

## Semantic change found in the news articles of *Republika*

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Article Info	Abstract
<p><i>Article History:</i> Received 2 September 2024 Approved 30 October 2024 Published 31 October 2024</p>	<p>This study aimed to analyze the types and factors that cause changes in meaning of certain words. 10 news articles were chosen as the data that were taken from <i>Republika</i>, a national online newspaper in Indonesia. To collect and analyze the data, this study involves several steps, among others are skimming to find out the words undergoing semantic change, classifying the words into several types of semantic change proposed by Hollman (2009a), finding out the causes of semantic change based on Chaer's (2009) framework, and drawing a conclusion based on the result of the study. The results showed that there were 48 words undergoing semantic change, and these words were then classified into 6 types of semantic changes, namely generalization, specialization, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy. In addition, all the words undergoing semantic change were motivated by several factors, including association, field of use, the development of lexical item use, socio-cultural factor, and ellipsis. This study is expected to be contributed to the field of semantics, both in the teaching-learning process and the research study on semantics. Besides, the result of this study may become one of the references for those who are interested in how the language is used in journalism.</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> news articles, online newspaper, <i>Republika</i>, semantic change</p>	

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## INTRODUCTION

All languages around the world are not static. They always develop and undergo changes or alternation from time to time (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2014). As a result, there appear a new word or even disappear some of the existing words. In addition, the alternation of a language may also affect the changes of meaning of certain words.

In relation to meaning, Nordquist (2018) states that meaning is the message that is delivered by a word, clause or sentence, and symbol. It is very common that when somebody wants to find the meaning of a word, he/she is asked to find it in a dictionary. However, it is asserted that dictionaries only provide paraphrases rather than

meanings (Fromkin et al., 2014). It means that dictionaries only give the meaning of words using other words, without considering where the words appear in a sentence. Therefore, it is suggested to pay more attention to the use of the words, in which those words occur. In brief, the meaning of words is its reference, which is determined by how the words are used in a sentence. In linguistics, the study of the meaning of words, phrases, or sentences are then called semantics.

As mentioned earlier, meaning may alter or change. According to Fromkin et al. (2014), the meaning of a word may become wider, narrower, or shift. A word processing such kind of changes is then known as semantic change. The language phenomenon in relation to semantic change continually occurs since language is dynamic; it is

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changing from one period to another. Therefore, research on semantic change may attract the semanticists to explore more on how the language is currently used.

There have been some related studies on semantic change to analyze the type and its causes, e.g. Perlina (Perlina, 2018), Anggraeni and Hariadi (2021), and Narawaty (2017). First, Perlina (2018) analyzed the semantic change of the words found in the news articles in the four selected online newspapers, namely *Tempo*, *Sindo*, *Kompas*, and *Media Indonesia*. The result of her study showed that three types of semantic change were found and metaphors were the most dominantly found in the articles selected. Meanwhile, the factors that motivate the semantic change were dominated by the association with other words. Secondly, Anggraeni and Hariadi (2021) investigated the semantic shift in one of the portal news, which is detiknews. Their study specifically focused on synesthesia, amelioration, and pejoration used in the news. The result indicated that synesthesia occurs because of the exchange from a sense of sight to a sense of hearing, and from sight to a sense of taste. Furthermore, the amelioration is shown by stating the condition of the statement in a better way and the designation more politely and having a more subtle meaning. Meanwhile, the pejoration is found in the form of stating the condition of the activity by giving a derogatory meaning and mentioning statements with a worse meaning. Another previous study discussing semantic change is conducted by Narawaty (2017). The aims of her study are to describe the types of semantic change existing in characters' dialogues of the narrative text in high school English textbooks class X, distinguish the conceptual meaning and new meaning in characters' dialogues of the narrative text, and show the cause of meaning shift in characters' dialogues of the narrative text. The textbooks that are used in her study are *The Spotlight* containing seven narrative texts and *Real Time* containing six narrative texts. From the analysis, the results showed that both textbooks indicated a change and a shift in meaning as a result of the contexts of the use of language.

Though there are some similarities found between the previous studies mentioned above and the present study, research on semantic change still paid attention due to the development of language use from time to time. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the semantic change found in the news articles of *Republika*, one of the portal news in Indonesia. In addition, the issue that will be raised is concerned with the Kanjuruhan tragedy, which caught the attention of not only the people of Indonesia but also the world because there are many victims dead and seriously injured in the tragedy that occurred at the beginning of October 2022. This tragedy even becomes the second largest in the world in the history of riots in football stadiums.

### **Type of semantic change**

As mentioned earlier, meaning may alter or change. According to Fromkin et al. (2014), the meaning of a word may become wider, narrower, or shift. A word processing such kind of changes is then known as semantic change. For example, the word *head* is previously meant to a part of the body, but nowadays the word *head* has more meaning than a part of the body; it can be used to describe someone who heads the part or leading position. From this example, it is necessary to explore more about the semantic change as language constantly evolves.

Since the shifts in the meaning of a word vary, the semantic change is thus grouped into several categories. For example, Fromkin et al. (2014) categorized semantic change into three majors, namely broadening, widening, and meaning shifts. Further, Palmer (1981) classified the semantic change into generalization, specialization, amelioration, and pejoration. Similarly, Hollmann (2009a) has the following classifications: generalization, specialization, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor and metonymy. Additionally, other types of semantic change are synecdoche, eponymy, personification, euphemism, hyperbole, ellipsis, and litotes (Bloomfield, 1933; Campbell, 1998, 2013; Ullman, 1983). To conduct this study, nevertheless, Hollmann's (2009a) theory is preferred to use. In

the following each type of semantic change, then, will be discussed in turn.

The first type of semantic change is widening. This term is also known as generalization, extension, or broadening. Widening occurs when the meaning of a word become wider or broader. That includes changes from something concrete to more abstract. For example, the word *cupboard* in Middle English refers to a table upon which cups and other vessels are placed or a piece of furniture to display plates, a sideboard. However, the meaning has changed into a closet or cabinet with shelves for keeping cups and dishes, and finally for is changed to mean any small storage cabinet.

The second type of semantic change is called narrowing (specialization or restriction). As opposed to widening, narrowing means that the meaning of a word becomes narrower. For instance, the word 'meat' in old English meant as a reference to food in general, but now the word 'meat' has narrowed its meaning which means it refers to only one kind of food.

The third type of semantic change is metaphor. In metaphor, a change is based on the likeness of something. Metaphor in semantic change involves extensions in the meaning of a word that suggest a semantic similarity or connection between the new sense and original one. For instance, the word *grasp* has a similar sense to understand because of their resemblance of the process to obtain something. In this case, the original meaning *grasp* 'seize' becoming 'understand' also show changes from physical to mental domain.

The fourth type of semantic change is known as metonymy. A metonymy (from the Greek *meto*̄nomia 'change of name') is a change in the meaning of a word so that it includes additional meanings that were not originally present but are closely related to the original meaning of the word. For example, a term used for the White House is to refer to the American administration.

The fifth category of semantic change is synecdoche. Synecdoche in this semantics is often considered a kind of metonymy, which involves a part-to-whole relationship, where a term with a

more comprehensive meaning is used to refer to a less comprehensive meaning or vice versa (Campbell, 2013, p. 226), for example, the word *odol* is a brand of toothpaste, but now the word *odol* is used to refer to all types of toothpaste.

The next category of semantic change is hyperbole, which means a change from the meaning of weak to strong. For instance, he runs as fast as lightning.

Another kind of semantic change is litotes. That means statements that reduce something or weaken and state the opposite, for example, to say clever, the expression is not stupid.

Degradation/pejoration is another category of semantic change. This occurs when the meaning of a word is finally considered to have low value or has a negative connotation. For example, the word *silly* from what originally meant someone happy and lucky, and now its meaning has changed to stupid and not sophisticated enough.

Next, Elevation is also classified as another type of semantic change. This term is also known as amelioration. This occurs when a shift in the meaning of the word to be more positive or at least neutral. For example, the word *nice* originally meant something stupid and unreasonable, but in the end the meaning changed to something kind, friendly, and considerate.

Furthermore, another category which is also mentioned by Campbell (2013) is displacement or ellipsis. According to Campbell (2013), Displacement (ellipsis) involves changes where one word absorbs part or all of the meaning of another word with which it is linked in a phrasal constituent (usually Adjective-Noun), for example, *contact(s)* from *contact lens(es)* and a *capital* from a *capital city*, where the notion of city has been absorbed into the word *capital* (English *capital* is a loan word from French). Displacement is sometimes considered a special kind of synecdoche.

The last category of semantic change proposed by Campbell (2013) is Taboo replacement and avoidance of obscenity. The word *taboo* is considered a rude and inappropriate word, and for this semantic change it is used to avoid using the word based on social development,

though many of these changes might better be treated merely as examples of degeneration and metaphor and so on. Lexical replacements involve more than meaning shift, although change in the meaning may also be involved. Changes involving taboo and obscenity are prime examples of this sort. For instance, in English the word *ass* which means long-eared animal related to a horse has essentially been replaced in an American by donkey (or burro) because it is considered too close for comfort to obscene *ass* which means *derriere*, *arse*; cock which means adult male chicken is replaced with rooster due to discomfort from the obscene association of cock with penis.

### Causes of semantic change

Moreover, there might be some factors that motivate a change in meaning of words. Garcia (2013, p.77), for example, mentions there are several factors that cause changes in meaning in semantics, including linguistic causes, socio-historical causes, and psychological causes. From linguistic causes, it derives vagueness and impression of sense, flexibility of meaning, and instability of form-content relationship, and analogy. Meanwhile, the social (socio-historical factors involve transformation over the course of time, scientific and technological progress. The psychological factors, on the other hand, include Emotional sensibility of speakers, Influence of different cultural taboo.

According to Ullman (1983, p.193) the causative factors of semantic change involved the following. First, language is handed down. Language is something that is passed down from one generation to the next. The meaning in the language also evolves so that these factors cause changes in meaning to occur. Secondly, Vagueness appears in language and thought because many of the words that make up human language, and the concepts used in our thinking are unclear and also there is not enough information available in the given context to decide between options. Third, semantic change is caused by loss of motivation. A word or language that is no longer attached to its roots will of course lose its structure and motivation, as well as its boundaries. Fourth, the

change is because of the existence of polysemy. There is nothing final about semantic change, a word can acquire a new meaning, or a number of new meanings without losing its original meaning (Stephen Ullman, 1983). Fifth, the factor of semantic change is because of Ambiguous context. This ambiguity can occur because a word or has more than one meaning, therefore a change in meaning can occur. Last, the change is due to structure of the vocabulary. Language vocabulary is an unstable structure in which individual words can gain and lose meaning very easily.

Other factors causing semantic changes according to Ullman (1983) are: (1) Linguistic Causes, which is related to the element of linguistic structure that occurs because the word is considered similar to other objects; (2) Historical Causes, where this factor consists of objects, institutions, ideas, and concepts of science that change over time; (3) Social Causes, which occurs because of the development of knowledge in society; (4) Psychological Causes, which means semantic changes sometimes arise from the speaker's thoughts which sometimes contain elements of ambiguity. Elements of these psychological factors include emotive factors, and taboo words; (5) Foreign influence as cause of semantic changes, in which the influence of foreign languages is due to the unavoidable relationship between fellow countries, so that sometimes languages acquire new objects; (6) The need for a new name. Because of the discovery of a new name for a new object, we need a new name as a symbol for an object that will be used as a communication tool.

Meanwhile, Chaer (2009) identified several factors that cause semantic change, including the development of science and technology, socio-cultural influences, the field of use, association, synesthesia, value difference, ellipsis, grammatical factors, and the development of lexical item use. First, due to the development of science and technology, the meaning of a word can be redefined. For instance, the word *virus* originally referred to a biological agent that causes diseases. With the advent of computers, *virus* now also refers to malicious software designed to damage or

disrupt computer systems. This new usage reflects technological progress and the development of computer science. Secondly, Social and cultural shifts can alter the meanings of words. The word *bintang* traditionally means star in the astronomical sense. In contemporary Indonesian pop culture, *bintang* is often used to refer to a celebrity or public figure, reflecting shifts in social values and the influence of entertainment. Third, words can gain new meanings based on their application in specific contexts. For example, *mouse* traditionally referred to a small rodent. In computing, however, *mouse* has taken on a new meaning as a pointing device used with computers. This semantic shift is a result of the term's adoption in the field of technology. Forth, semantic change can arise through associative meanings. For example, the word *batu* (stone) originally means a solid, naturally occurring substance. However, in the phrase *batu loncatan* (stepping stone), *batu* is associated with progress or advancement, indicating a metaphorical use to represent an opportunity for growth or success. Fifth, synesthesia involves sensory attributes being applied in new contexts. For instance, the word *panas* primarily means hot or warm in terms of temperature. However, it is also used metaphorically to describe something intense or exciting, such as *pertandingan yang panas* (an intense match) or *berita panas* (hot news). Sixth, changes in the perceived value or significance of concepts can alter word meanings. For example, *elit* (elite) originally denoted a high social class or group but now often conveys a more general sense of exclusivity or superiority in various contexts. Furthermore, Ellipsis, or the omission of certain parts of a phrase, can lead to semantic change. The word *berpulang*, for instance, originally comes from *berpulang ke rahmatullah* (return to God's mercy). Simply saying *berpulang* implies someone has passed away, with the specific context of death understood. Moreover, grammatical changes can impact word meanings. For instance, *kunci* originally means a tool used for unlocking or securing something. However, in sentences like *saya mengunci pintu* (I am locking the door), *mengunci* describes the action of securing an object

with a key. It shows a grammatical shift from the noun *kunci* (key) to the verb form *mengunci* (to lock), indicating the action associated with the key. Finally, the introduction of new lexical items or the expansion of existing ones can result in semantic changes. For example, *tweet* originally referred to the sound made by birds. With the advent of social media, *tweet* has come to refer to a short message posted on Twitter. This new meaning reflects the development and popularization of digital communication platforms.

In this study, to analyze the semantic changes used in this article, the researchers use the theory of Hollmann (2009a). He mentions that there are 6 types of semantic changes, namely generalization, specialization, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy.

The second theory that is used by the researchers is the theory of Chaer (2009). This theory is used to uncover the factors that cause semantic change. Ullman mentions that there are 6 factors that cause changes in meaning, among others are the development of science and technology, socio-cultural aspects, the development of lexical items use, exchanging the five senses or synesthesia, and the association of a word with another.

## METHODS

The approach of the study use qualitative research. This approach is applied by describing the data and then analyzing it according to the problems to be raised and researched. In general, qualitative research is a method that emphasizes aspects of a deeper understanding of a problem rather than seeing a problem. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2015), some qualitative researchers often formulate only general research problems and ask only general questions about the phenomenon they are studying. Moreover, qualitative researchers often use multiple forms of data in any single study. They might use observations, interviews, objects, written documents, audiovisual materials, electronic entities (e.g., e-mail messages, Internet websites), and anything else that can help them answer their research question (Leedy & Ormrod,

2015). Therefore, this research method is very suitable to assist the researchers in examining semantic changes in the selected news articles.

The data are taken from 10 (ten) selected news articles of *Republika*. *Republika* is one of the famous daily newspapers in Indonesia, which is mostly known as a publication for the Muslim community. *Republika* was founded in 1992, and the first edition was published on January 3, 1993 by Yayasan Abdi Bangsa. On 17 August 1995, *Republika* was released in a digital version. *Republika Online* (Henceforth ROL) is a news portal that provides information in texts, audio, and video that can be accessed from <https://www.republika.co.id/>. There are many articles that are free to access and with various choices of domains, including economy, education, technology, politics, law, sport, Islam digest, international news, etc.

The issue that is raised is concerned with the Kanjuruhan tragedy, which caught the attention of not only the people of Indonesia but also the world because many victims died and was seriously injured, and this tragedy even became the second largest in the world after Peru in the history of riots in soccer stadiums.

The steps to conduct this study can be described as follows. First, the researchers collect all the news articles that are chosen as the object of the study. The second step is that the researchers read all the news articles to understand the content of the news articles. Third, the researchers scan and/or skim each of the news articles to find out the lexical items that undergo changes in meaning. Then, the researchers tabulated the data to be more efficient in the later process of data analysis.

As it is mentioned, there are two main goals to be conducted in the current study. To achieve the first objective, the framework of the study was based on Hollmann's (2009a) about the types of semantic change. For instance, if the original meaning of a word found in the articles becomes broader or wider, this word is classified as generalization. In this stage, the researchers compare the original meaning of the word in a dictionary and the linguistic context in which the word is used. Furthermore, the second objective

addresses the factors that motivate for semantic change, in which this study was on the basis of Chaer's (2009) theory. For example, if the use of the lexical item found transfers from one field to another, the factor of this change is caused by what is called the development of the lexical items use. In the end, this study drew a conclusion. The result of the study compare with that of the previous studies to see whether there are similarities in findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section is dedicated to delivering the results of the study for each research question stated, in which the study concentrates on two aspects. First of all, this study aims to find out the type of semantic change utilized in the selected news articles of *Republika*, one of online newspaper in Indonesia. Secondly, the study investigates the causes of semantic change found in the selected news articles of *Republika*. From these two aspects, this study is then expected to reveal practical implication for those who are teaching, learning, researching semantics, especially regarding semantic change. From the analysis, the results showed that out of 10 news articles there were 48 words undergoing semantic change. These 48 words are then categorized into 6 types of semantic change, namely generalization, specialization, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy. In other words, all types of semantic change proposed by Hollman (2009a) were found in the selected news articles. It was also found that generalization is the most frequently used in the news articles. The result regarding type of semantic change can be tabulated in the following.

**Table 1. Type of semantic change found in *Republika***

No	Type of semantic change	Occurrences
1	Generalization	26
2	Specialization	1
3	Amelioration	2
4	Pejoration	1
5	Metaphor	17
6	Metonymy	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>



As it can be seen from **Table 1** above, all type of semantic change were found. For example, there were 26 words undergoing generalization, which means the meaning becomes broader than the original one. The second type of semantic change is specialization, which was only found one word undergoing narrowing in the article. Moreover, metonymy and pejoration were also only found one word. Then, two words were found undergoing amelioration, which gives more positive value to the word. Finally, 17 words are categorized as metaphor. To sum up, the most dominant type of semantic change is generalization.

In terms of causes of semantic change, this study used Chaer's (2009) theory, which mentioned that there were nine factors of semantic change. Then, the result of the study indicated that all the words undergoing semantic change were motivated by several factors, that includes association, the field of use, development of lexical item use, sociocultural factors, and ellipsis. In other words, there were 5 out of 9 causes found in the news articles.

**Table 2. Causes of semantic change found in the news articles 'Republika'**

No	Causes of semantic change	Occurrences
1	Development of science and technology	0
2	Socio-cultural	4
3	Field of use	13
4	Association	20
5	Synesthesia	0
6	Value difference	0
7	Ellipsis	2
8	Grammatical	0
9	Development of lexical item use	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

Moreover, from **Table 2** it can be seen that the causes of semantic change found in the selected news articles of *Republika* were due to 5 factors, including socio-cultural, field of use, association, ellipsis, and development of lexical item use.

Specifically, the results showed that 4 words undergoing semantic change caused by socio-cultural factors, 13 words motivated by different field of use, 20 words changing due to word association, 2 words due to the process of ellipsis or abbreviation, and 9 words caused by development of lexical item use. Meanwhile no words undergoing semantic change were motivated by development of science and technology, synesthesia, value difference, and grammatical factors. Thus, it can be concluded that the factor 'word association' was used frequently in the news articles of *Republika*.

As discussed earlier, the main objectives of this study were to find out the type of semantic change and to analyze the causes of semantic change found in the news articles of *Republika*. From the analysis, this study revealed that 48 words underwent semantic change, 6 types of semantic change were found in the selected news articles of *Republika*, and the factors of semantic change were mostly motivated by the word association. The data findings of this study will be described in the following.

### Type of semantic change

Hollmann (2009a) asserts that the words undergoing semantic change can be classified into six types, namely generalization, specialization, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy. This study, then, has supported Hollmann's theory since all types of semantic change were found in the object of this study, which is online newspaper '*Republika*'. In other words, the six types of semantic change proposed by Hollmann were all applied in the selected news articles. All six types of semantic change can be seen from the following data.

1. *Presiden sudah memerintahkan untuk dilakukan pengusutan. Atas perintah tersebut, hari ini Bapak Kapolri akan bertolak ke Malang," begitu kata Ijen Dedi kepada wartawan di Jakarta (DATA 3, TEXT 1)*
2. *Panitia lokal yang tak sanggup melakukan antisipasi, mengandalkan satuan pengamanan dari kepolisian untuk membubarkan massa*

*suporter yang tumpah ke tengah lapangan.* (DATA 8, TEXT 1)

3. *Mahfud menjelaskan, TGIPF juga akan mendalami terkait persoalan dalam **tubuh** PSSI yang dinilai selama ini selalu terulang.* (DATA 45, TEXT 9)

From the data above, the words undergoing semantic change is the word *Bapak*, *massa*, and *tubuh*. These three words are categorized as generalization since their meaning becomes broader or wider from the original meaning. For instance, according to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), the word *bapak* (father) refers to a male biological parent, but the context given in sentence 1 above shows that the word *bapak* is used as a form of address to a respected person, that is Kapolri (the Chief of Indonesian National Police). The second word undergoing semantic change is the word *massa*, which originally refers to a large number of objects (substances), and then changes into a large number of people united altogether in the same place. Finally, the word *tubuh* also undergoes changes in meaning, where the former meaning refers to physical structure or the main part of people or animals while the latter meaning shown in the sentence 3 above is related to a certain organization. The meaning of the three words mentioned is now very common to use by Indonesian people. Therefore, the diction of the words *bapak*, *massa*, and *tubuh* in the news articles of Republika can be assumed that those three words will be easily understood by readers and still acceptable.

Other examples of words classified as generalization are *saluran*, *terpukul*, *memakan korban*, *luka berat*, *luka ringan*, *menggelar*, *akar*, *penyakit*, and so on.

4. .... untuk membantu penanganan korban insiden pascalaga **Liga 1** 2022 antara *Arema FC vs Persebaya Surabaya* itu. (DATA 10, TEXT 1)
5. *Aljazirah juga melaporkan perintah Presiden Joko Widodo menghentikan sementara **liga***

*sepak bola PSSI sampai evaluasi dan perbaikan pengamanan dilakukan.* (DATA 10, TEXT 2)

6. *Bahwa semua kegiatan yang berpayung PSSI terutama **Liga** 1, 2, dan 3 supaya dihentikan.....* (DATA 10, TEXT 8)

The second classification of semantic change is specialization, which means the latter meaning becomes narrower. The result showed that there was only one word which was categorized as specialization, namely *liga*. The previous meaning of the word *liga* refers to association between several countries. However, the context given in Sentence 4, 5, and 6 above indicates that the meaning of *liga* is limited only in the field of sports, especially football. In addition, the word *liga* in sentence 4 and 6 refers more on the professional league level of football matches.

The third type of semantic change found in the news articles is amelioration. As Keraf (2010) states, amelioration is the process of semantic change where the latter meaning has a higher value than the previous meaning. This type can be shown in the following data.

7. *Terkait kondisi tersebut, Psikolog UMM Hudaniah mengatakan, setiap keluarga pasti merasakan **kehilangan*** (DATA 31, TEXT 5)
8. *Duka Orang Tua Korban Tragedi Kanjuruhan, Anak Perempuan Satu-satunya **Berpulang*** (DATA 33, TEXT 6)

From sentence 7 and 8, it can be seen that the words *kehilangan* and *berpulang* undergo semantic change. First, the word *kehilangan* originally refers to the situation where somebody lost something, e.g. earrings, but Sentence 7 is related to death. Thus, in this case, the word *kehilangan* is preferred to use in order to substitute an expression of sadness due to somebody's death. Secondly, the word *berpulang* can be categorized as amelioration since this word is preferred to use to substitute *meninggal*, *tewas* or *mati* (dead). In other



words, the word *berpulang* is used to soften or euphemize what was said.

9. *Kapolri Jenderal Listyo Sigit Prabowo resmi **mencopot** Kapolres Malang AKBP Ferli Hidayat.*(DATA 22, TEXT 4)

Furthermore, another type of semantic change is called pejoration. The word *mencopot* in Sentence 9 above, for example, can be classified as pejoration because the word *mencopot* in the context gives negative connotation. Chaer (2013) states pejoration occurs when the new meaning has a lower value than the previous meaning. The word *mencopot* in *mencopot jabatan* as shown in sentence 9 compared to *mencopot sepatunya* clearly shows that the word *mencopot* in Sentence 9 has a lower value. Therefore, it can be said that the context affects the changes in meaning.

10. *Keputusan tegas tersebut **buntut** dari penegakan sanksi.....* (DATA 23, TEXT 4)
11. *Aris mengaku tidak mengenal hukum dan khawatir **memperuncing** masalah* (DATA 35, TEXT 6)
12. *ICJR Minta **Seret** Pelaku Tragedi Kanjuruhan ke Pengadilan* (DATA 36, TEXT 7)
13. *Mahfud: Investigasi TGIPF Rampung Pekan Depan, Penyakit-Penyakit PSSI **Digali*** (DATA 44, TEXT 9)

The next type of semantic change is metaphor. As Hollmann (2009a) explained, metaphor occurs when somebody perceives similarity between two concepts. The data above (See **Sentence 10 to Sentence 13**) are some examples of words classified as metaphor. First, the word *buntut* or tail is originally defined as a part of animal's body that sticks out at the back. Meanwhile, the context given in Sentence 10 shows similarity between the original meaning and new meaning, which is due to sort of similarity of position. Besides, there was a change from concrete to abstract concept, in which the word

*buntut* is used in the sentence above. Secondly, the word *memperuncing* is also classified as metaphor because there found similarity between the source concept and target concept. In the source concept, the word *memperuncing* comes from the word *runcing* and that means sharp or becoming sharper. In the target concept, on the other hand, the word *memperuncing* is associated with the word *masalah* (problem), which means it describes that the situation will become more dangerous or complicated. Another word which is classified as metaphor is the word *seret*, as shown in Sentence 12. The original meaning of the word *seret* is to pull (by force). However, the new meaning indicates that the action of pulling is not really done, but it only functions to express what ICJR wishes. Thus, the use of the word *seret* in the news article gives more emphasis on what must be done in relation to the Kanjuruhan tragedy case. Furthermore, In Sentence 13 above, the word *digali* is also categorized as metaphor. The word *digali* is derived from *gali*, which means to make a hole in the ground. Nevertheless, the word *digali* in the context is associated with *penyakit* (disease), in which the word *penyakit* itself undergoes semantic change. In brief, while the original meaning of the word *digali* or *gali* is related to something concrete, the latter meaning is concerned with something abstract. In addition, the word *digali* is classified as metaphor because of showing similarity between the old and new meaning.

The other type of semantic change is known as metonymy. From the analysis, there was only one word categorized as metonymy, namely the word *Kampus Putih*. As stated by Hollmann (2009a), metonymy involves association between the source and target concept. Unlike metaphor, the association here is by contiguity rather than by similarity. The example can be seen in the following data.

14. *Selain itu, **Kampus Putih** juga menurunkan tim medis dari RS UMM untuk membantu penanganan korban.....* (DATA 30 , TEXT 5)

*Kampus Putih* is used to refer to UMM (*Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang*). The name *Kampus Putih* is more popularly used to refer to UMM. However, the data shown in Sentence 14 above shows that the use of *Kampus Putih*, which is originally the name of place, changes its meaning into the name of the people. In other words, *kampus Putih* in the context represents the people instead of a place. This was indicated by the use of the verb *menurunkan* that requires people to do that.

Eventually, compared to the previous research, the findings of the present study in relation to type of semantic change revealed that there was a little bit difference with the findings of the previous studies. For instance, Perlina (2018) found that there were only three types of semantic change used in the object of her study, and then the dominant type was metaphor. However, the present study showed that six types of semantic change were all found in the selected news articles of *Republika*, while the most frequent type is generalization. Thus, though the present and the previous study have used the same object, that is online newspaper, it can be assumed that each newspaper has their own language styles in delivering news to the readers. In addition, each journalist has their own way to explore their creativity in writing news articles, which is finally resulting readers' interest. As Rahardi (2010) said, the proper word choice used by the writers (journalists) may affect readers' imagination. Hence, the language use in journalism may vary from one to another to get paid attention from readers.

Another previous research was conducted by Anggraeni and Hariadi (2021) which focused on the use of synesthesia, amelioration, and pejoration. As discussed earlier, journalists have their own strategy to get readers' attention. Since Anggraeni and Hariadi's study specifically focused more on certain types of semantic change, this indicated that the use of different objects may result different findings. To put it another, while previous research showed that amelioration and pejoration is richer used in the news portal *detik.com*, the present study found less amelioration and pejoration in *Republika*.

### The causes of semantic changes

The second objective of this study is to find out the causes of semantic change. As it is mentioned, to achieve the second objective, this study utilized the theory of Chaer (2009). He mentioned that there were nine (9) motivating factors of how semantic change happens. However, the result of this study showed that the semantic change found in the news articles of *Republika* was caused by five (5) factors, namely socio-cultural factor, field of use, association, development of lexical item use, and abbreviation or ellipsis. Furthermore, it was found that word association was the most frequently used in the selected news articles of *Republika*. To make it clearer, then, each factor found in the selected news articles are described in the following.

15. "...atas perintah **Bapak** Presiden, dan **Pak** Kapolri memastikan akan bekerja melakukan penyidikan," ujar Dedi. (DATA 4, TEXT 1)

In Sentence 15 above it can be seen that there were the word **Bapak** and **Pak** undergoing semantic change, and the use of these words are caused by the socio-cultural factor. Ullman (1983) stated that social cause occurs because the word is socially constructed. In fact, in Indonesia the word **Bapak** or **Pak** not only refers to male parent, but it is also very commonly used to address somebody older or respected as shown in Sentence 15.

Moreover, the words in bold in Sentence 16 and 17 below showed that the use of these two words was due to transferring from one field to another. For example, the word **saluran** was previously defined as something used to flow water or liquids, but the context given in Sentence 16 is related to broadcast. Thus, it is clear that the meaning of the word **saluran** changes due to the different field of use. Similarly, the word **kandang** also underwent semantic change which was caused by field of use. **Kandang** in Sentence 17 refers to the place where a football team usually practices or a team's home ground, while the previous meaning is related to the farm. Thus, it can be said that there is a change in the lexical use from the field of farm to sports.

16. *Saluran* berita terpopuler di Cina, CCTV 13 juga menurunkan laporan utamanya tentang tragedi di Stadion Kanjuruhan pada Sabtu malam (DATA 12, TEXT 2)
17. Tidak ketinggalan, platform pesan video singkat yang populer di Cina, Kuai Shou, memperlihatkan video-video tentang peristiwa maut di *kandang* klub sepak bola berjudul "Singo Edan" itu. (DATA 14, TEXT 2)

Another factor of semantic change is due to association of a word with others. For example, the words *buntut* in Sentence 10 and *memperuncing* in Sentence 11 are the examples of word undergoing semantic change which was motivated by association. Other examples are shown in the following examples.

18. Hudaniah mengatakan, ada korban yang menjadi *tulang punggung*, .....(DATA 32, TEXT 5)
19. ....tim dari Mabes Polri sudah *menerjunkan* tim Disaster Victim Investigation (DVI)..... (DATA 3, TEXT 1)

From Sentence 18 and 19, it is shown that the words *tulang punggung* and *menerjunkan* also undergoes semantic change due to the existence of association. In this case, the word *tulang punggung* is associated with the term breadwinner since there seems similarity of the function. Meanwhile, *menerjunkan* is linked to an action of command.

The other factors of semantic change are motivated by development of lexical use item and abbreviation. As shown in Sentence 20 in the following, the words *berat* and *ringan* are related to the measure of an object. However, when the word *berat* or *ringan* is combined with the word *luka*, the meaning changes and create a new concept. Therefore, the word *berat* or *ringan* is not only used to describe an object, but it is also used to describe a certain condition. Meanwhile, in Sentence 21, it can be seen that the word *berpulang* undergoes the process of shortening where parts of the words are omitted. Originally, the word *berpulang* comes from *berpulang kepada Yang Maha Kuasa* or *Sang Pencipta*, but then in Sentence 21 the word is shortened. Though parts of the word are omitted, the use of

the term *berpulang* is very common to euphemize, so it may not cause misunderstanding or can be easily understood by readers.

20. Sebanyak 445 orang lainnya juga mengalami *luka-luka berat dan ringan* (DATA 27 and DATA 28, TEXT 4)
21. Duka Orang Tua Korban Tragedi Kanjuruhan, Anak Perempuan Satu-satunya *Berpulang* (DATA 33, TEXT 6)

In summary, the news reporters will remain consider how the language is used, without ignoring the ethics and rules in delivering the news. However, they may have their own style or strategy which varies from one to another in writing the news. Therefore, the language use in journalism has unique characteristics. As it was found in the recent and other previous studies, the news reporters employ some words which undergo semantic change. Then, it can be concluded that the use of proper word choices aims to get paid attention from readers and not seem monotonous when delivering the news.

## CONCLUSION

The present study has examined the types and the causes of semantic change which were used in the news portal Republika. Therefore, the analysis and conclusion is limited by only focusing on the meaning shift of the lexical items used in the selected articles from Republika on the issue of Kanjuruhan Tragedy. Hence, it cannot be claimed that the conclusion applies to all articles published by Republika or other news portal, but it rather suggests further research in these areas.

This research on semantic change may contribute to the field of semantics or historical linguistics and stimulate further research to be undertaken in areas beyond the newspapers. Moreover, the results of the study, pedagogically, are supposed to give some benefits for students to be able to describe semantic change. Finally, it can

be assumed that the choice of words in the articles may be used to attract their readers' interest, so it does not seem monotonous in delivering the news. Finally, it is suggested that further research may focus on the use of specific type of semantic change, e.g. metaphor.

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