

The Language of Media Supporting Peace Journalism

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to explore the role of the language of media, particularly newspapers, in making peace of a heterogeneous society in Indonesia. As one of mass media, newspapers can play a significant role to create peace of the society. In reporting news, the newspaper reporters might use some means of language aspects to avoid the use of expressions which potentially provoke conflict. Striving to prevent conflict among parties means that the media have supported peace journalism. This paper examines the employment of linguistic devices used by the journalists of Indonesian newspapers in endeavours to lessen the potency of conflict and to build harmony of the society. The efforts to create peace in Indonesia should constantly maintain, since Indonesia is a country with multi ethnics, religions, languages, and social backgrounds. Maintaining the peaceful condition of the country is the task of Indonesian journalists. The data were taken from two regional Indonesian newspapers published in Semarang and Surakarta, Jawa Tengah, i.e., *Suara Merdeka* and *Solopos*. The result shows that the newspapers, to some extent, exploit the linguistic devices to create harmony through unnamed body/society, general expression, implicit expression, and hedging devices. As the focus of the study is on language point of view, it will be more fruitful if this study is completed with the study from communication and journalism point of view.

Keywords: *Language, communication, conflict, peace journalism, journalistic ethics.*

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, mass communication has spread rapidly, and has given impact to the society. The need of information for the society has also triggered to the development of mass communication. Pavlik and McIntosh (2004, p.7) state that mass communication technology refers to any means of communication between a group of people that were widely distributed over space and time. One of the characteristics of mass communication is the transfer of messages from a source or a small group to a larger and heterogeneous audience. Communication through mass media is a one-way communication, so that a successful communicator is a communicant who knows the right method to gain sympathy from the recipient of the message. One of mass communication media is the newspaper, the one that can be taken anywhere and read anywhere (Cole & Harcup, 2010, p.4). It contains news and information, pictures, graphics and advertisements, usually printed on paper at a low cost. Studies about news reports on the conflict have been conducted. Shitemi, Kandagor, Noordin and Kigame (2014) portray the role of the media, particularly faith based on addressing the plight in Kenya in post-election violence period. While Selo, Ahmad, Mahbob and Salman (2015) discuss news report on issues of conflict between Malaysia and Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this era, mass media, including newspaper, have a big role in spreading news which might give impact to the society, particularly in reporting conflict. In reporting the news on conflict, it has choices either supporting and creating peace or provoking the society. If the

media present the news by exploiting the language that tries to make harmony, it means that the media have supported peace journalism. In essence, peace journalism can be described as the kind of journalism that strives to prevent conflict from moving from a latent to a manifest level in order to avoid the violence that is often the main characteristic of manifest conflict (Mogekwu, 2011, p.252).

Hanitzsch (2007) states that, peace journalism refers to a program or frame of Journalistic news coverage which contributes to the process of making and keeping peace respectively to the non-violent settlement of conflict. Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) suggest that peace journalism concerns the choices of editors and reporters of what stories to report and about how to report them that create opportunities for society at large to consider and value nonviolent responses to conflict. Peace journalism attempts to convey its focus more on the invisible effect of violence due to the conflict. It aims to attract the empathy of the audience that violent conflict only leads to losses. At this time, journalism is not only required to create a conducive climate to provide a peaceful atmosphere, but has also become part of the process of educating and educating the nation.

In reporting news, newspaper reporters should also consider the ethics, particularly the code ethics of journalism. Keeble (2001, p.174) cites that, according to ethics, a journalist should avoid harmful and harmful references to ethnicity, colour, and religion, and do not convey in detail the ethnic, colour, and religion of a person unless absolutely related to news. From this statement it implies that the role of media is very important in the process of making or keeping the peace in areas of conflict.

In Indonesia, with all the problems when reporting events of the conflict, journalists keep trying to guide that is at peace (Ibrahim, 2008). Journalists may indirectly play a role to prevent or reduce conflicts that are spreading. In other words, the reporter may be an intermediary rather than parties that are hostile and try to provide a solution to the problem at hand. As a country full of diversity in ethnicity, social groups and social backgrounds, Indonesia could potentially face problems due to the complexity of the society. The complexity of the society is well-known as the term SARA (*Suku* (ethnics) *Agama* (Religion) *Ras* (Race) *Antar golongan* (Group)). A sensitive issue concerning SARA could lead to conflict between groups. Indonesia experienced internal conflict in small or big scale many times. The latest conflict took place in 1998 with the fall of the Suharto era. Besides horizontal conflict, local conflict in small scale also happened everywhere. This conflict was really sorrowful and miserable for the people. This leads to the people awareness how to manage the conflict not to become widespread.

In connection with these conditions, the mass media can play an important role in reducing or preventing potential conflicts that may occur. In presenting the information to the public, the mass media could use the language in such a way that make the news calmer and conducive. The mass media are virtually hoped to employ language which supports or tries to create a peaceful atmosphere. By so doing, the media have already taken part in supporting the peace journalism.

Basing on the national ideology, Indonesia holds the principle of a responsible press (*press bertanggungjawab*), so the code of journalistic conduct should be taken into account. Journalists are bound by the journalism code of ethics in which reporters should not present the things that can cause chaos (Aji, 1990, p.153). Journalism ethics, which states that the journalists are not permitted to pass the things that can cause chaos, are very important

due to the fact that Indonesia is a country with diversities that potentially the conflict. In short, the existence of journalistic ethics makes the press be an essential mean to reinforce the peaceful atmosphere.

Based on the above-mentioned phenomena, this paper try to reveal some of the language aspects that can be used to lessen or prevent the potential conflict. To put another way, this study tries to examine the use of language devices in supporting peace journalism in Indonesia.

The objects of the study are two well-known regional newspapers in the province of Jawa Tengah, i.e., *Suara Merdeka* and *Solopos*. *Suara Merdeka* is a leading regional newspaper published in Semarang, the capital of Jawa Tengah province and distributed in Semarang and in the regions around the province of Jawa Tengah. As one of the early newspapers after Indonesian independence, which was first published on 11 February 1950, *Suara Merdeka* formerly had motto 'independent, objective, and non-prejudicial'. 'Independent' means emphasizing public interest above the group interests. The journalists, in making the report, should always base on their own beliefs and responsibilities. 'Objective' means that the report is balanced without ulterior motives. 'Non-prejudicial' means journalists in making the news should be free from personal opinion. In assessing something, the journalist should always have a clear and open mind and mind, keep away from prejudice (Soesiswo, Machmud & Ekopriyono, 2002, p.23). In its development, *Suara Merdeka* changed the motto to become the bonding agent of Jawa Tengah Community (Soesiswo, Machmud & Ekopriyono, 2002, p.27). The change of the motto was due to the condition that the newspaper was distributed around regencies and municipals in the province of Jawa Tengah in which the regions politically build up autonomy. *Suara Merdeka* felt obliged to be the media to unite the regions. Concerning the language of the news, the editorial board has established the guidelines to be followed by the reporters. The language should be 'polite' and 'cultured' and elude such negative impressions as 'rude', 'tendentious' and 'sensational' (Soesiswo, Machmud & Ekopriyono, 2002, p.31).

Published later than *Suara Merdeka*, *Solopos* was firstly published on 19 September 1997 in Surakarta. This newspaper is distributed in areas around ex-Surakarta residency, including Wonogiri, Sragen, Klaten, Karanganyar, Sukoharjo, Boyolali, and Surakarta, and other neighbouring regions. Utomo (2007) quotes that unlike most newspapers that claim to be national newspapers published regionally, *Solopos* affirms itself as a regional newspaper. This is based on the consideration that this newspaper wishes to develop along with the increasing development of Solo city to become an international city. Concerning the news reports, *Solopos* applies the principle of honesty. The journalists should be professional and employ the journalistic language which is 'accurate', 'balanced', and 'clear' (Utomo, 2007, p.63). In addition, *Solopos* has vision as a main information provider, trusted with professional business management (Utomo, 2007, p.97).

Based on the background of the both newspapers, this study attempts to explore further how journalists exploit the language to support peace journalism as reflected from the spirit and motto of the newspapers.

METHODOLOGY

This is a case study as it is a strategy of research that aims to understand social phenomena within a single or small number of naturally occurring settings (Bloor & Wood, 2006: 22), under the qualitative paradigm in which the process to reach the findings does not need statistical calculation (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). The focus of study is to explore the way how newspapers try to create harmony among the society through the exploitation of the language and to see the relationship between the expressions to prevent conflict with the nature of newspaper to present the wholistic, complete, and detailed report of the events. As a case study, this paper only views the aspects of language employed by the reporters in supporting the peace condition. It excludes other aspects such as graphic and other visual aspects.

The data are collected from two newspapers, i.e., *Suara Merdeka* and *Solopos*. *Suara Merdeka* is a leading newspaper published in Semarang, while *Solopos* is a leading newspaper published in Surakarta. The two newspapers are selected due to the fact that Surakarta and Semarang are two cities which are central and significant in Jawa Tengah Province. Semarang is the capital of Jawa Tengah province, while Surakarta is well-known as a city which is rich with cultural heritage. The sampling technique is purposive, in the sense that the data of the study are purposively selected from the expressions of the news containing elements of conflict or the like, taken from the two newspapers. The data are, then, classified based on the language characteristics and analysed using content or document analysis to find the themes. In addition to document analysis in the form of written data from the news reports, information from the journalists through the interview is also used to complete the information of this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This paper tries to focus on the news reports that are posed by the Indonesia newspapers, i.e., *Suara Merdeka* and *Solopos*. Based on the observation of the news report in both newspapers, by picking up some of examples from both, the language aspects used by the mass media - in this case newspaper - to lessen or prevent the potential conflict include: (1) unnamed body/society, (2) general expression, (3) implicit expression, and (4) hedging devices. The four types of the devices will be described in the following discussion.

a. Unnamed Body/Society

The newspapers pose unnamed body/society to prevent further conflict that might expand as can be seen the following sentences of the news report:

- (1) Pihaknya juga sudah meminta agar pengurus perguruan pencak silat yang anggotanya diduga melakukan aksi tersebut, bertanggung jawab, kaitannya dengan kerugian yang ditimbulkan. (He has also requested that the board of Pencak Silat whose members are suspected of doing the action, have to be responsible to the property losses) - *Suara Merdeka*, 10 November 2015.

In example number (1) as presented in this news above, the reporter only states 'the board of Pencak Silat' without presenting the name of the body. This is done to prevent the potential fight against members of 'Pencak Silat'. The group of Pencak Silat has long been

tradition that they have strong group solidarity. Whenever they know that the members have a problem, they will soon support their friends as the reflection of the group solidarity. Realizing this matter, the journalist wisely presents the characteristics and costumes worn by the group of 'Pencak Silat' as described in the following expression:

(2) Kepala Desa Gentan Hartanto saat ditemui wartawan di rumahnya mengatakan, penyerangan oleh massa berkostum hitam dan bersabuk putih sudah diserahkan sepenuhnya pada pihak kepolisian. (Village Chief Gentan, Hartanto, when he met journalists at his home, said the attack by the masses in black and white belt has been entirely handed over by the police) – Suara Merdeka, 10 November 2015.

The journalist only writes 'the masses in black and white belt' which actually shows the recognizable appearance of the 'Pencak Silat' group. The avoidance of mentioning the name of the group is due to the consideration of preventing the conflict to become widespread. Without being mentioned, the readers have actually known which group of 'Pencak Silat' involved in the fight. This group is well-known to have high group solidarity which potentially provoke violence among the society.

Another typical news report about the conflict between the youth group with the society can be seen in the following example number (3);

(3) *Informasi dihimpun Solopos.com, kejadian tersebut bermula saat kelompok pemuda sekitar belasan orang dengan mengendarai sepeda motor datang dari arah Kerten menuju Stasiun Purwosari.* (Information collected by Solopos.com, the incident began when a group of youth, about a dozen people riding motorcycles, came from the direction of Kerten to Purwosari Station) – *Solopos*, 23 January 2018.

In example number (3) the reporter only mentions the group of youth without providing information or the name of the group. It seems that at the youths with their potentials are easily provoked by their external environment. If the positive potentials are well managed, it will support them to reach their obsession. However, if the negative potentials are dominant, it will lead them to negative conduct and behaviour. Realising this psychological condition, the journalist wisely puts the unnamed person or group. Again, it is done to prevent the possible conflict, because when the name of the group was explicitly stated, it would provoke the member of the group to be involved in the fight. The presenting unnamed institution is, as a matter of fact, an effort to save the reputation of the organisation.

Conflict also happened among students of private vocational schools as can be seen in the following example number (4):

(4) Aparat Polsek Magelang Utara berhasil mencegah terjadinya tawuran yang meluas antara dua kelompok pelajar dari dua sekolah menengah kejuruan (SMK) swasta di Kota Magelang, Kamis (28/9). North Magelang Police Officers

managed to prevent the widespread brawl between two groups of students from two private vocational schools (SMK) Magelang city, Thursday (28/9). – *Suara Merdeka*, 28 September 2017.

In example number (4) the journalist only quotes 'from two private vocational schools (SMK)' without explicitly revealing the name of the school. If the journalist wrote the name, it was worried that the other vocational school students would make revenge which eventually caused the conflict become extensive.

b. General Expression

In certain cases related to SARA, the newspaper could deliver the information by changing from 'specific' expressions to 'general' ones, which is known as 'hyponymy and 'co-hyponymy' (Crystal, 1994, p.168). For example, newspapers should use the 'worship place' to replace such specific words as 'mosque', 'church', 'temple', because it was feared that would lead to bad perception and mood to the reader as can be seen in the following examples of (5) and (6):

(5) Pangkal persoalannya ada seorang bernama Antonius Richmon Bawengan menyebarkan selebaran berisi kalimat provokatif menistakan agama. Buntutnya terjadi perusakan sejumlah tempat ibadah. (The root of the problem was that a man named Antonius Richmon Bawengan was spreading a leaflet containing provocative expressions denouncing religion. The result was the destruction of a number of worship places) – *Suara Merdeka*, 6 August 2016.

In data number (5) the journalist follows the rule by mentioning of a number of worship places. This is in accordance with the norm established by 'Suara Merdeka' which provide guidelines in reporting news which are sensitive and related to SARA, by not confronting and provoking the group or parties involved (Soesiswo, Machmud, & Ekopriyono, 2002, p.52). The readers have already known that what was written as worship places.

The following example number (6), the journalist consistently avoids using more specific terms.

(6) *Sebelumnya, Kapolri Jenderal Tito Karnavian mengatakan, kerusuhan yang terjadi pada Jumat (29/7) malam itu disebabkan adanya masalah antar individu bertetangga. Kemudian beredar isu tidak benar dan timbullah kerusuhan. Akibatnya, 10 tempat ibadah dirusak. Namun, pada Minggu, situasi sudah kondusif.* (Formerly, National Police Chief Gen. Tito Karnavian said the riots that occurred on Friday (29/7) night were caused by problems between neighbors. Then the fallacious issue spread, and riots arouse. As a result, 10 places of worship were destroyed. However, on Sunday, the situation was already conducive) – *Suara Merdeka*, 1 August 2016.

However, in the following example number (7), the newspaper reporter uses specific expressions that could potentially create conflicts. This information is clear, but it will potentially prompt the readers who are influenced by this news.

(7) *Sejauh ini, katanya, kondisi di Kota Magelang masih aman dan kondusif. Tidak ada ancaman yang diterima gereja dari pihak manapun. Meskipun pihaknya mengendus ada gejala aliran radikal yang muncul.* (So far, he said, conditions in the city of Magelang is still safe and conducive. There is no threat the church receives from any party. Although it sniffs there are symptoms of radical flow that appears) – *Suara Merdeka*, 27 July 2015.

In the example of news number (7) above, although people have already known the event, reporters should only write a more general term of 'worship houses.' Journalists do not need to mention the detailed information related to types of worship houses.

In the following example number (8) the journalist seemed to be cautious in delivering the news by quoting the comment from a religious figure.

(8) *Ketua PBNU ini menegaskan, tidak boleh ada orang atau kelompok tertentu melakukan hal yang justru bertentangan dengan ajaran agama yakni melakukan perusakan tempat ibadah.* (The Chairman of the NU affirms that no person or group should do anything that is contrary to the religious teachings by destructing worship places) - *Suara Merdeka*, 14 October 2015.

The expression by quoting the religious figure is assumed to be more neutral and it can reduce the adverse implications to the public. This will surely give a positive impact to the readers, which accordingly make amity among the heterogeneous society.

c. *Implicit Expression*

Almost similar to the general expression, the implicit description can also be used by journalists in conveying the news that might result in bad effect to the society, as can be seen in examples of numbers (9) and (10) below.

(9) Hasil penelurusan *Suara Merdeka* di lapangan, ada sejumlah saksi yang melihat dua pria berada di sekitar lokasi. Seorang di atas sepeda motor *Mega Pro* dan seorang lagi terlihat berbincang-bincang dengan korban."Keduanya berbadan tegap dan berambut cepak. Salah seorang yang mengobrol dengan korban memakai kaos hijau motif loreng dan jaket hitam," kata salah seorang saksi yang enggan disebutkan namanya karena alasan keamanan, kemarin. (The results of the investigation of *Suara Merdeka*, there were a number of witnesses who saw two men around the site. A man on a *Mega Pro* motorbike and another was seen chatting with the victim. "Both are well-built and short-haired. One who chatted with the victim wore a striped green tshirt and a black jacket, "said one witness who was reluctant to be named for security reasons yesterday) - *Suara Merdeka*, 13 July 2010.

In example number (9) the journalist wrote the physical appearance of a person as 'both are well-built and short-haired'. Referring to the description, the readers can guess who the people are.

(10) *Tiba-tiba saja para lelaki itu mengeroyok korban hingga babak belur. Motor korban juga dibakar. Korban saat itu dilarikan ke RS PKU Muhammadiyah dan kini sudah pulang. Dari keterangan sejumlah saksi pelaku berjumlah sepuluh orang. Mereka berambut cepak dan berpostur tubuh tegap. Kami belum dapat menyebut mereka dari kelompok apa. Kami masih mengejar mereka," terang Rudi mewakili Kapolresta Solo, AKBP Iriansyah. (Suddenly the men were grazing the victim until he was battered. The victim's motor was also burned. The victim was then rushed to PKU Muhammadiyah Hospital and is now at home. From the testimony of a number of witnesses, the perpetrators were ten people. They were short-haired and well-built. We have not been able to say their names and their groups. We are still pursuing them, "explained Rudi representing Kapolresta Solo, AKBP Iriansyah) - *Solopos*, 20 March 2016.*

In the two examples of number (9) and (10) of the news report above, the reporter revealed criminals by mentioning the physical description of actors. Judging from these characteristics, it seemed that the criminals referred to the physical characteristics of the army personnel. However, the reporter did not explicitly state that the culprit was the army personnel. Such reports were posed to protect the institution where the suspects worked.

In the following example number (11) and (12), the journalists made a report about crime conducted by people from a particular ethnic background. They implicitly give the physical description of the criminals.

(11) Sadar menjadi korban perampasan, ia pun melaporkan peristiwa tersebut ke Polrestabes Semarang. "Saya hanya ingat pelaku menggunakan Avanza warna hitam dengan pelat nomor B. Salah seorang di antaranya berumur 35 tahun dan tinggi 165 cm, memiliki kulit sawo matang, berambut hitam lurus, dan tidak berkumis dengan logat Jawa," terangnya. Sementara dua orang pelaku lain, salah satunya berlogat Indonesia Timur dan yang lain lagi memiliki tubuh pendek, berbadan sedang, memiliki rambut ikal agak merah, dan berkumis tebal. (Conscious of being a victim of expropriation, he also reported the incident to Police of Semarang City "I only remember that the perpetrators used black Avanza with Registered number B. One of them is 35 years old and 165 cm tall, has tan skin, straight black hair, and no mustache with Javanese accent," he explained. While two other actors, one of them has accent of Eastern Indonesia and the other has a short body, medium body, has little red curls, and thick mustache) - *Suara Merdeka*, 4 July 2011.

(12) Sadar menjadi korban pemerasan dan pencurian, korban melapor di dua tempat sekaligus, yakni Polres Semarang dan Polsek Semarang Tengah. Sebelumnya kasus serupa terjadi Sabtu (2/7) terhadap F Ismanto (49), warga Jalan Rambutan I/28 B Sompok. Modusnya sama, menghentikan mobil dan

menuduh korban telah melakukan tabrak lari. Ciri-ciri pelaku juga mirip, berjumlah dua hingga tiga orang, berjaket kulit hitam, salah satunya berambut ikal merah dan berlogat Indonesia bagian timur. (Conscious of being a victim of blackmail and theft, the victim reported the case to two institutions at once, i.e., Police of Semarang and Police of Semarang Tengah. Previously similar case occurred on Saturday (2/7) to F Ismanto (49), resident of Jalan Rambutan I / 28 B Sompok. The type of crime is the same, i.e., stopping the car and accusing the victim of having hit-and-run. The characteristics of the perpetrators are also similar, consisting of two to three people, wearing black leather jacket, one of them is red curly haired, and has accent of eastern Indonesia) - Suara Merdeka 6 July 2011.

In example number (11) above, the reporter mentions the characteristics of offenders in the form of implicit description: ...memiliki kulit sawo matang, berambut hitam lurus, dan tidak berkumis dengan logat Jawa,' Sementara dua orang pelaku lain, salah satunya berlogat Indonesia Timur (...has tan skin, straight black hair, and no moustache with Javanese accent. While two other actors, one of them has accent of Eastern Indonesia). The purpose of mentioning the characteristics of offenders implicitly is to protect the good name or reputation of the particular region. A senior journalist admits that he has had an unfavourable experience when one day a group of people from a particular region attracted the news office because they were not satisfied with the reports mentioning their region. Another journalist also had the bad experience of being protested by a company when the report explicitly stated the name of the company.

d. *'Hedging Devices'*

'Hedging devices' or 'hedges' can also be used as a means to reduce conflict. Hedges constitute realization of journalistic ethics (Wibowo & Yusoff, 2014). Watson and Hill (1997: 135) state that hedges' are linguistic units expressing the uncertainty of the speakers. While Swan, Deumert, Lilis, dan Mesthrie (2004: 132) suggests that 'a hedge or hedging involves the use of words or phrases that express some degree of qualification or uncertainty. The use of hedging devices in newspaper reports can be seen in the following examples (13) and (14).

(13) Sementara itu, Kepala Bidang Umum, Badan Kepegawaian Daerah (BKD) Klaten, Djaka Purwanta, mengaku belum mengetahui laporan adanya keterlibatan oknum PNS di lingkungan Pemkab Klaten yang diduga terlibat pengeroyokan tersebut. Kendati demikian, dia berjanji akan menelusuri kebenaran informasi tersebut (Meanwhile, the Head of General Affairs Division of the Regional Personnel Agency (BKD) of Klaten, Djaka Purwanta, admitted that he did not yet know the report of the involvement of civil servants in the Klaten Regency who were alleged to be involved in the beatings. Nevertheless, he promised to trace the truth of the information) - *Solopos*, 17 March 2013.

(14) *Polsek Gringsing Polres Batang berhasil mengungkap pencurian truk boks yang berisi barang elektronik. Dua pelaku, oknum TNI Sertu EK dan Pratu Nk yang melarikan truk itu ditangkap di perkampungan Pelaman, kawasan hutan jati Desa Sentul, Gringsing. Tak jauh dari truk itu ada dua orang pria berambut cepak. Polisi langsung bergerak dan berhasil menangkap Sertu EK, sedangkan Pratu NK berhasil melarikan diri masuk dalam hutan.* (Police of Gringsing Batang managed to uncover the theft of box trucks containing electronic items. Two of the perpetrators, the TNI soldiers Sertu EK and Pratu NK who fled the truck were arrested in Pelaman village, teak forest area of Sentul Village, Gringsing. Not far from the truck were two crew-cut men. The police immediately moved and arrested Sertu EK, while Pratu Nk managed to escape into the forest) - Suara Merdeka, 30 September 2015.

In both examples (13) and (14) above, the reporter used the hedging devices 'oknum' and a passive verb 'alleged.' The use of hedging devices is to protect the good name or the reputation of an institution. Because in essence, it is the person or individual who conducts crime not the institution. Likewise, the use of passive verb 'alleged' is intended to not judge them (trial by the press) before they are actually condemned by the courts. Furthermore, in example number (14), the reporter is vigilant in giving reviews, because the participants involved in the conflict were the member of the military and police force. To save the good name of the institution of military forces and police, and to prevent the conflict between those forces, newspapers use the term 'oknum' which means 'individual'. By this way, the image of the institution remains good, as it is not broken up by the bad-mannered soldier or police. In short, impersonation constitutes an ethics which turn out to be the strategic way to maintain harmonious relationships among the society (Wibowo & Yusoff, 2014).

In the last following example number (15) the journalist exposes the case that entangled the personnel of the police force.

(15) *Seorang oknum anggota Ditresnarkoba Polda Jateng ditangkap petugas Propam Polda Jateng. Oknum yang berinisial KW itu ditangkap lantaran diduga menyuap seorang petugas Badan Narkotika Nasional Provinsi (BNNP) Jateng, terkait penanganan seorang narapidana yang terlibat kasus narkoba.* (A member of Ditresnarkoba Polda Jateng was arrested by Propam Polda Jateng officer. The person with the initials KW was arrested for allegedly bribing an officer of the National Narcotics Agency of the Province (BNNP) of Central Java, related to the handling of a prisoner involved in drug cases. – *Suara Merdeka*, 3 December 2017.

In the above example of number (15), once again, the journalist employed hedging devices in the form of 'oknum' and passive verb phrase 'allegedly bribing'. The use of hedging devices of 'oknum' and passive verb phrase 'allegedly bribing' is based on the rule that, if the case has not been legally verified in court, the journalist should follow the journalistic ethics of presumption of innocence.

To summarise, the exploitation of language aspects in both newspapers is thought to be essential and effective in supporting peace among the society. Moreover, the function of newspaper as one of mass communication media will give big influence to the readers.

There has been discussion dealing with the relationship between the nature of news reports and the strategy to support peace. Some argue that the journalist should report the event openly. On the other hand, some disagree to do so on the grounds that the public importance should be taken into account. Hence, an interesting aspect to examine is to see the relationship between the language aspects concerning the expressions employed to support peace condition and the duty of the newspaper to pose detailed information to the readers. Newspaper faces the dilemma of presenting indirect, implicit, expressions or presenting complete and detailed information to the readers. Both choices will result in different impacts. One characteristic of news is openness and clarity of the news report. If the expressions are implicitly written, it seems that some expressions of reducing the potency of conflict might hinder the completeness of the news. In other words, the expressions have inhibited the readers of the wholistic information about the news. On one hand, this is true, in the sense that the readers might miss some of the information. On the other hand, due to the more important thing, i.e., the harmony of the society, the exploitation of such language aspects as implicit expression, general expressions, and hedging devices is necessary. In addition, the use of those linguistic aspects reveals indirectness, and indirectness constitutes one of the aspects of politeness (Brown & Levinson, 1987).

CONCLUSION

From the discussion, there are some points as the concluding remarks of this paper. In general, the mass media, including newspaper, has big role in creating and supporting peace among the society. From a linguistics perspective, the expressions used in a newspaper might prevent or lessen the potential conflict, which accordingly establishes harmony of the society. The language aspects involve: (1) unnamed body/society, (2) general expression, (2) implicit expressions, and (3) hedging devices or hedges. This is in line with the previous study (Wibowo, 2016) that general and implicit expression can be used to lessen the potential conflict. Being conventionally indirect is one of the principles of politeness. *Suara Merdeka* and *Solopos*, to some extent, have applied these principles. The application of the principles is guided by the guidelines set up by the editor boards. This is a little bit contrary to the principle of the news, i.e., presenting explicit expressions. The spirit of openness, including transparency in providing information to the readers is actually important; however, the harmony and peace among the society should be taken into account.

BIODATA

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