# THE RELIABILITY OF COVID-19 RELATED NEWS IN INDONESIA: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Wandana, M. C. T. R. (2021). *The Reliability of Covid-19 Related News in Indonesia: A Corpus-Based Study*. English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Prof. Dr. Hj. Zuliati Rohmah, M. Pd.

Keywords: media evaluation, reliability parameter, corpus analysis.

This thesis analyzes the reliability level in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia based on Bednarek's (2006) media evaluation theory, which describes how likely and unlikely something will happen as written in the news story. There are two problems in this present study: (1) What are the most commonly used reliability parameter keywords in the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia, and (2) What is the context of each reliability parameter keyword found in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia.

This study used a corpus analysis with Bednarek's (2006) media evaluation to analyze the reliability level in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. The data were collected from a specialized corpus compiled from The Jakarta Post news under COVID-19 starting from January 2020 to December 2020. The specialized COVID-19 corpus has around 300.000 words taken from about 600 articles. The reliability parameter was in the form of keywords found in the specialized COVID-19 corpus news text. The reliability parameter was analyzed using the corpus software Antcone concordance feature to see the occurrences in which the keywords are used and then valued using the context found in the examples to determine the reliability level. This study also used Aarts' (2011) classifications of the uses of modal and Lewis's (1994) descriptions of the modal to analyze the data. Because this research shows that modal is one of the categories in which the reliability parameter keywords often appear.

This study reveals that 18 different keywords indicate reliability in the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. Twelve of them are considered to have high-reliability values, such as will, would, may, might, cannot, reported, confirmed, expected, suspected, positive, likely, and reportedly. While eight others are considered to have low-reliability values such as could, can, unlikely, yet, probably, and possibly. The result shows that the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia has more high-reliability values than the lower ones. The context of these keywords revolves around COVID-19, starting from predictions, possibility, supposition, and past events. All of the context are all based on the information from some experts, some research, and government officials. It indicates that many things in COVID-19 news in Indonesia are written and described as very likely to happen.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Wandana, M. C. T. R. (2021). *Penelitian Korpus Mengenai Tingkat Reliabilitas Berita COVID-19 di Indonesia*. Program Studi Sastra Inggirs, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Prof. Dr. Hj. Zuliati Rohmah, M. Pd.

Keywords: evaluasi media, parameter reliabilitas, analisis korpus.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tingkat reliabilitas berita COVID-19 di Indonesia berdasarkan teori evaluasi media oleh Bednarek (2006) yang menggambarkan seberapa besar kemungkinan sesuatu akan terjadi atau tidak terjadi seperti yang tertulis di dalam berita. Ada dua masalah dalam penelitian ini, yaitu: (1) Apa saja kata kunci yang sering dicunakan sebagai parameter reliabilitas dalam berita COVID-19 di Indonesia dan (2) Bagaimana konteks setiap kata kunci parameter reliabilitas yang ditemukan di berita COVID-19 di Indonesia.

Penelitian ini menggunakan analisis korpus dengan evaluasi media oleh Bednarek (2006) untuk menganalisis tingkat reliabilitas berita COVID-19 di Indonesia. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dari korpus khusus yang dihimpun dari website berita The Jakarta Post dengan topik COVID-19 mulai Januari 2020 hingga Desember 2020. Korpus khusus COVID-19 ini terdiri dari sekitar 300.00 kata diambil dari sekitar 600 artikel berita. Parameter reliabilitas berupa dalam bentuk kata kunci yang terdapat pada teks berita dalam korpus khusus COVID-19. Parameter reliabilitas dianalisis menggunakan fitur concordance dari software korpus Antconc untuk melihat kemunculan kata kunci tersebut pada kalimat dan kemudian kata kunci tersebut dievaluasi menggunakan konteks yang ditemukan pada penggunaannya dalam kalimat. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan klasifikasi Aarts (2011) tentang penggunaan modal dan juga deskripsi Lewis (1994) tentang modal untuk menganalisis data. Modal merupakan salah satu kategori dimana kata kunci reliabilitas sering muncul.

Penelitian ini menemukan 18 kata kunci yang menunjukkan reliabilitas berita COVID-19 di Indonesia. 12 diantaranya dinilai memiliki nilai reliabilitas yang tinggi, seperti will, would, may, might, cannot, reported, confirmed, expected, suspected, positive, likely and reportedly, sedangkan 8 lainnya dianggap memiliki nilai reliabilitas yang rendah. seperti could, can, unlikely, yet, probably and possibly. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa berita terkait COVID-19 di Indonesia memiliki nilai reliabilitas yang tinggi. Konteks dimana kata kunci tersebut digunakan yaitu mengenai prediksi-presiksi, kemungkinan, harapan dan hal-hal yang telah terjadi. Semua konteks ini didasari oleh penjelasan dari para ahli, hasil penelitian, dan pemerintah. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa banyak hal pada berita COVID-19 di Indonesia dituliskan dan dideskripsikan dengan memiliki kemungkinan tinggi untuk terjadi.

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background and the focus of the research. The background consists of issues that became the reasons why this study is conducted. Many previous studies have been undertaken with the gaps that the researcher aims to fill. The research focus is presented in the form of the statement of problems that this research aims to solve. This chapter includes the background of the study, the problem of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. There are two problems of the study presented in this research.

#### 1.1. Background of Study

Since the invention of the printing press, newspapers have become the main form of publication for information. With the addition of the internet, news has become faster and worldwide than ever before. This kind of information with no geographical boundaries, time constraints, and access limitation can be the most effective way to spread information and influence people's ideology, perspective, and general public image about specific topics or events. As Steel and Conboy (2008) stated, "newspapers have always produced readers, not news, as their primary goal; creating a selection of news tailored for a particular readership to create profit and/or exert influence on that readership" (p. 651). Nowadays, online news sites have to compete in seconds to publish the latest and hottest news, especially when there is a global event worldwide.

As good as it may seem to have the latest possible information at hand, this is where the study of media evaluation is needed. According to Bednarek (2006), "evaluation is extremely important in actual discourse, in that it is difficult if not impossible for human beings (and perhaps not even desirable) to speak with a completely 'objective' voice, not to impose evaluations on one's utterance, and not to communicate value judgements" (p. 4-5). Also, from an educational standpoint, media evaluation can provide an insight into the organization of the text, how writers convey the information, and how it affects the reader in specific ways.

There is a study conducted by Cassidy (2007) with the title *Online News*Credibility: An Examination of the Perceptions of Newspaper Journalists. In the study, he compiles many sources from national surveys and the related findings of the previous research to determine the credibility of online news and also the media in general for comparison. However, Cassidy's studies cannot be included under a linguistic research branch since the surveys and the findings do not come from analyzing the news's linguistic aspect, it mainly deals with the form of surveys and experimental studies. For example, Cassidy used EURO RSCG

Magnet & Columbia University Survey of the Media from 2005, Middleberg/Ross Media Survey from 2002, and The Online News Association from 2002 to determine internet news information credibility.

The current research aims to evaluate media only by analyzing the linguistic aspects and the context of the text to determine the reliability. Here, the term reliability may differ significantly from the term credibility used in Cassidy's

previous study. Credibility is leaning towards determining whether the news is genuine or fake. On the other hand, according to Bednarek (2006), reliability is how likely or unlikely does it appear that something will happen, as written in a news article. In short, the term credibility, like what Cassidy (2007) discussed in his research, is asking whether the news is genuine or fake by doing a survey. While reliability, conducted by Bednarek (2006), is asking how likely something written in the news report will happen or not. So, reliability is based on the assumption that all the information in the news is accurate and only asking how likely it will happen. For example, celebrity news reliability may be lower than other news since they mostly consist of rumors or straight-up drama. Different cases with sports news or economy news have higher reliability because their primary source of information comes from factual data. Both celebrity and other news may have different reliability levels, but both news reports are based on the real world.

That is why media evaluation, especially reliability, assumes that the journalist writes according to the real situation and does not make any personal or misleading claims. However, it is also essential to explain that Bednarek's term 'reliability' in media evaluation is different from the reliability used in the general research term. The researcher uses media evaluation by Bednarek because it is suitable to analyze what is likely and unlikely to happen (the reliability) in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia.

The media evaluation by Bednarek is combined with corpus analysis so that it can be used to process a large amount of data to provide sufficient information about the reliability (how likely or unlikely something will happen) in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. With the large amount of information delivered through online news sites these days, corpus analysis is the most effective way to analyze all the data.

One of the examples is the study conducted by Oktaviani and Ardianti (2019). They analyze the verbs in the Jakarta Post's news section by using a corpus-based analysis to see how the verbs' frequency is related to the text characteristic. They use the different classification of verbs that resembles a specific description of the aspect of the sentences. The result concludes that verbal type verbs such as *say*, *tell*, *and ask* are the most frequently used. According to their research, "Verbal type occupies the most frequent position since the nature of news is to deliver information of factual events" (p.203). This research proves that using a corpus-method can explain that the news characteristic is affected by the frequency of a specific group of words.

Even a single word can also represent a specific characteristic of news.

The study conducted by Kutter and Kantner (2012) uses collocation to analyze the word 'intervention' and the frequency of the co-occurrence words. Using collocation, they can explore the detailed set of keywords related to the issue presented by the term 'intervention' in keywords of international relations and military action. This research proves that by selecting specific essential keywords from the news, it can provide information related to particular issue or topics and the semantic relation between the selected word and the co-occurrences,

Although corpus study can be used to analyze the news's linguistic characteristics, as the previous research above has proven, none of them uses corpus as a tool to analyze the context or the information of the news itself. The previous studies focused only on the linguistic use of certain words and what causes news authors to use them, not necessarily about the context of the information itself. This phenomenon is also noticed by Bednarek (2006). In her book the title *Evaluation in Media Discourse: Analysis of a Newspaper Corpus*, she stated that "it must be pointed out that although we can find a wealth of research on the media in general, much of it is either non-linguistic (in a strict sense) or of a limited scope (focusing on a few aspects of media language, offering case studies, etc.)" (p. 5).

To evaluate a media, the corpus method must analyze the context of the information stored in the news's writing. Fortunately, Bednarek (2006) has provided the parameters in evaluating media discourse in her book, which includes comprehensibility, possibility/necessity, reliability, and many more. It is the main reason why the researcher chooses to combine Bednarek's media evaluation with corpus analysis. However, this current research mainly used Bednarek's (2006) reliability parameter to evaluate the reliability (how likely and unlikely something will happen) of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia.

The next is the parameter of reliability. Bednarek (2006) divides some groups of words that represent a certain level of reliability. For example, the word will and be to are considered to have high-reliability while the word likely and may have lower reliability. Reporters or news writers commonly use these words

to indicate the reliability of the information. But even though news authors have already noted the reliability of news using these specific words, many readers still pay less attention to these details, which could lead to misguided or even misleading information. Even worse, since social media nowadays are also a primary source of news, a study with the title *Social Clicks: What and Who Gets Read on Twitter?* conducted by Gabielkov, Ramachandran, Chaintreau, and Legout (2016) explained that people mostly read the headline and share it without even reading the entirety of it. As Gabielkov et al. (2016) stated in the study, "In fact, we estimate that a majority (59%) of the URLs mentioned on Twitter are not clicked at all" (p. 5). Therefore, this current study aims to improve reader awareness of at least paying attention to specific words that news authors wrote to indicate its reliability.

This present research analyzed the news information to determine the reliability of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. This research used these specific words called reliability parameter keywords such as will, be to, likely, and may, as explained by Bednarek (2006), as parameters to analyze the reliability of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia through corpus analysis. The reliability parameter keywords were determined by choosing specific words that represent reliability in COVID-19 related news. Some of the examples of the reliability parameter keywords are 'confirmed' and 'suspected'. Here, the word 'confirmed' represents the keyword with high-reliability because it is most likely to happen, while the word 'suspected' is expected to be the keyword with low-reliability since it is less likely to happen compared to the word 'confirmed'. That is why

context is crucial to determine which keywords are considered to have high or low-reliability. The researcher found more keywords in this current research process and has provided the context with the hope that readers will determine the kinds of words that have different reliability values in other news and topics.

The researcher has specifically chosen the recent viral outbreak in China known by COVID-19 as the news topic because it is a worldwide topic that is currently updated every hour or even minutes through online news sources. It accurately represents how fast a news article can be produced and how its reliability can be affected by reduced editing, proofreading time, and premature news source. Also, with the high reader anticipation for the update about the virus, it is more likely to cause the reader to pay less attention to which information is reliable and not.

For further notice, this study does not say that COVID-19 is an unreliable news topic. Instead, this study provides an insight into how frequently produced news topics may be or may not be vulnerable to reliability issues. Also, it is essential to mention that this study is not about the COVID-19 itself. This study does not talk about what caused it, how it affects people, or how governments deal with it. Instead, the COVID-19 news is only chosen because it represents the group of news that is produced quickly and massively, which, as explained above, may hugely affect the reliability of the news.

Another reason is that these kinds of worldwide emergencies usually create more panic than more information and lead to a misleading conclusion that makes more problems than it already has. For example, people are eager to buy a

face mask because it is assumed to protect them from the virus. But instead, it creates another problem since people are buying more masks. It competes with the medical facility's supplies, which could lead to the insufficient collection of masks for the patient and the medical worker (The Jakarta Post, 2020).

Furthermore, the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia is made into a specialized corpus by the researcher compiled from the online English news publisher, the Jakarta Post. The reason is that the Jakarta Post has one of the largest collections of English newspapers distributed in Indonesia. The researcher has eliminated other online newspaper publisher that only has the translated version of their Indonesian news. In short, the Jakarta Post is chosen because it is written explicitly in English with an extensive collection of news. Another reason is the consideration of time and effort. With only choosing one news publisher, the researcher made more in-depth research with a more specific scope of research.

The researcher hopes that this study provides knowledge about the reliability issues for this fast and massively produced news to be more cautious in reading news and make a better decision towards an issue. This research may also help news authors create news to increase the reliability based on the topic and the situation.

#### 1.2. Problems of Study

1.2.1. What are the most commonly used reliability parameter keywords in the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia?

1.2.2. What is the context of each reliability parameter keywords found in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia?

#### 1.3. Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research can provide enough data and explanation to make the readers more aware of the kind of words with different reliability values. So, it can make readers more cautious and reduce misunderstanding in reading the news.

This research shows how Bednarek's reliability value is used alongside corpus analysis, which presents its challenge and obstacle that can be further improved and avoided by future researchers. This research also shows the representation of the reliability values in this specific COVID-19 related news in Indonesia, which constitutes how Bednarek's media evaluation can evaluate media in particular cases such as COVID-19 related news in Indonesia.

#### 1.4. Scope and Limitation

The news sources are only taken from Indonesian online newspaper sites written in English so that there is no cultural or regional difference in the linguistic aspect. The Jakarta Post was chosen as the only source of the news for the specialized COVID-19 corpus. All the articles were selected under the topic of COVID-19, starting from January 2020 until December 2020.

This study is also only using the reliability parameter, even though Bednarek (2006) has provided many more parameters in evaluating media discourse.

#### 1.5. Definition of Key Terms

*Corpus linguistics* is a computer-aided study that processes a large amount of language data in compiled texts.

*Media evaluation* is the process of analyzing newspapers and magazines through specific parameters, such as reliability, by using certain keywords that appear in the news, such as *may*, *be to*, *will*, and *likely*, to determine the characteristic of news.

**Reliability parameter** is an indicator consisting of keywords, such as *may*, be to, will, and likely, that is used to describe how likely or unlikely something to happen as written in news.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus that began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 (World Health Organization, 2020).

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter provides several theories and related literature required for the researcher to conduct this current research. The theories start from media discourse, how it has been discussed in discourse analysis, corpus analysis, the method used in this research, and the theory of media evaluation by Bednarek (2006) that is mainly used to analyze the data. This chapter also covers COVID-19 as the main topic of the data in this research. The modal theories are used to analyze the data further and determine the level of Bednarek's reliability parameter keywords found in this research.

#### 2.1. Media Discourse

Media discourse is the discourse portrayed in the media. It focuses on how information is encoded within a text. Texts themselves may not be considered as a discourse, but it is one of the pieces of evidence where the discourse takes place. Text in media discourse is similar to face-to-face communication in terms of the forms it takes. The media itself plays a role in how information is portrayed in a text. Therefore, the interaction may not be as direct as a conversation, but how media frame a particular issue can indicate an interaction between the writer and the reader. Mass media can also be used as an interpretation of how the general public is informed. These indirect relationships between the reader and the writer are well within the discourse area. Many aspects involved, such as the mode, law

regulation in media, cultural values, a specific image in media publisher, and many more, can be taken into account for discourse analysis.

Manchin and Van Leeuwen (2007) discuss in their book 'Global Media Discourse' about media discourse, such as globalization of news, news and the market, standardization, and international and national aspects. According to Manchin and Van Leeuwen (2007):

Early nineteenth-century newspapers were an important vehicle of political communication. They did not yet separate 'fact' and 'comment'. They openly took sides in political issues and carried editorials on the front page in which they conducted debates with 'correspondents' that could last for days. Today, editorials are sometimes still called 'leading articles', but they are no longer on the front page, and their writers no longer conduct debates with letter writers, while 'correspondents' are now professional journalists, rather than readers. (p. 7)

It can be indicated that even since the beginning of media discourse, especially in the news, it has a strong human interaction and relation aspect through its text. Media discourse is as critical as it is with any other discourses with direct human interaction.

Manchin and Van Leeuwen (2007) also point out that news agencies operate on the principle of news and the market. It means that most mass-produced media likely have some implication to some of their audience.

With the demand to sell these publicly mass-produced media, news agencies must also put a standard in their news. Pure information and fact is the main objective if they want to engage with a broader audience range.

Furthermore, the need to be purely informational does not prevent some media from being influenced by ideology. The mainly discussed topic such as ideologies, domination, gender, race, and social class may still appear to be portrayed in some ways in media. Anitasari (2018) also argued that mass media has a role in hegemonic social practices and legitimating unequal power relations.

According to Anitasari (2018), "CDA's multidisciplinary approach helps to understand and aware of the hidden socio-political issues and agenda in all kinds of areas of language as a social practice to empower the individual and social groups" (p. 1). It highlights the importance of media and discourse in linguistic. Media discourse can also determine what topic is popular in public and how it affects society. Putri (2018) mentions, "The Examples of definite research of CDA on mass media discourse are revised in terms of subjects of seeming popular and interest among practitioners such as the language of globalization and neo-capitalism, racist discourse in news reporting and war news reporting" (p. 40). Bednarek (2006) also points out in her book *Evaluation in Media Discourse*, some ways to evaluate media discourse and examine the news story's socio-economic and linguistic context using some parameters.

Media discourse has always focused on research, especially in critical discourse analysis, since the mass-produced media, such as newspapers, became popular. Analyzing media discourse can provide some information about what topic is popular, how a certain topic is described, how it affects society, and many more. It is as important and interesting as other discourses in every human interaction

#### 2.2. Corpus

Corpus in linguistics is a method of collecting data by analyzing an extensive collection of words using computer software. Corpus study is usually used to analyze the pattern of specific criteria or phenomena in linguistic. Corpus can give quite an accurate representation of linguistic phenomena. According to Litoseliti (2010), "A further advantage of the corpus linguistics approach is that it can enable researchers to quantify linguistic patterns, providing more solid conclusions to be reached" (p. 94).

There are two general kinds of corpus, a general and a specialized corpus. A general corpus is used to be the representation of the language in general. It usually consists of millions of words, such as the British National Corpus and the American National Corpus. In comparison, a specialized corpus is aimed to represent a specific group that the researcher intends to analyze. It can be as large as a general corpus or smaller. Some of the examples of a specialized corpus can consist of collecting words from some novels by specific authors if a researcher wants to analyze the writing style, local newspapers, or any group of writing that a researcher wants to analyze.

A corpus data is processed through computer software such as Wordsmith, Antconc, and Wmatrix. The software then analyzes the data and compiles it into the linguistic data. There are multiple kinds of data that corpus software can make, such as word frequency lists, concordance, and collocation.

Words frequency list is useful to determine which word is most used and which is less used. It can provide various information as to why certain words are

more frequent than others. It can also provide the information of each word frequencies, so researchers have the flexibility in analyzing certain words.

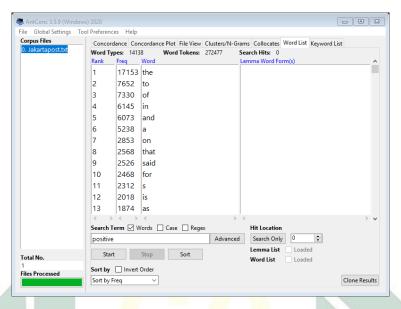


Figure 2.1: Wordlist Feature

Concordance shows the selected words and where it is located in the sentences. It can provide the structure of the sentences, the use of certain words in a sentence, and the meaning of the words since it can be seen through the context of the sentence in which the specified words are located.

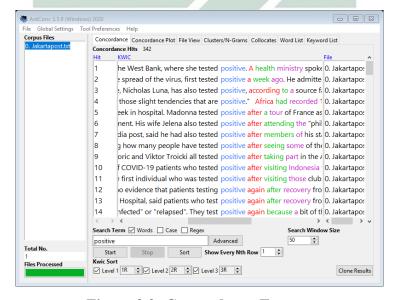


Figure 2.2: Concordance Feature

There are many uses of the corpus software such as collocation, part of speech tagging, etc. But the main features that were used in this research are the wordlist and the concordance features. It is mainly because the wordlist feature helps identify the frequency of the specific words analyzed in this research. The concordance feature is necessary to determine what kind of sentence those words are most likely to be found.

#### 2.3. Media Evaluation

Media evaluation is the strategy for analyzing a news corpus by using specific parameters. As explained by Bednarek (2006), there are many types of parameters in evaluating news. Every linguist has his parameters for assessing news. Bednarek herself divides the media evaluation parameter into two main parameters. It consists of what she called core evaluative parameters and peripheral evaluative parameters.

The core evaluative parameters consist of comprehensibility, emotivity, expectedness, importance, possibility/necessity, and reliability. The peripheral evaluative parameters consist of evidentiality, mental state, and style. Each of the parameters has its values and examples. As shown in the table below:

**Table 2.1. Core Evaluative Parameter** 

Core Evaluative Parameter		Values	Examples
Comprehensibility		Comprehensible	Pain, clear
		Incomprehensible	Mysterious, unclear
Emotivity		Positive	A polished speech
		Negative	A rant
Expectedness		Expected	Familiar, inevitably
		Unexpected	Astonishing, surprising
Importance		Important	Key, top, landmark
		Unimportant	Minor, slightly,
		Necessary	Had to
Doggibility/Noos	aaite.	Not Necessary	Need not
Possibility/Necessity		Possible	Could
		Not Possible	Inability, could not
Reliability		Genuine	Real
		Fake	Choreographed
		High	Will, be to
		Medium	Likely
		Low	may

Source: Bednarek, 2006 p. 42

The core evaluative parameters is the main parameter used in Bednarek's (2006) media evaluation. Other than that, there are other parameters called the peripheral evaluation parameters. As shown in the table below:

**Table 2.2. Peripheral Evaluative Parameters** 

Peripheral Evaluative	Values	Examples
Parameters	values	Examples
	Hearsay	[he said it was] 'a lie'
	Mindsay	'well done' [he thought]
Evidentiality	Perception	Seem, visibly, betray
Evidentiality	General Knowledge	(in)famously
	Evidence	Proof that
	Unspecific	It emerged that, meaning that
	Belief/Disbelief	Accept, doubt
	Emotion	Scared, angry
	Expectation	Expectations
Mental State	Knowledge	Know, recognize
	State of Mind	Alert, tired, confused
	Process	Forget, ponder
	Volition/Non-Volition	Deliberately, forced to
Style	Self	Frankly, briefly
Style	Other	Promise, threaten

Source: Bednarek, 2006 p. 42

The parameter of reliability, which is used in this research, consists of keywords that inflict the meaning of certainty and ambiguity. As shown in Table 2.1 above, there are five values in the reliability parameter. They are fake, genuine, low, medium, and high. The examples are as follows:

**Table 2.3. Examples of Five Values of Reliability** 

Sentence	Reliability
"The sense of shock felt among Britain's senior police officers yesterday was <i>genuine</i> "	Genuine
"Scores of defiant delegates sat on their hands rather than be whipped into a mood of <i>artificial</i> "	Fake
"The Conservative party left its annual conference last night divided over whether to ditch Iain Duncan Smith as leader before Christmas, as rebels and loyalists geared up for a febrile weekend of politicking that <i>could</i> determine his fate."	Low
"Dica's lawyers said they would appeal, and the case is <i>likely to</i> go to the Lords."	Median
"If she made about £100,000 in a year, after advertising, phone and travel costs, the poor woman was left with barely £5,000." That is certainly not a view shared by the French police."	High

Source: Bednarek, 2006 p. 52

The example above shows that the keyword for the value of reliability varies from adjectives to verbs. The level of value from the keywords depends on the meaning of the word itself. Futhermore, Bednarek (2010), in the Australian Journal of Communication, also describe the evaluative parameter as follows:

**Table 2.4. Core Evaluative Parameter** 

Parameter	Paraphrase	Potential Evaluative Items
Comprehensibility	"How comprehensible or easy, or how incomprehensible	"easy, difficult, mystery, can't understand, clearly, no explanation for/why,
	or difficult, does this appear?"	am uncertain how to, be beyond human comprehension, there are simply no
		words to describe how, ambiguous, complex, less than definite, in plain
		language, vague, clarify, uncanny, unclear, begs the question why, raise"
Emotivity	"How positive or how negative does this appear?"	"peaceful, beauty, aggressive, plain, sexual predator, wannabe, fiasco, racist,
		clanger, cash in on"
Expectedness	"How expected or unexpected does this appear?"	"amazing, astonishing, extraordinary, unexpected, unprecedented, normally,
		familiar, routine, little wonder that, inevitable, bombshell, sensation, but,
		although, as opposed to, despite, however, in contrast with, yet, seldom,
		rarely, only, scarcely, hardly, barely, little, few, without, no, not, none,
		nobody, no one, nothing, nowhere, never, neither, nor"
Genuineness	"How real, true, and authentic, or how fake, false, and	"really, reality, genuine, fantasy, real, artificial, orchestrated,
	artificial, does this appear?"	choreographed, stage-managed, fake, phoney, rigged, truth"
Importance	"How important or how unimportant does this appear?"	"senior, top, leading, influential, prominent, supremo, star, crucial, vital,
		landmark, empire, made legal history, historic, crucial, key, momentous, of
		the century, high-rolling, celeb, famous, significant, urgent, emergency"
Necessity	"How necessary or how unnecessary does this appear?"	"need to, have to, it takes, to be, no choice but, should"
Possibility	"How possible or impossible does this appear?"	"(im)possible, can (not), could (not)"
Reliability	"How likely or how unlikely does it appear that this will	"put that in doubt, certainly, (un)likely, will, certain to, potential, could,
	happen?"	may, undoubtedly, perhaps, doomed to"
Causality	"What are the reasons and what are the consequences?"	"responsible for, because, therefore, cause, bring about, result in, reason,
		consequence, effect, consequently, because of, on account of"
Sourcing	"How do we know? 'How did sources say it?"	"it emerged, famously, tests found/confirmed, evidence/ proof that, show,
(Evidentiality &		look, spotlight, voice, sound, display, sign, appear, apparently, seem, betray,
style)		on show, alleged, claims, reveal, confirm, advise, scream, sob, shout,
		whisper, mutter, threat, warn, promise, vow, pledge, accuse, attack, blame,
		praise, approve, make clear, hint, brag, boast, admit"
Mental state	"What mental states are attributed to news actors?"	"believe, think, convinced, assume, accept, know, fear, yearn, love, hope,
		anxiety, concerns for, appalled, furious, troubled, cheered, happy, pleasure,
		enraged, panic, force, willing to, intend to, want to, refuse to"

Source: Bednarek, 2010 p. 36-37

The table above (Table 2.4) explains all of the evaluative parameters with their potential evaluation items. However, these items are not a list of words that must be strictly followed. Bednarek (2010) explains that these evaluations are always context-dependent. The table above (Table 2.4) gives a good explanation and examples of how the evaluative parameter should be. In this current research, the researcher used the reliability parameter and put it into high-reliability and low-reliability categories. The decision to only divide the reliability parameter into two categories is based on the amount of time and resources the researcher currently has. Another reason is based on Bednarek's (2010) description of the reliability in Table 2.4. The table describes the reliability of how likely and unlikely something appears to happen as written in the news. The researcher thinks that high-reliability and low-reliability categories are enough to describe and represent the desired potential evaluative items in this current research. Hopefully, these two categories can make it easier for the reader to prioritize the information they get from the news into the important ones and the less important ones.

#### 2.4.COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2 (World Health Organization, 2020). Based on the name, it is included in coronavirus, a virus known to attack humans' respiratory systems. The other coronavirus family members are MERS (MERS-CoV) and SARS (CARS-CoV). Both are known to be quite dangerous to humans.

The name COVID-19 itself is the abbreviation of Corona Virus Disease 2019. The virus is so new that it is literary has no name and called with its type of virus, a coronavirus, and the year in the naming time. This lead to some confusion. Questions such as 'what is a coronavirus?' and 'what is the difference with other coronaviruses (SARS and MERS)?'. Therefore, it is also called the novel coronavirus. Hence the word novel means new to differentiate it further from other coronaviruses.

This novel coronavirus, as quoted from the World Health Organization (WHO) in their website, "WHO first learned of this new virus from cases in Wuhan, People's Republic of China on December 31st, 2019". Since then, COVID-19 has caused a global pandemic that affects the whole world and many deaths. Almost a year in the time of the writing of this research.

With the impact, this huge, COVID-19 has caused many changes to the lives of many people. The examples are physical contacts are no very limited, many are forced to work from home, masks and hand sanitizers are now essential, and many more. On a larger scale, this global pandemic has caused instability in many countries' economies, people losing their jobs, hospitals are overflowing with patients and many more.

In these difficult times, the world is desperate for a cure. Any updates about the virus in research have become one of the main concerns to end this pandemic. Information is very crucial to avoid any more increase in the number of reported cases. People need to know what to do when they or someone they know caught the virus and what not to do in this situation. Every bit of information is as

helpful and needed as wearing a mask. As the World Health Organization (2020) mention on their website,

Fast and frugal innovations – for example universal mask wearing, the provision of hand hygiene resources and safe water to all communities, and the delivery of high-quality information, including locally tailored risk communication — have proven especially valuable, and should be leveraged to maximum effect.

That is why media like news and other publication are essential to educate people and inform them about anything that could probably save their lives.

#### 2.5. Modal

This current research found out that modal is one of the parts of speech where reliability parameter keywords are most likely to be found. Modal is often used in research in linguistic. That is why this current research relied on the description of the uses of modal by Aarts (2010) in their book with the title Oxford Modern English Grammar and Lewis' (1994) book with the title The English Verb: An Exploration of Structure and Meaning.

First, let's describe modal based on what is commonly known. Modal is the part of speech that consists of, *could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would.* Each has its function and uses, such as expressing ability, permission, necessity, and degree of certainty. Some of these uses may slightly overlap one another. It happens where some modal may only have a slight difference in meaning when used in a similar case.

Now, Aarts (2011) first discusses three types of modality. Those types are *deontic modality, epistemic modality,* and *dynamic modality.* Deontic modality is related to the use of a modal that expresses obligation and permission. Epistemic

modality is associated with the use of a modal that expresses some knowledge or reference. Dynamic modality is related to the use of modal that expresses ability and volition. The examples are as follows:

Table 2.5. The Use of Modal Will/Would

#### The uses of Will/Would

Epistemic modality: futurity and evidence-based predictions or conclusions

#### Examples:"

- 1. "Practically all the children that I coach will be off that week."
- 2. "And in a few moments, we will hear the trumpeter on his grey horse sound the command to trot."
- "If approved, the proposed Council decision will authorise Community membership of the EBRD."

#### Dynamic modality: volition

#### Examples:

- 1. "8 I would not live anywhere else in England."
- 2. "She wouldn't go to sleep, she wouldn't eat, she wouldn't do anything. □ Well, we will have dips and crisps and things like that"

#### Dynamic modality: predisposition

#### Examples:

- 1. "A new book by Ms Holland, We Don't Play with Guns Here, urges early-years centres to reconsider the ban on "war, weapon, and superhero play", arguing that boys will be boys."
- 2. "A solvent is a substance, usually liquid, that will dissolve another substance."

#### Deontic modality: obligation

#### Examples:

1. "You will do as I tell you."

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 343-346

It can be seen from Table 2.5 that there are three uses of modal *will* and *would*. The first use is epistemic modality: futurity and evidence-based predictions or conclusions. The second use is dynamic modality: volition. The third use is deontic modality: obligation.

Table 2.6. The Use of Modal Shall

#### The Uses of Shall

#### **Futurity**

### Exampls;

- 1. "I shall regret this for the rest of my life!"
- 2. "We shall arrive on Monday March 18th and leave on Thursday May 2nd."
- 3. "Whatever it is, we shall not have that kind of quality, if we do not have a"
- 4. "prosperous economy founded on a quality workforce."

Deontic modality: rules and regulations, asking for instructions, self-imposed obligation.

#### Examples:

- 1. "The committee shall have the power of consultation with appropriate experts not being members of the Central Activity or School in question."
- 2. "The time spent on private clinical practice shall not exceed the equivalent of one half day per week."
- 3. "Professors and readers shall retire at the age of 65."

#### Dynamic modality: volition

#### Examples:

- 1. "I shall bear that in mind for future reference."
- 2. "We shall make up our mind when the IMF has reported."

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 348-349

It can be seen from Table 2.6 that there are three uses of modal *shall*. The first use is futurity. The second use is deontic modality: rules and regulations, asking for instructions, self-imposed obligation. The third use is dynamic modality: volition.

Table 2.7. The Use of Modal Should

### The Uses of Should

Deontic modality: necessity

### Examples:

- 1. "I think she should wait at the airport."
- 2. "And of course as a learner you should be extra careful."

# Epistemic modality: evidence-based supposition

#### Examples:

- 1. "I should think the number of people who would actually run a process like this would be really quite small."
- 2. "I should have thought he'd've had one before now."

# Mandative and putative should

#### Examples:

- 1. "It also recommended [that the service should have at least 240 lines, which happened to be the limit for the Baird system at the time]"
- 2. "It was in nineteen hundred and six that the Queen's great-grandfather King Edward the Seventh decreed [that privates in the Household Cavalry should henceforth to be known as troopers]."

### Should in conditional and purposive clauses

### Examples:

- 1. "I'll accept cash if you should run into me."
- 2. "Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me."

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 350-353

It can be seen from Table 2.7 that there are four uses of modal *should*. The first use is deontic modality: necessity. The second use is epistemic modality: evidence-based supposition. The third use is mandative and putative. The fourth use is conditional and purposive clauses.

Table 2.8. The Use of Modal Can/Could

Table 2.6. The Ose of Modal Can/Count
The Uses of Can/Could
Dynamic possibility: neutral possibility, ability, and existential meaning
Examples:
1. "I don't understand why the service sector can show any optimism."
2. "Don't blame breed, all dogs can be aggressive."
3. "Pete could do basic things on a computer, but it wasn't enough."
Deontic possibility: permission
Examples:"
1. "You can only have showers on week-days after supper."
2. "You cannot dump them in here."
3. "3 Could we have an indie disco on the third floor?"
Epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion
Examples:
1 "Actually Simon can't be too much older than us"

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 353-356

It can be seen that from Table 2.8 that there are three uses of the modal *can* and *could*. The first use is dynamic possibility: neutral possibility, ability, and existential meaning. The second use is deontic possibility: permission. The third use is epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion.

Table 2.9. The Use of Modal May/Might

Table 2.7. The Use of Modal May/Might
The Uses of May/Might
Epistemic possibility: knowledge-based supposition
Examples:
1. "It may mean he's not normal."
2. "She might be coming to Clare's party."
Deontic possibility: permission
Examples:
1. "May I point out they need trade as much as they need aid?"
2. "May I also ask if you would send me deadline dates for when the Journal goes into
six issues a year?"
Formulaic May
Examples: "Long may they fail"

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 356-358

It can be seen from Table 2.9 that there are three uses of the modal *may* and *might*. The first use is epistemic possibility: knowledge-based supposition. The second use is deontic possibility: permission. The third use is formulaic may.

Table 2.10. The Use of Modal Must

The	Use	of Must	
			_

Deontic necessity: obligation

#### Examples:

- 1. "You seem to be seeking to destroy yourself in some way, but you must not include me in your plan of action."
- 2. "She must not put him through that agony again."

Epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion

#### Examples:

- 1. "God, it must've been awful in those days."
- 2. "You must be running out of time."
- 3. "You must miss him heaps!"

Dynamic necessity: a property necessarily attributable to a Subject-referent, or neutral necessity Examples:

- 1. "The city has no river and must bear the heavy cost of pumping water in, and sewage out, over the surrounding mountains."
  - 2. "First, there must be successful nation-building."

Source: Aarts (2011), p. 358-360.

It can be seen from Table 2.10 that there are three uses of the modal *must*. The first use is deontic necessity: obligation. The second use is epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion. The third use is dynamic necessity: a property necessarily attributable to a subject-referent, or neutral necessity.

One of the aspects that Arts (2011) does not emphasize is the difference between the present and the past form. Here, Lewis (1994) explains based on what they called the concept of remote forms.

According to Lewis (1994, p.121), in the example of the modal *will* and *would*, "will expresses a state which is psychologically immediate for the speaker and arises out of a perception of the present circumstances. We might then expect *would* to express an event which is *psychologically remote* for the speaker."

The concept of remote forms relies heavily on distinguishing how directly the speaker is attached to the situation. As explained above, the modal *will* is psychologically immediate to the speaker and present circumstances. In contrast, the modal *would* is psychologically remote to the speaker and hypothetical circumstances. For example, "I will help you if I can" and "I would help you if I could". The first sentence felt more certain and closer to the speaker, hence the term psychologically immediate. In contrast, the second sentence felt more uncertain and distant, hence the term remoteness, to the speaker.

#### **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter presents the methods, techniques, and steps related to this current research. It includes research design, data collections, research data, data source, instrument, data collection technique, and data analysis.

# 3.1. Research Design

The researcher conducted corpus-based research to evaluate the corpus of COVID-19 related news in Indonesia, written only in English. The evaluation was to be conducted based on Bednarek's (2010) classification in the media evaluation parameter. The data are presented in table forms along with the explanation and the examples taken directly from the sentences in the corpus.

### 3.2. Data Collection

This part elaborates on data and data source, instrument, and data collection technique.

### 3.2.1. Research Data

The data in this research are the results of the corpus software processing the Specialized COVID-19 Corpus. The data are in the form of a list of words, their frequencies, and their use in sentences. The first data is the list of the reliability parameter keywords alongside their designated reliability levels. The second data is the context in which the reliability parameter keywords are used in sentences to show context, proof, and reason for each keyword's designated

reliability level. The first and second data are produced altogether since the only way to determine the keywords and their reliability level is to analyze their context in a sentence. The third data is the number of frequencies of the reliability parameter keywords in tables and graphs.

### 3.2.2. Data Source

The primary source of the data in this research is from the specialized COVID-19 corpus. The specialized corpus consists of the news about COVID-19 written in English and distributed or maintained by an online news publisher that operates in Indonesia. The news must be written explicitly in English to be applied to Bednarek's news evaluation theory easily. Also, the news publisher has to be from Indonesia so that this research can focus more specifically on a specific geographical area, in this case, Indonesia, and be more accurate.

The specialized corpus was manually compiled by the researcher from the Jakarta Post online news publishing website. The Jakarta Post is chosen because its news is written explicitly in English, and it has an extensive collection of news. The Jakarta Post is considered to be the most popular and reliable English news source in Indonesia. Furthermore, by selecting only one news source, the researcher can eliminate the difference in the number of articles per news source in the corpus to avoid any imbalance in the data. It is because previously, the researcher found more news by the Jakarta Post available than other news sites while trying to compile the specialized corpus. It is also less time-consuming to compile the specialized corpus from a single news source, even though it narrowed the results to focus only on the Jakarta Post news.

The news that was compiled started from January 2020 until December 2020. The specialized COVID-19 corpus was also divided into 12 parts, each containing the news articles each month. A total of around 300.000 words from about 600 articles was collected as the Specialized COVID-19 corpus. All of the criteria above were also considered based on the time and resources that the researcher had.

### 3.2.3. Instruments

The instrument used in this research is the corpus software AntConc.

Corpus software is used to analyze the corpus based on the keywords of reliability parameters. AntConc is a free corpus software developed by Laurence Anthony, a Professor, coordinator of technical English at CELESE. It is one of the reliable and complete corpus tools with many features.

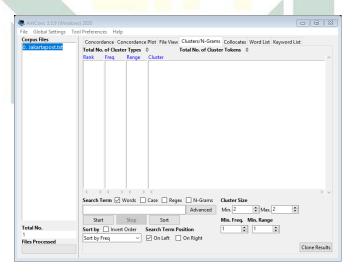


Figure 3.1: AntConc Corpus Software

### 3.2.4. Data Collection Technique

The researcher manually compiled the specialized COVID-19 corpus. The researcher collected around 300.000 words from about 600 articles from 12 months, with around 50 articles per month. After the specialized COVID-19 corpus was compiled, the researcher used the corpus software to process the data source into meaningful data.

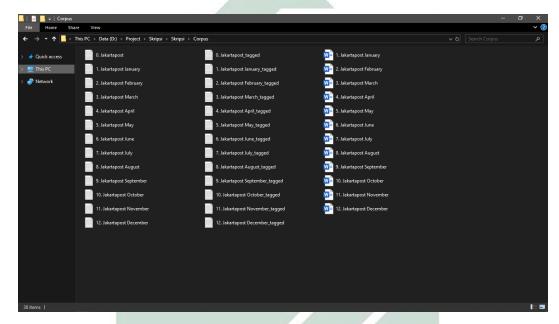


Figure 3.2: Screenshot of the Collections of the News Article

# 3.3. Data Analysis

There were three steps in analyzing the data. As previously been mentioned in chapter 2, Bednarek (2010) explains that media evaluation is context-dependent, so there is no definite list of words of the reliability parameter itself. That is why the researcher was first to determine the appropriate keywords for the parameter by referring to Bednarek's media evaluation. Here is how the researcher determined the reliability level. First, while trying to pick the words for

the reliability parameter, the researcher found out that it was easier to categorize the words into verbs, adjectives, and adverbs since all of the reliability parameter keywords are most likely to be in those word classes. The process of categorizing the words also eliminate other unnecessary parts of speech such as noun, pronoun, preposition, and conjunction. The researcher categorized the words by using AntConc corpus software, and the result was in the format, such as in Table 3.1.

From the results, the researcher chose the potential reliability parameter keywords based only on each word meaning, such as *will*, *could*, *can*, *reported*, and *positive*, as shown in Table 3.1. The table above only shows the first 20 from the sample results. It is only for the sake of showing the example of the raw data, and there are many other potential reliability keywords beyond what is shown above.

Table 3.1. Table Format of The First 20 of the Raw Sample Data

		Modal			Verbs	\$		Adjecti	ves		Adverb	S
No	#Total N	No. of Clust	er Types:	#Tota	l No. of Clu	ıster Types:	#Tota	al No. of Cl	uster Types:	#Total	No. of Clus	ster Types:
No	#Total No. of Cluster Tokens:		#Total No. of Cluster Tokens:		#Total No. of Cluster Tokens:		#Total No. of Cluster Tokens:					
	Freq	Range	Token	Freq	Range	Token	Freq	Range	Token	Freq	Range	Token
1												
2												
3						//						
4						_						
5						•,•						
6				4								
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
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17												
18												
19												
20												

The researcher then used the concordance feature to validate all of the keywords above and assign them value. The concordance feature is the key to analyze the context. It is because the context was analyzed by looking into how each word are used in the sentence

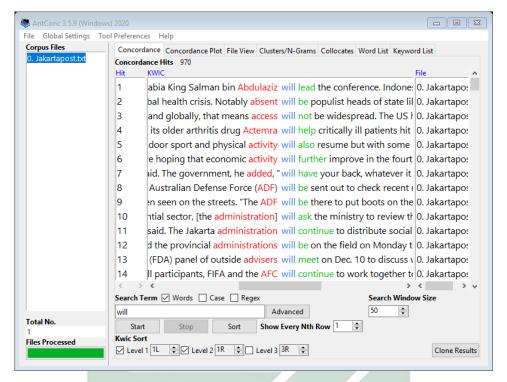


Figure 3.3: Example of the Concordance Feature Results

. The researcher was able to analyze the context and determine whether the potential keywords are suitable to be determined as a reliability keyword and assign the reliability level values to each of them. Finally, the researcher was able to conclude all data.

#### **CHAPTER IV**

# FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of this research in the form of findings and discussions. This research's findings include all results of the analyzed data and their description of how they can answer the research question. This research explains the research problem's issues and how the data in the findings answer these questions.

### 4.1. Findings

This current research shows three significant results. The first result is the list of all reliability parameter keywords that readers can consider when reading news. The second is how those reliability parameter keywords are used in sentences that the reader can use to find other words with a similar context in other news. The third data is the frequencies of the reliability parameter keywords so that reader can pay attention to how often these keywords come up in news articles.

# 4.1.1. The Frequencies of the Reliability Parameter Keywords

In this part, all of the reliability parameter keywords are categorized into two categories of high and low-reliability. The result is as shown in the table below.:

Table 4.1. The Frequency of All Keywords

High-reliability	Frequency	Low-reliability	Frequency
Keywords		Keywords	
Will	966	Could	423
Would	581	Can	413
May	210	Unlikely	21
Might	77	Yet	142
Cannot	48	Probably	22
Reported	424	Possibly	17
Confirmed	352		
Expected	115		
Suspected	111		
Positive	339		
Likely	120	1	
Reportedly	22		
Total	3365	Total	1048

The results show that the number of parameter keywords with low-reliability is only half of those with high-reliability. The researcher does not eliminate any possibility that there might be other potential reliability parameter keywords that were not selected since there are thousands of words compiled in the specialized COVID-19 corpus. However, the researcher can assure that even if more reliability parameter keywords were not selected, their frequencies must be low since most of the keywords selected in Table 4.27 above have hundreds of occurrences throughout the whole specialized COVID-19 corpus. So, the impact is considered very low since the reader would be less likely to find it in the news.

To provide even more detailed statistics, the figure below represents all the frequencies of the reliability parameter keywords specified in every month of the year 2020, starting from January to December.

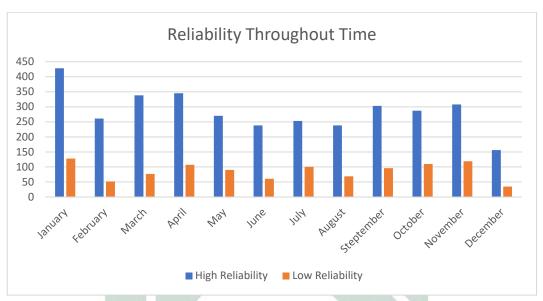


Figure 4.1: The Frequency of Each Month

According to the news The Jakarta Post published throughout the year 2020, it can be seen that COVID-19 related news in Indonesia has more high-reliability keywords compared to the low ones. It can also be seen that the result is consistent throughout the 12-month time, where the high-reliability dominates the low-reliability level.

# 4.1.2. The Context of the Reliability Parameter Keywords

In determining the reliability parameter keywords, the researcher first chose the potential keywords that resemble Bednarek's reliability parameter. The researcher found 18 reliability parameter keywords, as shown in Table 4.1.

Even though categorizing the keywords into modal, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs was only supposed to help the process of determining the reliability keywords, the researcher later found out that it is also useful in the process of analyzing the data.

Furthermore, the researcher intentionally separated *modal* into their own category, even though modal can be categorized as verbs. The reason is that *modal* needs to be analyzed separately because of how common their occurrences are and how often they are used as a research topic in linguistic. The researcher chose the categorization of the modal uses from Aarts' (2011) and Lewis' (1994) descriptions of the modal. The results are as the followings.

### 4.1.2.1.Modal

In this part, the researcher shows all of the modals found as the reliability parameter. Their use in a sentence is also shown in this part.

Table 4.2. All of the Modal Found as the Reliability Parameter Keywords

Moda	Modal						
No	Frequency	Range	Token	Reliability Level			
1	966	12	Will	High			
2	581	12	Would	High			
3	423	12	Could	Low			
4	413	12	Can	Low			
5	210	12	May	High			
6	77	12	Might	High			
7	48	11	Cannot	High			

This research found that *modal* is where the reliability parameter keywords would most likely be. Modals are essentially in the verb group, one of the main components of any language, so it was not surprising that modals are used in expressing the likelihood of something (Bednarek's reliability). Furthermore, because modal consist of just a few words, it is relatively easy to conduct a more

in-depth analysis of these words. The following analysis used Aarts' (2011) classifications of modal and Lewis' (1994) descriptions of the modal.

### 4.1.2.1.1. Will/Would

In determining the modal's reliability level, the researcher used Aarts' (2011) classification of modal uses, which also includes the past form, *would*. The results are as the followings.

Table 4.3. Epistemic Modality: Futurity and Evidence-based Predictions or Conclusions of the Modal *Will* 

No	Sentence
1	"The government believes the spreading coronavirus in China will add to downside risks
	and uncertainties in the domestic economy as Indonesia's largest trading partner braces
	for a blow to its economic growth."
2	"The policy will affect people who have a recent history of travel to Tehran, Qom and
	Gilan in Iran; Lombardi, Venetto, Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Piedmont regions in
- 3	Italy; as well as Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do in South Korea."
3	"This will affect the number of [foreign] visitors but not overall arrivals," Tourism and
	Creative Economy Minister Wishnutama said in Jakarta on Monday."
4	"The change will affect travelers from at least 88 countries, including Australia, Canada,
	Russia, and France, among others."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The first use of the modal *will* is as a prediction. It is important to mention that the prediction made has to be based on a piece of evidence. It can be seen from Table 4.3. that the uses of the modal *will* are followed by a piece of evidence and logical reasoning that influence the prediction. For example, in the first sentence in Table 4.3. the evidence for the prediction is located after the word *as* in "…as Indonesia's largest trading partner braces for a blow to its economic growth." Therefore, the reliability parameter keywords of the modal *will* in this particular use can be considered to have a high-reliability value.

However, there are other uses of the modal *will* that do not resemble Bednarek's reliability parameter keywords, as shown in the tables below.

Table 4.4. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal Will

### **Dynamic modality: volition**

- 1. ""Although I'm experiencing uncomfortable symptoms of the virus, I will be back on my feet soon," she said in a message via the PM's Office."
- 2. ""Until then, I will call my friends and tell them once they came in contact with me to be safe, quarantine and take it easy," said Bolt, who turned 34 on Friday."
- 3. ""Get better soon Rudy, we will carry on!!!", the president added."

### Dynamic modality: predisposition

- 1. ""One case detected more quickly will allow for measures to reduce the risk of contaminating others," she said."
- 2. "If one place is not disciplined, the whole city will bear the consequences."
- 3. "This means that radios with the capacity to reach rural areas, TVs and text messages will be very important in disseminating the correct information about mass COVID-19 vaccination."

# Deontic modality: obligation

- 1. "Tests will also be carried out on all workers at aged care sites."
- 2. "Shops, restaurants, parks and beaches will also be closed for the holiday, which has been extended from three to six days under the coronavirus measures."
- 3. "The state will now require COVID-19 testing of all workers at high-risk facilities such as meat, poultry and seafood processing facilities and supermarket distribution centers."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

In Table 4.4, the category of dynamic modality: volition refers to only the use of the modal *will* that indicates willingness or determination to a future plan. Second, the category of dynamic modality: predisposition is describing a certainty in a specific condition. There is no likelihood of anything to happen or not happen, but instead, more towards a simple cause and consequences or effect and impact. The third use of the modal *will* is the deontic modality: obligation, which describes the speaker's responsibility towards the reader or audience. This use of the modal *will* is more closely related to the modal *must* or even *should* than

indicate future prediction. So, none of the uses of the modal *will* above in Table 4.4 indicate any reliability values.

The same could be said to the use of the modal *would*. Only with one distinction, according to Lewis' (1994), "would express a situation which, at the moment of speaking, is psychologically remote from the speaker (hypothetical) but has the suggestion of inevitability associated with will." (p. 123). So, even though Aarts (2011) does not distinguish the difference in the use of the modal, it can be seen that Lewis' (1994) description of the modal *would* is apparent in the sentence as follows:

Table 4.5. Epistemic Modality: Futurity and Evidence-based Predictions or Conclusions of the Modal *Would* 

No	Sentence
1	"The only scenario where sexual transmission of SARS-CoV-2 might be a problem
	would be if the virus persisted in the testicles for extended periods, and if COVID-19
	survivors could sexually transmit the virus after their recovery."
2	"Researchers estimated that the new coronavirus would afflict at least tens of thousands
	of people and would last a minimum of several months."
3	"They don't tell us whether there is a long-lived response that we would need for a
	vaccine to be truly protective."
4	"Drugmakers and governments had hoped the scale of the COVID-19 crisis would allay
	concerns about vaccines, which they see as crucial to defeating the pandemic and
	enabling economies to fully recover from its impact."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Table 4.5 shows that each sentence while still provides evidence-based prediction but also indicates what Lewis (1994) describes as "to express an event which is psychologically remote for the speaker." (p. 121). For example, in the first sentence in Table 4.5, the sign of remoteness is indicated after the word *if*, in "...if the virus persisted in the testicles for extended periods, and if COVID-19 survivors could sexually transmit the virus after their recovery." The modal *would* is accompanied by a specific (hypothetical) condition in which the conditions

allow the possibility to happen. It indicates that the modal *would* have a lower reliability value than the modal *will*. But because it is still an evidence-based assumption, the researcher considered the modal *would* to have a high-reliability value.

The researcher also found other examples of the modal *would* on other uses that do not indicate any reliability values. The examples are quite similar to the use of the modal *will*. However, Lewis' (1994) description of remoteness could still be applied to distinguish the uses of the modal *would* with the modal *will* as follows:

Table 4.6. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal Would

### **Dynamic modality: Volition**

- 1. "As governments, research organizations and pharmaceutical companies race to find vaccines for the novel coronavirus, a recent survey published in The Lancet found that only 67 percent of the United States population would accept a vaccine for COVID-19 if it were recommended for them."
- 2. "She said she would take stock of the situation on Tuesday in a meeting with health experts and officials."
- 3. "He also said he would urge the reopening of schools and universities in September, saying "I want them to go back.""

### Deontic modality: obligation

- 1. "The PM would continue his duties, his office said, and would address the country on Saturday."
- 2. "The education directorate in Najaf said official mid-year exams, which had already started, would be cancelled until further notice to protect students."
- 3. "Public gatherings would be limited to 10 people, and there would be a ceiling of 1,000 people on open-air stadiums for sporting or cultural events."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

All of the sentences above have less involvement with the speaker (remoteness) than if they all used the modal *will*.

### 4.1.2.1.2. Can/Could

In determining the reliability level of the modal *can* the researcher used Aarts' (2011) classification of the uses of modal, which also includes the past form, *could*. The result is as follows:

Table 4.7. Dynamic Possibility: Neutral Possibility, Ability, and Existential Meaning of the Modal *Can* 

No	Sentence
1	"On the other hand, this enforced learn-from-home situation can also be a window of
	opportunity for the ministry to spearhead a new education paradigm and movement that
	would overcome prevailing quality inequalities across Indonesia."
2	"In the near future, Indonesians in Wuhan can also expect to receive 10,000 N95 masks
	from the National Disaster Mitigation Agency."
3	"This status means there can be no economic activity until the outbreak is controlled."
4	"Also, a majority of medical authorities now have decided, after some initial debate, that
	hydroxychloroquine has no proven benefit for coronavirus patients and can be very
	harmful."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

As Table 4.7 suggest, the modal *can* is mainly used to indicate a possibility, or a neutral possibility to be exact. The use of modal *can* is usually involved with something theoretical, such as *'can also be a window of opportunity'*, *'can also expect'* and *'can be no economic'* as shown in Table 4.7. Sentence number 4 also shows the use of the modal *can* alongside a potentially dangerous possibility of *'hydroxychloroquine has no proven benefit for coronavirus patients'*. Instead of using the modal *will* in *'will be very harmful'*, which indicates more certainty, sentence number 4 uses *'can be very harmful'*, indicating less certainty. It indicates that the modal *can* have a low-reliability value.

However, there are other uses of the modal *can* that do not resemble Bednarek's reliability parameter keywords, such as follows:

Table 4.8. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal Can

### **Deontic possibility: permission**

1. "You cannot shutdown every business, because the economy cannot collapse... COVID-19 is not going to pay the rent," he told AFP."

# Epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion

- 1. "He added, though, that reduced spread did not mean the pathogen would be eliminated entirely and social distancing guidelines cannot be fully lifted."
- 2. "But their success rates cannot be measured anytime soon as the outbreaks in the countries are still ongoing."
- 3. ""...The possibility of airborne transmission in public settings especially in very specific conditions, crowded, closed, poorly ventilated settings that have been described, cannot be ruled out," she said."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The use of the modal *can*, as permission, does not have any reliability value at all. The reader should not be worried since the use of *can* as permission is rarely found in COVID-19 related news. Second, the use of the modal *can* as Epistemic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion, which requires the modal *can* to be negated, resembles a cause and consequences, similar to the use of *will* in the category of dynamic modality: predisposition (Table 4.7). For example, in Table 4.8, the sentences can be paraphrased: the first sentence, social distancing, cannot be lifted because the reduced spread did not mean the pathogen would be eliminated. For the second sentence, their success cannot be measured because the outbreak is not over. For the third sentence, the possibility of airborne transmission cannot be ruled out because of the specific conditions in public settings.

Next, in the topic of the use of the modal *could* with applying Lewis' (1994) concept of remote forms, the result leads to the modal *could* to have even lower reliability level that the modal *can*. But the researcher decided to put the modal *could* in the same category of low-reliability level alongside the modal *can*. The examples of the sentences can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.9. Dynamic Possibility: Neutral Possibility, Ability, and Existential Meaning of the Modal *Could* 

No	Sentence
1	"Experts said the prospect of reinfection could have a profound impact on how the world
	battles through the pandemic."
2	"The authors said the US patient could have been exposed to a very high dose of the
	virus the second time around, triggering a more acute reaction."
3	"KCDC officials said they were reviewing policies governing people who refuse to be
	tested, and added police could be involved in such cases."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

In Table 4.9, it can be seen in the third sentence that if the modal *could* is replaced with the modal *can*. It would indicate more certainty, which proves that the modal *can* have a higher reliability value even though both belong to the low-reliability level.

The same can be said to the uses of the modal *could* that does not has any reliability values, as shown in the tables below.

Table 4.10. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal Could

Table 4	1.10. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal Could
Deontic	e possibility: permission
1.	"The officers [in China] observed us closely until they were sure they could let us go,"
	the student told The Jakarta Post on Saturday."
Episten	nic necessity: knowledge-based conclusion
1.	"There couldn't have been many because that was a very short period," Wang
	Xinghuan, head of one of two field hospitals built for the outbreak, told reporters in
	Wuhan on April 12."
2.	"Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (YLBHI) chairwoman Asfinawati said with reference
	to the law, people violating quarantine measures could not be charged with the above
	sanctions if they caused no harm that might lead to a health emergency."
Source:	The Jakarta Post (2020)

By replacing each modal *could* with the modal *can*, it can be seen that the modal *can* have more certainty than the modal *could*.

# 4.1.2.1.3. May/Might

In determining the reliability level of the modal *may* the researcher used Aarts' (2011) classification of the uses of modal, which also includes the past form, *might*. The result is as follows:

Table 4.11. Epistemic Possibility: Knowledge-based Supposition of the Modal May

No	Sentence
1	"People recovering from COVID-19 may suffer significant brain function impacts, with
	the worst cases of the infection linked to mental decline equivalent to the brain ageing by
	10 years, researchers warned on Tuesday."
2	"This crisis may also be an opportunity to gather the learn-from-home best practices and
	develop a home-school learning partnership model."
3	Governments, which rely on the agency for guidance policy, may also have to adjust
	public health measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.
4	Cotton masks, thicker than surgical masks, have bigger pores, which may allow the virus
	in.
5	Sanofi will combine its experimental coronavirus vaccine with GlaxoSmithKline's
	adjuvant technology, which may allow more doses of a shot to be produced, the
	companies said Tuesday.

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Similar to the epistemic modality: futurity and evidence-based predictions or conclusions of the modal *will* (Table 4.1), the use of the modal *may* is based on some knowledge or evidence for the assumption. It is why, based on the context, the model *may* have a high-reliability value. However, the researcher goes as far as to say that by looking at the first sentence in Table 4.11, the knowledge-based assumption does not always guarantee confirmation of the information. Many research is conducted regarding COVID-19, and each of them has its own discussion regarding the results. Some may have commonly known and widely proven, while others may not. However, in the context of the reliability of the information, anything accompanied by some prior knowledge towards the

assumption would still have high-reliability values, considering how much opinion-based information is spread out there.

Next, as with any other modal, the modal *may* also have other uses that do not contribute to any reliability values, as shown in the tables below.

Table 4.12. Examples of the Other Uses of the Modal May

Deo	ntic possibility: permission
1.	"During the transitional period, workplaces in 11 essential industries including health,
	food, energy, communications, finance, logistics and daily needs retail will be allowed to
	operate at full capacity, while non-essential businesses may allow up to 50 percent of their
	employees to work at the office."

- 2. ""We may not visit them, and they will not come," she said, weeping."
- 3. "They may only return to their respective countries if they test negative, otherwise they will be admitted to hospitals in Japan."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Similar to the modal *can*, the modal *may* also have other use as the modal for permission, which does not have any reliability values.

The next is the modal *might*. Again, the researcher applied Lewis's (1994) remote forms to the modal or by replacing the modal *might* with the modal *may* to see the difference.

Table 4.13. Epistemic Possibility: Knowledge-based Supposition of the Modal *Might* 

No	Sentence				
1	"The study of the genetic code of 2019-nCoV reveals that the new virus is most closely				
	related to two bat SARS-like coronavirus samples from China, initially suggesting that,				
	like SARS and MERS, the bat might also be the origin of 2019-nCoV."				
2	"he study estimated that up to 40 percent of the vaccine courses from the leading				
	manufacturers might be available for low- and middle-income countries, but said this				
	would depend on how rich countries shared what they had bought."				
3	"Yurianto said there were fears those who had been given a clean bill of health and				
	permitted to disembark from the cruise ship might be carrying the virus without showing				
	any symptoms."				
4	""Disruption to everyday life might be severe" and businesses, schools and families				
	should begin having discussions about the possible impact from the spread of the virus,				
	Messonnier cautioned."				

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

As the remote form of the modal *may*, the result is that the modal *might* have a result of being 'slightly less' reliable than the modal *may*. However, as previously mentioned, the knowledge-based supposition is enough to give the modal *might* a high-reliability value based on the context.

### 4.1.2.2.Verbs

In this part, the researcher shows all of the verbs found as the reliability parameter along with their use in a sentence.

Table 4.14. All of the Verbs Found as the Reliability Parameter Keywords

Verbs				
No	Frequency	Range	Token	Reliability Level
1	424	12	Reported	High
2	352	12	Confirmed	High
3	115	12	Expected	High
4	111	8	Suspected	High

It can be seen that all of the verbs are in the form of past tense.

Furthermore, these verbs have similarities in how they describe facts in the news, especially in the topics of COVID-19, such as *tested*, *suspected*, and *confirmed*. In this sense, the past form indicates that something has already happened, leading to total certainty. Bednarek (2006) describes as genuine, another set of levels in the reliability level, which includes genuine and fake. Based on the context found on the sentence of each reliability parameter in Table 4.12, two of the reliability parameter keywords are considered to indicate genuineness, such as *reported* and *confirmed*. While the verb *expected* and *suspected* is considered to have high-reliability values and since this current research only has two reliability values,

the present researcher combined genuineness into high-reliability values. The results as follows:

# 4.1.2.2.1. Reported

Table 4.15. The Concordance of the Verb Reported

No	Sentence		
1	"California on Wednesday reported a coronavirus case of unknown origin, making it		
	potentially the first incident of the virus spreading within US communities."		
2	"Owners of Chinese restaurants abroad have reported a downturn in business since the		
	novel coronavirus outbreak, as few customers dare to have dinners there."		
3	"The second-most populous state in Australia reported a record rise of 725 new COVID-		
	19 cases despite having reimposed a lockdown on Melbourne, the state capital with a		
	population of 5 million people, four weeks ago."		
4	"Bahrain, which has suspended flights to Dubai, on Wednesday reported a rise in cases		
	to 26, some of whom had traveled through the UAE."		
5	"On Wednesday, India's health ministry reported a total of 1.19 million coronavirus		
	cases so far with almost 29,000 deaths."		
6	"Every one of Indonesia's 34 provinces has reported positive COVID-19 infections,		
	according to the Health Ministry, with Gorontalo reporting its first confirmed case on		
	Friday."		

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

As expected, the result shows that the verb *reported* all point towards the cases in which COVID-19 are found. This can be considered to be an essential piece of information for those who want to keep informed with the update of the progress of COVID-19 cases.

### 4.1.2.2.2. Confirmed

Table 4.16. The Concordance of the Verb Confirmed

I uni	ible 1110. The concordance of the verb commined					
No	Sentence					
1	"The new cases come after authorities on Wednesday confirmed a second instance in					
	which a person tested positive for the virus without having traveled to Japan."					
2	"The country has confirmed a total of 16,298 cases since the pandemic began, with 189					
	fatalities, more than half in Victoria and its capital Melbourne, which is under a new					
	lockdown."					
3	"Australia has now confirmed almost 26,000 cases of Covid-19 and 663 deaths from the					
	virus, the vast majority in Melbourne and its surrounds since July."					
4	"According to the official government count, Jakarta had 52,840 confirmed COVID-19					
	cases with 1,386 deaths as of Saturday. (trn)"					
5	"This week, the world hit a grim milestone, surpassing more than 37 million confirmed					
	COVID-19 cases."					

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Similar to the verb *reported*, the verb *confirmed* also point towards the COVID-19 cases. The slight difference would be that the verb *confirmed* is often found with the detail of the number of COVID-19 cases.

# 4.1.2.2.3. Expected

Table 4.17. The Concordance of the Verb Expected

No	Sentence					
1	"Approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is expected later this month in the United					
	States and EU."					
2	"Up to four million doses are expected by the end of December."					
3	"Coronavirus vaccines are expected to be key to moving beyond the pandemic and several labs are currently working on developing the shots."					
4	"Preliminary results of the trial are expected to be released by the end of September, the university said."					
5	""All emerging market and developing economy regions are expected to contract this year, including notably emerging Asia, where large economies, such as India and Indonesia, continue to try to bring the pandemic under control," the IMF said in its report."					
	"Few vaccine developers were expected to have definitive trial results before the presidential election."					
	"The vaccine is expected to provide immunity from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, for up to two years, according to the Russian health ministry."					

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

Here, the verb *expected* points mostly toward the topic of the COVID-19 vaccine. It uniquely portrays the issue of the vaccine as a vital part of COVID-19 related news. However, the reason the verb *expected* is considered to have a high-reliability value is that, in the sentences above, the word *expected* resembles an immediate plan that would likely happen.

# **4.1.2.2.4.** Suspected

Table 4.18. The Concordance of the Verb Suspected

No	Sentence		
1	"She was suspected of having the coronavirus upon arrival in Indonesia."		
2	"I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport authorities in Denpasar, Bali had installed		
	thermal scanners on two of the airport\x92s international arrival gates to anticipate any		
	coronavirus transmission that was suspected to be the cause of the pneumonia."		
3	"Two cases of coronavirus were suspected among two staff members of one of the		
	participating teams," cycling's governing body, UCI, said on Friday."		
4	"After consulting a lung specialist, he was suspected to have contracted the		
	coronavirus."		
5	"A 65-year-old patient suspected to have contracted COVID-19 died on Thursday at the		
	Sulianti Saroso Infectious Diseases Hospital (RSPI Sulianti Saroso) in Jakarta."		
6	"An Indonesian citizen is suspected to have the coronavirus after traveling from China."		
7	"The virus, which is suspected to have crossed from animals to humans at a market in		
	Wuhan, has killed more than 2,500 people across China and spread around the world."		

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The verb *suspected* mostly points toward a detailed cased of each individual case of COVID-19. Although the verb suspected indicated a probability, based on the context of how widespread COVID-19 is, even the verb *suspected* is considered to have a high-reliability value, considering the high number of the suspected cases and the high infection rate of the virus.

It is also worth mentioning that while doing the research, it was found that many of the words *suspected* are used in the form of adjectives alongside the words cases to form the words *suspected cases*, as shown in the picture below.

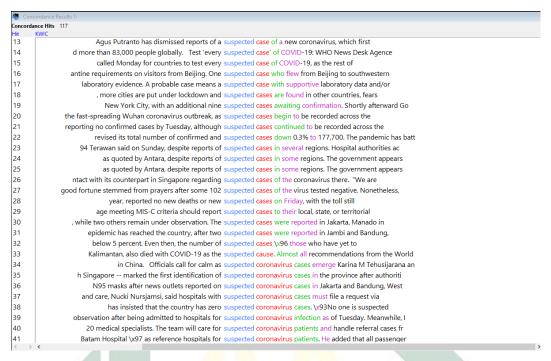


Figure 4.2: Some Sample of the Concordance of the Verb Suspected

# 4.1.2.3.Adjectives

In this part, the researcher shows all of the adjectives found as the reliability parameter with their use in a sentence.

Table 4.19. All of the Adjectives Found as the Reliability Parameter Keywords

Adject	Adjectives				
No	Frequency	Range	Token	Reliability Level	
1	339	12	Positive	High	
2	120	11	Likely	High	
3	21	9	Unlikely	Low	

Here, the result provides three distinct levels of reliability. First, the adjective *positive* represents genuineness. Second, the adjective *likely* represents a high-reliability level. Third, the adjective *unlikely* represent a low-reliability level.

To be mentioned again, the genuineness level is included in the high-reliability level. The result as follow:

### 4.1.2.3.1. Positive

Table 4.20. The Concordance of the Adjective Positive

No	Sentence			
1	"Gaza's health ministry said the cases were uncovered after a woman traveled to the			
	West Bank, where she tested positive."			
2	"Two members of the White House residence staff tested positive for COVID-19 a few			
	weeks ago, and Trump's "body man" aide, Nicholas Luna, has also tested positive,			
	according to a source familiar with the situation."			
3	"Madonna tested positive after a tour of France as did Tom Hanks and his wife who			
	recovered and returned home to Los Angeles after quarantine in Australia."			
4	"The three cases bring the number of COVID-19 patients who tested positive after			
	visiting Indonesia to seven."			
5	"In a statement, Muhyiddin confirmed that Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad			
	Al-Bakri had tested positive, and that those identified as close contacts at Saturday's			
	National Security Council meeting to discuss COVID-19 had been issued a 14-day home			
	surveillance order starting Oct 3."			
6	"The girlfriend of President Donald Trump's eldest son has tested positive for			
	coronavirus, US media reported Friday."			
7	"In a Facebook post on Monday, Zulkifli confirmed that he had tested positive for			
	COVID-19 and was now undergoing treatment."			

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

It can be seen that the adjective *positive* points toward individual cases of COVID-19 similar to the verb *suspected*. The adjective positive is interestingly found to be often used alongside famous people, such as celebrities, politicians, and public figures. It is unlikely to know if there are any particular correlation between the adjectives *positive* and famous people. The researcher suggests that it would likely be the factor that these people may have more immediate access to healthcare to confirm their diagnosis or be more aware of having checkups once they may feel the symptoms.

# 4.1.2.3.2. Likely

Table 4.21. The Concordance of the Adjective Likely

1 401	c 1.21. The Concordance of the Majective Linery				
No	Sentence				
1	"The poorest and most vulnerable countries will likely be hit the hardest," World Bank				
	Group President David Malpas said in a statement."				
2	"Sutton indicated any future increase would likely be driven by closely monitored				
	outbreaks at care facilities for the elderly."				
3	"It likely came from bats, and it's much more serious than the common cold				
	coronavirus."				
4	"Scientists believe that the recent pneumonia outbreak is likely caused by a new virus				
	belonging to the same family of coronaviruses that causes the severe acute respiratory				
	syndrome (SARS)."				
5	"Health experts caution that the official data likely does not tell the full story, with many				
	believing that both cases and deaths have likely been underreported in some countries."				
6	"In a teleconference later on Tuesday, Dr. Anne Schuchat, the CDC's principal deputy				
	director, said that while the immediate risk in the United States was low, the current				
	global situation suggested a pandemic was likely."				

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

It can be seen that the use of the adjectives *likely* points out to an 'almost certainty' that something might happen.' The adjectives *likely* literary used to indicate a high likelihood of something to happen. As Merriam-webster dictionary describes, "having a high probability of occurring or being true: very probable". Cambridge dictionary also defines the adjective *likely* as, "If something is likely, it will probably happen or is expected". Furthermore, it can be seen from the context of the text that It is also confirmed by looking at the fact that the people who are interviewed in media are somewhat expert in a specific area. It is further ensuring that the adjective *likely* can be considered to have a high-reliability value.

# 4.1.2.3.3. Unlikely

Table 4.22. The Concordance of the Adjective Unlikely

1 44 10 1	e 1122. The concordance of the Majective Chimely					
No	Sentence					
1	"Despite the continued march of the illness, the government is unlikely to reimpose the					
	lockdown it has gradually lifted, after the harsh restrictions battered the economy and					
	wrecked the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly the poor."					
2	"He went on to say that the government should continue communicating the urgency of					
	the situation to the public as proven COVID-19 vaccines were unlikely to be available to					
	the entire Indonesian population before the end of 2021."					
3	"International travel is unlikely to rebound significantly without a reasonably priced					
	testing regime that was deemed acceptable by governments, Association of Asia Pacific					
	Airlines Director General Subhas Menon said."					
4	"The government would send a team of experts to Wakayama, though officials there said					
	they thought hospital transmission was unlikely."					
5	"He added that the outbreak was unlikely to have a significant effect on tourism."					
6	"It is highly unlikely that the vaccine doses will be ready quickly for all the population."					

The definition of the reliability parameter is literally about how likely and unlikely something would happen. So, there is no arguing that all of the sentences above in Table 4.22 point toward how unlikely something to happen, therefore automatically categorized it as a low-reliability level. However, the researcher only found 21 samples of the adjective 'unlikely' across the entire specialized COVID-19 corpus. So, there is a small chance for the reader to come across this word.

### 4.1.2.4.Adverbs

In this part, the researcher shows all of the adverbs found as the reliability parameter with its use in a sentence.

Table 4.23. All of the Adverbs Found as the Reliability Parameter Keywords

Adve	Adverbs			
No	Frequency	Range	Token	Reliability Level
1	142	12	Yet	Low
2	22	8	Probably	Low
3	22	10	Reportedly	High
4	17	10	Possibly	Low

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The researcher found that the adverb *yet*, which looks like it does not indicate to have any reliability value at all to actually having one. Even though, the result shows that the reliability level for the adverb *yet* is considered low. Other than that, the researcher found that the adverb *probably* and *possibly* is very similar in the uses, and both have low-reliability levels. Next, the adverb *reportedly*, which has a high-reliability level, appeared to have a specific characteristic such as that it indicates how recent the information is collected.

### 4.1.2.4.1. Yet

Table 4.24. The Concordance of the Adverb Yet

No	Sentence
1	"As of Sunday, the World Health Organization had not yet declared the coronavirus
	outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, earlier imposed regarding
	the Ebola and Zika viruses."
2	"The WHO has declared the outbreak an emergency in China, but has not yet declared a
	global emergency. (gis)"
3	"Indonesia has yet to confirm any case so far."
4	"Indonesia logged yet another daily record in coronavirus infections and fatalities on
	Friday as the national COVID-19 task force confirmed 5,828 new cases and 169 new
	deaths over the past 24 hours."
5	"No vaccine has yet been approved for commercial use against the illness caused by the
	new coronavirus, but over a dozen vaccines from more than 100 candidates globally are
	being tested in humans."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The researcher considered the adverb *yet* to have a low-reliability value is because the adverb *yet* literary does not confirm anything other than expressing

the current state of something. The adverb *yet* is also has a strong indication that something will likely change in the future. In other words, it is unlikely to happen according to what the adverb *yet* has stated in a sentence, therefore giving it a low-reliability value.

# 4.1.2.4.2. Probably and Possibly

Table 4.25. The Concordance of the Adverb *Probably* and *Possibly* 

No	Sentence
1	"Fifteen children have been hospitalized in New York with a rare inflammatory disease
	possibly linked to coronavirus, officials said Tuesday, in the latest reports of the
	worrying syndrome."
2	"They were probably infected during the "speed dating" of zoonotic viruses
	circulating among the jumble of different animal species packed together at
	markets or while being transported to markets, often in China."
3	"This is probably an evolutionary adaptation that protects vital structures. So
	these are niches where viruses may be protected from the host immune
3	response."
4	"Jokowi's announcement comes just as US researchers found that wealthier
	nations had reserved more than half of next year's potential doses, possibly
	resulting in poorer nations getting left behind."
5	"So, the differences between the earlier studies and the current one are probably
	the result of differences in disease severity and the time of sampling."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The researcher decided to put this adverb together. It is because of the similarity in which these adverbs are used in the context of a sentence. Both of them have a low frequency, which indicates that the reader would be less likely to find these adverbs on COVID-19 related news. The researcher suggested that the cause these adverbs are rarely used is because it has a weak indication that something might happen. In other words, it has a low-reliability level. It can also be seen in the sentences in Table 4.25 above. The adverb *possibly* and *probably* 

mostly represents a prediction from little to no concrete evidence towards the assumption.

# **4.1.2.4.3.** Reportedly

Table 4.26. The Concordance of the Adverb *Reportedly* 

No	Sentence
1	"The patient reportedly returned to Indonesia on Feb. 12 from Spain via Dubai and
	presented COVID-19 symptoms after his arrival, including fever, coughing and
	shortness of breath."
2	"The hospitalization indicated an intense effort to make sure the president's reportedly
	"mild" symptoms do not deteriorate."
3	"COVID-19 hospitals in Bandung, West Java, are reportedly running out of beds with at
	least 88.6 percent of bed capacity already occupied, a massive spike from two months
	ago, when the occupancy rate stood at 32.5 percent."
4	"People reportedly rushed to medical facilities and asked for the pneumonia vaccine
	after reports about the latest outbreak started coming out."
5	"Filming in Britain for the latest Batman movie has been halted after its star Robert
	Pattinson reportedly tested positive for the coronavirus, just days after shooting had
	resumed."

Source: The Jakarta Post (2020)

The adverb *reportedly* may seem to have a similar reliability value with the verb *reported* but has a lower reliability value. The main reason is the choice of the use of the adverb *reportedly* instead of the verb *reported*. The adverb's use *reportedly* indicates that the information does not come from the first hand.

Therefore refer to as *reportedly* is similar to 'according to what some say'.

Despite that, the researcher still put the adverb *reportedly* into a high-reliability value category because it still indicates an existing source of information, even though it is less specific than the verb *reported*.

### 4.2. Discussions

This research has attempted to use corpus analysis to evaluate news media based on Bednarek's (2006) reliability parameter. The reliability parameter

describes how likely or unlikely something in the writing of the news appears to happen. The reliability parameter has no exact list of keywords that can be used across different writings to evaluate media. Instead, the reliability parameter depends entirely on the context in each text. To evaluate context, a researcher analyzed the sentences in news media to determine which keywords represent the reliability value from its occurrences. In corpus analysis, it is quite difficult to thoroughly evaluate every single word within an entire corpus since it may contain tenth-thousands and up to millions of words in a single corpus. Corpus analysis favors a definite list of categorizations of a linguistic aspect, such as part of speech, academic vocabulary, etc. Therefore, in applying Bednarek's media evaluation with corpus analysis, the researcher must face the first obstacle of connecting the two aspects of corpus analysis that have a huge amount of data and Bednarek's media evaluation that require in-depth analysis.

However, corpus software is equipped with multiple useful tools. One of them allows the researcher to categorize the specialized COVID-19 corpus into the desired part of speech. Instead of trying to determine the keywords by selecting through all of the lists of words, the researcher can now select through a smaller group of words. Even though all of the words have been sorted into the desired part of speech or modal, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, there are still hundreds of verbs, adjectives, and adverbs that the researcher must sort through. The researcher could only ensure the selection of the modal because it has only a few members, and the only modal that indicates reliability are *will*, *would*, *can*, *could*, *may*, and *might*. However, it does not mean that the researcher could ignore

the other part of speech, such as adjectives, adverbs, and verbs other than modal. It is because there are still some reliability parameter keywords that can be found in adjectives, adverbs, and verbs. Therefore, with other parts of speech, the researcher must first go through a serial of trial and error.

The trial and error in determining the reliability keywords include picking suitable keywords based on only the definition of each word. For example, some words in the verb group tend to carry some reliability values in their definition, such as *suspected*, *expected*, and *confirmed*. Based on their definition alone, the word confirmed already has a higher reliability level than *suspected* and *expected*. However, the context must still be taken into account to determine the reliability value. Here, the researcher used another feature of the corpus software called concordance to view all of the instances in which the selected keywords occur in sentences to find the context.

With that being said, the researcher found the reliability parameter keywords that are commonly used in COVID-19 related news in Indonesia, answering the first research question. There are 18 reliability parameter keywords found, with 12 of them are considered to have high-reliability values such as will, would, may, might, cannot, reported, confirmed, expected, suspected, positive, likely, and reportedly. Others are considered to have low-reliability values such as could, can, unlikely, yet, probably, and possibly. The context of these keywords revolves around COVID-19, starting from predictions, possibility, supposition, and past events. All of the context are all based on the information from some

experts, some research, and government officials. It indicates that many things in COVID-19 news in Indonesia are written and described as very likely to happen.

The researcher was initially suspected that COVID-19 related news in Indonesia would have more low-reliability level keywords because of how often predictions are presented in the news instead of facts. The words such as will, would, could, can, may, might, suspected, and expected were all considered as a prediction that cannot be used as a fact. However, this current research indicates that the reason for the many predictions found is only because of the nature of COVID-19 related news. The COVID-19 related news and other similar news (the news that is massively produced and frequently updated) is bound to have many predictions in their news. It happens when the limited source of news meets the high demands of information. Any slightest update can be used as material to produce a single news article. However, this does not seem to impact the reliability of the news itself. The researcher can conclude that the COVID-19 related news (found in the Jakarta Post) still pays close attention to the facts, thus rendering the results high-reliability values. The researcher cannot say the same to different media publishers or news categories since this research only focuses on COVID-19 related news taken from the Jakarta Post.

Furthermore, here is what the researcher found in this current research, by analyzing the keywords though the context and based on Aarts' (2011) description of the function of modal and Lewis' (1994) definition of verbs and their forms, the researcher was able to conclude a few things. First, the modal such as *will* and *may* are predictions that are based on evidence or, as Aarts (2011) classify as

epistemic modality: evidence-based prediction, while the modal such as *can* is classified as a dynamic possibility: neutral possibility. It goes to say that Aarts also provided other uses of modal that are not related to the reliability values. For example, the modal *will* may indicate a prediction while it can also be used in expressing permission. On the one hand, the researcher did not consider any uses of modal that are not related to the reliability parameter as the data in this research.

On the other hand, the research could not exclude the uses of modal that are not related to the reliability parameter. For example, this research found 966 uses of the modal will. However, that number includes all of the uses of will that are related and also not related to the reliability parameter. The corpus software cannot separate between the uses of will that have reliability value and other uses of will that does not have any reliability values. The uses of will are very context-dependent.

However, this research has described every use of the modal to educate the reader on the kinds of modal that they need to pay attention to. This research may explain the modal more thoroughly than other types of words. The reason is that modal only consist of few words, which means that most of their usage and pattern have already been described and used as a research study for many researchers. That is why the researcher chooses to rely on Aarts (2011) and Lewis (1994) description of modal usage that are detailed and more accurately explain many things about the modal.

One example is the theory of modality by Aarts (2011) used to analyze the modal in this research. According to Bednarek (2006), "Just as evaluations of possibility/necessity are related to deontic and dynamic modality, evaluations of reliability are connected to what is generally described as epistemic modality, i.e., to matters of reliability, certainty, confidence, and likelihood. "(p.52). This research confirms this description by Bednarek that the evaluation of reliability is related to the epistemic modality. It can be seen in Table 4.3, Table 4.5, Table 4.11, and Table 4.13 that the keywords with any reliability values are categorized in the epistemic modality. The other modality that does not have any reliability values can be seen in Table 4.4 and Table 4.5. Aarts (2011) describes epistemic modality as the use of modal to express some knowledge or knowledge. In comparison, Bednarek (2006) describes it in a broader sense by describing epistemic modality with words such as certainty, confidence, and likelihood.

Both, however, represent the same thing as this research has proved.

Furthermore, the research conducted by Kutter and Kantner (2012) is even more specific and detailed since they only analyzed the word *intervention* to investigate news coverage on war. By only choosing one word to be analyzed using corpus analysis, this research can provide an in-depth result of the occurrences of the word *intervention*. Kutter and Kantner (2012) were able to map the semantic space of the words that occur near the word *intervention* and explains how they describe the news coverage on war. The current researcher could not possibly have done something in such detail in this recent research. Because of the number of keywords that the current researcher found and used as

the reliability parameter, how every one of the keywords has different occurrences, and not all of them has reliability values.

The vital point that can be taken from the findings is that the results of this research are very context-dependent. Every keyword used as a parameter for reliability may not work or has the same value in other types of news. That is why this research explains all of the occurrences of these reliability parameter keywords. For example, the modal shown in the findings is also presented with every possible occurrence. Even those that do not have any reliability values whatsoever are still presented with the occurrences. One small example taken from the findings is the modal *can*. It has the role to indicate possibility and can act as a way to ask permission.

The implication of this research is to show that there are many reliability parameters keywords that can be found and need to be paid attention to. It can also be seen that according to Aarts' (2011), there are many uses of the modal. To determine the meaning of a certain modal, we need to see the context where the modal is used in a sentence, as this research has demonstrated. Bednarek (2006) also stated that "evaluation can only be correctly understood, interpreted and analyzed when looking at its context" (p. 9).

Also, it is worth mentioning that this research does not include the other factors of the news, such as the credibility of the news site, news source, and news writers or the journalist of the Jakarta post. So, the determination of the reliability in this research was purely focusing only in the writings of the news, especially the contexts in which the reliability parameter keywords are used. The one step

that had been taken by the researcher to avoid and reduce any random and less-trusted news articles is by only choosing one online news publisher. The Jakarta post is considered to be a well-known and well-reputated English news site in Indonesia.



#### **CHAPTER V**

### **CONLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

This section provides a brief explanation of the findings and discussion of this research and the addition of suggestions for the future researcher who wants to conduct similar research on this topic.

### 5.1. Conclusion

The researcher conducted a corpus analysis with Bednarek (2006) evaluation media in reliability. The researcher found 18 different keywords that indicate reliability in the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia. Twelve of them are considered to have high-reliability values, such as will, would, may, might, cannot, reported, confirmed, expected, suspected, positive, likely, and reportedly. While eight others are considered to have low-reliability values such as could, can, unlikely, yet, probably, and possibly. All of the reliability values are determined by analyzing the context from the usage of each word in sentences (occurrences). The result shows that the COVID-19 related news in Indonesia has more high-reliability values than the lower ones. The context of these keywords revolves around COVID-19, starting from predictions, possibility, supposition, and past events. All of the context are all based on the information from some experts, some research, and government officials. It indicates that many things in COVID-19 news in Indonesia are written and described as very likely to happen.

This research has shown that there are keywords with some values that play important roles in describing the information written in the news. These

values are also very context-dependent. It means that different uses of some words may result in a different meaning. Of course, this research has analyzed the reliability values and found the keywords associated with them. The researcher hopes that this research can raise awareness for the reader to pay attention to these keywords or any other words in that matter. Granted, it might not be the same with other types of news under different topics but, with enough examples given in this research, hopefully, the reader can interpret these reliability values to other news with different keywords and context.

# 5.2. Suggestion

There are many aspects of Bednarek's media evaluation that can be explored. This research only analyzed the aspect of reliability. Even so, the number of keywords and context provided to describe many aspects of media evaluation can be improved and analyzed for further investigation, such as giving more examples of the context in sentences, using more theories about news evaluation and discourse analysis. The number of news articles can also be increased to present more accurate data and represent the real world.

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