

The Dark Side of Indonesian and Malaysian Football News: Dysphemism and Learning



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ABSTRACT: This article reveals the darker side of Indonesian and Malaysian football coverage, focusing on the use of dysphemistic language and its impact on Indonesian language learning. This study examines how mass media frequently employs dysphemistic expressions to convey football-related information and craft narratives laden with negative connotations. The primary objective is to delve into the manifestation of negative expressions, specifically dysphemism, in Indonesian and Malaysian football news headlines. The qualitative methodology adopts a semantic study approach, drawing data from Indonesian and Malaysian mass media covering 2023 AFF Cup football matches. Random data sampling provided a comprehensive overview of dysphemism in news headlines. The analysis revealed the utilisation of certain words and phrases in Indonesian and Malaysian news titles, where dysphemism is employed to convey a sense of defeat or victory for the Malaysian national team. Based on these findings, this study underscores the relevance of incorporating dysphemism into Indonesian language education.

KEYWORDS: dysphemism, football reporting, Indonesia language

INTRODUCTION

Football has evolved into a global sports cherished by a broad audience. Its popularity is surging in society owing to its simplicity and affordability, making it a sport that does not require excessive costs. The thrill of the game resonates both in the grand field and in the spacious backyard. With its inclusive nature, football is unique in people's hearts worldwide. Indonesia, in particular, exhibits immense enthusiasm for football, with diverse groups embracing it. This is evidenced by the proliferation of football teams in various regions of Indonesia and elsewhere. Football also plays a pivotal role in societal unity (Polanunu & Mahendra, 2021; Fauzan & Bawono, 2021).

In sports journalism, particularly in Indonesian and Malaysian football news, the focus tends to be on positive highlights that celebrate each country's achievements and glory. However, beyond the dazzling spotlight lies a less-explored perspective—a dark side that manifests in distortions in reporting, notably through negative diction or dysphemism. Consequently, this study aims to scrutinise this football news phenomenon in Indonesia and Malaysia, unveiling how the employment of dysphemistic languages can shape public perceptions and profoundly impact our comprehension of football in these two countries. Through this study, we aspire to provide insights into the overlooked aspects of football news in Malaysia and Indonesia and its relevance to the learning process.

Recent studies of dysphemism have explored various perspectives. Mahardika and Taufik (2023) investigated dysphemism in reporting corruption in online mass media. Second, Selgianita and Antono (2023) studied dysphemism using the comments column on Instagram social media. The third study focused on dysphemism in comments on Mata Najwa's Instagram account, conducted by Firmansyah et al. (2023). Kartika and Manaf (2023) conducted the fourth study, examining dysphemism and its function in the short story collection by Djenar Maesa Ayu. Dewi and Alber (2023) also conducted a fifth study, exploring the dysphemism of the @Kompascom Instagram account. The sixth study examined dysphemism towards Puan Maharani on Twitter, as Batubara et al. (2023) researched. Finally, Khaeriyah and Dewi (2023) conducted the seventh study, examining dysphemism in the comments column of Instagram accounts concerning baby dumping cases.

Despite these recent studies, one unexplored aspect is the dysphemism in football news. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate dysphemism in football news discourse. The focus of this study was to unveil dysphemism in news headlines, aiming to provide an initial understanding of this phenomenon in the context of football.

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THEORY

Dysphemism

Dysphemism involves using expressions containing negative criticism to describe something or someone. It encompasses words, phrases, clauses, or sentences that are offensive and impolite and tend to cause discomfort to the reader because of the language employed. Dysphemism is often intertwined with news coverage and serves as a tool for sensationalising news and attracting readers (Rahmawati & Ariesta, 2020).

Characterised by a rude connotation, dysphemism is impolite and hurtful in portraying something or someone, often replacing neutral or ordinary expressions or euphemisms for specific reasons. Its purpose is to amplify negativity, making something sound worse than it is—an antithesis to euphemism (Emilda et al., 2023).

Functioning as an attempt to replace subtly or ordinarily meaningful words with harsh equivalents, dysphemism operates as a clandestine weapon in the realm of language, where it dismantles the beauty of meaning with sharpness. It transforms gentle and kind words into a direct blow to the heart, showcasing dysphemism as the art of sacrificing linguistic softness for dramatic or provocative impact—an unexpected assault on the innocence of words (Hidayaha & Mukhlis, 2023; Matondang, 2020).

Regarded as a verbal weapon, dysphemism aims with sharpness, going beyond mere criticism to constitute a deliberate and hurtful verbal attack. Within the linguistic domain, it introduces a darker tone and implies disrespect through inappropriate or rude language. Dysphemism operates as a linguistic arrow intended to hurt and offend directly (Khairani, 2023).

Dysphemism frequently manifests in everyday communication, both verbally and in writing. Verbal dysphemism surfaces in dialogues, interviews, speeches, seminars, and talk shows, whereas written dysphemism is found in letters, articles, papers, journals, and news. Dysphemism is evident in print media, such as magazines, tabloids, and newspapers; electronic media, such as radio or television; and social media platforms, such as YouTube (Khoiriyaha & Pujiastuti, 2023).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a semantic approach using qualitative methods. The choice of a semantic approach stems from its ability to delve into the meaning of words and phrases used in football news, examining how these linguistic choices influence readers' perceptions and interpretations. Qualitative methods were selected to provide a comprehensive framework for exploring dysphemism in football news reports.

This study focuses on two primary points of discussion. First, it intricately examines the use of dysphemism in football news reports in Indonesia and Malaysia. This entails a detailed analysis of words or phrases that often carry pejorative connotations, and how they contribute to a negative tone within the realm of sports news. Employing a semantic approach, this study aims to unveil the layers of meaning that might escape the notice of casual readers.

Additionally, the study explored the correlation between the use of dysphemism in football reports and the process of learning the Indonesian language. The analysis focuses on understanding how the incorporation of derogatory language affects the comprehension and perception of Indonesian language learners. Adopting a qualitative approach, this study seeks to provide profound insights into dysphemism within the context of language learning, fostering critical thinking about the role of media in shaping language and culture.

The data analysed in this study comprised randomly selected Indonesian and Malaysian football news and subsequently examined for words or phrases that contained dysphemism. The sample encompasses coverage across various periods, reflecting a range of issues and events in the football world in both countries. The analysis extends beyond the main text of the news to encompass direct quotes, titles, and other linguistic elements that feature dysphemism. After collecting news samples, the analysis focused on identifying words or phrases incorporating dysphemism. The process was conducted meticulously, with researchers manually scrutinising each word or phrase with the potential for dysphemism. This method is instrumental in comprehending the context of dysphemism usage and its relation to the narrative constructed by the media when reporting football events.

The distribution method is employed with substitution techniques in the data analysis stage. This approach allowed researchers to meticulously detail and classify the various types of dysphemism in the data. The substitution technique deepens understanding by highlighting variations in words or phrases used in pejorative contexts. Furthermore, the pragmatic equivalent method is applied to examine how dysphemism functions within its context, understanding its usage and potential impact on the reader's interpretation. In presenting the results of the data analysis, the informal method was chosen for its relaxed and easily understandable approach. Through this comprehensive combination of methods, this research aims to offer an in-depth portrayal of dysphemism in Indonesian and Malaysian football news and its consequential impact on public understanding and perception.

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DISCUSSION

The search results for Indonesian and Malaysian football news revealed numerous news titles featuring expressions of dysphemism. Examination of Indonesian and Malaysian football news yielded several headlines incorporating dysphemistic expressions. These stories construct a derogatory narrative that contributes to a hostile atmosphere in sports coverage. Consequently, it is imperative for the media to engage in ethical and responsible communication, steering clear of disseminating news that might harm the subject. Recognising the influence of words in shaping news headlines is a crucial step toward fostering a more positive and inclusive sports culture.

Dysphemism in Indonesian Football News

Numerous Indonesian football news headlines were identified, employing dysphemism in reporting football, particularly within the 2023 AFF Cup football match context. The use of dysphemism was particularly pronounced in Indonesian versus Malaysian football matches. Terms that could be deemed inappropriate or derogatory are the primary choices for crafting these headlines. The following examples illustrate the various forms of dysphemism in Indonesian football news headlines.

Data (1)

Ganyang Malaysia *Cek Fakta: Demi Ambisi **Ganyang Malaysia**, STY Geber Fisik Pemain Timnas Indonesia Sampai Teriak Minta Ampun*
source: linimasa

Data (1) illustrates the incorporation of *Ganyang Malaysia* in Indonesian football news, depicting the ambition to triumph over Malaysia in the AFF Cup football match. This phrase serves as a substitution for the word *kalahkan*. The literal interpretation of *Ganyang Malaysia* conveys an eagerness to defeat or overpower Malaysia, particularly in sporting events like the Indonesia vs. Malaysia football match. However, it is crucial to note that using provocative terms such as this can elicit negative reactions and contribute to tension among the supporters of the two teams. In the media context, the choice of such a title aims to capture the reader's attention and generate dramatic tension.

Data (2)

bantai *Hasil Piala AFF U-23: Vietnam ke Final Usai **Bantai** Malaysia 4-1*
source: CNN Indonesia

Data (2) illustrates the utilisation of the term *bantai* in Indonesian news headlines. The word *bantai* is employed as a substitute for the word *kalahkan*. Including the term *bantai* in the title signifies the use of dramatic and expressive language to portray Vietnam's triumph over Malaysia, with a score of 4-1. The term *bantai* carries a negative and profound connotation, suggesting that Vietnam achieved a decisive and overwhelming victory over Malaysia. The selection of emotionally charged words such as this is typically intended to capture the reader's attention and convey that the match is exceptionally impressive or surprising. However, it is essential to note that using intense and excessive terms such as "slaughter" can cultivate a dramatic atmosphere that may not always objectively reflect the course of the match.

Data (3)

dibekuk *Timnas Indonesia U-23 **Dibekuk** Malaysia, Shin Tae-yong Soroti Keputusan Penalti*
source: Bolanet

Data (3) illustrates the use of the term *dibekuk*. The term *dibekuk* is employed as a substitute for the word *dikalahkan*, adopting a passive form. Including *dibekuk* in the title conveys the impression that the U-23 Indonesian National Team faced defeat or encountered challenges in the match against Malaysia. The term *dibekuk* carries the connotation of holding back or overcoming, suggesting that Malaysia successfully surmounted the resistance of the Indonesian U-23 national team, potentially securing victory. The selection of these terms imparts dramatic ambience, creating the perception that the match's outcome is surprising. Using emotionally charged words generally captures readers' attention and generates narrative tension.

Data (4)

tumbang *Piala AFF U-23: Timnas Indonesia **Tumbang** dari Malaysia 1-2*
source: CNBC Indonesia

Data (4) illustrates the use of the term *tumbang*. The term *tumbang* is used to replace the term *kalah*. This term is a passive form. The term *tumbang* in the title gives the impression that the U-23 Indonesian National Team experienced defeat or

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difficulties in the match against Malaysia. The term captured has the connotation of holding back or overcoming, depicting that Malaysia managed to overcome the resistance of the Indonesian U-23 national team and possibly win the match. The choice of these terms gives a dramatic feel and gives the impression that the result of the match creates a surprise. The use of emotional terms like this generally aims to attract the reader's attention and create narrative tension.

Data (5)

mimpi buruk Hasil Piala AFF U-23 2023 - Fergus Tierney Jadi **Mimpi Buruk**, Timnas U-23 Indonesia Tumbang Lawan Malaysia
source: *Bolasport*

Data (5) illustrates the use of *mimpi buruk* (nightmare) to convey negative sentiments. Including the term nightmare in the title suggests that Tierney's performance or role in the match is perceived as highly unfavourable or disappointing. The term *nightmare* conveys that Tierney's presence or actions are considered an extremely unpleasant or detrimental experience for the Indonesian U-23 National Team. This title might highlight the individual's performance and underscore its negative impact on the match result, asserting that Tierney was the primary cause of the Indonesian U-23 national team's defeat in Malaysia. The use of this phrase captures the reader's attention, creating a dramatic impression and implying the occurrence of an extraordinary or unexpected event in the match.

The employment of terms such as *Ganyang Malaysia*, *bantai*, *dibekuk*, *tumbang*, and *mimpi buruk* constitutes a part of the dysphemism utilised by the Indonesian media in reporting the aspirations of the Indonesian coach, Malaysia's victories and defeats, and Indonesia's losses. The use of dysphemism in Indonesian football news titles concerning Malaysia imparts a dramatic nuance and tends to lean towards the negative. In the context of Indonesian football news, words or phrases manifesting dysphemism are intentionally highlighted to attract readers' attention, especially considering Malaysia's historical background of confrontation with Indonesia. Meanwhile, harsh or dysphemistic expressions are frequently used in news articles and newspaper opinions (Khasan and Setiawan, 2014).

Dysphemism in Malaysian Football News

Malaysian football news headlines employed dysphemism when referring to the Indonesian national team in the context of the 2023 AFF Cup football match. The Malaysian media utilised specific words and phrases to characterise Indonesia's loss in the football match. The ensuing section presents the analysis.

Data (6)

tundukkan Kejohanan AFF B23: Harimau Muda bangkit **tundukkan** Indonesia
source: *astroawani*

Data (7)

tundukkan Harimau Muda bangkit **tundukkan** Indonesia
source: *sinarharian*

Data (6) and (7) exemplify using the term *tundukkan*. The term *tundukkan* is employed as a substitute for the term *kalahkan*. Including the term *tundukkan* in the title implies that Harimau Muda (Malaysian Team) successfully overcame or conquered the Indonesian National Team in the 2023 AFF football match. *Tundukkan* carries a compelling connotation of dominance or superiority, highlighting Malaysia's success in prevailing over Indonesia in the match. This choice of words may have been employed to captivate the reader's attention and create the perception that Harimau Muda's victory was exceptional or noteworthy. Additionally, this term can infuse a dramatic and emotional nuance into the match's outcome. The title can be viewed as a dramatisation commonly observed in sports coverage.

Data (8)

tewaskan Piala AFF B-23: Malaysia **Tewaskan** Juara Sukan SEA 2023, Indonesia
source: *kosmo*

Data (9)

tewaskan AFF B-23: Malaysia Bangkit **Tewaskan** Juara Sukan SEA
source: *vocketfc*

Data (8) and (9) exemplify the use of the term *tewaskan* in proclaiming the defeat of the Indonesian national team, serving as a substitute for the word *kalahkan*. Including the term *tewaskan* in the title imparts a dramatic and extreme impression of the

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match's outcome. The term *tewaskan* carries connotations of violence and death, introducing an intense layer of emotion to the portrayal. In the context of a sporting event, the word *kalahkan* typically denotes thorough crushing loss or marked dominance. Conversely, the use of *tewaskan* underscores that Malaysia managed to triumph over the Indonesian national team in a compelling manner, emphasising the significant superiority of the Malaysian national team over Indonesia. The use of this term accentuates the substantial prowess of the Malaysian team. However, it is essential to note that the use of emotionally charged term such as "kill" can impact readers' perception.

Data (10)

bungkus awal *Misi Elak 'Bungkus Awal' Hantui Harimau Muda*
source: bharian

Data (10) illustrates the utilisation of initial wrap phrases in Malaysian media news titles, employed as a substitute for the term *bungkus awal*. Including the initial wrap-up phrase in the title suggests a mission or attempt to avoid or prevent something. This phrase introduces an element of mystery or suspense by incorporating the term *misi*, indicating an action that may be unconventional or risky. Additionally, using the phrase *hantui harimau muda* imparts a dramatic nuance and may allude to a threat or challenge faced by parties involved in the mission.

The data analysis encompassing (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10) demonstrated the use of term manifesting dysphemism. Malaysian media employs words or phrases with negative connotations to depict the defeat of the Indonesian national team when facing the Malaysian national team. The dysphemism exhibited by the Malaysian media represents another facet of football reporting. News headlines in the Malaysian media reveal that dysphemism in sports reporting is less favourable, bordering on the dark side. This phenomenon underscores how the language or delivery of information in Malaysian sports coverage can incorporate negative elements, potentially influencing the public's perception and understanding of various sports issues (Khoiriyaha & Pujiastuti, 2023; Khairani, 2023; Matondang, 2020; Hidayaha & Mukhlis, 2023).

Dysphemism and Its Learning

Dysphemism is a form of expression that portrays a concept or object in a derogatory or harmful light. In Indonesian and Malaysian football news headlines, dysphemism can be an intriguing and effective tool in learning Indonesian. When students understand dysphemism, they not only grasp the meanings of the words themselves but also explore the intricacies of language structure and the emotional nuances embedded in their usage. Through a thorough analysis of dysphemism, students can enhance their vocabulary and discern layers of meaning that may escape notice in everyday language use.

Incorporating dysphemism into Indonesian language learning can also serve as a gateway for a deeper understanding of the social and cultural context. Students are encouraged to recognise words with specific meanings but also to comprehend how these words manifest in people's daily lives. This creates opportunities for students to engage in profound discussions about language policies, stereotypes, and social influences that shape their use of words.

Furthermore, dysphemism can function as a vehicle for creativity in exploring self-expression. Students can invent and explore new ways to convey ideas or emotions by judiciously employing dysphemism. This sparks their imagination and helps refine their ability to construct compelling and vivid sentences. Language learning transforms from a routine task to a creative adventure that cultivates self-confidence and communication skills by involving students in using dysphemism.

Moreover, comprehending dysphemism can broaden students' insights into the diversity of language use across various contexts. They realised that an individual's use of dysphemisms can vary significantly depending on the situation, culture, and social group. This enables students to cultivate language adaptability, empowering them to select and use words based on the circumstances appropriately. Therefore, incorporating dysphemism into Indonesian learning extends beyond merely understanding word meanings. This involves grasping the intricate dynamics of language use in various aspects of life.

Furthermore, the use of dysphemism in language learning cultivates students' critical thinking skills. They were prompted to explore the rationale behind selecting specific words, examine their impact on the listener or reader, and contemplate the role of language in shaping perception. Consequently, understanding dysphemism enhances students' language skills and nurtures analytical abilities crucial for everyday life and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Integrating dysphemism in Indonesian language learning aligns with the concept of an Independent Curriculum, emphasising that learning should be essentially capable of liberating individuals. This concept encompasses material, formal, and virtual aspects, engaging subjects with the capacity to guide creative learning. Innovations in Indonesian language learning, guided by the Independent Learning concept, aim to instil messages that require communication and are boundless in scope (Islami & Sauri, 2023). As a national language, Indonesian encapsulates cultural elements, and its application in daily life aims to instil positive values through the language (Purnamasari & Wijoyo, 2023).

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This era is believed to have disrupted numerous fields, including Indonesian language and literature education. Once predominantly conventional, education is undergoing continual transformation, leaning towards the utilisation and optimization of digital devices. However, it must be acknowledged that the convenience brought about by computers and the Internet has not been fully harnessed by students, as evidenced by a lack of development in their literacy competencies. Schools and teachers play a strategic role in addressing this issue (Suwandi, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Football coverage in Indonesia and Malaysia reveals a dark side reflected in the utilisation of dysphemism. Dysphemism is discernible in the choice of words and phrases in football reporting within Indonesia and Malaysia, particularly in Malaysia's victory or defeat in the 2023 AFF Cup football match. Dysphemism operates as a linguistic tool employed in football coverage, emphasising the outcomes of the Malaysian football team in AFF Cup 2023. In conveying these expressions, words and phrases carrying negative connotations are strategically used to evoke feelings of triumph or disappointment.

The manifestation of dysphemism in Indonesian and Malaysian football news headlines transcends mere information dissemination regarding match results. It is a strategic approach to captivating readers, creating an impression that the match encompasses dramatic elements and noteworthy events that deserve attention. In essence, expressions of dysphemism communicate information and function as tools to craft an engaging narrative in sports coverage. The findings of this study suggest that dysphemism can be integrated into Indonesian learning. By incorporating dysphemism into the learning context, students can enhance their language skills by comprehending emotional connotations inherent in negative words or phrases. Furthermore, it aids in developing a nuanced understanding of contextual language use in diverse communication situations. It is important to note that this study focused on news headlines, and it is recommended that future researchers delve into a comprehensive analysis of complete news articles.

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