

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY

II.1. News reporting

According to David Crystal in his *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of English Language* (1995), the reporting of news, whether in the spoken or written media, reflects one of the most difficult and constraining situations to be found in the area of language use. The chief constraint is the perpetual battle against the pressures of time and space. Only those who have tried to write something for newspaper or radio/TV program know just how crippling these pressures can be. They are absolute.

There is also the constraint imposed by favored conception of audience - an awareness of what 'the readership', 'the listener', or 'the viewer' wants. This applies to everything from the initial judgement about what should be reported to the final decisions about exactly how much should be said about it, where in the medium it should appear and how it should be written or spoken.

Here, too, Crystal further explains anyone who has produced material for the media knows how the finished product for can differ greatly from what is first submitted. Very Famous Reporters may see their piece appear more or less as they wrote it. This is especially the case with syndicated columns. But the average news report, whether printed or broadcast, is the product of many hands. The shared authorship of news reports is suggested by their

reliance on preferred form of expression, their lack of stylistic idiosyncrasy (even in the reports of named journalists) and their consistency of style over long periods of time. Once a publication or channel has opted for a particular style, it tends to stay with it, and imposes it vigorously on its material. This has particularly been the case with the press. It is not difficult to identify certain features, which characterize certain newspapers.

II.1.1 Journalese (Features of News reporting)

According Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD) journalese is the style of language thought to be typical of newspapers, which contains many clichés. According to David Crystal, there are several distinctive linguistic features of news reporting. Most of them relate fairly clearly to the 'who, when, where, what, how, and why' which journalists bear in mind when compiling a story. These features are as follows:

- The headline is critical, summarizing and drawing attention to the story. Its telegraphic style is probably the best known feature of news reporting.
- The first ('lead') paragraph both summarizes and begins to tell the story. This paragraph is also the usual source of the headline, which is written not by the source journalist but by one of the sub-editors.
- The original source of the story is given, either in a byline (Reuters) or built into the text (*A senior White House official said...or The Indonesian Military Commander quoted as saying...or as reported by detikcom yesterday...*).



- The participants are categorized, their name usually being preceded by a general term (champ, prisoner, official, general, the president, etc.) and adjectives (handsome French singer Jean Bruno, Indonesian beautiful actress Desi Ratnasari).
- Other features include explicit time and place locators (In Paris yesterday, here two days ago, In Washington last Saturday, etc.) facts and figures (66 people were killed in a bomb blast) and direct or indirect quotations (PM 'bungles' says expert or Expert says PM bungled).

IL2. The History of the Indonesian Daily News (IDN)

In 1961, The Indonesian Daily News (IDN) actually was first published in Surabaya. This was due to the idea of the founder of Jawa Pos newspaper, The Chung Sen after the government at that time banned all publications in Dutch language. Therefore, The Chung Sen had an initiative to publish an English newspaper in Surabaya named The Indonesian Daily News. However, because the market was so small, the IDN had lasted only for several years until it was closed.

Then, in 1997, Dahlan Iskan, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Jawa Pos Group had a thought of publishing an English newspaper to face the coming globalization era and the Third Millenium. There was also another reason. Dahlan Iskan thought that it was time that the Jawa Pos Group, which have about 67 publications under it, to have an English newspaper just like other giant publication companies.

The initial idea was that this newspaper did not only present articles in English but also in Japanese. So, the percentage would be 75 % English and 25% Japanese.

However, the General Manager (GM) of the would be new Indonesian Daily News (IDN) at that time, Budi Kristanto, saw the difficulties in getting computer software in Japanese language and other publication materials, and also the difficulty in acquiring human resources who could speak Japanese. Therefore, it was finally decided to concentrate fully on English language.

At first in October 1997, Jawa Pos recruited only about 15 young people who would be concentrated as editors. Dahlan Iskan had idealism that in the future it needed only one person to handle the jobs of 10 people, that's why these editors were trained not only to be able to do lay out work but also to be field reporters.

At that time, due to the shortage of manpower, the IDN was just like Jawa Pos newspaper in English. And then in January 1998, the Indonesian Daily News (IDN) was published for the first time in 12 black-and-white young broad sheet pages with Latin font that resembled English newspapers from the United States and Britain such as the International Herald Tribune, the Washington Post, etc. The pages were divided into national, Surabaya, Bali, entertainment, sports and features.

However, because many of its readers were complaining that the content of the IDN was just the same like Jawa Pos, there was a new recruitment of reporters and photographers with the aim of searching for its own news concentrated on things around Surabaya. This is because the base of the IDN was Surabaya.

Further, to improve the quality of the language, the articles and other journalistic sides, the IDN invited Mr. John Mohn, a senior reporter with the Kansas Press, USA, who was also a Jawa Pos correspondent there. With his recommendation, a native copy editor was recruited. His duty was to 'polish' the writings of the IDN reporters so that the language of the English could be much better from previously heavily Bahasa Indonesia influenced articles to be Standard English. The first native copy editor was David Nesbitt from England who also worked in the English News Program of the TV Two Channel of TVRI Surabaya. This occurred when the General Manager was already taken over by Ali Murtadhlo, a senior reporter and managing editor of Jawa Pos.

Later on, after the position of General Manager was handled by an insider, Ribut Wahyudi, there were changes on the content and format of the newspaper. The business pages were increased with a consideration of trying to get a broader market so they did not have to compete 'face to face' with other already established English newspapers such as the Jakarta Post from Jakarta and the Indonesian Observer. The IDN also appeared with a new logo and banner to create a more dynamic impression.

In August 2000, through a meeting, it was finally decided to cut the pages from 12 to 8 but with color pictures and photos in page 1 and 8. The articles were also more compact and shorter but heavier. This is the present trend in newspapers in the USA such as USA Today. Jawa Pos and Suara Indonesia, which is also under the Jawa Pos Group, have also followed this trend, but they did not cut their pages. The word 'the' was also omitted from the Indonesian Daily News, so now it is only Indonesian Daily News.

The main concentration of Indonesian Daily News is Surabaya and around, other big cities in East Java, Central Java and the Eastern part of Indonesia. The market segment is the middle upper class, businessmen, expatriates, scholars, academic people and hotels.

Indonesian Daily News as the one and only English newspaper in Surabaya possesses a unique position in the city. As its efforts to compete with other already established English newspapers such as the Jakarta Post, IDN has tried to do its best to present news items which are the latest and viewed from different angles. The quality of its articles and writing are improving day by day. One way to maintain the quality of its journalists' writing is by the employment of a copy editor, who acts as the corrector of the English used. Besides correcting, he is also entitled to throw away words, which are redundant and put his own words according to his own understanding.

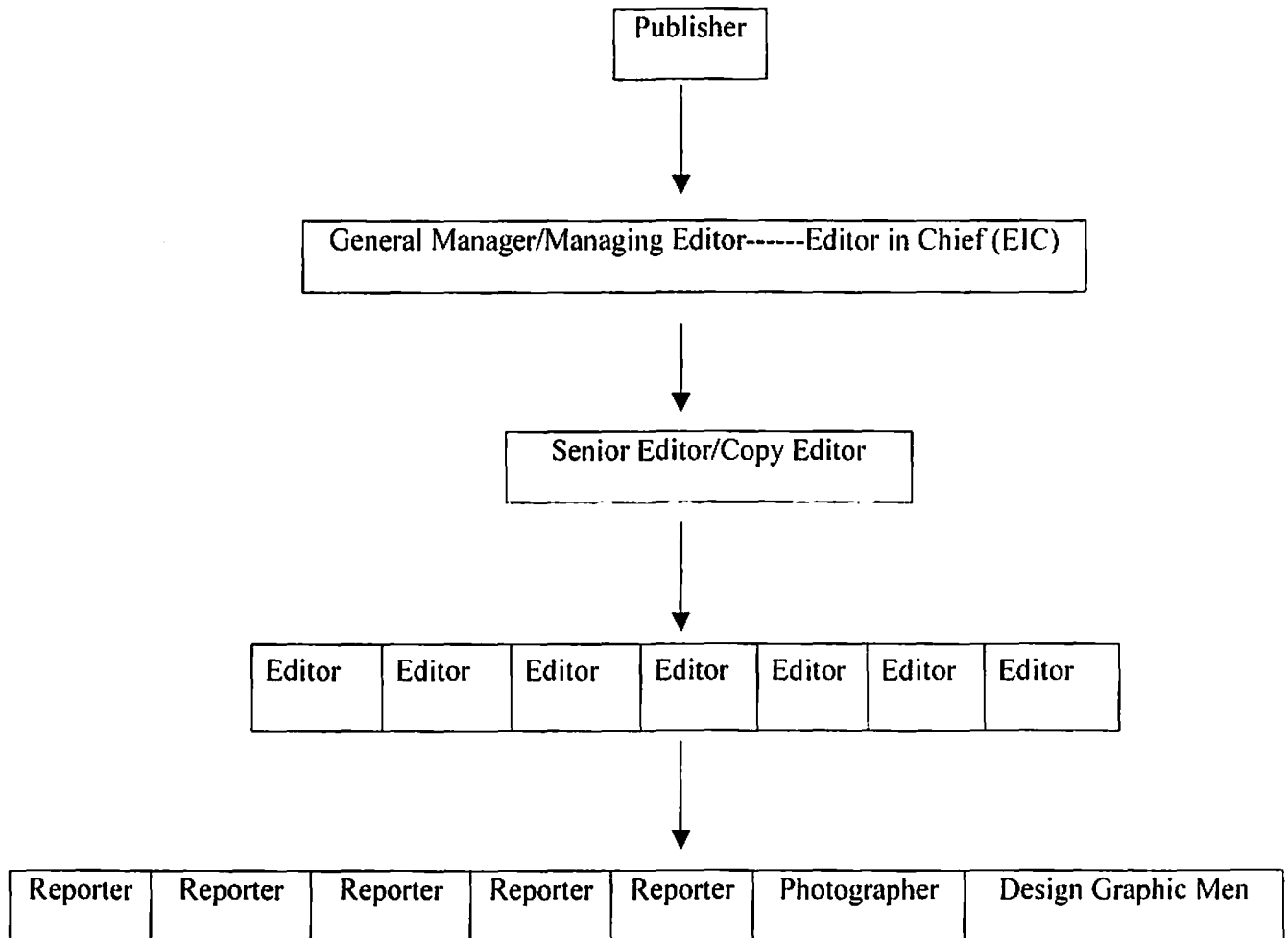
At first when its name was still the Indonesian Daily News, before the present copy editor who is of Indonesian nationality but studied very long in Australia majoring in Professional writing raising no arguments nor doubts about his English competency, a number of copy editors had also been used. There was a period where the copy editor was a British expatriate living in Surabaya and in another time there was also an Indonesian who worked as an English teacher.

However, the present copy editor is considered the best among all since his mastery of English is on par with native speakers while his skills on English writing can not be argued whatsoever for he studied professional writing in Australia. And one more advantage of having him at IDN is he is being Indonesian, so he both knows Indonesian and English

well. This needs to be emphasized here since it relates directly to the quality of the writing produced by the newspaper. But first maybe a question arises about how such an English newspaper still needs a copy editor? Why the writings of its journalists are not published the way they are? This comes from an argument that every journalist has their own writing style and if the writings must go through a copy editor it is very highly likely that the style has changed or at least interfered by the editor's style. This can be so for some reasons. First the newspaper is published in English speaking countries such as the United States and Australia, the circulation is small and concentrated only in some areas (home based small business), it is not a general newspaper meaning a newspaper that focuses on certain topics. However, big newspapers with professional handling (read: management) usually have what is called as copy editors. This is because they mostly have their own style which can be found in all articles presented in the newspapers except for some personal articles and writings such as readers' letters, opinions and articles by free-lance or outside columnists. This has been explained on chapter II of the thesis.

Indonesian Daily News as the one and only English newspaper in Surabaya is unique and very interesting to be studied because many things and aspects particularly concerning linguistics field that can be gotten from it.

II.2.1 The Structure of Organization of Indonesian Daily News (IDN).



II.3. The Characteristics of Fixed Phrases (Multiword lexical units) according to Linda Verstraten.

II.3.1. Working definition

According to Linda Verstraten, there seems to be no consensus on the meaning of terms like *idiom*, *expression*, *phrase*, etc. Because of this, she has chosen a broad working definition: the term *fixed phrase* will stand for any stable unit made up of at least two words. It will be used to cover other terms such as *idiom*, *proverb*, *saying*, *expression*, etc. Trying to replace one or more elements can test the stability of the unit by possible synonyms. Most fixed phrases do not allow such replacements at all, or they lose their meanings as units. Their meanings can be compositional, partly compositional and partly non-compositional, or completely non-compositional. Non-compositional phrases are usually called *idioms*.

II.3.2 Syntactic properties

Fixed phrases take different syntactic roles: many functions as VP (Verb Phrases) in sentences (*hit the sack*, *kick the bucket*), others functions as nouns (*the White House*), adjectives/adverbs (*up and coming*), prepositional phrases (*in the thick of*) or even sentences. Expressions that form complete sentences may be proverbs (*don't count your chickens before they're hatched*), or so-called routine formulae such as! *Good morning*, *take it easy!* (This is also mentioned in Chapter I). Both types function as sentences, although their syntactic form is not necessarily a sentence (S). Single words can function as routine formulae too (*congratulations*, or swear words like *damn*).

Phrasal verbs, i.e. verbs followed by one or more particles or prepositions (*put up with something/someone; take to; give in; give up*), are particularly interesting. It is unclear how their meanings are 'produced' the verb usually has a very broad meaning and it is difficult to attach a specific interpretation to their particles or prepositions. As already observed, fixed phrases are stable units meaning that one can not delete or replace one or more of their elements: *beat around/about the shrub/bush*.

Also in many cases, the order of their elements can not be modified: *span and spick*. However, certain fixed phrases display some variation: a thorn in one's flesh/side.

Many if not all, fixed phrases are limited in the syntactic transformations they may undergo.

For instance (examples from Fraser 1970):

- *some steam was blown off at the party*
- *the bucket was kicked* (from kick the bucket = dead)
- *John beat quietly around the bush* (the bush replaces the shrub)

Fixed phrases may even be syntactically not well formed, at least from a synchronic point of view:

- *trip the light fantastic*
- *by and large*

Finally, a special group of lexical elements only occur in one (or at most a few) fixed expressions, the unique constituents:

- *take umbrage*
- *eke out*

II.3.3 Semantic properties

Because of the fixedness of fixed phrases one cannot freely replace a constituent by another without losing the whole. In *kill the goose that lays the golden eggs* one cannot replace *goose* by *duck* or *kill* by *murder*, at least not without either changing the meaning of the unit completely or causing a certain effect. Free combinations allow a lot more variation. About this matter, Cowie in his paper about the lexical patterning in 'quality' daily and Sunday newspapers says that although extremely rare, we can still find some verbal inventiveness or lexical invention meaning the creativity of the writers or reporters to change the elements of the units with other words/the synonyms to cause certain effects. Cowie finds out that journalistic writing tends to draw very heavily on verb-noun collocations that are already well established and widely known. He further says that news writers use idioms and other word combinations (here it can also mean fixed phrases which are formally fixed/semi-fixed or semantically opaque). According to him, the high use of familiar expressions in news coverage is because of memorization and re-use of existing locutions.

The meaning of fixed phrases can vary from the wholly compositional to the wholly non-compositional. This can be illustrated by a few examples placed on a scale from the non-compositional to the compositional:

- *queer the pitch*

It is a British and Australian idiom meaning to spoil a chance or an opportunity for someone, often on purpose.

- *curry favor with someone*

The meaning is to praise especially someone in authority in a way that is not sincere, in order to obtain some advantage for oneself.

- *take umbrage at*

This is a slightly formal idiom meaning to feel upset or annoyed, usually because you feel that someone has been rude or shown a lack of respect to you.

- *fly off the handle*

It means fly into a rage (British English: also temper/fury), you suddenly become very angry.

- *blow a fuse*

It means to cause something to melt.

- *take offence at*

The meaning of this phrase is becoming upset or angry to someone for what he has done.

According to Verstraten, the unique constituent *queer* is responsible for the high ranking of the first expression, but the ordering of the others is more difficult.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA