverb+Verb	Frantically Jump

Table 3. Collocation In The Sample Speeches

Sample Speech	Total Number	Verb+ Noun	Noun+ Verb	Adjective+ Noun	Adverb+ Adjective	Adverb+ Verb
1 No	117	2	4	97	4	10
1 %	-	1.70%	3.41%	82.90%	3.41%	8.54%
2 No	78	1	0	73	2	2
2 %	-	1.28%	0	93.58%	2.56%	2.56%

From table 3, we can see that the most used collocation is the Adjective+Noun in both speeches with a percentage 82.90% and 93.58%. Adverb+Verb ranks the second and then is followed by Adverb+Adjective.

## V. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, we may come to an end.

According to Paltridge (2006), collocation is a part of discourse grammar (DG). In his book, Paltridge didn't explain much about collocation, so the writer took another theory from another source; Hausmann (1989) as cited in Seretan (2011) classified the collocation into five types; Verb+Noun, Noun+Verb, Adjective+Noun, Adverb+Adjective, and Adverb+Verb. In both speeches, the most used collocation is the Adjective+Noun with a percentage 82.90% and 93.58%. This finding shows that both presidents; Barack Obama and JokoWidodo do avoid ambiguity in their speeches. They

modify each noun or thing that is being discussed in the speeches. In this way, people will not get confused about what things the presidents are referring to.

Discourse analysis is a study in linguistics of a text or a conversation. It does not study sentences, but the entire text or conversation. The text or conversation is known as discourse. On the other hand, Discourse Grammar (DG) is a grammatical structure from spoken and written linguistic discourse. They relate each other as spoken and written discourses that always have grammatical connections between individual clauses and utterances. Therefore, discourse analysis and discourse grammar are worth for us to pay more attention.

## REFERENCES

- Paltridge, Brian. 2006. *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*. A&C Black (Continuum Press).
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