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## COVID-19 Metaphors in Philippine Online News Articles

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the COVID-19 metaphors in Philippine online news articles. The researchers formulated two main questions in this study: (1) What metaphors are used in online news articles during COVID-19? (2) What are the function and types of these metaphors used in online news articles during COVID-19? To answer the research question, the researchers utilized a qualitative design. A corpus of five news organizations published from March 2020 to February 2021 was gathered to evaluate the metaphors used in online news articles. The needed data was analyzed and extracted using AntConc and the frameworks Critical Metaphor analysis by Charetis-Black (2004) and the Schema Theory by Frederic Bartlett (1932). The study substantiates that “COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect” and ‘COVID-19 is an Enemy’ are extremely used in the Philippine online news article. Albeit, other metaphors are also used, such as COVID-19 is Fresh, COVID-19 is a Challenge, and COVID-19 is Contagious and Widespread. The findings also reveal that the metaphors used in online news articles reflect the types of structural metaphor and function as cognitive function. Furthermore, the used metaphors prove that news writers are straightforward in delivering COVID-19 news primarily on the governments handling the pandemic.

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## Introduction

The COVID-19 outburst has piqued the interest of different fields, especially in linguistics. Voluminous online news article related to the pandemic has extrapolated and become popular in different online news agency. However, its prominence become jargon to many readers and listeners of the news which brought confusion and misunderstanding. With this, metaphor is the most appropriate way of showing the audience what COVID-19 is in simpler terminology.

A metaphor is a mundane linguistic portent that people use in daily life and a common tool used by journalists to present an idea that lures the readers in it because of its simplicity and easier comprehension. Lakoff & Johnson (2008) considered the metaphor as a rhetorical tactic that purports a wide range of human communication, particularly in the discussion of complex issues also in the way people think and act. It is believed to be an essential

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conceptualization tool to prove the understanding of various situations. In media, it plays a critical role in conceptualization that allows them to provide heavy information in a better expression, thus becomes a great source of news and stories (Kovecses, 2010; Krennmayr, 2011; Opillard et al., 2020; Thibodeau et al., 2017)

In the age of new media, different news headlines used metaphors to make the text appear more brief, strong, and delineated. The utilization of metaphors is an essential tool to make the reader delve more on the news being reported. In some of the news agencies, AID and SARS becomes easier to understand because the journalist made it appear as a new word worth understanding (Sontag 1978, Bai Jie 2021).

Trčková (2015) conducted a corpus analysis of news stories about the Ebola pandemic and found out “war” is the metaphor used during that time. Metaphors are firmly ingrained in people’s mind when a lot of them are used in news stories. It can also be used to make specific points, or they can become a part of a bigger story (Glucksberg & Keysar, 1993; Musolff, 2016). Thus, storylines help us understand metaphors in a narrative and argumentative way because it allows us to read thoroughly the details that should be understood better. It is also more liberating to be informed about the metaphors that the issues around us continues to resound.

Many linguists and researchers examined metaphors during previous pandemic, but few have focused on COVID-19 metaphors found in Philippine online news articles despite the importance of this during the current pandemic. Therefore, determining metaphors used in online news articles in five news agencies in the Philippines and its types and functions was the purpose of this study to give a supplemental study in the field of linguistics and in the Philippines during COVID-19 pandemic (Atienza, 2020).

In this light, this study aimed to find out the metaphors used in an online news article in the Philippines landscape during COVID-19 pandemic and was elaborated based on the two purposes, answered in this study such as: what metaphors related COVID-19 and what are types and function of these.

## **Research Methods**

The researchers conducted this study using a qualitative research design. It is a design that elucidates a scenario, a problem, or a phenomenon, or provides information about, for example, a community’s living conditions, or describes sentiments regarding an issue (Kumar 2011). As mentioned by Glass (1984), descriptive research seeks to characterize and existing scenario at the time of study. This method assisted researchers in thoroughly describing, validating, and explaining the study through the presentation, interpretation, and analysis of data.

The study used corpus-based analysis. In corpus-based research, the validity of linguistic theory-derived language forms and structures was assumed. These pre-defined linguistic traits have been used to examine systematic patterns of variation (Gardner & Davies, 2007). Using corpus-based analysis allows to make large-scale comparisons between textual objects. It enables us to see things that we would not normally see when reading as humans (Otis & Sagi, 2008). In this research, it is the approach towards the study in which the

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researchers utilized in analyzing the gathered data or corpus to uncover the grammatical structures of a language.

The researchers were collected only news articles written in English about COVID-19 in order to ensure specificity and control the topic. Moreover, the amount of corpora that collected in this study was 253,531 characters. The data was subjected in online news articles consisted of 420 English news articles published in five news agencies in the Philippines (ABS-CBN, GMA, Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Rappler) covering the first year of COVID-19 were used for the study from March 2020, to February 2021, as a timeframe of the study and cases of COVID-19 began to escalate in certain areas of the Philippines, prompting to impose the country's first phase of 'lockdown', which eventually encompassed the entirety of Luzon, and eventually, the entire Philippines (Atienza, 2020).

To get the corpus equally and accurate (Anagnostou 2006), in every news agency in the Philippines, seven English news article related to COVID-19 pandemic archived per month to get the totality of 420 English news articles.

In this study, the researchers collected newspaper text that tackled about COVID-19 issue using the search terms "*COVID-19*" from the chosen official news websites in the Philippines. Then, it was saved in the notepad to make it accessible to the software AntConc 3.5.9 (Windows) 2020 through a designated code reflecting the source, month & year, and the number of the article.

For research question No. 1, it was analyzed through corpus analysis. It also analyzing a set of systematically or randomly collected samples to distinguish a specific pattern or rules in language (Hunston 2002). This method used primarily concerned of those corpuses in order to see the words used, count and observe its relationships towards each other. In regards to this, the researchers will have utilized the software AntConc 3.5.9 (Windows) 2020.

In fact, as revealed by Kaner et al. (1999), the first thing to do is to run the software on your computer and choose the file that you need. The next step is to open the file and perform a concordance search to a single term. This software's concordance is a list of words in corpus ranked by how frequently a single word appears. Finally, you can save the results that you gathered by choosing the file and then save output to the text file. On the whole, this software is the main tool that the researchers will utilize to evaluate the built-in corpus through searching for words, and it will also help to display the frequencies of the words used.

Thus, the researchers looked and identified possible metaphors using the software AntConc 3.5.9. (Windows) 2020 through the search term "*COVID-19*". Then, the concordances were generated for each of collocates and the surrounding co-text was manually analyzed to determine metaphorical or literal use. Notably, close reading was a must in order to found those metaphors in each news agencies.

On the order, question No.2, is for qualitative analysis and it is mainly focused on the types and function of the metaphors that were employed from the corpus. After moving beyond the limitation of a corpus linguistic approach, this study discovered that examining the metaphorical language in a news article can reveal its function in discourse. Evidently,

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this study that aimed to identify metaphors related to COVID-19 and determine its types as well as the functions will be analyzed based from Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) and Schema Theory. The Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) was expanded in which collocation analysis was used to gather insight into the various connotation of metaphors. This study has found out that combining the three steps of Critical Metaphor Analysis can provide a grasp as an effective approach for identifying metaphors, types, and functions. While the Schema Theory as cited by An (2013) was about using the prior knowledge of the readers in order to learn and comprehend a certain text. More so, this concept of schema guided the reader to construct and build a meaning based on their acquired knowledge.

## Findings

### Metaphors used in the online news articles during COVID-19

The data in the following tables present the metaphors used in the online news articles during COVID-19 in the Philippines. The succeeding findings will highlight the most frequently used metaphors in the five news agencies, respectively.

#### *COVID-19 Metaphors in ABS-CBN News Articles*

Table 1 presents the collocation, frequency and ranks of the metaphors identified in the ABS CBN news articles.

**Table 1** Pandemic of Neglect?: COVID-19 Metaphors in ABS-CBN News Articles

Collocation	Frequency*	Rank
Pandemic	2	1
COVID	2	2
Deaths	1	3
Data	1	4
Charged	1	5

Table 1 indicate that *pandemic* is the most used collocation in the metaphor "*COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect?*" with a frequency count of 2 and rank 1; followed by *COVID* with a frequency count of 2 and rank 2; *deaths* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 3; *data* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 4; and *charged* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 5.

*Pandemic* and *COVID* as rank 1 and 2 since it is the words that is being collocated on and the main subject that were dealing on in this study. Thus, the words *deaths*, *data* and *charged* are utilized to affect the readers in a negative way. As we know that COVID-19 hit around the world and we can see that COVID cases rises so fast based from the data that DOH has reported, as a result these words implied us to always think of our safety in any situations and always abide the rules and regulations that established by the government in order for us to not get the virus to prevent charged from the hospitals or eventually can be the causes of the *death* of people.

*"On August 24, when the COVID-19 death toll in the Philippines breached the 3,000-mark, the ABS-CBN Data Analytics Team took a closer look at Senator Joel Villanueva inquiries on why so many are dying from COVID-19 in the Philippines. On the same day, Vice President Leni Robredo also highlighted this statistic. DOH data*

*then showed over half of the COVID-19 deaths on record was people who never got proper hospital care. \*COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect?\** (ABS CBN 73)

Moreover, the illustrated metaphor above questioned the management in handling Covid-19 patients. It is about the positive neglected people that eventually died for the reason that they couldn't admitted themselves in the hospital because of numerous COVID cases. For this scenario, the study of Blazey et.al (2020) elaborate the creative management strategy that helps to elevate the wariness of the COVID-19 patients as well as distinguish other patients for treatment. A very need tool in helping those neglected people especially in times of this phenomenon and to save lives.

### **COVID-19 Metaphors in GMA News Articles**

Table 2 presents the collocation, frequency and ranks of the metaphors identified in the GMA news articles.

**Table 2** Fresh: COVID-19 Metaphors in GMA News Articles

Collocation	Frequency*	Rank
Cases	10	1
Diseases	3	2
Coronavirus	3	3
Number	1	4
Philippines	1	5

Table 2 indicate that cases is the most used collocation in the metaphor "*COVID-19 is Fresh*" with a frequency count of 10 and rank 1; followed by *disease* and *coronavirus* with both frequencies count of 3 that rank 2 and 3 respectively; as for last collocates *number* and *Philippines* with both frequencies count of 1 that ranks 4 and 5 distributives.

Based on GMA news articles the collocated *cases*, *disease* and *coronavirus* are terms that attached in the description of COVID-19.

*"The Philippines on Tuesday recorded 359 more cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19) – 176 "fresh" or newly validated and 183 reported late – bringing the total to 18,997."* (GMA 22)

Meanwhile, collocate number shows the range of COVID 19 while collocate Philippines is a used term where it shows the location of the cited news.

*"The number of COVID 19 cases in the Philippines may reach more than 60, 000 by July 31, according to a study made by a gruoup of experts."* (GMA 28)

The findings suggest that the COVID-19 is Fresh is linked to the newly validated update of COVID-19 in the sentence. Thus, it is used to inform the people about the recent happenings in the Philippines. The metaphor illustrates the condition of the number of cases which might add the idea of helping each other to reduce the number of cases of COVID-19 positive because there are still new cases of COVID-19 as explained to the news. This situation as cited in (Metcalf, 2003) identifies additional reference metaphors. Examples include using "as currency" to buy credibility or, in the other sense of the word, references that are "up to date." In this situation, the identified reference metaphor in GMA news articles that describes COVID-19 is "fresh." Thus, as conceptually mapped, the metaphorical

reference “fresh” converts to the idea of newly validated update or the status of being up-to-date of the cases number.

### **COVID-19 Metaphors in Manila Bulletin News Articles**

Table 3 presents the collocation, frequency and ranks of the metaphors identified in the Manila Bulletin news articles.

**Table 3** Challenge: COVID-19 Metaphors in Manila Bulletin News Articles

Collocation	Frequency*	Rank
Defining	2	1
Philippines	1	2
Pandemic	1	3
Testing	1	4
COVID	1	5

Table 3 indicates that defining is the most used collocation in the metaphor “*COVID 19 is a Challenge*” with a frequency count of 2 and rank 1; followed by *Philippines* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 2; *pandemic* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 3; *testing* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 4; and *COVID* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 5. This collocation is being ranked according to its frequency; the word “*defining*” is in the rank 1 because it is being the first to appear collocates of the death with the frequency of 2 and in the reason that it is the main function to identify and determine that COVID-19 well define as the number one problem in the Philippines. The word “*Philippines, pandemic, testing, and COVID*” has its same frequency but not the same in ranking on you have shown in the table above. “*COVID*” was just in the rank 5 because it was very obvious to understand that it was already stated as a metaphor of *challenge*.

*“Beyond any economic bounce-back plan, now being discussed by the executive and Congress, the COVID-19 pandemic is indeed the defining challenge of our times.”*  
(Manila Bulletin 6)

This expression revealed that COVID-19 is *defining* a main treat and major challenge that currently happening in the Philippines. It changes lives and economy that give walls to people to experience normal life. It was revealed that COVID-19 is one of the causes of challenges of people because of lack of awareness that they didn’t know that it will happen. People were shock and have no idea that COVID-19 will be the greatest hindrances and problem that they will experience in life especially to the economy of the Philippines that is disrupted by COVID-19.

The findings suggest that COVID-19 is a challenge concerned to the various concerns in the Philippines. It was supported by study of Joharry and Turiman (2020) that caused various challenges in the country; responses to COVID-19 and how the country deals with it; and even hopeful messages that were depicted in certain letters reporting on the virus. In the same study of Maison et.al (2021) reveals the number of difficulty because of the COVID-19 that cause suffering and change the lifestyle of every one.

### **COVID-19 Metaphors in Philippines Daily Inquirer News Article**

Table 4 presents the collocation, frequency and ranks of the metaphors identified in the Philippines Daily Inquirer news articles.

Table 4 indicate that *how* is the most used collocation in the metaphor “*COVID-19 is contagious and widespread*,” with a frequency count of 2 and rank 1; followed by *widespread* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 2; *indicator* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 3; *disease* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 4; and *COVID* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 5.

**Table 4** Contagious and Widespread: COVID-19 Metaphors in Philippine Daily Inquirer News Articles

Collocation	Frequency*	Rank
How	2	1
Widespread	1	2
Indikator	1	3
Disease	1	4
COVID	1	5

Among the five collocations, “how” and “widespread” that ranked as first and second questions how the virus is being contagious and widespread around the world as being explained in the news that the virus spread easily among the people because it is an airborne disease. Then, the words “indikator, disease and COVID” are the next words for being contagious. These simply implied that the indikator is the pointer on how to see if someone has a COVID-19 disease. Therefore, the metaphor of COVID-19 that Philippine Daily Inquirer news writers utilize in describing this phenomenon is *COVID-19 is contagious and widespread*.

*“Social media helped companies find and engage study colunteers, and many were willing to help with Covid-19 vaccine research. Because **Covid-19 is so contagious and widespread**, it did not take long to see if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.” (Philippine Daily Inquirer 34)*

Thus, the metaphors above stated that covid-19 is so dangerous since it was contagious and can widespread. In fact, Priyadarshini et al. (2020) mentioned in the article of healthcare Asian countries and European countries have the maximum cases of covid-19 that affects the global economy. It led to travel restrictions, lockdown and established policies for limiting the spread of the virus.

### **COVID-19 Metaphors in Rappler News Articles**

Table 5 presents the collocation, frequency and ranks of the metaphors identified in the Rappler news articles.

**Table 5** Enemy: COVID-19 Metaphors in Rappler News Articles

Collocation	Frequency*	Rank
Overwhelming	2	1
Against	1	2
Invisible	1	3
Pernicious	1	4
Survive	1	5

Table 5 indicate that *overwhelming* is the most used collocation in the metaphor “*COVID-19 is an Enemy*” with a frequency count of 2 and rank 1; followed by *against* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 2; *invisible* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 3; *pernicious* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 4; and *survive* with a frequency count of 1 and rank 5.

Based on the collocated words after putting the key search term COVID-19 in the AntConc, one of these words are *overwhelming* which means extreme; great; and irresistible. This word is an adjective that describe the noun, COVID-19. Thus, COVID-19 has an extreme impact to the people. Another collocated word is *invisible*. The COVID-19 is invisible but its affect is felt and visible to everyone.

“The people angry reaction to Duterte heavy-handed approach to the pandemic, though, showed that a shock and awe tactic alienates the public from government instead of getting them to cooperate and follow the day-to-day health protocols to avoid getting COVID-19. Yet in a way, humanity today is indeed at war, trying to survive against an enemy invisible to the human eye.” (Rappler 64)

This expression has scratched the war metaphors to impart the idea of the status and current situation of the pandemic. In this case, conceptual mapping like COVID-19 is an Enemy can represent as COVID-19 is War or Disease is an Enemy. The word enemy is inclined to war. Enemy connotes as hostile to another, conflict to other parties. In this situation, to go back normal life, we have to fight and win against this enemy. Therefore, COVID-19 is an enemy, which is overwhelming, invisible and pernicious to the society. It can be implied that the military terms such as enemy, overwhelming, pernicious, invisible, and against are used to describe COVID-19. Thus, it is deduced that *COVID-19 is an Enemy* is the most used metaphor in Rappler news articles.

The findings suggest that the COVID-19 is an Enemy used more on military vocabulary. This circumstance is related to the study of Opillard et al. (2020), citing that using militaristic terms, particularly in times of pandemic, are widely used to fight against it; and war metaphor are often used to describe various diseases, epidemic, and pandemic.

### ***Comparison of the COVID-19 Metaphors in Five News Agencies***

Table 6 presents the metaphors identified and frequency in five news agencies in the Philippines.

**Table 6** Comparison of the COVID-19 Metaphors in Five News Agencies

Metaphors	ABS-CBN	GMA	Manila Bulletin	PDI	Rappler
			Frequency		
COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect	3	0	1	2	1
COVID-19 is a Fresh	21	11	8	15	13
COVID-19 is a Challenge	9	0	5	3	4
COVID-19 is Contagious and Widespread	4	0	4	2	1
COVID-19 is an Enemy	8	4	1	6	18

As table 6 shows the metaphors from the five news agencies that has been utilized in describing COVID-19. The metaphor from ABS-CBN news articles (COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect?) got the frequencies of 3, 0 from GMA news articles, 1 from Manila Bulletin, 2 from Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1 from Rappler news articles; the second metaphor is from GMA news articles (COVID-19 is a Fresh.) got the frequencies of 11, 21 ABS-CBN news articles, 8 from Manila Bulletin, 15 from Philippine Daily Inquirer, and 13 from Rappler news articles;



then the metaphor from Manila Bulletin (COVID-19 is a Challenge.) that got the frequencies of 5, 9 from ABS-CBN news articles, 0 from GMA, 3 from Philippine Daily Inquirer, and 4 from Rappler news articles; and the fourth metaphor from Philippine Daily Inquirer news articles (COVID-19 is Contagious and Widespread.) that got frequencies of 2, 4 from ABS-CBN news articles, 0 from GMA, 4 from Manila Bulletin, and 1 from Rappler news articles; and the last metaphor from Rappler news articles (COVID-19 is an Enemy.) got the frequencies of 18, 8 from ABS-CBN news articles, 4 from GMA, 1 from Manila Bulletin, and 6 from Philippine Daily Inquirer news articles.

Among the five agencies, ABS-CBN and Rappler are the most descriptive in delivering the news since it utilized almost of the metaphors above. As we have seen in their news articles, they are primarily concerned on the current condition of the people, its consequences of the way how the government handle the COVID-19 cases and the way how people seen the pandemic. Other news agencies that have studied deals on the problems that we have encounter in facing this pandemic.

Moreover, it is worth nothing that the metaphor appears in both news articles but some are not. This suggests that media responded to the crisis in utilizing unique words in delivering their news for the readers. As stated by Thibodeau et.al (2019) there is a substantial concurrence about the influence of metaphor in shaping the thought and action. Further, this metaphor plays a significant role in molding the public the way they convey a complex and abstract ideas.

### **Functions and Types of Metaphors used in News Articles**

The data in the following tables presents the function and types of metaphors in the online news articles. The succeeding findings will highlight the most used types and functions of metaphors, respectively.

#### ***Function and Types of used Metaphors***

Table 7 presents the function and types of the metaphors used in the news articles in the Philippines.

**Table 7** Functions and Types of Metaphors

Metaphors	Functions	Types
COVID-19: A pandemic of neglect	Cognitive	Structural Metaphor
COVID-19 is a Fresh	Cognitive	Ontological Metaphor
COVID-19 is a Challenge	Cognitive	Structural Metaphor
COVID-19 is Contagious and Widespread	Cognitive	Structural Metaphor
COVID-19 is an Enemy	Cognitive	Structural Metaphor

In case above, the metaphorical expression COVID-19: a pandemic of neglect was found in ABS-CBN news articles. This metaphorical expression classified as a cognitive function, because it involves of understanding a situation and using the current situation as proof on dealing with the pandemic. Cognitive function is used to communicate cognitive insights that can be found in criticism. The COVID-19 described as a pandemic of neglect for the reason that many patients are not admitted immediately in the hospitals because of the numerous cases of COVID-19. As revealed by Mahase (2021), neglect was one of the biggest killers in

care home during pandemic. It was one of the factors why there are so many deaths recorded in the peak of this pandemic and to reduce this mortality rate, a number of facilities, staffs and effective strategies are very in need.

Thus, as define by the Oxford Dictionary, neglect is the state of being uncared for and this metaphorical expression shows an example of structural metaphor wherein an experience is place with a specific concept. For this instance, the continous rises of COVID-19 cases are a very serious problem and so dangerous that can lead to improper population management in the hospital or care institutions. This also imply the information about COVID-19 experience as the number of cases continues to climb and can cause more deaths.

*COVID-19 is a Fresh* show the case of ontological metaphor. As we put in context, the term “fresh” refers to food that has been freshly produced or collected and has not been frozen, dried, or kept in tins or cans. Thus, this ontological metaphor found in GMA news articles define the idea of *COVID-19 is a Fresh* as explicitly informing the people about the recent happenings in the Philippines. Lakoff & Johnson (2008) believed that we conceptualized our experience under the conceptual domain that aren’t tangible such like intellectual activities, ideas, and feelings that can’t easily extract an abstract. Thus, the metaphorical term “fresh” illustrates an idea or feeling comparing with the word COVID-19. The metaphor illustrates the condition of the number of cases which might raise a caution and an idea of helping each other to reduce the number of cases of the said virus for there still new cases as stated in the news. Therefore, this ontological metaphoric expression belongs to cognitive function due to the realization that the news wanted to convey, which is to inform or be updated about the COVID-19’s fresh cases.

COVID-19 is a Challenge shows the case of structural metaphor. This metaphorical expression “COVID-19 is a Challenge” is a cognitive function that enables speakers to understand the target “COVID-19” by means of the structure source “challenge”. Generally, the word *challenge* constitutes as difficult task that measure the performance and skilled. The metaphor illustrates the main problem of people that they experience in everyday that give people a warning to be prepared at all times. It became the reflection of regular language in a several of expressions (Lakoff and Johnson 1980). In every challenge in life there is still hope. People just need to have a positive mind set and faith in God, because as stated in the news as “COVID-19 as challenge” it means that it was just a challenge to the people that they need to surpass. Thus, this structural metaphor found in Manila Bulletin news article defines the idea of *COVID-19 is a Challenge* as one of the experience of people on how they devastated by COVID-19 and change the world into a new perspective of life.

COVID-19 is Contagious and Widespread was found in Philippine Daily Inquirer news articles. This metaphorical expression illustrates the current situation in our country and that is the continuous rising of COVID-19 cases. This metaphorical expression classified as a cognitive function for the reason that it represents a scenario that all of us know that it is true. It also helps us to be mindful of our safety since the said virus is easily transferred from person to another. As a result, the government established an approach in securitizing the pandemic and disciplining the people and it can be attained through gratifying the

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continuing danger, emergency procedure, and the last one is breaking free of rules (Hapal 2021).

This metaphorical expression shows an example of structural metaphor that almost of us can relate and know this phenomenon based on experience and put a structure on it. As we have seen in the news, this COVID-19 is very dangerous since it is an airborne disease and its symptoms are same with the simple disease that we have catch commonly.

*COVID-19 is an Enemy* was found in Rappler news articles. This metaphorical expression can be classified as cognitive function because there are criticisms from the people on how the Duterte's government handle the current situation. A cognitive function is used to communicate cognitive insights. The *COVID-19* is described as an *enemy* because of its invisibility and impinging that changes the lives of many people without revealing itself. As revealed by Kumar et al. (2020); Priyadarshini et al. (2020) that virus is remained ad hoc for so long that they become disguise that even their effects are visible and that is the reason why we are became a prisoner.

This metaphorical expression shows case of structural metaphor by placing an experience within a structure. From the expression above, *enemy* and *COVID-19* was found. Generally, *Enemy* is used for human beings. Thus, the writers used the COVID-19 to represent the people. The metaphor supports the idea of COVID-19 referring as human entity, and the capability of afflicting or defending themselves to an enemy. The expression also implies the current situation of the world, which is in a war or in a difficult situation.

## Conclusion

In light of the findings about the identified metaphors manifested in various online news articles in the Philippines, it can be concluded that the news agencies have used metaphors proving that their writers are apprehensive, vigilant and straightforward in their standpoint and delivering on COVID-19 news. Thus, the present study found that the metaphors regarding COVID-19 used in news agencies have both negative and positive lenses on the people affected by it because the impact it delivered and how they describe the current of pandemic to the society. Journalist are so realistic but creative in making a news. Since people liked the idea of how other people seen the world and their thoughts with a mysterious effect, they are force to explored their news duet o curiosity. The metaphor was seen as an active and context used to elucidate the positive and negative effect of COVID-19. It might affect the perpectives of some netizens regarding a certain issues based on other point of view, but one thing is for sure, it helps us to improve our vocabulary and critical ability in their wae of utilizing metaphors.

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