

## Style in Jakarta Post Editorial

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### Abstract

The objectives of the study is to find out whether the writers' articles of the Jakarta Post issued in January 2015 have good style in their writing or not and to find out the element of style used in Jakarta Post articles issued on January 2015. The subject of the study is the Jakarta Post Issued in January 2015. There are five editorials selected and then analyzed based on Seyler's theory. Based on the analysis, the editorials applied formal words. From the analysis, it was found that the total sentence for simple sentence is 34, 14 compound sentences, 24 complex sentences, 24 expanded sentences, 2 antithesis, and 1 metaphor. In organizing the text, the writer of the editorial placed the main topic in the beginning paragraph. A writer can make good style in his/her writing by applying more active sentences in his/her writing, use familiar words and not using cliché, use short sentences, and write with nouns and verbs.

*Key words:* Stylistic Analysis, Jakarta Post.

### Introduction

In this information era, knowledge and information are important for us. There are many media to get knowledge and information, such as newspaper, television, radio and internet. Reading newspaper is the cheapest to get information. Newspaper is a kind of published writing. It can be a printed form or online newspaper. Newspaper provides a lot of accurate information like news, entertainment, fashion, sport, etc.

Newspaper has some parts of news. Parts or sections of the newspaper includes news section, opinion section, entertainment

section, sport section, and classified section. Opinion section or editorial section is section written by more than one person. This section is very interesting to read because it discusses recent issues and it is written in simple language and good style. Style makes the text interesting and meaningful.

Through style in writing, a writer shows how he or she brings across his or her message to the readers. Rozakis (2003:185) in her book *English Grammar for the Utterly Confused* said that as this analysis reveals that different writers have their own distinctive way of writing. A writer's style is his or her distinctive way of arranging

his/her ideas in a piece of paper. Good style in writing helps the readers to understand the messages the writer conveyed his/her paper without being struck in the boredom. Style is the reflection of writer's writing identity.

This paper, based on the theories of Seyler (2008), will reveal comprehensive stylistic analysis of Jakarta Post editorial section issued in January 2015 with an attempt to know whether the articles written in editorial section in Jakarta Post issued in January 2015 have good style or not. In an attempt to answer the question proposed in this paper, the writer did a comprehensive analysis of the style elements of five selected editorial taken from the Jakarta Post issued on January 2015.

### Style

The style in writing can be defined as the way the writer arranges his/her thinking in a piece of paper to deliver messages. It is the technique in which an individual author employs in his/ her writing. Style can be varied from one author to another depend on one's word choice or diction, sentence structure, organization, repetition, hyperbole, understatement, and irony, quotation marks, italics, and capital letters.

Subject matter of a writing and a writer's point of view are related to the choice of style the writer employs in his/her writing. Style presents your voice, your ideas, and the way he/she is thinking of a

subject matter. The development of a writer's writing will not bring effect on the foundation of the writing itself, but it indeed effects the changing of the style.

In *Style of Fiction*, as it is uttered by leech and Short (2007), style refers to the way in which language is used in a given context, by a given person, for a given purpose, and so on.

Sometimes, a writer employs some styles in his/her writing by coincident. He/she never intends or even thinks to employ some styles in his/her writing. Though, it is important for the writer to understand that style reflects meaning of his/her writing. In one case, if the writer wants to describe a burst of euphoria of a thing or event, he will employ such expressive modifier to describe that. Some other writers employ specific style to get the artistic effect in their writing.

Furthermore, Crystal and Davy (1980:9) said that style may refer to some or all of the language habits of one person. In addition, style refers to a selection of a language habit, the occasional linguistic idiosyncrasies which characterize an individual's uniqueness. Crystal and Davy (1980:10) also add that style is given a more restricted meaning when it is used in a valuable sense, referring to the effectiveness of a mode of expression. Style has long been associated primarily or exclusively with literature, as a characteristic of good,

effective, or beautiful writing. Regarding to that statement, style precisely can be said as a specific way a writer writes his particular writing to show his/her readers the message he/she tries to convey in his/her writing. .

### **Element of Style**

Style can be defined as any specific and deliberate way of using language which characterizes a genre, register purpose or intention in writing. Rozakis (2003: 185) also said that there are some aspects of style. Those include description, dialogue, figure of speech, parallel structure, punctuation, purpose, sentence length, sentence structure, tone, topic, voice and words.

While according to Seyler, to analyze writer's style we have to consider some components. The are word choice (formal style or informal), sentence structure (simple, compound, complex, expanded, simplistic, and antithesis), metaphore, organization, repetition, hyperbole, understatement, and irony, and quotation marks, italics, and capital letters. This paper analyzed five selected Jakarta Post editorial Issued on Januari 2015. The editorials were then analyzed by using Seler's theory about the elements of good style.

### **Research Methodology**

In this article, the writer employs descriptive qualitative design with the purpose to get understanding about some facts through thinking process. What the

writer wants to elaborate in this article is the style elements from the Jakarta Post editorial issued on January 2015. The data of this article were taken from five selected editorial from Jakarta Post issued on January 2015. The selected data were then analyzed based on Syler's theory of style elements covering word choice (formal style or informal), sentence structure (simple, compound, complex, expanded, simplistic, and antithesis), metaphore, organization, repetition, hyperbole, understatement, and irony, and quotation marks, italics, and capital letters

### **Findings and Discussion**

Before the writer presents further information related to the results of the analysis taken from five selected editorial of the Jakarta Post issued on January 2015, she will present two examples of the text analysis taken from the selected editorials. The table below presents the results found in editorial 1 issued on January 2, 2015.

**Table 1**

No	Elements of Styles	Edition, January 2, 2015
1	<b>Diction</b>	
	• Formal	Almost all of words
	• Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Auld Lang Syne</li> <li>○ Let's</li> </ul>
2	<b>Sentence Structure</b>	
	• Simple Sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ And life goes on.</li> <li>○ The past has gone</li> <li>○ The last clouds of 2014 were beset by mourning.</li> <li>○ An ocean's grave for old acquaintances who, at the midnight countdown, were brought to mind.</li> <li>○ A nation's prayers the cup of kindness shared amid the fireworks and hum of "Auld Lang Syne".</li> <li>○ The calamity of AirAsia flight QZ8501 is a cautionary tale of life's abrupt nature.</li> <li>○ Their graceful perseverance is an inspiration for us to act as their accomplice.</li> <li>○ Our empathy goes to victims of injustice.</li> <li>○ Your struggle, our mission, rectitude will be our service.</li> <li>○ And our lament to the powerful who</li> </ul>

		<p>cling to the humbug of collusion for short-term leverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Optimistically there were lessons learned, not just mistakes to be repeated again.</li> <li>○ Individually we have all lost something, time and age being the most evident.</li> <li>○ Yet, as a nation we have also reaped some fleeting hope too.</li> <li>○ Hope that will fuel our endeavors in 2015</li> <li>○ Activism, volunteerism was on the rise in 2014.</li> <li>○ This was perhaps the biggest revelation of the year</li> <li>○ The struggle of 2014 set the foundations.</li> <li>○ The New Year is a starting point to make it happen</li> <li>○ Do they not realize that 2015 is a hopeful dawn of a new kind of politics?</li> <li>○ The kind of hope that spurs confidence that each and every one of us can make a difference as long as we care enough to try</li> </ul>
	• Compound Sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The departed fade into scattered memory, their ashes</li> </ul>

e	<p>pollinate the turning soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The goodness we can bring and tragedy it springs.</li> <li>○ Our condolences may not mean much at the moment, but the prayers of the nation may help span the burden so their sorrow will not be in solitude.</li> <li>○ One in which flexing power is considered crass and the object of power is integrity</li> <li>○ Our voices do matter, our labor can induce change.</li> <li>○ Let’s make it clear: We are not struggling for cushy policies for the common man, such as subsidies and pork-barrel freebies</li> </ul>
• Complex Sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For those left behind, it is too early to think about overcoming when closure has not been fully found</li> <li>○ The same thoughts are shared with regard to the many who still dwell in makeshift camps across the country, evicted from the homes by the force of nature or the politics of prejudice</li> </ul>
• Expanded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An escalation of social consciousness spurred by an election year and</li> </ul>

	<p>realization that the privilege of education and talent are an obligation to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yet our combined exertions — be they in the political, social or economic fields — should not be of asinine populism, a trend that is politically sweeping Europe and other parts of the world.</li> <li>○ What we are endeavoring to achieve are common goals that give common ground so the common man can achieve uncommon feats to better his social status.</li> </ul>
• Simplistic	-
• Antithesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our condolences may not mean much at the moment, but the prayers of the nation may help span the burden so their sorrow will not be in solitude.</li> </ul>
• Undetected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The sanctity of time</li> <li>○ What an ordeal, what a blessing 2014 has been</li> <li>○ Those who dream anew, sprinkle hope in a new year’s spoils.</li> </ul>
<b>3 Metaphor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the cup of kindness</li> </ul>

4	<b>Organization</b>	The main paragraph is in the beginning of editorial.
5	<b>Repetition</b>	Hope is the key term
6	<b>Hyperbole, Understatement, and Irony</b>	-
7	<b>Quotation Mark, Italics, and Capital Letters</b>	○ "Auld Lang Syne"

### 1. Editorial January 2, 2015

There were two informal words were found in the editorial issued on January 2, 2015. Those words are: *Auld Lang Syne* and *Let's*. The editorial published on January 02, 2015 has 2 informal words. There are 34 sentences consisting of 21 simple sentences, 6 compound sentences, 2 complex sentences, 3 expanded sentence, 2 undetected sentences and 0 simplistic sentences. The writer also find 1 antithesis sentence which is also included in a type of a compound sentence. The key word is mentioned 7 times. There is 1 metaphore and 1 phrase that is placed in quotation marks.

Below is the example of the sentences:

There are 20 simple sentences found in the January 2 editorial. The writer presents 2 out of 20 sentences of this editorial. Those are: *The last clouds of 2014 were beset by mourning, A nation's prayers the cup of kindness shared amid the fireworks and hum of "Auld Lang Syne"*.

There are 6 compound sentences found in the editorial issued on January 2015. Here are the examples of the compound sentence found in the editorial: (1)*The goodness we can bring and tragedy it springs.* (2)*Our condolences may not mean much at the moment, but the prayers of the nation may help span the burden so their sorrow will not be in solitude.*

Two complex sentences were found in the January 2, 2015 editorial. Those sentences are: (1) *For those left behind, it is too early to think about overcoming when closure has not been fully found.* (2) *The same thoughts are shared with regard to the many who still dwell in makeshift camps across the country, evicted from the homes by the force of nature or the politics of prejudic.*

Three expanded sentences can be seen also in this editorial. Those are : (1) *An escalation of social consciousness spurred by an election year and realization that the privilege of education and talent are an obligation to others.*

(2)*Yet our combined exertions — be they in the political, social or economic fields — should not be of asinine populism, a trend that is politically sweeping Europe and*

*other parts of the world (3)What we are endeavoring to achieve are common goals that give common ground so the common man can achieve uncommon feats to better his social status.*

Simplisistic, antithesis and hyperbole are not found in this editorial. While there are 3 undetected sentences found. Those three are (1) *The sanctity of time* (2) *What an ordeal, what a blessing 2014 has been.* (3) *Those who dream anew, sprinkle hope in a new year's spoils.*

There is only 1 metaphor found. It is *the cup of kindness*, and only italics found. *It is Auld Lang Syne.* The writer repeated the word *Hope* for several times. The main idea of this editorial lies at the beginning of the paragraph.

## **2. Editorial January 9, 2015**

Some informal words were found in the editorial issued on January 9, 2015. Those words are: *Gunned down* and *I'll*. The editorial published on January 09, 2015 has 2 informal words. There are 18 sentences consisting of 7 simple sentences. Here are the two examples of the simple sentence: (1) *And in Banda Aceh, a lecturer faces intimidation and death threats for taking students to a church.* (2) *All this is based on religious interpretations alien to millions of Indonesian Muslims.*

Five compound sentences are also found in the editorial. The examples are

(1) *A statement is circulating in solidarity of the lecturer; the death threats followed Monday's publication of a story on her experience and that of her students in the Australia Plus online media outlet. Rosnida faces a penalty from her university for violating procedures, especially in sensitive situations; but some Acehnese are demanding a heavier punishment for apostasy.*

There are 4 complex sentences found in the editorial. Here are some of the examples: (1) *The latest case of violent threats comes from Banda Aceh; Dr. Rosnida Sari of the Ar-Raniry State Islamic University (UIN) reportedly received death threats after she took students to a church to hear explanations on gender relations in Christianity.* (2) *She had said she was inspired by her experience studying in Adelaide, where non-Muslims welcomed Muslims like herself.*

Four expanded sentences are also found in the sentence. Here are some of them: (1) *An attack on one newsroom is an assault against all of us working to provide a channel for non-violent public discourse.* (2) *The Acehnese are struggling to ensure the peace after surviving decades of war and the 2004 tsunami, among others, by attempting to establish a God-fearing society under sharia.*

There is no simplistic, antithesis, undetected sentence, metaphor, hyperbole are found in this editorial. The word *violence* is repeated for several times. The main idea of this editorial lies at the beginning of the text.

### 3. Editorial January 12, 2015

In this editorial, there is informal words used in this editorial. It is *Bold move*. There are three simple sentences found in the editorial. Those are: (1) *The airline companies are owned by National Awakening Party (PKB) deputy chairman Rusdi Kirana and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti, respectively.* (2) *Lion Air, the largest low-cost carrier, topped the hall of shame with 35 flights.* (3) *The now-effective ASEAN open sky policy will only spell bad weather for Indonesia if negligence regarding safety persists.*

Two compound sentences found in this editorial. Those sentences are: (1) *The message from the bold move is clear: A high level of discipline is non-negotiable in such a high-tech industry like aviation.* (2) *The mourning has not stopped since AirAsia flight QZ8501 plunged into the Karimata Strait off Central Kalimantan two weeks ago, but for Transportation Minister Ignasius Jonan, the tragedy should ignite reforms in the nation's aviation industry.*

Complex sentences were also found in this editorial. There are 6 complex sentences. Here are some of them: (1) *The suspension of 10 officials in the ministry's directorate general of air transportation and the transfer of a principal operations inspector (POI) show that Jonan wants everybody in the national transportation governing body to abide by the rules.* (2) *If they cannot comply with regulations, then how can they enforce them?*

Simplistic, antithesis, undetected sentence, and hyperbole are not found in this editorial. The word *flight* is repeated.

### 4. Editorial January 13, 2015

The editorial published in January 13, 2015 does not use informal words. There are three simple sentences found. Here are the examples: (1) *Such screening was compulsory for all candidates for his Cabinet.* (2) *Budi was an adjutant to then president Megawati Soekarnoputri from 2001 to 2004.* (3) *These questions have never been answered by the police.*

Compound sentence was found two. Here are the sentences: (1) *The KIP ruled in favor of ICW, but the National Police simply ignored the ruling.* (2) *But this clarification had many holes and was in effect rather meaningless since the examination was done only by the police.*

Complex sentence was found six. Here are some of the examples: (1) *Megawati is the current chief of the Indonesian*



*Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), which sponsored Jokowi's presidential bid.*

*(2) The question is why Jokowi felt it so urgent to replace Sutarman, who has led the police for only around 18 months and who, to our knowledge, has not committed any major violations of the law to justify his replacement almost 10 months before his retirement age.*

There are six expanded sentences in this editorial. Here are some of the examples: *(1) We therefore urge the House of Representatives to involve the KPK, the PPATK and tax auditors in the process of clearing him for the role of police chief, who, together with the attorney general, leads law enforcement. (2) Without independent clearance, doubts will continue to linger over Budi's integrity, a fundamental requirement for the job of chief law enforcer. (3) Also worrisome is the question of whose influence has been so powerful that Jokowi has been forced to compromise on or entirely disregard his basic principle of impeccable integrity, exempting Budi from the screening process at the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and PPATK.*

Simplistic, metaphor, undetected sentence and hyperbole are not found in the text. There is only one antithesis found in the text. it is: *The KIP ruled in favor of ICW, but the National Police simply ignored the ruling.* The main idea of this

text lies in the beginning of the text. The word *i* is repeated for several times.

## 5. Editorial January 19, 2015

Most of the words in the editorial January 19 2015 used formal words. Simple sentence was found only 1 sentence. Here is the sentence: *Poor and inadequate infrastructure has long been the biggest barrier to economic growth and competitiveness.* There is only one compound sentence in the editorial. The sentence is: *But allocating larger sums of budget funds for infrastructure development is only part of the task.*

There are four complex sentence in this editorial. Here are some of the sentences: *(1) We hope the House would approve the proposed additional investments because they would go a long way toward accelerating infrastructure development. (2) As a net oil importer since 2004, Indonesia enjoys a state budget windfall "saving" every time international oil prices fall steeply and allow for a massive cut or the abolishment of fuel subsidies.*

There are seven expanded sentences found in the editorial. Here are some of the sentences: *(1) The additional capital injection will be made in seaport management and operating company PT Pelabuhan Indonesia, airport management company PT Angkasa Pura, railway company PT Kereta Api*

*Indonesia, construction firm PT Wijaya Karya and Bank Mandiri, the country's largest bank, to increase its resources to be used as loans for infrastructure construction. (2) Pouring additional infrastructure financing into state companies could be even more effective in speeding up infrastructure development, given the perpetually adequate institutional capacity of the government in implementing its investment budget.*

Simplistic, antithesis, metaphor, and hyperbole are not found in the editorial. The main idea lies at the beginning of the text. The word *infrastructure* is repeated several times.

### Conclusion

This editorial analysis is loaded with stylistic elements. Each of the element performs contribution dealing with the effective communication between the writer and the reader and the delivery of the writer's intended message. The sentential structure in the editorials is mostly written in complex sentence. It communicates the writer's intention in conveying his/her messages to his /her readers. A writer can make good style in his/her writing by applying more active sentences in his/her writing, use familiar words and not using cliché, use short sentences, and write with nouns and verbs.

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