

Modality Realization in Covid-19 Academic Papers

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ABSTRAK

Modalitas sering digunakan baik dalam materi lisan maupun tulisan. Namun, tidak ada seorangpun yang mengetahui bentuk-bentuk modalitas dan nilai-nilai yang diwujudkan dalam teks tulis akademik hingga mereka melakukan kajian. Tujuan penelitian ini yaitu menganalisis bentuk dan nilai modalitas serta menyelidiki bagaimana modalitas tersebut diwujudkan dalam artikel akademis Covid-19. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dan teori Halliday. Datanya terdiri dari klausa enam artikel jurnal sosial dan politik Covid-19 dengan berbagai topik, seperti (sosial, ekonomi, politik, kesehatan, komunikasi, dan pariwisata). Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan pendekatan dokumenter. Model yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah model interaktif. Teknik analisis data menggunakan analisis deskriptif kualitatif. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian ini, terdapat 260 klausa yang memuat modalitas, dan terdapat dua jenis modalitas yang digunakan di dalamnya. Penelitian ini juga menemukan realisasi modalitas sebagai operator modal yang sering digunakan dalam makalah akademis Covid-19, sebagaimana adanya. ditemukan 238 operator modal. Selain itu penulis umumnya menggunakan operator modal terbatas dalam artikelnya karena terdapat 238 operator modal yang ditemukan dan diikuti oleh tambahan modal dengan jumlah 18. Sebaliknya, prediktor kata kerja pasif dan kata sifat jarang ditemukan.

ABSTRACT

Modalities are often used in both spoken and written material. However, people only know the modalities and values manifested in academic written texts once they conduct a study. This research aims to analyze the form and matter of modalities and investigate how these modalities are realized in Covid-19 scholarly articles. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods and Halliday's theory. The data consists of clauses of six COVID-19 social and political journal articles on various topics, such as (social, economic, political, health, communication, and tourism). Data collection was carried out using a documentary approach. The model used in this research is interactive. The data analysis technique uses qualitative descriptive analysis. Based on the findings of this research, 260 clauses contain modality, and two types of modality are used in them. This research also found the realization of modality as a capital operator that is often used in Covid-19 academic papers, as it is. Found 238 capital operators. Apart from that, authors generally use limited modal operators in their articles because there are 238 modal operators located, and this is followed by additional modals with a total of 18. On the other hand, passive verb predicators and adjectives are rarely found.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pandemic Covid-19 has an impact on many elements of social life, including social, economic, political, health, communication, and tourism. Since March 2020, people have been subjected to Covid-19 implementation regulations such as being forbidden from gathering, participating in outside activities, and being asked to stay at home (Anthony C. Inciso, 2021; David, 2021). Despite the fact that the Covid-19 is still ongoing, Indonesia will impose a new normal. Even if every institution or site has a health protocol in place, we cannot escape Covid-19 (Maulana & Siti Rosmayati, 2021; Murwati et al., 2022). This fact motivates many researchers to document their observations about this phenomenon in various forms of text, such as an article that can be used as a guide for the government and the general public to understand and provide information about Covid-19, so that the reader can make informed decisions about how to deal with it (Armstrong-Mensah et al., 2020; Chakraborty & Kar, 2021). An article is a study report that is based on facts and data found in the text as clauses. According to previous study a scientific document is factual

because it is based on empirical data (Martín, 2003). Writers utilize theories to create articles that contain facts from their research and are referred to as articles or research reports (Choate et al., 2021; Singh. & Prasad Singh, 2021; Sulo et al., 2012).

According to previous study one of the roles of language as a social phenomenon with diverse functions is interpersonal function (Halliday, 2004). Modality is one of the manifestations of interpersonal function. Modality is a technique for writers to express their feelings about a certain problem (Al-Balas et al., 2020; Mayer, 2017; Turnbull et al., 2021). According to other study modality is characterized as a specific manner of expressing the speaker's or writer's attitude toward what must be done, what should be done, what might be done, and what would be done (Martín, 2003). Understanding the writer's perspective or personal judgment underlying the texts is essential. The real meaning in the text can change depending on the writers' modality.

The degree of agreement between yes and no, as well as between positive and negative poles, is characterized as modality. There are several methods for attaining modality. They are as follows: finite modal operator, modal adjunct, expansion o predicator, and combination of finite modal operator and modal adjunct (Justice et al., 2018; Parina & De Leon, 2014). Other study classified modality into two types: modalization and modulation (Bierbaumer, 2021; Ha, 2021). Each of the two categories is further subdivided into two subtypes. Modalization is separated into likelihood and usuality, whereas modulation is separated into Obligation and Inclination. The two modalization and modulation categories have three values: high, middle, and low (Gregersen, 2020; Parina & De Leon, 2014).

Modality is common used in spoken and written text. But, without doing research, no one knows the types of modality and values are realized in academic writing texts. The academic writing role is to convince the existence of the language in the Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal (Allen & Paesani, 2022; Miqawati, 2019; Sudirman et al., 2020). The use of the modality types, whether modalization or modulation by knowing the types of modality and the value, the writers can improve their knowledge about modality. The data mainly from the source of Covid-19 articles because it discusses about the current issue and the fact happened, the readers know the purposes of the writer in expressing their ideology through modality.

Modality is frequently employed in both spoken and written material. However, no one knows the forms of modalities and values that are realized in academic writing texts until they conduct study (Bromberek-Dyzman et al., 2021; Parina & De Leon, 2014). The role of academic writing in the Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journals is to persuade the existence of the language. The usage of modality kinds, whether modalization or modulation, can help writers increase their understanding of modality by recognizing the types of modality and the value. The data is primarily from Covid-19 articles since it discusses current issues and events, and the audience understand the writer's intentions in expressing their ideology through modality. The researcher selected to focus on Covid-19 articles from social and political academic journals produced by Indonesian authors.

Academic writing refers to explanatory and argumentative language used by university students, lecturers, and researchers to provide a body of information on a certain subject. A research article is one of several works that use academic writing. In this study, a research journal article is a sort of scientific text. Scientific writing is easy to understand. Writers use simple language to describe their thoughts and findings so that readers may easily comprehend the information (Huerta et al., 2018; Tovar & Council, 2016). Previous study defines research as a sequence of steps used to gather and evaluate data in order to get a better understanding of a topic (Ade-Ojo et al., 2022).

Several researchers worked together on this writing mode study. Previous study looked at the use of the word modal in research articles (Hardjanto, 2016). He investigated the modal auxiliary verb as a hedging concept in academic English conversation. Other study investigated modality in academic texts using Quirk's theory (Heydarnia & Aidinlou, 2015). According to the data, there was no significant difference in the use of modality by male and female authors in academic writing articles. As a result, Covid-19-related articles serve as the major research and data source in this work, and this study is confined to studies regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. There are several articles on Covid-19 to choose from. The role of academic writing in Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journals is to persuade the existence of the language so that the study has a use for the reader and public because these recurring terms are the ones we see the most and need to understand to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the previous study, the researcher can have a better grasp of how the modality achieved in Covid-19 academic publications. The modalities of social and political academic journal articles are the key problems addressed in this study. Therefore the aim of this study is to analyze the form and matter of modalities and investigate how these modalities are realized in Covid-19 scholarly articles.

2. METHOD

The qualitative research method was applied in this study. Qualitative research is descriptive, which implies that the information gathered is in the form of words or pictures rather than figures (Creswell, 2017). The data of this research is a clause that contained of modality that has been analyzed. The main sources of the data in this research is Covid-19 academic papers which conducted by Universitas Gajah Mada from <https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/> that written by Indonesian writer from July until November 2020, has been indexed Scopus. The data of this study were taken from documentation. To collect the data, the researcher downloaded the Covid-19 academic papers <https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/>, read the articles, divided into clause and classify the clauses into the types and value of modality. All clauses will be given numbering in order to get easier to identify and analyses the data (Miles et al., 2014). The second major flow of analysis is data display, in general it is a structured, compressed accumulation of information that enables conclusion drawing and action. Looking at displays helps us grasp what is going on and decide whether to do more study or take action based on that understanding. In this step, the data was organized to answer each study challenge. So the modality types and values were defined, followed by the modality implementation, and finally the justification for using the modality. A table and narration were used to describe the study problems. The description is used to verify the conclusion.

Data collection is the process of generating conclusions and verifying them; qualitative analysis is the process of interpreting discovering patterns, explanations, causal pathways, and assertions to determine what things mean. This study using approach that analyzed the Modality in Covid-19 academic papers (Halliday, 2004). The displayed data is further analyzed in order to draw conclusions. In this method, clauses including modality in Covid-19 academic papers were chosen from the social and political academic magazine published by Universitas Gajah Mada from <https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/> and written by Indonesian writers from July to November 2020, and has been indexed Scopus.

The clause includes certain codes for modality types and values, which are separated into: Probability (Pro), Usuality (Usu), Obligation (Obl), and Inclination (Inc). All terms are used in statistics. The value of modality is classified as follows: High (H), Median (M), and Low (L) values. To make it easier to classify them in each category. By categorizing the clause's contained types of modality and transforming the data analysis into tables, the clause was placed into tables in accordance with each type and drew the conclusion from the analysis by writing a written summary of the most dominant types and values of modality that were used in Covid-19 academic papers.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Modality is divided into two types: modalization and modulation. Modalization includes the validity of information, and modulation is related with the speaker's and reader's responsibilities in suggestion, command, and willingness. There are three modality values: high, middle, and low. In this analysis, the researcher analyzes six Covid-19 articles of social and political academic journal. They were: 1.) Partisanship in Crisis: public response to covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. 2.) Does the covid-19 pandemic affect the stock market in Indonesia. 3.) Evaluating the Papuan government's strategy for combating the spread of coronavirus (Covid19). 4.) Covid-19 measures implemented by the Indonesian government from January to May 2020: late response and public health security. 5.) Pandemic crisis in internet media: Quantitative framing study of covid-19 reportage on detik.com. 6.) Pandemic international travel: How do risk perception and stress levels influence future travel intentions? Modality utilized to determine the probability and usuality of a proposition. When someone presented a scenario or circumstance and something as a prediction of what would happen in the future, they were using the probability type. The first analysis explored high degree of probability, median degree probability, then low degree probability of modality. Types and values of probability is show in Table 1.

Table 1. Types and Values of Probability

Article 4	President Jokowi instructed that all Covid-19 data <i>must be</i> open for access	High Degree of Probability
Article 2	Indonesia <i>would</i> have a higher impact if foreign investors left the domestic financial market	Median Degree of Probability
Article 5	We <i>can</i> see that after February 21 st , especially in March, the average tone of official reporting becomes consistently negative.	Low Degree of Probability

Base on [Table 1](#), Finite modal operator *must be* expresses the instruction that given by President Jokowi about Covid-19 data must be opened for access, modal *would* in the data article 2 informs the reader that if foreign investors exited the domestic financial market, the impact on Indonesia would be greater. Unfortunately it is just a prediction that did not happen, modal *can* in that clause shows that the writer was not sure about the date, it shows the lowest degree probability of what the writer informs to the reader. Usuality is a type of modalization that expresses the regularity with which the statement's occurrences occur. The usage of commonality sought to communicate something that they did the majority of the time. In Covid-19 articles, there were two degrees of usuality found: high degree of usuality and medium degree of usuality. Types and values of usuality is show in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Types and Values of Usuality

Article 5	The Indonesian government is almost <i>always</i> the top and dominant source of information.	High Degree of Usuality
Article 5	The government is <i>often</i> used as the main source of information	Median Degree of Usuality

Base on [Table 2](#) the writer used modal adjunct *always* to express the events that always happen. The word *often* in the data shows the reader realize that government becomes the main source of information because people are used to looking for the information from government many times. Modulation is the proposal's middle ground. Modulation can be accomplished in two ways: obligation and inclination. Obligation is anything that has to be completed. It expresses the need to do something. There were three degrees of Obligation found in Covid-19 articles they were high, median, and low degree of modality. Types and values of obligation is show in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Types and Values of Obligation

Article 2	The government <i>must</i> implement policies to prevent and reduce economic downturn and prolonged recession, particularly in the financial sector.	High Degree of Obligation
Article 5	The government <i>should</i> be most responsible for prevention, mitigation and other measures	Median Degree of Obligation
Article 6	Many other strategies <i>could</i> be developed to appeal to social risk perception such as individual travelling	Low Degree of Obligation

Base on [Table 3](#), the word *must* in data shows the command to do something, the clause contains of something must be done by the government to prevent that thing, modal *should* in the clause showed that the writer give an advice to the government that they should be most responsible, modal *could* in the clause shows the suggestion to the reader that there are many other strategies could be developed such as individual travelling. Inclination is used when someone has a desire to do something. Inclination means the intention or willingness of someone to do something and the capability from his/her own feeling. There were two degrees of Inclination found in Covid-19 articles they were median and low degree of inclination. Types and values of inclination is show in [Table 4](#).

Table 4. Types and Values of Inclination

Article 3	The writers <i>will</i> talk about the relationship between national policy on large-scale social constraints (PSBB) and provincial policy analyses."	Median Degree of Inclination
Article 6	Tourists are still <i>willing</i> to spend to travel"	Low Degree of Inclination

Base on [Table 4](#), modal *will* expresses the writer's willingness to discuss about the policy. Furthermore, the clause used adjective predicator such as *willing* to express inclination. It was presented that the tourists still have a hope to travel internationally. In this analysis there were found 260 clauses which contained modality in Covid-19 articles. The recapitulation of types and values of modality in six Covid-19 articles can be seen in [Table 5](#).

Table 5. Modality Types and Value in Covid-19 Articles

Types	Modality		Value	Frequency	Percentage	
	Frequency	Percentage				
Modalization	Probability	159	61.1%	High	45	17.3%
	Usuality	14	5.4%	Medium	113	43.4%
Modulation	Obligation	54	20.8%	Low	102	39.3%
	Inclination	33	12.7%			
Total		260	100%		260	100%

Table 5 showed that there were two types of modality in Covid-19 academic papers. They were modalization and modulation. Modalization took the largest proportion in Covid-19 articles. Modalization was assigned to 173 clauses. There were 159 clauses found that expressed probability. The writers employed modality to persuade the audience by describing what could happen in the future. Some clauses were classified as modalization because the writers employed modality to express usuality.

Furthermore, the modulation type utilized by the writers in the articles was discovered. There were 87 clauses that were classified as modulation. Modulation type could be expressed in two ways. They were obligation and inclination. The writers employed modulation to ask the readers to do something, according to this interpretation. In the pieces, they offered readers suggestions, commands, guidance, and willingness. Modality can be realized in the form of finite modal operators, modal adjunct, and adjective predicator in Covid-19 articles.

Modal Operator; The unmarked form of modality is represented by modal operators such as must, can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, ought, and semi-modals demand and dare. It can be an ability, probability, obligation, or permission depending on the circumstances. Article 4: "Covid-19 pandemic *can* be characterized by late response due to initial de-securitization of the issue"

The clause realized modal operator *can* inform the reader and make them aware of the peculiarities of the Covid-19 epidemic. The use of the word *can* in the statement indicates that the writer is informing the reader about Covid-19. Modal expressions can describe how a speaker feels about something, such as capability, necessity, information, permission, possibility, and probability.

Modal Adjunct; Modality can also be stated with adjuncts such as certainly, definitely, probably, possibly, perhaps, maybe, always, generally, frequently, and obviously. Article 5: "The Indonesian government is almost *always* the top and dominant source of information."

The realization of modal adjunct *always* demonstrated the frequency with which the proposition or statement is true. In this case, the frequency of occupying the top and dominant position of the Indonesian government as the major source of information is always referred to.

Expansion of Predicator. Article 3: "Tourists are still *willing* to spend to travel" The realization of adjective willing in the clause was presented that the visitors still have the opportunity to go overseas. It can help the tourism industry to recover and recoup its losses over time. The adjective willing demonstrated the tourists' willingness to pay for the intention to travel worldwide.

Combination of Modal. Article 2: "The government *has to* ensure that foreign investors can replace and build factories in Indonesia in order to increase capacity and capability in labor, capital, and other resources." From the example above, it realized modal operator *has to* and modal operator *can* in one clause. Modal "has to" showed an emphasize that the needed to persuade international investors that they could replace the country's loss; the writer added modal *can* to demonstrate the capabilities of the foreign investor to establish a better factory in Indonesia. Typical realization of modality found in Covid-19 academic papers is show in Table 6.

Table 6. Typical Realization of Modality Found in Covid-19 Academic Papers

Typical Realization	Positive	Frequency	Negative	Frequency
Modal Operator	Can	47	Will not	3
	Will	41	Might not	1
	Would	39	Can not	2
	Could	26	May not	2
	Should	18	Should not	1
	Must	16	Could not	1
	Might	16		
	Need to	14		
	May	9		
	Has to	1		

Typical Realization	Positive	Frequency	Negative	Frequency
Modal adjunct	Had to	1		
	Often	9		
	Always	3		
	Usually	2		
	Certainly	1		
	Possibly	1		
	Possible	1		
	Probable	1		
Adjective Predictor	Willing	1		
Combination Modal	Has to	1		
	Can	1		
	Must	1		
	Willing	1		
	Might not	1		
	Willing	1		
Total		260		

According to [Table 6](#), the clauses in Covid-19 academic papers realized finite modal operators such as can, could, will, would, may, might, has to, need, modal adjunct such as often, usually, always, often, possibly, and adjective predicator such as willing. In this analysis found that the writers generally used finite modal operators in their articles as there were 238 modal operators found and followed by modal adjunct with the number of 18. Otherwise, passive verb and adjective predicator were rarely used by the writers as it was found only 1 adjective predicator and there were 3 clauses used combination of modal.

Discussion

Pandemic Covid-19 has an impact on a variety of areas, including social, economic, political, health, communication, and tourism. Indonesia announced the introduction of a new standard that includes health protocols in every institution or location. Because of this, numerous scholars have written down their observations about this occurrence in various formats of literature ([Espino-Díaz et al., 2020](#); [Klimova, 2012](#)). Articles are the works of human brains that reflect the writer's views and opinions. It appears in six articles Covid-19. The author tries to show how their observations can influence the reader's impression of what has to be done, what should be done, what could be done, and what would be done.

According to the findings, the "probability" of modalization was the most prevalent type in six Covid-19 articles of academic papers. The frequency of probability with the finite modal operator "will" is 41 sentences. Article 1, article 2, article 3, article 4, and article 6 are also dominated by the probability type. In probability, "will" describes something that will happen in the future. The type of probability with the most occurrences is shown in the table. It expresses information from the writer's articles that could happen in the past or in the future ([Bierbaumer, 2021](#); [Parina & De Leon, 2014](#)). When it comes to probability, the writers have employed it when they want to.

Furthermore, the finite modal operator was the most typically utilized to represent modality in Covid-19 academic papers. *Can, could, will, would, may, might, has to, need*, modal adjuncts like *often, usually, always, possibly*, and adjective predicator like *willing* were some of the top finite modal operators used. The fact that one modal operator was utilized more frequently than another is used to attain specific communication objectives. The modal operator was quite useful in convincing or persuading the reader to comprehend the opposite side of the argument in order to accept a new viewpoint or concept ([Parina & De Leon, 2014](#); [Pawlak, 2012](#)). The modal operator was used as strong evidence in Covid-19 academic papers to describe what his belief about what was likely to happen was.

This research can make a significant contribution to improving the quality of scientific publications related to Covid-19. By understanding how mode is applied in academic writing, this research can provide new insights into how information is presented and can be used to improve the clarity and effectiveness of communication. The results of this research can help in the development of better writing guidelines for pandemic-related scientific publications. These guidelines can be used by researchers, writers and editors to ensure consistency and clarity in conveying information about Covid-19. However, this research has limitations, it only examines the literature at certain periods, such as the beginning of the pandemic, while the mode of expression in the literature changes over time, this research may not provide a complete picture.

4. CONCLUSION

There were six Covid-19 academic papers with 260 clauses each. The findings were published in two types of articles used in social and political academic journal. Modalization and modulation were present. For modalization, there are two forms of intermediacy, probability and usuality, and for modulation, there are obligation and inclination. Modalization has success rate, while modulation also has success rate. Furthermore, three modality values were discovered: high, middle, and low. In six Covid-19 articles, the writers generally utilized median value, and employed finite modal operator, modal adjunct, adjective predicator, and combination of modal

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