

DIMENSION OF MEANING ANALYSIS IN JAKARTA POST: A CONTENT ANALYSIS STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the dimension of meaning in The Jakarta Post article based on the semantic theory of Kreidler (1998), which includes denotation, connotation, meaning relations, lexical meaning, grammatical meaning, morpheme, homonym, and polysemie. This qualitative research uses descriptive content analysis method. The data consists of 10 articles of The Jakarta Post that were purposively selected based on the diversity of themes and linguistic relevance. The data were collected through documentation, then analyzed systematically through data reduction, categorization, interpretation, and conclusion drawn. The results show that denotative meaning dominates the delivery of factual information, while connotative meaning is used to provide evaluative and persuasive nuances. The relationship of meaning plays an important role in building text cohesion. Additionally, lexical meanings and grammatical meanings work simultaneously in forming a complete contextual understanding. Analysis of morphemes shows that the processes of derivation and inflection successfully enrich the formation of word meanings. In addition, the use of polysemies has been shown to be much more common than homonyms because it is able to provide a high flexibility of meaning in a journalistic context. Overall, this study successfully integrates various semantic components to uncover how meaning is systematically constructed by mass media.

Keywords: *Content Analysis, Journalistic Language, Meaning Dimension, Semantics, The Jakarta Post*

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INTRODUCTION

Language is the main medium of public communication and shapes meaning, especially in mass media. Semantics helps us understand how meaning is created both literally and through context and structure (Löbner, 2014). English-language news

media, such as The Jakarta Post, convey meaning through denotation, connotation, and other relations that influence readers. Although media discourse has been studied, few works examine all dimensions like connotation, denotation, sense relations, and phenomena such as homonymy and polysemy together (Muhhit, 2025). A systematic, semantics-focused approach is needed to address this gap. This is because modern mass media such as The Jakarta Post not only function to present news objectively, but also to channel hidden opinions and viewpoints that can deeply affect readers' perceptions. A comprehensive semantic study is needed to unravel how word choice, meaning relationships, and combinations of connotations and denotations work in directing public opinion. Without a structured method to test the relationship between these elements of meaning, media text analysis will only produce superficial conclusions. A systematic semantic approach is expected to be able to decipher the complexity of messages, identify media biases scientifically, and make a real contribution to enriching the literature on linguistics-based critical discourse analysis in Indonesia.

In order to overcome the limitations of analysis that tends to be fragmented as described earlier, an approach is needed that is able to integrate various components of meaning into a single unit of analysis. This requires the application of a systematic semantic framework to media texts that have high linguistic complexity to see how the various dimensions of meaning interact with each other in the context of real communication. Thus, the transition from a general theoretical foundation to a more specific analysis is carried out through an in-depth examination of the mass media that is considered representative in building public discourse.

In a more specific context, journalistic texts deliver factual information. They also use specific words and grammatical choices that implicitly shape a particular perspective (Tasneem, 2025). They represent a variety of themes and writing styles relevant to social, political, and cultural dynamics. Analyzing these articles enables an in-depth exploration of how semantic elements create meaning. In this case, Kreidler (1998) provided the main foundation, especially for classifying and analyzing different dimensions of meaning. The selection of articles from *The Jakarta Post* is based on its ability to represent a variety of themes and writing styles that are relevant to social, political, and cultural dynamics. In addition, journalistic texts in The Jakarta Post are considered ideal objects of study because the use of words and their specific grammatical choices implicitly form a certain perspective in conveying factual information.

Several previous studies have examined the dimensions of meaning in media texts using various semantic approaches. In general, these studies show that analyzing denotative and connotative meanings is important for uncovering ideologies, authors' attitudes, and framing strategies in journalistic discourse (Komatsubara, 2024). In addition, some studies have also highlighted the importance of sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, and morphological phenomena in building the cohesion and coherence of texts (Lyons, 2019). However, most studies tend to focus on one or two semantic aspects separately, thereby failing to provide a comprehensive picture of the interactions among the dimensions of meaning in a single analysis (Marynenko,

2023). In this context, the theoretical framework put forward by Kreidler (1998) offers a more holistic approach to integrating various components of meaning into a single analysis. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by simultaneously examining various dimensions of meaning in news texts, particularly in articles published by *The Jakarta Post*.

The use of the Kreidler (1998) framework was emphasized as a solution to the limitations of previous research. Although many studies have addressed media discourse, most tend to focus only on one or two semantic aspects separately. Kreidler's framework was chosen because it offers a more holistic approach that integrates various components of meaning, such as denotation, connotation, and meaning relations, to homonyms and polysemic phenomena into a single analysis. This allows for an in-depth exploration of how those semantic elements interact in building the cohesion and coherence of the text.

This research addresses an understudied aspect in meaning analysis: integrating analysis of meaning into a single content analysis framework for media texts. Unlike studies that focus on only one or two semantic aspects, this study combines key components from semantic theory. This research focuses its analysis on *The Jakarta Post* as the main English-language mass media that has a significant influence in shaping readers' perspectives through its journalistic language choices. The selection of ten articles as samples was carried out deliberately to represent a variety of social, political, and cultural themes, where the texts were considered ideal objects of study to dissect how implicit meaning is constructed in the delivery of factual information. To conduct an in-depth analysis, this study uses the framework of Kreidler (1998). This theoretical foundation was chosen because it offers a more holistic approach than previous studies that tend to be fragmented, by integrating various dimensions, such as denotation, connotation, and meaning relations, to homonymic and polysemic phenomena into a single analytical framework to produce a more comprehensive picture of meaning construction.

Given the limited sample size, this study is positioned as an exploratory study that aims to systematically answer research questions related to how denotative and connotative meanings are realized, how sense relations are formed, and how lexical, grammatical, and morphemic meanings work in texts. The significance of this research lies in its methodological contribution to expanding the scope of semantic analysis in media studies. By applying a holistic method to understand the complexity of journalistic language in this specific dataset, this study not only uncovers the deep layers of meaning in the texts studied but also provides a framework that can be used as a reference for future research with larger data scales.

Although this research is positioned as an exploratory study with a limited sample size, this initial methodological step is crucial in laying the foundation for the development of a much more comprehensive model of media text analysis in the future. Through a systematic exploration of aspects of denotative, connotative, meaning relationships, and how lexical, grammatical, and morphemical meanings work in texts, this research does not simply decompose linguistic elements separately, but offers a

holistic framework that can be effectively replicated on a broader data scale. The importance of the formulation of this new framework is a direct bridge to overcome methodological limitations that have often hindered the development of media studies in general. It is at this point that the urgency of this research shifts from just an initial exploration to a concrete effort to fill a very significant academic gap. So far, the analysis of the meaning of media texts tends to ignore the integration of various semantic dimensions into a cohesive and in-depth content analysis framework. In fact, modern journalistic language has extraordinary complexity that does not only function as a medium for conveying factual information to the wider community. Moreover, language in news is also a hidden means that actively brings certain ideologies, attitudes, and biases on the part of the author. Therefore, the incorporation of the integrated semantic aspects proposed in this exploratory study becomes very relevant for further development. By linking the microlinguistic structure found in a limited sample with theoretical efforts to integrate a broader semantic dimension, this study succeeds in providing a much more complete and in-depth picture of how the construction of meaning is carried out in the newsroom. This transition from exploratory methodologies to integrative analytical frameworks ultimately expands the horizons of media studies in understanding journalistic language in a more dynamic, multidimensional, critical, and contextual way.

The significance of this research lies in its efforts to fill the gap in the analysis of the meaning of media texts, which have so far rarely integrated various semantic dimensions into a single content analysis framework. This research is important because it can provide a more comprehensive picture of the construction of meaning in journalistic language, expand the scope of semantic analysis in media studies, and provide a holistic method for understanding the complexity of journalistic language that not only conveys information but also carries the ideology and attitude of the author.

In particular, this study aims to analyze how the dimensions of meaning, including connotation, denotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, morphemes, as well as homonyms and polysemy, are represented in *The Jakarta Post* articles based on the theoretical framework of Kreidler (1998). The research questions asked are: 1) How are the forms and functions of denotative and connotative meanings in the text? 2) How are sense relations manifested in the article? 3) How are lexical and grammatical meanings constructed? 4) What is the role of morphemes in the formation of the meaning of the journalistic text? 5) How do homonyms and polysemy phenomena arise in this journalistic context? This article is systematically arranged as follows: the first part presents an introduction, followed by a literature review, research methodology, results and discussion, and ends with conclusions and suggestions.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive content analysis method that is oriented towards the exploration of meaning in journalistic texts. This

approach was chosen because it is in line with the research objectives, which are to answer research questions related to how various dimensions of meaning, connotation, denotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, morphemes, as well as homonyms and polysemy, are constructed in the text. Content analysis allows researchers to systematically identify patterns, categories, and meaning-relationships in textual data (Carley, 1993). The framework of analysis is based on the semantic theory of Kreidler (1998), which provides an operational, comprehensive conceptual framework for examining the dimensions of meaning.

The data sources in this study are 10 articles published by *The Jakarta Post*. This research places The Jakarta Post as the main object of study because of its role as a leading English-language mass media that actively shapes meaning through the use of specific language. A total of ten articles were deliberately selected from texts published in the period 2024 to 2025. The selection of articles in this period aims to represent a variety of themes and writing styles that are relevant to current social, political, and cultural dynamics. In this context, journalistic texts not only serve as a conveyor of factual information, but also use specific word choices and grammar that implicitly form a particular perspective in conveying news. The selection of articles was carried out by purposive sampling by considering several criteria: (1) articles are written in English as the main language of the media, (2) have a diversity of themes (social, political, cultural, or educational) to capture variations in language use, (3) are published in a certain time span that is relevant to contemporary issues, and (4) have sufficient linguistic density to be analyzed semantically. The determination of the number of ten articles is based on the principle of data saturation in qualitative research, thereby allowing for in-depth analysis without sacrificing interpretive accuracy (Hennink & Kaiser, 2022). The article titles analyzed in this study are presented in the following table:

Table 1 List of Analyzed Jakarta Post Articles

No.	Article Titles
1.	Saudi Arabia readies for worst-case scenario in sweltering hajj
2.	Pertamina ready to tap disputed Ambalat block, awaits greenlight
3.	Cambodia called on Thailand on Thursday to return 20 soldiers.
4.	First humanoid robot half-marathon postponed due to weather
5.	Ministry lambasts LG for exiting battery project in Indonesia
6.	Members of HK's Democratic Party approve plan to disband
7.	Saudi Arabia says Israel shows 'extremism' by blocking West Bank Visit
8.	Prabowo calls out Western silence on Gaza
9.	Prabowo vows to clean house amid calls for a reshuffle
10.	East Java provincial government said it would soon launch a feasibility study to develop the Greater Surabaya Light Rail Transit (LRT) system.

For easy identification and analysis, the articles are then coded into Articles 1 to 10, in the order in the table above.

Data collection is carried out through documentation, namely by downloading and archiving the articles under research. Each article is then transcribed into an analysis format to facilitate coding. The next stage is the data coding process, in which linguistic units (words, phrases, or clauses) are identified and classified according to semantic categories based on Kreidler's (1998) theory. This coding process is carried out systematically using a predefined category scheme to maintain analysis consistency and enable replication by other researchers (Vanover et al., 2021).

Data analysis follows a structured content analysis stage. First, data reduction involves selecting language units relevant to the research focus. Second, categorization is carried out by grouping data into meaning dimensions such as denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, morphemes, as well as homonymies and polysemies based on the framework of Kreidler (1998). Third, interpretation of meaning is carried out by analyzing the function and context of each category's use in the text. The final stage is the drawing of conclusions that integrate all the findings to answer the research questions comprehensively. This procedure is designed in a transparent, systematic manner so it can be replicated in similar studies. The validity of the data is also maintained through theoretical triangulation by comparing research findings with concepts in semantic theory, especially those put forward by Kreidler (1998). In addition, peer debriefing or validation by experts is carried out to test the consistency of interpretation and reduce the subjectivity bias of researchers (Spall, 1998). This strategy aims to increase the credibility and dependability of research results.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Denotation and Connotation Analysis

The results of this analysis are the output of a series of systematic content analysis stages, namely data reduction, categorization based on a semantic framework, interpretation of meaning, and conclusions drawn. This process allows for a structured identification of linguistic units that convey denotative and connotative meanings across 10 articles from *The Jakarta Post*. The following table is compiled to provide a concise but comprehensive visual representation of the distribution of data, the types of words or phrases analyzed, and the interpretation of the resulting meaning.

Table 2 The Analysis Results of Denotation and Connotation

Article	Word/Sentence (Denotation/Reference)	Analysis (Denotation)	Word/Sentence (Connotation)	Analysis (Connotation)
1	Pilgrims	Refers to specific Muslims in Mecca; denotes a religious traveler.	Scorching heat	Implies extreme, dangerous, and oppressive temperatures.
	Hospital	Refers to Mina Emergency	A flood of cases	Implies an overwhelming,

		Hospital; denotes a medical treatment facility.		uncontrollable surge of patients.
2	Ambalat Block	Refers to a specific maritime zone; denotes an oil/gas exploration area.	'Disputed', 'Partnership'	Suggests underlying political tension vs. diplomatic hope.
3	Cambodia	Refers to the Cambodian government; denotes a nation-state.	Called on / Return	Implies formal diplomacy and restoration rather than force.
4	Beijing	Refers to the specific capital city in China.	Milestone	Suggests a major, historic achievement beyond a simple event.
	2025 Half Marathon	Refers to a specific race; denotes a ~21km running event.	Breakthroughs	Implies significant innovation and technical mastery.
5	Energy Ministry	Refers to the specific Indonesian government institution.	Lambasts	Implies harsh, public criticism and deep dissatisfaction.
6	Central Committee	Refers to a specific governing body within a political party.	Activists	Implies individuals possessing political courage or conviction.
7	Prince Faisal	Refers to the actual human holding the diplomatic office.	'Extremism', 'Arrogance'	Carries strong negative weight; implies moral condemnation.
8	Prabowo Subianto	Refers to the specific individual serving as President.	Wake-up call	Implies a vital warning to realize a neglected truth.
9	Cabinet Ministers	Refers to specific government officials; denotes ministry leaders.	Clean yourselves up	Implies purging corruption and improving ethical conduct.
10	LRT system	Refers to the specific transport project; denotes urban rail.	Too costly / Less suitable	Implies a negative evaluation or rejection of alternatives.

a. The Dominance of Denotative Meanings in the Representation of Facts

Thematically, referential words such as "*pilgrims*", "*Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry*", and "*President Prabowo Subianto*" dominate the delivery of journalistic facts. The use of these stable denotative terms is essential to build the credibility and objectivity of news by referring directly to real entities in the real world.

b. Strengthening Meaning through Connotations in Journalistic Discourse

Despite presenting facts denotatively, the articles actively use connotative word choices such as "scorching heat" and "lambasts" to direct reader perception. The word "scorching" not only refers to high temperatures but also creates a dramatic impression and extreme danger, while "lambasts" communicates the intensity of political criticism that is particularly sharp. These connotations are often strategically placed in headlines and initial sentences to capture the reader's attention right from the start.

These two dimensions often interact simultaneously in a single sentence; for example, the denotative mention of a geographic or political entity is juxtaposed with a connotative phrase (such as "wake-up call") that serves as a symbolic warning in the context of political discourse.

Sense Relations Analysis

An analysis of the relationship of meaning focuses on how the relationships between lexical elements are formed to build cohesion and clarity of arguments in news texts.

Table 3 The Analysis Results of The Sense Relations

Article	Word Pairs / Groups	Semantic Relationship	Brief Analysis
1	Heat exhaustion & Heat-related conditions	Synonymy	Both expressions describe medical conditions caused by extreme heat.
	Shade & Sun	Antonymy	Contrasting concepts; one represents the source of heat, the other protection from it.
2	Oil & Gas / Exploration & Production	Collocation / Field	Words grouped by industry (energy) and chronological stages of extraction.
3	Truce & Ceasefire	Synonymy	Both refer to a temporary, formal agreement to stop hostilities.
4	Robot & Human	Co-hyponyms	Both are categories of participants (runners) within the context of the race.
	Running & Walking	Co-hyponyms	Related actions under the broader category of "locomotion" or "movement."
5	Deal & Agreement	Synonymy	Interchangeable terms for a formal arrangement between two parties.
6	Central Committee & Members	Meronymy / Hierarchy	Describes the relationship between a specific governing body and its constituents.

7	Conference & Summit	Synonymy / Hyponymy	Both are formal gatherings; a "summit" is a specific high-level type of conference.
8	Silence & Inaction	Semantic Proximity	Both convey passivity; one is a lack of speech, the other a lack of physical response.
9	Misappropriation, Corruption, Manipulation	Semantic Field	A cluster of terms describing various forms of unethical power abuse.
10	Tram, MRT, & LRT	Co-hyponyms	Distinct types of transport that share the "superordinate" category of rail-based transit.

The use of variations of meaning relationships such as synonyms (truce & ceasefire), antonyms (shade & sun), and co-hyponyms (Tram, MRT, & LRT) not only enrich the aesthetics of journalistic language, but rather reinforce the logical structure of the news text. Synonymous relationships help avoid monotonous repetition of words, while antonymic contrasts clarify the boundaries of the extreme situations reported.

Important findings show that meaning relationships serve as cognitive tools for readers. Word clusters in a single semantic field such as "misappropriation", "corruption", and "manipulation" help readers conceptualize that the reported issues are not just a single event, but part of a more systematic and broader problem of abuse of power.

Lexical and Grammatical Meaning Analysis

Each linguistic unit is analyzed to see the synergy between the stable (lexical) dictionary meaning and the meaning constructed by the grammatical (grammatical) structure.

Table 4 The Analysis Results of Lexical and Grammatical Meaning

Article	Lexical (Word/Sense)	Lexical Analysis	Grammatical (Structure)	Grammatical Analysis
1	Pilgrimage	Dictionary meaning: A religious journey to a holy place.	Had arrived	Past Perfect: Action completed before a specific point in the past.
2	Exploration	Refers to an investigation to discover new resources.	Has expressed	Present Perfect: Past action with current relevance or impact.
3	Fled	Dictionary meaning: To run away from danger/place.	Fled	Past Tense: Indicates the escape happened at a specific point in the past.
4	Humanoid / Race	Words related to the physical reality of a competition.	Will race	Future Tense: Indicates an event that has yet to occur.

5	Withdraw	Dictionary meaning: To remove oneself or stop participating.	Lambasts	Simple Present: Typical news headline style; indicates immediate relevance.
6	Activists	Refers to people campaigning for social/political change.	Approved	Simple Past: Indicates the decision-making process is finished.
7	War	Stable sense: Armed conflict between organized groups.	Would have marked	Counterfactual: Indicates a planned event that did not actually happen.
8	Conflict	Dictionary meaning: A serious disagreement or struggle.	Has called out	Present Perfect: Connects a past diplomatic action to the current state.
9	Get rid of	Phrasal verb: To remove someone from a position/duty.	Would not hesitate	Modal Auxiliary: Expresses future intention and strong determination.
10	Feasibility study	Technical term: An analysis of a project's viability.	Would soon launch	Future-in-the-Past: Describes a plan reported from a past perspective.

Lexical meanings provide a stable conceptual foundation for the reader through dictionary-clear definitions of words (such as "war", "conflict", or "feasibility study"). Meanwhile, grammatical meanings are in charge of regulating temporal aspects, modalities, and chronological relationships between events through tense variations.

For example, the use of the past perfect structure ("had arrived") grammatically clarifies the chronological order of events in the past. Conversely, counterfactual constructions such as "would have marked" convey important information about diplomatic plans that in reality failed to materialize. Based on the reader's confirmation data, this combination greatly helps them understand not only what happened (lexical), but also when and how the event is temporally (grammatically connected).

Morpheme Analysis

Morpheme analysis aims to decipher how the morphological structure of words (through the process of derivation and inflection) actively enriches the formation of meaning in journalistic texts.

Table 5 The analysis results of the Morpheme

Article	Word	Morphological Breakdown	Analysis
1	Workers	work + -er + -s	Work (root) + -er (noun-maker) + -s (plural).
	Illnesses	ill + -ness + -es	Ill (root) + -ness (abstract noun) + -es (plural).
2	Readiness	ready + -ness	Ready (root) + -ness (suffix creating a state/quality).

3	Cambodian	Cambodia + -an	Cambodia (root) + -an (suffix denoting nationality).
4	Development	develop + -ment	Develop (root) + -ment (suffix forming a noun).
	Participating	participate + -ing	Participate (root) + -ing (inflectional suffix for participle).
5	Ministry	minister + -y	Minister (root) + -y (suffix denoting a collective body).
6	Liquidation	liquid + -ate + -ion	Liquid (root) + -ate (verb suffix) + -ion (noun suffix).
7	Extremism	extreme + -ism	Extreme (root) + -ism (denotes a belief or practice).
8	Western	west + -ern	West (root) + -ern (adjective suffix for direction).
9	Misappropriation	mis- + appropriate + -ion	Mis- (wrong) + Appropriate (take) + -ion (noun form).
10	Delays	delay + -s	Delay (root) + -s (inflectional suffix for plural).

Most of the vocabulary in The Jakarta Post article is formed through complex morphological processes. The process of derivation through noun-forming suffixes such as -ness (readiness), -ment (development), and -ion (misappropriation) is proven to dominate the text. These suffixes are very important because they change the class of words (e.g., adjectives or verbs to abstract nouns) in order to formulate complex sociopolitical concepts in the newsroom.

On the other hand, inflection processes such as the addition of plural suffixes (-s/-es in workers or illnesses) and partial markers (-ing) provide grammatical modifications without changing the class of the base word. This morphological awareness helps the reader to reconstruct meaning independently; the reader can guess the meaning of a complex term (such as misappropriation) by parsing its morphemic components (the prefix mis-, which means "wrong" or "bad").

Homonymy and Polysemy Analysis

This subchapter analyzes how the phenomenon of lexical ambiguity, especially words with multiple meanings, arises and is resolved in mass media texts.

Table 6 The Analysis Results of Homonymy and Polysemy

Article	Word	Homonymy (Unrelated Meanings)	Polysemy (Related/Metaphorical Meanings)	Analysis
1	Case	Yes	—	Case 1: Medical condition. Case 2: A container/box. Unrelated origins.
	Heat	—	Yes	1: Atmospheric temperature. 2: Internal body temperature. Both relate to thermal energy.

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	Fan	Yes	—	1: Cooling machine. 2: Enthusiastic supporter. No semantic connection.
	Head	—	Yes	1: Part of the body. 2: To lead/be at the front. The second is a metaphorical extension of the first.
2	Ready	Yes	—	1: Prepared (text). 2: Slang for cash (<i>readies</i>). Distinct conceptual roots.
	Block	—	Yes	1: Solid physical object. 2: A defined section of land/sea. Related by the concept of "boundaries."
3	Border	Yes	—	1: Geographic frontier. 2: A person who pays for a room (<i>boarder</i>). Homophones with different roots.
4	Race	—	Yes	1: Running contest. 2: Ethnic group. Both involve categorizing/grouping people.
5	Battery	—	Yes	1: Electrical storage. 2: A group of artillery. Franklin named the electrical cell after the military "set."
6	Party	—	Yes	1: Political organization. 2: Social celebration. Both involve a group of people gathered for a purpose.
7	State	—	Yes	1: Political territory. 2: A condition of being. Both relate to a specific status or standing.
8	Silence	—	Yes	1: Absence of sound. 2: Absence of diplomatic action. The second is a metaphorical application of the first.
9	Clean	—	Yes	1: Free of dirt. 2: Free of corruption. "Ethical purity" is a metaphorical extension of "physical purity."
10	Launch	—	Yes	1: Set a ship to sea. 2: Start a project. Both involve the initial "push" into motion.

Interesting findings show that the phenomenon of polysemimes dominates journalistic texts much more than homonyms. The dominance of polysemimes, such as the word "clean" which means free from dirt and free from corruption, occurs because journalistic language requires a high degree of flexibility in meaning to formulate a dense and persuasive message. In contrast, homonyms (such as "case" or "fan") tend to

be avoided or limited because they have the potential for extreme ambiguity that can disrupt the reader's understanding if not managed carefully.

Despite the potential for lexical ambiguity, the reader is still able to interpret the meaning of the word precisely and instantly. This shows that the syntactic and situational context in news articles acts as a very effective disambiguation mechanism, so that the contextual meaning is immediately apparent without confusing the reader.

Discussion

The main findings of this study show that meaning in journalistic texts is not singular, but rather the result of the interaction of various semantic dimensions, especially denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, morphemes, and lexical ambiguities (homonymies and polysemy). In particular, denotative meanings have proven to be dominant in conveying factual information, while connotative meanings function as evaluative and persuasive tools. In addition, sense relations strengthen lexical cohesion, while grammatical meanings govern temporal and modal aspects. Morphemes contribute to the formation of word meanings, and polysemy provides semantic flexibility in various contexts. These findings reinforce the view that semantic analysis in media cannot be limited to just two dimensions, but must include various linguistic components, as affirmed by Haber and Poesio (2024). Thus, this study answers the research question by showing that the construction of meaning in The Jakarta Post article is the result of the integration of various complementary linguistic components. Readers are expected to gain an understanding that journalistic language not only conveys facts but also shapes interpretation through strategic linguistic choices.

The need to dissect these texts in depth arises from the fact that journalistic language not only conveys facts, but also actively shapes readers' interpretation through strategic linguistic choices. Since the media is not completely neutral and every lexical choice has the power to influence public perception, the semantic analysis carried out should no longer be limited to just one or two dimensions. This is a crucial point to move away from previous research approaches that are often fragmented and partial to a more integrated method. Thus, a framework is needed that is able to knit various semantic components, ranging from denotation, connotation, to meaning relations, into a complete analysis to uncover the complex architecture of meaning in the discourse of the media.

When placed in the context of previous research, these findings are in line with semantic studies that emphasize the importance of denotative and connotative meanings in media discourse (Talan et al., 2025), as well as showing that media are not completely neutral because lexical choices can influence readers' interpretation (Baghirova, 2026). In addition, the results of this study reinforce the role of sense relations in building the cohesion of texts, as stated by Wan et al. (2022), although previous research has often not directly linked them to communicative functions (Allwood et al., 1992). The findings related to lexical and grammatical meanings are also consistent with the view that they are a major component in language systems

(Ardila, 2012), and are reinforced by morphological analyses that show the role of derivation and inflection in expanding meaning (Lieber, 2004). Furthermore, the dominant polysemic phenomenon in this study supports the argument that lexical ambiguity is an inherent trait of language that provides the flexibility of meaning (Klepousniotou, 2002; Nerlich & Clarke, 2003). However, in contrast to previous studies that tend to be fragmented and partial (Yousif, 2023), this study integrates various dimensions of meaning in one comprehensive analytical framework as proposed by Kreidler (1998).

However, there were some unexpected findings. One of them is the dominance of polysemy over homonyms in the texts analyzed, which suggests that journalistic language is more likely to use flexible and contextual meanings than completely separate meanings. These findings can be explained by the tendency of media language to avoid extreme ambiguities that can interfere with understanding, as well as being mentioned in previous studies that homonymies have the potential to create ambiguity if they are not supported by a clear context (Tifani & Damanik, 2025). In addition, it was found that connotations often appear in the title and beginning of the article, which indicates a rhetorical strategy to attract the reader's attention. These findings also fill in the gaps of previous research that tended to discuss ambiguity theoretically without application to authentic journalistic texts (Al-Halawi, 2025), as well as reinforce the relevance of real data-driven analysis in understanding the function of meaning in the context of the media.

The selection of ten authentic articles from The Jakarta Post is a crucial step because it is able to fill the gap in previous research that often discusses theoretical ambiguity without application to real journalistic texts. However, the use of this relatively small dataset presents its own methodological challenges, where the limited amount of data can limit the generalization of the findings broadly. In addition, semantic analysis of aspects such as connotations and polysememes is highly dependent on the interpretation of the researcher, so it has a fairly high potential for subjective bias. This phenomenon becomes particularly relevant given that the findings show that media language tends to use flexible and contextual meanings to avoid extreme ambiguities that can hinder readers' understanding. In order to mitigate the risk of this subjectivity and ensure that analysis remains based on strong data, a transition to the implementation of transparent analytical procedures is needed. The need for a framework that is able to integrate authentic data analysis with an established theoretical structure is a solution to strengthen the validity of research and provide space for the development of content analysis methodologies in the future. Therefore, the use of a systematic theoretical foundation is an absolute prerequisite for objectively dissecting the complexity of lexical and grammatical meanings in the discourse of the media.

This study has several limitations that need to be considered. First, the limited amount of data in 10 articles limits the generalization of the findings. Second, semantic analysis, especially on the aspects of connotation and polysemy, is highly dependent on the interpretation of the researcher, so it has the potential to contain subjective bias.

Third, this study does not consider external factors such as the socio-political context in depth, which can actually affect the construction of meaning in the text. In addition, methodological limitations that were also identified in previous research, such as the lack of an authentic data-driven content analysis approach (Hunting, 2021), suggest that although this research has made systematic efforts, there is still room for further development. Nevertheless, the use of a systematic theoretical framework and transparent analytical procedures is expected to minimize these limitations.

The importance of making the transition from data selection to the application of a solid analytical framework is based on a full awareness of the complexity of journalistic language that is never neutral in shaping public discourse. In an effort to dissect the ten selected articles from *The Jakarta Post*, the researchers had to face a variety of significant methodological challenges, especially related to the limited amount of data that inherently limited the generalization of the research findings broadly. However, this limitation reinforces the need for highly in-depth, structured analysis to compensate for the relatively small dataset. Given that semantic analysis, especially when it comes to the aspects of connotation and polysemy, is highly dependent on the interpretation of the researcher and has the potential to give rise to subjective biases, a theoretical bridge is needed that is able to provide transparent and systematic analytical procedures. This is increasingly crucial because literature studies show that there are still large gaps in integrative semantic research that often fail to relate the various dimensions of meaning into a single analysis. Efforts to fill those gaps are made by adopting approaches designed to minimize methodological limitations often found in previous research, such as the lack of a truly authentic data-driven content analysis approach. By integrating thematic data selection with a systematic theoretical framework, this study not only seeks to describe textual meaning, but also aims to provide a methodological model that can be further developed in the study of media linguistics in the future, either through the expansion of the volume of data or through integration with pragmatic approaches or broader critical discourse analysis. Thus, the shift from the data collection stage to the use of the Kreidler framework is a strategic step to ensure that any interpretation of meaning has a strong theoretical foundation and accountable scientific procedures to reduce the impact of subjectivity.

Based on these findings and limitations, further research is recommended to expand the amount and variation of data, for example, by analyzing more articles or comparing different media. In addition, future research can integrate pragmatic approaches or critical discourse analysis to explore the relationship between language and power. Quantitative studies can also be conducted to measure the frequency of use of the meaning dimension more objectively. This approach is important given that there are still gaps in integrative semantic research (Yousif, 2023), so that further exploration can make a broader contribution to the study of linguistics and media.

In conclusion, this study confirms that the analysis of the dimension of meaning in journalistic texts is an important approach to understanding how language works in shaping social reality. By referring to Kreidler's (1998) theoretical framework, this

study shows that meaning in texts is not only literal, but also influenced by semantic relationships, grammatical structures, and morphological processes. The implications of this study are not only relevant for the study of linguistics, but also for the field of communication and media, as they help uncover how language is used strategically to convey information while shaping public perception, as it is also affirmed in the development of the semantic study of contemporary media (Haber & Poesio, 2024).

CONCLUSION

This research contributes to the study of semantics in media discourse by comprehensively examining various dimensions of meaning in journalistic texts. Through an analysis of 10 articles from The Jakarta Post, it was found that the meaning in the text is not only literal, but is built through the interaction between denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meanings, morphemic structures, and ambiguity phenomena such as homonyms and polysemies. These findings show that denotative meanings act as the foundation of factual information, while other dimensions serve to enrich, direct, and contextualize the message conveyed. Thus, the purpose of the research to uncover the complexity of the construction of meaning in media texts has been achieved, while affirming that journalistic language is a dynamic and strategic system in shaping public perception.

However, this study has limitations, especially in the relatively limited amount of data and the potential for subjectivity in the interpretation of meaning, especially in the aspects of connotation and lexical ambiguity. In addition, this study has not in-depth linked semantic analysis to the broader socio-political context, which can actually enrich the understanding of the use of language in the media. Therefore, further research is recommended to expand the scope of the data, combine qualitative and quantitative approaches, and integrate pragmatic perspectives or critical discourse analysis to get a more comprehensive picture.

The significance of this study lies in the integrative approach used, which not only fills in the gaps in previous research but also offers an analytical framework that can be applied to different types of texts. In practice, the findings of this research can be used in the field of language education, especially in improving students' semantic awareness and critical analysis skills towards media texts. In addition, for media and communication practitioners, understanding the dimension of meaning can help in compiling texts that are more effective, accurate, and responsible. As such, this research is not only theoretically relevant but also has significant practical implications in the context of real-world language use.

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