

Differences Netizen Responses on Social Media X and Instagram About Post Indonesian Demonstrations: A Sociolinguistics Study

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Article Info

History Articles
Received:
5 Januari 2026
Accepted:
12 Februari 2026
Published:
30 April 2026

Keywords:
Sociolinguistics,
Language Use, Social
Media, X, Instagram.

Abstract

This research aims to explicitly describe the language used by netizens on social media platforms X and Instagram in posts about demonstrations in Indonesia, and to identify and analyze the social factors influencing these language choices. The primary objective is to compare netizen responses—specifically focusing on their linguistic characteristics—on X and Instagram, and to assess how social media platform characteristics and user objectives contribute to these differences. The research method used is documentation with data analysis techniques. The data and sources used in this study are comments on demonstrations in Indonesia that include specific words or phrases. The results of this study indicate differences in the language used by netizens on social media X and Instagram, including: 1) language use on social media X tends to be highly sarcastic and sharp, using swear words, profanity, and even expletives; 2) language use on Instagram shows two polarizations, namely indirect and direct language use; and 3) there are social factors that influence the differences in netizen responses, such as differences in social media characteristics, netizen objectives, and the presence of social media as a forum for freedom of expression. This study specifically for research on language use in virtual spaces as it reflects the diverse and complex expressions of social media users, particularly regarding linguistic phenomena in society and contributes to sociolinguistic research.

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, advances in technology have transformed social interaction. Husnah & Herniti (2022) state that people now engage in virtual spaces, such as social media. Social media enables wide-scale information sharing and allows users to express themselves through text, images, and videos (Eliya & Zulaeha, 2017; Rusti et al., 2025; Sihombing et al., 2026). Meanwhile, (Puspita & Setiana, 2025) assert that these developments in communication represent rapid technological progress that has transformed the landscape of digital communication. Prayudi & Nasution (2020) explain that social media serves as a medium for conveying meaning about social phenomena because it enables information to be communicated regardless of time and space.

Statistical data on social media usage in Indonesia shows that the two most frequently used platforms are X and Instagram. X (formerly known as Twitter) serves as both a communication tool and a hub for news and public discourse, with 25.5 million users. In contrast, Instagram uses its visual features to showcase lifestyles, reaching 103 million users in Indonesia (Riyanto, 2025). Ramdani (2021) notes that social media has revolutionized modern communication. The language used on social media is strongly shaped by users' interests and objectives. Consequently, social media in Indonesia functions not only as an interaction platform but also as a space for expression, allowing people to share a wide range of comments and criticisms.

According to (Katoda et al., 2026; Santi et al., 2022) as technology and human civilization advance, the contexts of language use continually evolve. (Nurmaini et al., 2025) note that language on social media binds users within online networks and transforms spoken language into more modern, practical written forms. As a result, language on these platforms both reflects and shapes social power dynamics, as users express personal identity in response to social phenomena (Prasetyo et al., 2024). Additionally, (Saddiyah & Rokhman, 2018) explain that language use in Indonesian society is heterogeneous, meaning that language choices

depend on social and situational factors, further highlighting the complexity of the online communication.

In this context, sociolinguistic studies explain these phenomena as linguistic phenomena influenced by various factors such as social identity, status, and position. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics concerned with language users (Chaer & Agustina, 2010; Zultiyanti, 2015). Holmes (2013) sociolinguistics is a field of study that examines the relationship between language and society, including language use, function, and related phenomena. Thus, sociolinguistics views language as a system of communication and a social construct that constantly evolves in relation to society and its culture (Rahmi & Aryanti, 2025).

Wardhaugh & Fuller (2009) explain the objectives of sociolinguistics by identifying the relationship between language and society through an understanding of linguistic structure and language function. Meanwhile, Pateda (2015) states that sociolinguistics is the study of language within a social context. This context refers to the interdependent relationship between humans and language.

Based on a review of the literature, there have been many previous studies on social media, both focusing on language use and on the impact of social media use on the language of its users, or netizens. Research focusing on language use in social media with language changes and polarization based on language variation and style by (Sembiring et al., 2025; Dewi, 2025; Nuralifa et al., 2021; Sarli et al., 2023). First, (Sembiring et al., 2025) examined language variation across various social media platforms, including Instagram, Twitter (X), Facebook, and TikTok. Their findings show that language variation on social media can reflect social and group identities and contribute to the development of communication on the platform. Second, (Dewi, 2025; Nuralifa et al., 2021; Sarli et al., 2023) researched language use related to style and sarcasm on social media. (Dewi, 2025) research explains the characteristics of language use, such as abbreviations and expressiveness, as

demonstrated in social media communication. Then, the research (Nuralifa et al., 2021; Sarli et al., 2023) observed sarcastic language on TikTok and Facebook, which took the form of opinions, rejections, prohibitions, commands, and so on.

Meanwhile, research focusing on the social factors and phenomena of social media use (Fatjeriyah et al., 2023; Tarwiyati & Sabardila, 2020). The study by (Fatjeriyah et al., 2023) highlights the impact of social media on the younger generation by creating a distinct language. The study's findings (Tarwiyati & Sabardila, 2020) describe the level of netizen politeness associated with social media use.

Based on this literature review, there is a gap between this study and previous studies regarding the research object. This study highlights the differences in netizen responses on the X and Instagram platforms in posts about demonstrations in Indonesia. Interactions and the use of social media elicit different responses depending on the platform. This yields linguistic facts worth exploring further.

Thus, the research question in this study is "how do netizens on social media platforms X and Instagram respond differently to the current issue of simultaneous demonstrations across

Indonesia?" The purpose of this study is to describe differences in netizens' responses and the social factors that influence them on social media platforms X and Instagram. In addition, this study is expected to contribute to the body of linguistic research related to language.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative descriptive study utilizing a sociolinguistic theoretical framework. The data for this study are posts containing specific words or phrases from netizen comments about demonstrations in Indonesia, published on X and Instagram. The research data comprises comments posted on these two platforms.

The data collection technique used documentation techniques by copying and pasting and using data analysis techniques from the theory of Miles and Huberman (1984), including (1) data collection; (2) data reduction; (3) data presentation; and (4) data conclusions. The following are some of the keywords and responses that netizens on social media X commented on most.

Data 1. Research data on social media X

No	Hash	Post	Netizen Responses
.	-tag		
Maha - siswa	BBC News Indonesia @BBCIndonesia	Posted on September 1, 2025, with 36 comments: 	Posted on September 1, 2025, with 36 comments: 

Senin **Monica** Official @NenkMonica :
<https://x.com/NenkMonica/status/1962465639253336450>



Posted on September 1, 2025, with 34 comments:



DPR Perupadata @perupadata:
<https://x.com/perupadata/status/1962348280953946404>



Posted on September 1, 2025, with 27 comments:



Intel Embun Pagi @_riverheaven :
https://x.com/_riverheaven/status/1962330887040929962

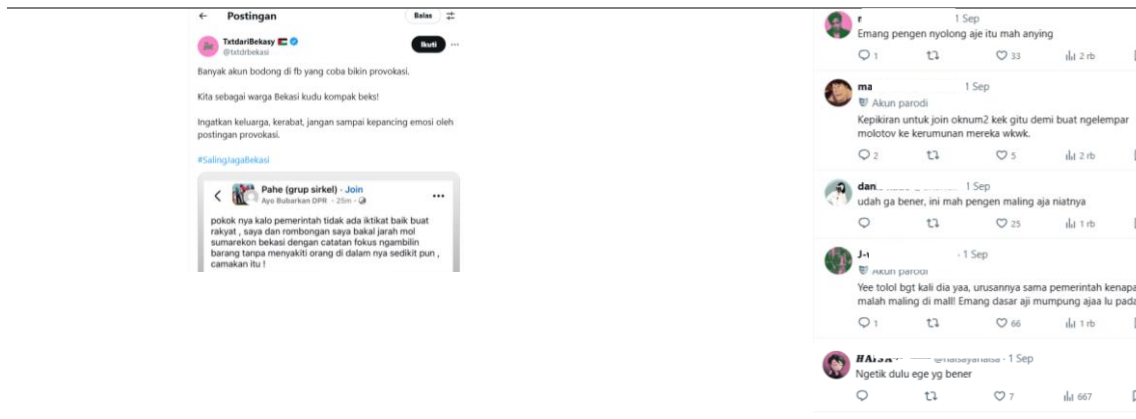


Posted on September 1, 2025, with 40 comments:



Salin TtxtdariBekasy @txtdrbekasi :
<https://x.com/txtdrbekasi/status/1962359857493029180>
 g
 Jaga
 Bekas
 i

Posted on September 1, 2025, with 70 comments:

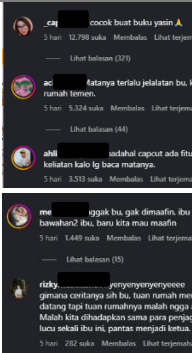
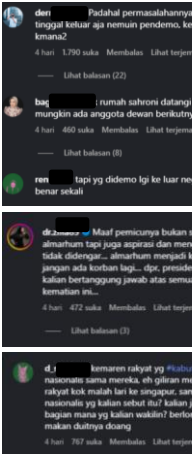
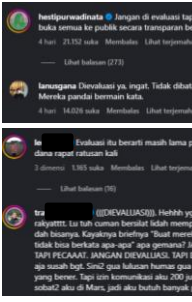
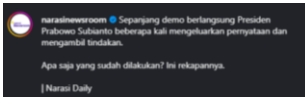
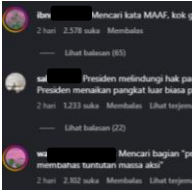


Meanwhile, research data on Instagram was collected by observing netizens' posts and comments on the Narasinewsroom social media account. The data collection method for this account was based on the timeline and sequence of demonstration events from August 30 to September 2, ranging from the initial demonstrations in several major regions of Indonesia to the aftermath of simultaneous demonstrations across the entire country.

Methods and data analysis. First, the data sample in this study was collected through screenshots of netizens' posts and comments in the Instagram comment section. There were 5 posts and 50 comments from netizens related to the demonstrations. Second, the data were analyzed and classified using a sociolinguistic approach to examine linguistic polarization in netizens' comments on Instagram. The following data from the study is presented in tabular form

Data 2. Research data on Instagram

No.	Date	Post	Netizen Responses
August 30, 2025	https://www.instagram.com/p/DN6_mhPk05L/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==		It has been commented on 11,000 times.
August 31, 2025	https://www.instagram.com/reel/DN8BOS8Ezvf/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==		It has been commented on 50,700 times.

		
September 1, 2025	https://www.instagram.com/p/DN-fHZ_E2EF/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA== 	It has been commented on 749 times. 
September 1, 2025	https://www.instagram.com/p/DOAybDJk0P1/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA== 	It has been commented on 8,500 times. 
September 2, 2025	https://www.instagram.com/p/DOFhBR3kxci/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA== 	It has been commented on 1,100 times. 



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section contains two descriptions. The first describes the findings of this study. The second discusses the study's results in relation to several previous studies.

Netizen Responses on Social Media X

Based on the findings of netizen responses on social media X related to demonstrations in Indonesia associated with keywords on the X search page. Based on the data found, the keywords in the search field that are currently being widely discussed on social media are as follows.

(1) Data: Student Keywords

The keyword "student" was used 67,000 times in posts on the social media platform X. In a post, BBC News Indonesia used the keyword "student" to describe the victims who died as a result of demonstrations that took place in the Special Region of Yogyakarta on Sunday, August 31, 2025. The following are excerpts from netizen comments in the post.

[D.1] D*****

"Pak prabowo atas dasar ini masih mau kasih naik pangkat ke aparat...?"

Quote #D.1 is a response from an X user regarding the BBC News Indonesia post. The comment was directed at the President of Indonesia, Mr. Prabowo Subianto, regarding his decision to promote state officials. The response used sarcasm, emphasizing the phrase *"on this basis, still willing,"* to reject the President's decision to appoint or promote state officials based on events during the demonstrations.

[D.2] Da***

"Surat pernyataan tidak akan menuntut punya kekuatan hukum apa? Klo ada advokat yang mau membantu & dokter yang sukarela mau otopsi jenazah apa konsekuensinya? Aparat hobi banget minta pernyataan begini."

Quote #D.2 provides a response regarding the police's requirement for the victim's family to submit a statement in order to repatriate and collect the victim's remains. The comment addresses the legal basis and authority for the statement in question. In addition, the comment sarcastically mentions that the police often prioritize the statement.

(2) Data: Keyword Monday

The keyword "Monday" was used 124,000 times in posts on social media X. The keyword "Monday" was most often used in reference to the simultaneous demonstrations held on Monday, September 1, 2025. In Monica Official's post, the keyword "Monday" was used to describe the demonstration by stand-up comedian Ge Pamungkas, who participated in the demonstration held in front of the Indonesian House of Representatives building. The following is an excerpt from a netizen's comment on the post.

[D.3] Ro*****

"Nah begitu dong ajak temanmu yang lain GE wakikan suaramu menjadi satu, makin lantang teriakanmu maka semakin semangat kami ikut menyertai perjuangan ini."

Quote #D.3 responds to a post by a stand-up comedian who participated in a demonstration in front of the Indonesian House of Representatives building. The comment expresses appreciation for the action taken and encourages other comedians to join the demonstration. Additionally, the comment notes that Ge Pamungkas' role in voicing opinions and

taking action can also encourage netizens to fight for democracy.

[D.4] Br**

"Cari panggung ingin jadi anggota dewan ya."

Quote #D.4 provides a sarcastic response to the post. The response is conveyed through a satirical statement that suggests comedian Ge Pamungkas is seeking personal gain to become a member of the House of Representatives. This comment reflects netizens' indirect distrust of comedians and other artists.

(3) Data: DPRD Keyword

The keyword DPRD was used 34.9 thousand times in posts on social media X. The keyword DPRD (Regional Representative Council) became a hot topic of discussion due to the demonstrations' initial purpose and the community's stance. In the Perupadata post, the keyword DPRD was used to present data on casualties during the demonstrations held from August 28 to August 31, 2025. The following are quotes from netizen comments in the post.

[D.5] Mo*****

"Pak @prabowo keliatan ga ini? ini Pak hasil dari orang" yang kau naikkan pangkatnya saat mereka terluka. Hasilnya? Meninggal rakyatmu Pak!!! Banyakin saja Pak naikkan pangkatnya, kasi jabatan sana sini, kasi nikmat Dunia. Nanti saatnya bapak akan rasakan, suara Rakyat adalah suara Tuhan."

In quote #D.5, there is a comment expressing protest and disagreement with Mr. Prabowo's decision to promote state officials. The comment states that this decision resulted in the deaths of many people due to the actions of officials during the demonstrations. This comment reflects disappointment with the President and state officials for failing to maintain peace and order during the demonstrations. In addition, the comment directly expresses sarcasm about the granting of more promotions.

[D.6] Al****

"Turut berduka cita atas gugurnya pejuang bangsa. Semoga kalian semua mendapatkan tempat yang layak di Alam sana. Perjuangan kalian menjadi perubahan besar untuk Bangsa. Alfatihah."

Quote #D.6 is a comment expressing sympathy and condolences for the victims who fell during the demonstrations. The comment

states that the victims who have died are a form of sacrifice in voicing the demonstration and hopes that in the future there will be changes to government policies in accordance with the demands and wishes of the people. In addition, the comment also prays for the victims, mentioning the Surah Al-Fatiha from the Quran.

(4) Data: Intel Keyword

The keyword "Intel" was used 59.4 thousand times in posts on social media X. The keyword "Intel" refers to a police unit tasked with conducting surveillance on events undercover. A post by Embun Pagi mentioned that there were indications that the perpetrators of the burning of the Sarinah bus stop in Jakarta were not part of the demonstration crowd. The following is an excerpt from a netizen's comment on the post.

[D.7] Ba**

"Ya nggak usah kau bahas lagi, disetiap demo didunia tetap ada oknum, yang demo pun tau itu."

Quote #D.7 reflects a personal opinion on the existence of individuals who caused riots during the demonstrations. The comment states that all demonstrations worldwide involve perpetrators or individuals. These individuals refer to the perpetrators involved in the riots that occurred during the demonstrations. Thus, this comment emphatically states that there is no need to discuss the rioters, as the public is already aware of this.

[D.8] Ar**

"Ganti rugi wooi, bangun kembali itu fasum!."

Quote #D.8 is a response protesting the burning of a bus stop. The comment demands compensation in the form of rebuilding the public facility that was burned down. As is well known, the bus stop is a public facility that was built in broader public interest.

(5) Data: Keyword Saling Jaga Bekasi

The keyword Saling Jaga Bekasi was used 15,900 times in posts on social media X. The keyword "Saling Jaga Bekasi" is a call for peaceful demonstrations to protect the Bekasi area. In the TxdariBekasy post, there was a warning about provocations on Facebook, emphasizing the need to protect family members from being swayed or provoked by posts that

incite such behavior. The following is a quote from a netizen's comment in the post.

[D.9] Ni**

*"Memang ingin nyolong aje itu mah an****"*

Quote #D.9 is a response to provocative posts encouraging looting at shopping centers or malls. The comment is conveyed with a firm statement that looting during demonstrations is theft. Such acts are criminal offenses and are not the purpose of demonstrations against the government. Thus, the comment reflects a strong protest against such behavior because it is used to take advantage of the situation and profit from stealing and looting shopping centers or malls.

[D.10] j-****

*"Yee to*** bgt dia yaa, urusan sama pemerintah kenapa malah maling di mall! Memang dasar aji mumpung saja lu pada!"*

Quote #D.10 is a profane response to the post calling for looting. The comment protests that the demonstration was directed at and concerned with the government, not at looting malls. In addition, the comment is a statement of protest against the looters who took advantage of the situation and benefited their personal interests during the demonstration.

Netizen Responses on Social Media Instagram

The responses from Instagram users are very diverse. While social media X tends to easily find topics and trends based on keywords on the search page, Instagram tends to find comments through individual Instagram accounts or official telecommunications and news media accounts.

Based on data findings, the Instagram account Narasinewsrooms consistently uploaded several posts related to the demonstrations. These posts contained several official statements from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Prabowo Subianto, the Chair of the People's Consultative Assembly, Puan Maharani, and the Chief of the Jakarta Metro Police. These posts have been liked and commented on, with thousands, or even tens of millions, of comments representing the general public's responses and reactions to the demonstrations from the perspective of Instagram users. Below are some examples of comments on Instagram posts.

(1) Data 1 was uploaded on August 30, 2025. This upload is related to a summary of the chronology of events surrounding an online motorcycle taxi driver who was run over by a Brimob Polri armored vehicle, resulting in the driver's death. The following is an example of data from netizen comments on Instagram.

[D.11] Ho*****

"Kalian percaya polisi tangkap polisi?."

In quote #D.11, it is a netizen's response to the incident of oppression that occurred during a demonstration on August 28, 2025. The response sarcastically questions public trust in the police to arrest the police officers who crushed the online motorcycle taxi driver using a Brimob armored vehicle. The response also implies public distrust of the police's performance in Indonesia.

[D.12] Ho***

"Ngebayangin dia teriak kesakitan di lindak mobil seberat itu, perih bgt hariku. Semoga korban husnul khotimah al fatiha.."

Quote #D.12 contains netizens' responses expressing grief and condolences for the victim, an online motorcycle taxi driver. The comments reflect the emotions of netizens, who express their sadness by imagining the pain of the online motorcycle taxi driver when he was run over by a heavy car. In addition, the comments pray for the victim to be in a good place and recite Al-Fatiha from the Quran.

(2) Data 2 was uploaded on August 31, 2025. This post is a statement of condolence from the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Puan Maharani, for the online motorcycle taxi driver who has passed away. In this statement, Mrs. Puan Maharani apologized on behalf of the members of the House of Representatives for failing to represent the wishes of the Indonesian people. The following is an example of netizen comments on Instagram.

[D.13] _c*****

"cocok buat buku yasin 🕌"

Quote #D.13 contains data on netizens' responses. The comment does not respond to the condolences and apology; instead, it comments

on the black clothes worn by the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives. The response is subtle sarcasm, indirectly stating that it is "suitable for the Yasin book." This comment reflects the netizen's disappointment with the Speaker of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly's statement.

[D.14] me*****

"nggak bu, gak dimaafin. Ibu benerin dulu bawahan-bawahan ibu, baru kita mau maafin"

Comment #D.14 contains netizens' responses to the above statement. The comment indirectly responds, "No, ma'am, we will not forgive until we are forgiven," implying that the apology cannot be accepted until the House of Representatives (DPR RI) has made improvements and reforms to its performance. The phrase *"Ibu benerin dulu bawahan-bawahan ibu"* (You fix your subordinates first, ma'am), with the emphasis on the word "subordinates," refers to the members and Ibu as the superior who has the power to control the performance of her members in the DPR RI. Therefore, this comment conveys the implied desire of netizens for change and improvement in the performance of DPR RI members as representatives of the Indonesian people.

(3) Data 3 was uploaded on September 1, 2025.

This upload is a report on mass demonstrations in various cities, such as Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, and cities outside Java, due to the death of an online motorcycle taxi driver and demands for justice in the case. The following is an example of netizen comments on Instagram.

[D.15] de****

"Padahal permasalahannya simple, anggota DPR tinggal keluar saja nemuin pendemo, kelar, ga sampe merembet kemana2"

Comment D.15 is a response from netizens expressing their opinions and views on efforts to resolve the demonstration issue. In this comment, the word "come out" refers to members of the House of Representatives who are inside the building and need to meet with the demonstrators outside. This comment is intended to convey netizens' response to members of the House of Representatives, urging them to meet with the

demonstrators to resolve the main issues in this demonstration and prevent similar problems from arising in other sectors of government and politics.

[D.16] dr****

"Maaf pemicunya bukan sekedar kematian almarhum tapi juga aspirasi dan mengungkapkan rakyat yang tidak didengar... almarhum menjadi korban dari aksi reaksi ini. jangan ada korban lagi... DPR, Presiden, Menteri dan jajaran MPR kalian bertanggung jawab atas semua kerusakan, kesakitan, dan kematian..."

Comment D.16 is a response from netizens expressing their opinions and views on efforts to resolve the demonstration issue. In this comment, the word "come out" refers to members of the House of Representatives who are inside the building and need to meet with the demonstrators outside. This comment is intended to convey netizens' response to members of the House of Representatives, urging them to meet with the demonstrators to resolve the main issues in this demonstration and prevent similar problems from arising in other sectors of government and politics.

(4) Data 4 was uploaded on September 1, 2025.

This upload is a statement from all Indonesian political party factions agreeing to a re-evaluation of the controversy surrounding the DPR's allowances. The following is an example of netizen comments on Instagram.

[D.17] he****

"Jangan di evaluasi tapi dihilangkan, di buka semua ke publik secara transparan berapa yang didapat"

Comment D.17 is a netizen response reflecting their immediate reaction to statements made by Indonesian political parties. The comment expresses rejection by emphasizing the phrase "do not evaluate but eliminate." In addition, the response demands transparency regarding the salaries and allowances received by members of the House of Representatives during their term of office. This response also implicitly conveys the public's lack of knowledge about the income earned by each member of the House of Representatives.

[D.18] la****

"Dievaluasi ya, ingat. Tidak dibatalkan. Hati-hati. Mereka pandai bermain kata"

Comment D.18 is a response that warns Instagram users. The comment reminds them that the DPR allowance is currently being evaluated and will not be eliminated. This comment also serves as an instruction to monitor the House of Representatives' evaluation period for the allowance. In addition, this response reflects netizens' distrust of political party factions' statements. The phrase "they are good at playing with words" implicitly suggests that political party factions tend to be skilled at talking but not at taking concrete action to eliminate allowances for members of the House of Representatives.

(5) Data 5 was uploaded on September 2, 2025.

This upload is a summary of the official stance and statement of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto regarding the ongoing demonstrations. The following is an example of netizen comments on Instagram.

[D.19] ib****

"Mencari kata MAAF, kok gak nemu ya"

In comment D.19, netizens expressed their disappointment indirectly. In these comments, they sought and awaited an apology from President Prabowo Subianto. The use of capital letters for the word "apology" indicates the emphasis placed on the President to express this in his official statement regarding the demonstrations and demands of the people. Additionally, this comment reflects the attitude expected from the President towards all Indonesian citizens regarding all government decisions and policies that are not based on the wishes and expectations of the people.

[D.20] wa****

"Mencari bagian 'presiden berdialog membahas tuntutan massa aksi'."

In comment D.20, other netizens expressed their hope for immediate action by the President. The comment emphasizes the phrase "seeking a part" to explain the netizens' expectation for a direct response in the President's statement. The sentence "the president is in dialogue to discuss the demands of the protesters"

reflects netizens' hopes and disappointment in the President's willingness to open communication channels to listen directly to the protesters' demands. Therefore, this comment implicitly urges the President to open communication regarding the protesters' demands.

Affecting Differences in Netizen Responses on Social Media X and Instagram

Based on an analysis of netizen responses to various posts on social media X and Instagram, several factors influence these differences.

First, differences in social media characteristics. Each social media platform has its own polarization in how content is disseminated. For example, social media X tends to facilitate the circulation and dissemination of information by searching for keywords on the trending topics search page. This makes it easier for users to access real-time information on topics and conversations currently being discussed in the media. Based on responses to the comments, it is possible to get an overview of netizens' language, which tends to be sarcastic and sharp. The use of such language is also accompanied by swear words, insults, curses, and so on. The language and expressions used in each netizen's response on social media X are highly sarcastic and harshly attack individuals, groups, and institutions. Based on research (Hazimah et al., 2024), the use of language on social media X can reflect social and political polarization in society by conveying diverse messages that can create complex public opinion.

Meanwhile, Instagram can be used to find information on netizen responses and comments across media and/or personal accounts. Based on the data, netizens on Instagram exhibit two distinct polarizations in their language use when responding to posts about demonstrations in Indonesia. In the first polarization, netizens' comments tend to use indirect language, hiding their true intentions in posts specifically aimed at public officials or the government. In the second polarization, they directly convey criticism and feedback on the decisions and policies made by several public institutions.

Second, the purpose of netizens when responding to and commenting on news about demonstrations is to. It cannot be denied that the purpose or interests of speakers can influence the use of language on social media. Every user, whether posting or commenting on social media, certainly reflects various things they want to express to the public. Based on the above data, netizens share their expressions when responding to each demonstration post. For example, social media X, based on the data, provides insight into the use of language influenced by emotive and strong expressions. The aim is to show that emotional strength can provide a persuasive narrative (Hazimah et al., 2024). Meanwhile, Instagram, with its easy access for users to obtain information, provides a platform for netizens to express various emotions through posts and comments (Tarwiyati & Sabardila, 2020).

Third, social media provides a platform for aspirations and voices that want to be heard, seen, and displayed to the nation's leaders. In the administration of a democratic and sovereign state, the voice of the people must be heard to govern in accordance with the common will and desires. However, the implementation and decisions made by local authorities often fail to fully deliver what the wider community wants and desires. The presence of social media provides the public with a platform to convey their wishes and messages to the government. The data found reflects the expressive outpouring of emotions people want to convey directly to the government. By using sharp language and sarcasm, they indirectly show how emotions shape the posts they comment on. In line with this, (Tarwiyati & Sabardila, 2020) explain that social media serves as a means for netizens to publicly express their feelings. In addition, the study notes that users often feel better after venting various things on social media.

Discussion

Based on an analysis of netizens' posts and comments on social media platforms X and Instagram, this study identifies two findings. First, 10 posts related to demonstrations were found to be the most commented on and

discussed on each social media platform. For example, on social media X, various uses of sarcasm were found, such as "looking for a stage to become a council member, huh?" The term *cari panggung* is a term of ridicule and accusation, interpreted as seeking opportunity or advantage in the midst of a situation or circumstance. Therefore, this sentence clearly contains a high degree of sarcasm, using indirect language to express sympathy for, or to castigate, a public figure who is giving a speech in front of the DPRD building as an act of currying favor or seeking opportunity by taking advantage of the existing conditions and circumstances. The findings of this study align with previous studies demonstrating the use of sarcastic language across various social media platforms (Nuralifa et al., 2021; Sarli et al., 2023).

Second, there are three social factors that influence the differences between netizens on X and Instagram, including (1) differences in social media characteristics; (2) the purpose of netizens' statements conveyed through comments on social media; and (3) a platform for conveying various expressions related to the social situation and conditions of society. These findings are similar to those of previous studies (Sembiring et al., 2025; Tarwiyati & Sabardila, 2020), which note that social media is used as a space to express opinions on changes in social conditions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of the research, this study concludes that social media can present features that provide an overview of the indirect expressions of society or users of social media platforms X and Instagram. This is particularly true of news reports or posts about demonstrations in Indonesia, which have become a hot topic and the focus of public attention amid political and governmental turmoil. From the discourse data, differences in netizen responses across the two major platforms are evident: social media X tends to use higher levels of sarcasm, profanity, cursing, and swearing. This language is often used to attack individuals, groups, or government agencies involved in demonstrations.

Furthermore, the polarization and language behavior on social media X can explain the expressions of anger and disappointment among netizens. Meanwhile, the language used by netizens on Instagram creates two linguistic polarizations, namely: 1) conveying comments or responses using indirect or implicit language to express various indirect expressions; 2) several other comments are conveyed using clear words to criticize, provide input, and even resolve issues related to the demands of the demonstration.

Thus, this study has significant implications for sociolinguistic studies. This study also shows that language use in virtual spaces, particularly on X and Instagram, is highly diverse and complex, generating a range of comments and responses related to demonstrations in Indonesia. However, this study does not generalize about the practice of language use on X and Instagram as a whole. This study can capture only a small part of the linguistic phenomena in netizens' responses on social media X and Instagram. Therefore, given the limitations of this study, further research is expected to explore linguistic phenomena on social media, particularly on social media X and Instagram.

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