

## **CHAPTER II**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY**

#### **II.1. The Jakarta Post**

The object of research in this study is The Jakarta Post English daily that is published in Jakarta. The Jakarta Post is published by PT. Bina Media Tenggara, founded in late 1982 as an independent newspaper institution owned by four competing media groups publishing some of the leading national publications: Suara Karya, Kompas, Sinar Harapan, and Tempo. The first issue of the Jakarta Post appeared on April 25, 1983.

The new English daily is unique, not only in its goal, which is to improve the standard of English language media in Indonesia, but also in bringing in together four competing media publishers into producing a quality newspaper with an Indonesian perspective.

On the first day of publication, not more than 5,474 copies of the newspapers reached readers. The content of its eight pages varied from the Soviet espionage activities in the region to an article written by Kompas' Jacob Utama on the installation of H. Harmoko as the new minister of Information

The Jakarta Post has developed into a prestigious paper respected for its independent views and bold coverage of various national and international events.

Today, The Jakarta Post publishes in 12 or 16 pages. The publication of each is governed by a particular pattern. On Friday and Sunday the Jakarta Post publishes in 12 pages, while on the rest of the week it publishes 16 pages. The 12 or 16 pages of The Jakarta Post can be divided up into some sections. There are 10 sections, all of which are put in different pages. Yet, this will change when the paper publishes in different pages (12 or 16). The division of the paper can be described as follows:

#### 1. Cover page

This section is on the first page. It is the main content of the Jakarta Post as well as other newspaper. It contains the hottest news covered by the paper's reporters or taken from major global news networks as Reuters and Associated Press (AP). The contents may come from various fields as politic and economy.

#### 2. National news

This section contains hot news of national affairs. The content of this section is also of various fields, not only politics but also economics and social life. The section is usually put on page 2.

#### 3. City news

This section contains local news, news that reports events or situations that happen in Jakarta its surrounding cities as Tangerang and Bekasi). It is put on page 3.

#### 4. Opinion

The contents of this section are various opinions gathered by the paper's reporters from experts or public figures, articles sent by some writers, and letters written by the readers. This section is placed on pages 4 and 5.

#### 5. Features

This section is divided up into two subsections; first, Features: Potpourri containing articles on culture, social life, tourism, etc., and second Features: Entertainment containing articles on music, films, and theatre. These two subsections are placed on page 8 and 9 respectively. However, in the 12-page edition, the section moves to page 6 and 7.

#### 6. Sportnews

The content of this section is solely news on sport games or events. The sport games are of various kinds as chess, badminton, basketball and football. The place of this section is on page 6 and 7 in the 16-page edition and on page 10 or 12 in the 12-page edition.

#### 7. Business and investment

The section of business and investment is given more space in the 16-page edition than that in the 12-page edition. In the 16-page edition there are 3 full pages of this fields, while in the 12-page edition there are two pages.

#### 8. Regional news



The regional section is placed on page 13. It contains news and features that report news events that take place in the Asian countries.

#### **9. World news**

The news and/or features on global political and military affairs are those that mostly fill in this section. Besides that, this section also contains news on social life and sometimes crimes. The place of this section is on page 14 and 16 in the 16-page edition, and page 12 in the 12-page edition.

#### **10. Classified ads.**

This section contains advertisements that can be classified according to the kind of things to be advertised. The place of this section is on page 15 in the 16-page edition and on page 11 in the 12-page edition.

The Jakarta Post is likely intended for middle and upper class of people, and also foreigners. This can be seen from the news issued in it. Mostly the news talk about politics, economy, and literature. They rarely talk about mystics and low-class crimes. Furthermore, only those who can understand English can read The Jakarta Post, and those who know English are mostly from middle and upper class of people.

## **II.2. Sportnews**

Sportnews is news that reports or gives account of sport games or events. More specifically, it may report the sport games on the whole, the result of the sport games or matches, or other aspects of the world of sports – as the rivalry of the

athletes or teams competing in the games, and the issue of drug using or abuse (doping) by certain athletes.

In The Jakarta Post, the sport news can be found on page 10 or 12 in the 12-pages edition or on page 6 and 7 in the 16-pages edition. The number of pages of the sport news section varies from one to two pages according to whether the edition is of twelve or sixteen pages. The paper would have two pages of sport section when it publishes in 16 pages and one page of sport section when publishes in 12 pages.

About the content of the sport section or of what kinds of sport games The Jakarta Post 's sportswriters usually give account of, we can find that the sportswriters do not give any limitation to what kind of sport games to be reported. The sport section not only gives account of the games of very popular kinds of sport as basketball and soccer, but also of unpopular kind ones such as cricket and American football. Soccer, basketball, tennis and golf are the kind of sports that have much space in the Jakarta Post' sport section. On some occasion, the paper also reports extreme sport events such as mountain bike championship, parachuting, and roller-skating.

The sport news section not only contains various aspects of sport games or events, but also any issue dealing with the world of sport such as transfer dealing and previews of the sport games or matches. Thus in the section, we will find that the news greatly varies from the outcomes of sport games (which is the most usual kind of sport reporting) to the preparation of athletes for certain sport events.

For the writing of the sport section, The Jakarta Post' sportswriters do not always collect the news by covering the sport events or issues by themselves – they only cover the sport events by themselves when the events occur in Indonesia. They may get the news from the world's major news networks as Associated Press (AP), AFP, and Reuters. Other networks as Xinhua of China, and DPA also give contribution to the content of the sport section. The use of news from foreign news networks only for sport events taking place in other countries, except there are great sport events such as Olympics and Asian Games.

### **II.3. Verbs Used to Describe Winning and Losing**

The language that is used in the sport section of a newspaper is always interesting to any observers. It is lively, playful, and metaphoric. It uses such playful words that are selected to entertain people who usually read serious or important news in the first place. This playfulness of words is possibly due to the creativity and knowledge of the sport section writers.

As most sport news is about the outcomes of sport games or events, the sportswriters try to make them as interesting as possible. In describing the winning and losing (two out of three of the results of sport games – the third is draw) of sport games or matches, they use a large variety of verbs, instead of only using 'win' to indicate winning and 'lose' to indicate losing.

The phenomenon (the use of various verbs to indicate winning and losing) can be found in the news of any kind of sports. The sense of the verb use in any sport is almost the same. There are only slight differences of sense. For example, the use of “*stun*” to describe winning in soccer and tennis reporting may have the same sense in the way that the winner has an impressive win over its opponent. It only differs in the contexts or factual details of the match. The contexts that underlie the use of the verb in soccer reporting are different with those in tennis reporting – for example in the margin of winning.

From the process of data collecting, the writer found out that there are 40 different verbs of winning and 20 different verbs of losing used in the sportnews on the outcomes football matches. The number of verbs used to describe winning is, therefore, greater than that used to describe losing, which is the opposite of what has been found by Novitri.

Of all the verbs, it is found that the frequency of the verbs highly varies. Some verbs are used very frequently, some are rarely. Verbs with high frequency of use indicate the general meaning of winning or losing, or that there is nothing special about the nature of winning or losing of the teams described by the verbs. Meanwhile, verbs with low frequency indicate the contrary. They indicate special kind of winning or losing – the margin of winning and losing is wide or that the winning or losing is resulted from a special kind of action.

Another interesting thing about the verbs is that the verbs actually do not come from the domain or semantic field of winning only. They also come from other domain or semantic fields – for example the field of destruction which includes some verbs as ‘crush’, ‘demolish’, ‘eliminate’, ‘hammer’, and so on. This phenomenon will have its explanation on the later part of chapter three.