THE STUDY OF DYPHEMISM IN FAKE NEWS (HOAX) ABOUT COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

Covid 19 is the biggest health issue today that causes a multidimensional crisis globally. In addition to the pandemic itself, every country must fight fake news that exacerbates the situation and has shaped people's perceptions, behaviors and social structures. Language becomes an important aspect in the production and reproduction of hoaxes by creating negative or controversial meanings or discourses (dysphemism). This study uses a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach which allows textual studies of hoaxes and Covid 19 to be carried out in an interdisciplinary manner. With the focus of research on hoax news as political public discourse, the objectives of this study are (1) to examine the types of dysphemism; (2) reveal the context and purpose of the use of dysphemism; and (3) uncover the political or ideological aspects behind its use. Data in the form of a corpus of hoax news about Covid 19 in 2020 as many as 766 texts that have gone through a reduction and validation process from the official website of the Ministry of Communication and Telecommunications of the Republic of Indonesia. The results showed that from 766 news data or fake news related to the Covid-19 pandemic, almost a third of the data (32.24%) contained dysphemism constructions. This indicates that the tendency of the Indonesian people to use social media during the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia is to frame the perception of the wider community through labeling, negative associations, efforts to separate through propaganda, as well as efforts to eliminate status by using unpleasant expressions. The finding that IST-Dysphemism dominates the entire data (34.01%) indirectly shows that in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, people tend to blame people, the state or other parties who are considered to have the responsibility (power) to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. 19 that spread in Indonesia, namely the Jokowi government and China. More than half of the data (50.39%) refers to China by building anti-Chinese rhetoric while 43.31% refers to prejudice against President Jokowi and the elite in the form of accusations of conspiracy, while 0.63% refers to fighting between religions, races and organizations. . This is allegedly related to the sociocentric nature of Indonesian society which affects the construction or formation of fake news about Covid-19. Overall, the data shows that fake news about Covid-19 is no longer centered on health issues, but widens on political and racial issues. The use of dysphemism language features in the frame of fake news, makes news not only as a form of lying, but also as hate speech that can show the author's attitude and can further influence people's perceptions, attitudes, and behavior.

Kata Kunci: *hoax, euphemism, dysphemism, ideology*