A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS ON THE QUALITY OF POLITICS, SOCIAL-AFFAIRS AND ECONOMICS NEWS IN THE FIRST PAGES OF JAWA POS NEWSPAPER OF THE MAY - 2000 EDITION THROUGH FOUR KINDS OF VAGUENESS

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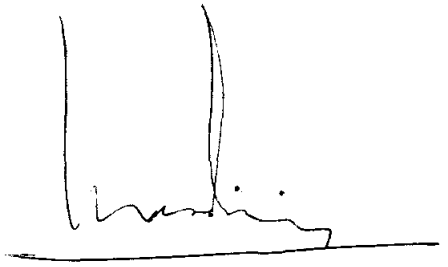

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ABSTRACT

Purnasari, Aida. 2001. **A Semantic Analysis on the Quality of Politics, Social-affairs and Economics News in the First Pages of Jawa Pos Newspaper of the May 2000 – Edition Through Four Kinds of Vagueness.** Thesis, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya. Advisor: (1) Drs. M.P. Soetrisno, M. A. and (2) Drs. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M. Pd.

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There is nothing absolute in this world. However, this study could prove that *vagueness* is inherit in the nature of language. *Vagueness* exists in today's newspapers. Concerning this situation and so far there has been no thesis discussing *vagueness* in newspapers, the researcher could find that *vagueness* in newspapers is an interesting topic to be further discussed. Moreover, *vagueness* in newspapers can be used as an instrument to determine the quality of the newspapers.

Vagueness is considered as an uncertain, unclear, or imprecise thing which is lack of specification. Moreover, vagueness should be avoided in communicating news since its existence causes misunderstanding among the readers. Driven by her curiousity to know more about vagueness in the writing of news, the researcher formulated two questions, "What kinds of vagueness are found in politics, social-affairs, and economics news in the first pages of Jawa Pos newspaper during the May-2000 edition?, and, "How is the quality of Jawa Pos newspaper on May-2000 in terms of writing politics, social-affairs, and economics news in the first pages viewed from the *four kinds of vagueness*?, as the research questions of the study.

According to Kempson in Semantic Theory, there are *four kinds of vagueness,* namely *referential vagueness, indeterminacy of the meaning of an item or phrase, lack of specification in the meaning of an item*, and *the meaning of an item involves the disjunction of different interpretations.* Depending on these kinds of vagueness, the researcher could find kinds of *vagueness* in a newspaper and judge its quality concerning its ability avoiding *vagueness*. In line with this case, this study analyzed the news on politics, social-affairs, and economics of the first pages of Jawa Pos newspaper during the edition of May 2000, to find the vagueness contained in the news and to judge the quality of the newspaper under study. The vagueness found was then categorized into *referential vagueness, indeterminacy of the meaning of an item or phrase, lack of specification in the meaning of an item*, and *the meaning of an item involves the disjunction of different interpretations.* After that, the researcher count the percentage of the quality that Jawa Pos acquired. The lower the precentage is, the better the quality of Jawa Pos newspaper would be.

The analysis on the news found that there were three kinds of vagueness in the news. They were *indeterminacy of the meaning of an item or phrase, lack of specification in the meaning of an item*, and *the meaning of an item involves the disjunction of different interpretations*. Out of the 198 news under sudy, only eight of them contained vagueness. There were 2 times of occurrence in the vagueness of *indeterminacy of the meaning of an item or phrase*, 4 times of occurrence in the vagueness of *lack of specification in the meaning of an item*, and 2 times of occurrence in the vagueness of *the meaning of an item involves the disjunction of different interpretations*. Besides that, based on the formula made, the 8th vague news got a very small number of percentage, 4,04%. It means that Jawa Pos has a very good quality in terms of writing politics, social, and economics news on the first pages during the May edition 2000.

In conclusion, regarding the number of occurrence of the vagueness, the researcher decided that the news written in the first pages of Jawa Pos newspaper of the May-2000 edition was of very good quality. It means that Jawa Pos can be considered as a newspaper that can be used as one of the reliable sources of information.