

Scrutinizing Metadiscourse Markers in the Gossip Columns of Lambe Turah and Insert Live: A Corpus Linguistic Study

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The use of meta-discourse in academic spoken or written texts has been widely investigated. However, the existence of meta-discourse as a meaning-making in informal contexts such as gossip pages remains unaddressed. This present study investigates the frequency of word classes and the use of meta-discourse markers as the meaning-making practices in the gossip columns of Insert Live and Lambe Turah. The selection of these two online media platforms is grounded in their pragmatics and national coverage. The data collection of this research utilizes the corpus method. Data were gathered from Insert Live and Lambe Turah gossip columns. In accordance with Hyland's theory (2005), the focus of this study is on comparing the word list frequency and functions of meta-discourse markers in the gossip columns in online media. The finding reveals that Insert Live tends to emphasize object-related elements, while Lambe Turah tends to underscore event-related aspects in gossip reporting. Besides, Insert Live tends to use meta-discourse markers in gossip columns to provide clarifications derived from informants, while Lambe Turah employs meta-discourse markers to steer readers' opinions toward believing a particular issue by producing accusations using speculative language.

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Introduction

Meta-discourse markers are linguistic features used to clarify an argument made by the author, with the aim of enabling readers to easily understand the purpose and intent of the writing (Ahmed, 2011). According to Hyland (2005), meta-discourse can help writers establish a relationship with their readers through their text. It also has a social function and pragmatics to equip the readers with adequate resources to construe meanings made by the writer (Hyland, 2005). Based on this, Hyland (2005) categorizes meta-discourse markers into two functions: interactive and interactional.

Interactive meta-discourse aims to engage readers in the text by facilitating their understanding of the message conveyed by the writer. On the other hand, interactional meta-discourse refers to the use of language and communicative actions by the writer in the text, or by a speaker towards their audience, to establish social interaction or a connection with the reader (Hyland, 2005).

Meta-discourse markers, particularly in the study of text objects, are essential for understanding the function and effectiveness of word structures. This is because both written and spoken texts inherently carry individual perspectives, necessitating a clear determination of the writer's relative position (Hyland, 2005). The linguistics scholars such as Hyland (2005) and Adel (2010) have already expanded the framework of meta-discourse in their research on academic writing and English for Academic Purposes then put student academic written text as their subject. However, Hyland (2005) argues that meta-discourse markers generally have fluid functions and forms. The same concept of meta-discourse might function differently depending on the content of the text or speech. This also prompts the present researcher to not often rely on the existence form but to look comprehensively at the component of the text. Based on that argument, it indirectly assumes that text in other forms, such as non-academic text may lead to different interpretations. One of the informal texts that has been massively favored in society is mass media discourse particularly infotainment or gossip.

Gossip is considered as informal discourse settings since its language usage tends to be speculative and unstructured (Hasanah & Wahyudi, 2016). Foster (2004) defines gossip as "chitchat," "evil tongue," and "idle chatter," noting that gossip often involves discussing events related to individuals that contain controversial elements. Apart from gaining controversial elements about human and its social bonds, gossip could also possibly serve and lead people to learn regarding how to live in cultural society (Foster, 2004). According to Foster (2004), the functions of gossip can be divided into six categories: entertainment, information dissemination, social bonding, and dynamic events. Based on that perspective, it can be said that gossip may have positive and negative views.

In Indonesia itself, Gossip or infotainment has become the most accessed news category in Indonesian online mass media (Degaf et al., 2019). In addition, news about gossip has also been featured as the main headline in several Indonesian online media. The media that consistently produce gossip and even have dedicated columns for gossip reporting in Indonesia are *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*. *Lambe Turah* is an entertainment media company that is active across various social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. *Lambe Turah* is known for its eccentric and speculative language style in presenting information. Additionally, the information presented by *Lambe Turah* focuses on controversies and scandals, as well as gossip about Indonesian celebrities. Those languages are used to attract the attention of readers, predominantly consisting of the younger generation. As of early 2022, *Lambe Turah* became the most-followed gossip media on social media, especially Instagram. Additionally, the gossip news insights produced daily by *Lambe Turah* reach approximately three hundred thousand readers (Juditha, 2018).

On the other hand, *Insert Live* is Indonesia's first digital mainstream media that has its own official webpage with various social media platforms, such as Instagram and YouTube. Moreover, *Insert Live* also has its own program on Indonesian national television (Boer et al., 2020). Initially, *Insert Live* was an Indonesian television program broadcast on a channel called Trans TV, featuring a structured and professional concept

by presenting news programs about the daily lives of celebrities. In addition, the news programs produced by *Insert Live* also included exclusive interviews with the informants. As of early 2017, *Insert Live* has already developed an official website, which has been read and followed by more than five thousand readers (Boer et al., 2020).

As media with national coverage, *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* play a significant role in shaping public perceptions of information. In producing news such as gossip or infotainment, writers are required to possess adequate linguistic knowledge. As Niekerk (2008) states that gossip or infotainment texts are characterized by a casual and unique style, which differs from academic texts that tend to adopt a formal and straightforward tone. Therefore, media writers need to have a strong understanding of meta-discourse markers (Hyland, 2005). In other words, the writer's ability to use appropriate language is indeed important. Conversely, without a good grasp of meta-discourse, the points conveyed in the text may fail to be effectively communicated to the readers (Detrianto et al., 2020).

The problem addressed in this research concerns the tendencies of word lists and the use of meta-discourse markers in gossip columns from two media outlets with different backgrounds. Despite both focusing on gossip, there are significant differences between these media. First, *Insert Live* is a mainstream media outlet that focuses on depicting or highlighting the lives of public figures. In contrast, *Lambe Turah* is an entertainment media outlet that concentrates on capturing scandal and controversial phenomena in the news that are currently hot topics. The scope of controversial issues covered by *Lambe Turah* is not limited to matters involving public figures; they tend to report on all controversial news without prior filtering. Both media platforms highlight and expand upon controversial issues that are widely discussed, thereby increasing public attention in Indonesia toward these reports.

Research on meta-discourse markers has been conducted by several scholars, particularly in the context of formal written texts such as argumentative essays, academic journals, and online media. Notable studies in these areas have been conducted by Ho & Li (2018), Lofi et al. (2019), Hayisama et al. (2019), and Mohamed & Rashid (2017). These researchers have analyzed interpersonal meta-discourse within the same conceptual framework, focusing on formal written texts. Generally, their findings reveal similarities in the use of interpersonal markers in formal written texts. Research on meta-discourse markers has also been conducted in the context of spoken text or speech. For instance, studies by Duruk (2017) and Kuswoyo (2019) have analyzed interpersonal meta-discourse in the realms of political debates and academic conferences in the fields of economics and business.

In the context of informal texts, previous research has examined entertainment media columns. Such studies have been conducted by Hasanah & Wahyudi (2016), Ojo (2020), Hardjanto (2023), and Zarza (2018). However, these studies have focused solely on the aspects of hedges and boosters as meaning-building elements in the text. Prior research suggests that entertainment media pages may produce distinct meanings and outcomes when analyzed through the lenses of hedges and boosters.

From the review of existing research, there are notable differences and advancements in this study compared to previous studies. Previous researchers have utilized formal texts such as scholarly articles, official speeches, essays, and news reports, which typically present facts or arguments supported by evidence. Additionally,

although Hasanah & Wahyudi (2016) analyzed gossip columns, their focus was solely on hedges without considering meta-discourse markers in their entirety.

Given the gap in the existing research, the researcher aims to examine the tendencies of word lists and the role of meta-discourse markers by comparing online media between *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* gossip columns since both of these media are the largest gossip platforms in Indonesia and are widely consumed by the public, they have the potential to easily shape perceptions or opinions. The researcher hypothesizes that analyzing the comparison of word list and meta-discourse markers in gossip texts from *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* using a corpus-based approach will yield significantly different meaning compared to academic or other formal texts. Based on that argumentation the researcher formulates the following research questions:

1. What are the tendencies in the classification of word classes for meta-discourse markers on the gossip pages of *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*?
2. How are meta-discourse markers represented in the gossip columns of *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*?

Methods

The data for this study consist of online media texts sourced from the gossip media platforms *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*, accessed through the websites <https://lambeturah.co.id/> and <https://www.insertlive.com/>. For *Lambe Turah*, data were collected from the hot news column, while for *Insert Live*, data were collected from the gossip column. Additionally, for each data source, the researcher selected a sample of 15 articles using random sampling techniques from the most recent three-month period, specifically from December 2023 to February 2024. This results in a total sample of 30 articles, representing gossip news from both websites. The data were then copied per article into a .txt format and stored on Google Drive. Additionally, the researchers included a data list as documentation to facilitate access to the data. The data were also divided into two files based on the source and saved in .txt format. These two files were subsequently uploaded for processing using a corpus analysis tool on the website <https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/> to assist the researcher in analyzing data frequency.

After the data were processed on the website, a frequency list was obtained to examine the number of classifications for noun (NN), verb (VB), adjective (JJ), and adverb (RB) categories from both news platforms. Those frequency of word class lists is utilized by the researcher to identify words or phrases that are frequently used as meta-discourse markers. This stage of analysis reveals the patterns of meta-discourse markers usage in gossip texts.

To validate the data, the researcher also conducted a verification against a keywords list. To determine the percentage of each category, the researcher used the formula: the number of data items in each category divided by the total number of data items, then multiplied by 100 to obtain the relative frequency. Based on this data, the researcher analyzed the tendencies of word classes appearing in both media outlets. The frequency of word class classifications, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, can be used to map interactional meta-discourse elements such as hedges, self-mention, engagement, boosters, and attitude markers, as well as interactive markers, which include code glosses, transitional markers, evidentials, endophoric markers, and frame markers.

Subsequently, the researchers created a context analysis table to facilitate data analysis based on type and function, according to Hyland's (2005) meta-discourse markers theory. We categorized the data using Hyland's (2005) meta-discourse analytical framework. The meta-discourse analytical framework can be seen below;

Table 1
Model of Metadiscourse in Academic Texts (Hyland,2005)

Category	Function	Example
Interactive Resources		
Help to guide reader through the text		
Transitions	Express semantic relation between main clauses	in addition/ but/ thus/ and
Frame markers	Refer to discourse acts, sequences, or text stages	finally/ to conclude/ my purpose is
Endophoric markers	Refer to information in other parts of the text	noted above/ see fig/ in section 2
Evidentials	Refer to source of information from other texts	according to X/ (Y, 1990)/ Z states
Code glosses	Help readers grasp meanings of identical material	namely/ e.g./ such as/ in other words
Interactional resources		
Involve the reader in the argument		
Hedges	Withhold writer's full commitment to proposition	might/ perhaps/ possible/ about
Boosters	Emphasises force or writer's certainty in proposition	in fact/ definitely/ it is clear that
Attitude Markers	Express writer's attitude to proposition	unfortunetely/ I agree/ suprisingly
Engagement Markers	Explicitly refer to or build relationship with reader	consider/ note that/ you can see that
Self-Mentions	Explicit reference to author(s)	I/ we/ my/ our

After classifying the data based on categorization and function, the researchers then present the findings and analysis results, followed by drawing the conclusions of the study.

Results and Discussion

Frequencies of Word Classes in Lambe Turah and Insert Live

At this stage, the findings and data analysis related to the first research question concerning the tendencies in the classification of word classes in each gossip media—Lambe Turah and Insert Live—will be discussed.

Table 2

Frequency of word classes in Lambe Turah

No	Noun	Percentage	Verb	Percentage
1.	Kejadian	1,72%	Diduga	2,94%
2.	Akun	1,29%	Menjadi	2,94%
3.	Foto	1,03%	Berlari	2,19%
4.	Netizen	1,03%	Terlihat	1,87%
5.	Okie	1,03%	Ujar	1,87%

No	Adjective	Percentage	Adverb	Percentage
1.	Syur	6,36%	Langsung	5,51%
2.	Salah	3,64%	Bahkan	4,72%
3.	Munafik	3,64%	Akhirnya	4,72%
4.	Seksual	3,64%	Lagi	3,94%
5.	Baru	2,73%	Banget	3,15%

Table 3

Frequency of word classes in Insert Live

No	Noun	Percentage	Verb	Percentage
6.	Aku	1.96%	Diketahui	2.70%
7.	Aaliyah	1.66%	Jadi	2.70%
8.	Afifah	1.21%	Diduga	2.21%
9.	Icha	1.06%	Diketahui	2.21%
10.	Marisya	1.06%	Memberikan	1.97%

No	Adjective	Percentage	Adverb	Percentage
6.	Mantan	5.04%	Juga	17.80%
7.	Baik	3.36%	Nggak	6.78%
8.	Enak	3.36%	Lagi	5.73%
9.	Salah	3.36%	Bahkan	5.58%
10.	Bule	2.52%	Cuma	3.39%

From the frequency table of word classes, it is evident that there is a significant difference between the *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* media platforms in the frequency of word class usage, particularly in the category of Nouns (NN). In the context of Nouns (NN), both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* have the word “aku” as the most frequently occurring word.

Based on Azar (1999), The word “aku” falls under the categorization of pronouns, specifically a first-person singular. Consequently, based on Sudaryanto et al., (2019)

"aku" cannot be considered a noun because it does not represent a specific entity such as a name, object, or place. Therefore, in this context both media use the word "aku" as part of a nominal element that functions as an entity from a first-person perspective. In other words, the media uses the word "aku" to refer to another entity, rather than the author of the news in that media outlet.

However, the significant difference in noun usage lies in the use of abstract nouns versus proper nouns. *Insert Live* tends to use proper nouns, specifically mentioning individuals' names. In contrast, *Lambe Turah* leans toward using concrete nouns, incorporating abstract nominals in each sentence. This suggests that *Insert Live* tends to emphasize individuals in its gossip coverage, while *Lambe Turah* tends to obscure the subject or agent serving as the noun in its gossip reporting. Azar (1999) argues that the categorization of names of figures and public personalities falls under concrete nouns and individual nouns, which are used by writers to convey specific intentions.

In the categorization of verb word classes, both media platforms show similarities. In the top 3 of the first 5 verb word classes (VB) on *Lambe Turah*, the keywords are "diduga" (alleged), followed by "menjadi" (become) and "berlari" (run). On the other hand, in the top 3 of the first 5 verb word classes (VB) on *Insert Live*, the most frequently occurring verbs are "diketahui" (to know), "jadi" (become), and "diduga" (alleged).

Both media platforms feature the word "diduga" in their respective top 3 frequencies (VB). The term "diduga" is a passive form of the verb "duga" (to suspect). According to Irham & Wahyudi (2012), the passivization of a verb is used to obscure the "agent" by highlighting an event or phenomenon more prominently than the subject of the action. In other words, both media outlets tend to use this technique to steer opinions and engage readers with the narrative of gossip news.

In the categorization of adjectives, the two media platforms exhibit different tendencies in their top 5 words class classifications. *Lambe Turah* tends to use more vulgar terms such as "syur" (obscene), "seksual" (sexual), and "munafik" (hypocritical). In contrast, *Insert Live* frequently features words like "mantan" (ex), "bule" (foreigner), and "sama" (same). Conversely, in the categorization of adverbs, both media show similar tendencies.

The most frequently occurring adverbs on *Lambe Turah* are "juga" (also), "nggak" (not), and "mau" (want), while on *Insert Live*, the most common adverbs are "langsung" (live), "bahkan" (even), and "lagi" (again). In the context of adjectives, *Lambe Turah* tends to use adjectives to describe controversial events, resulting in the use of more vulgar terms. On the other hand, *Insert Live* uses adjectives to describe figures. Both media dominantly use negation adverbs, which are the most frequently occurring words in their contexts.

However, the two media platforms exhibit different tendencies. *Lambe Turah's* top 5 list predominantly features collective and abstract nouns.

The Functions of Interactive and Interactional Meta-discourse Markers in Lambe Turah and Insert Live

To address the second research question, the researcher categorized the findings on meta-discourse markers into interactive meta-discourse and interactional meta-discourse. In the first subsection, the researcher describes the functions and types of

interactive meta-discourse markers used by both gossip media platforms. The data findings can be observed below:

Table 4
Interactive Meta-discourse Markers

Category	<i>Interactive Markers</i>		Persen	
	LT	IL	LT	IL
Transitional Marker (TM)	Dan, Juga, Sebelumnya, Karena, Tetapi	Dan, Sebelumnya, Karena, Atau	33%	20,6%
Frame Marker (FM)	Bahkan, setelah itu, pada akhir tulisannya	Bahkan, Setelah itu, Pada akhir tulisannya.	7,6%	14,7%
Evidential (EV)	Ucap, Kata, Menurut, Tulis, Pungkas	Ucap, Ujar, Menurut, Tulis, Pungkas	32,3%	31,6%
Code-Glosses (CG)	Ketika, Supaya, Agar, diantaranya	Di bawah ini, Menjelaskan, Sementara itu	7,1%	8,1%
Endophoric Markers (EM)	Ini, Itu, Seperti yang bisa kita lihat	Ini, Itu, Seperti diketahui sebelumnya	20%	25,0%

1. Transitional Markers

Transitional markers appear in *Lambe Turah's* gossip pages at a rate of 33% and in *Insert Live* at 20.6%. Transitional markers are indicated by linking words or conjunctions, including additive, contrastive, consequential, and temporal conjunctions. Hyland (2005) adds that for these to be considered as meta-discourse markers, the discourse must be internally focused.

Excerpt 1

*"Kami informasikan bahwa pada hari ini Senin 2 Oktober 2023, akan dilakukan pemeriksaan **atau** klarifikasi kepada saudari Amanda Manopo terkait dugaan endorsement situs yang diduga sebagai website judi online," (LT)*

*"Kita laporkan juga mengenai pasal KDRT **karena** klien kami mengalami tekanan." (IL)*

In the excerpt 1, the marker "atau" (or) in *Lambe Turah* is used to indicate two possible actions that may be taken. This usage is derived from direct interview results incorporated into the text. The author aims to guide the reader's understanding by indicating that there will be a review if Amanda Manopo does not provide clarification. In contrast, the marker "karena" (because) in *Insert Live* is used to explain an event. The data in *Insert Live* aims to clarify the reason why the report on domestic violence was eventually issued. Besides serving as an explanatory tool within a sentence, "karena" also functions as an argument or reason used to reinforce a statement.

2. Frame Markers

Frame markers appear in *Lambe Turah* media at a rate of 7.6% and in *Insert Live* at 14.7%. According to Hyland (2005), frame markers are a writer's stylistic tools used within a discourse to help readers perceive the coherence of arguments, organize, guide, and also redirect readers' thoughts toward the writer's intended direction. The following is a representative explanation of the data found by the researcher regarding the category of frame markers on both platforms.

Excerpt 2

*Virgoun, pun disebut cemburu dengan hubungan ibunya itu. **Bahkan** pria yang kini tengah berproses cerai dengan Inara Rusli marah kepada ibunya tersebut. (LT)*

*Atas tudingan tersebut, belum ada komentar atau klarifikasi dari Auzura Qrzura. **Bahkan**, kolom komentar malah ditutup olehnya. (IL)*

The data with the marker "bahkan" (even) in both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* is frequently used by authors on both news platforms. The marker "bahkan," which is a conjunction, is used by authors in both datasets to reinforce the preceding context, signaling to the reader that there is a context that strengthens the preceding sentence with the following context, as marked by the frame marker "bahkan." From the representative data presented, the authors of both news platforms exhibit a distinctive writing style that effectively guides or directs readers and helps them stay aligned with the narrative flow established by the author, as per the function of frame markers.

3. Evidential

On the gossip pages of *Lambe Turah*, the researcher found evidential markers accounting for 32.3%, while on *Insert Live*, evidential markers made up 31.6% of the data. According to Hyland (2005), evidential markers function to enhance the credibility of a text. In this context, credibility is established by presenting factual elements, thereby enabling readers to trust the information the author is attempting to convey. The following are examples of evidential markers identified by the researcher from both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*.

Excerpt 3

"Sorry baru balas lagi agak nggak enak badan habis dikerok tadi siang, lemes euy," **Ucap** Marissa Echa (LT)

"Mental dan fisik saya sudah membaik, dan saya siap untuk menceritakan kejadian ini," **Tulisnya**. (IL)

In the gossip media pages, specifically *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*, both show similarities in their use of evidential markers. Both media platforms are characterized by the occurrence of words such as "tulis" (write), "tulisnya" (his/her writing), "sahut" (reply), and "timpal" (add). According to Hyland (2005), the function of quotations, representing other people's views, is to convince readers of the truth and originality of a text.

However, in the context of *Insert Live*, the evidence is primarily in the form of comments, whether from netizens or from subjects central to the news coverage. For instance, as shown in Table 6 for *Insert Live*, the writer uses evidential markers derived from posts by Dinar Candy on her Instagram account. This excerpt is then quoted and used as an evidential marker by the news writer. In contrast, the *Lambe Turah* media

account predominantly uses evidential markers in the form of direct speech, indicating that the evidence used by *Lambe Turah* comes from direct interviews with sources.

4. Code Glosses

According to Hyland (2005), code glosses are a category where the writer explains, rephrases, provides additional information, or elaborates on what is meant in the text to ensure that the reader grasps the meaning or core of the part of the sentence intended by the writer. The researcher found 7.1% of the data in *Lambe Turah* and 8.1% in *Insert Live*, with the majority of words appearing as code glosses being "Saat" (when), "Ketika" (when), "Supaya" (so that), "diantaranya" (among others), and "Mengatakan" (says). In contrast, on *Insert Live*, the frequently appearing data includes "Di bawah ini" (below), "Menjelaskan" (explains), and "Sementara itu" (meanwhile).

Excerpt 4

*Adapun artis sudah diperiksa Bareskrim **diantaranya** Wulan Guritno, Yuki Kato dan Cupi Warsita alias Cupi Cupita. (LT)*

*Lantas bagaimana potretnya dan seperti apa sosok perempuan yang diduga selingkuhan Gunawan Dwi Cahyo? Simak, informasi **di bawah ini**. (IL)*

In the excerpt 4, for *Lambe Turah*, the markers 'diantaranya' (among others) and 'di bawah ini' (below) on *Insert Live* indicate how the writer guides the reader to an expansion of the information provided. This is achieved by directing the reader to the points elaborated in the following sentences. For example, the naming of artists mentioned in *Lambe Turah* and the information about a female figure referred to in *Insert Live*. In both cases, the authors clearly use code glosses to provide additional contextual markers, facilitating readers' understanding as they engage with the text on both news platforms.

5. Endophoric Markers

In the category of endophoric markers, the researcher found 20% of the data on the gossip page of *Lambe Turah*. According to Hyland (2005), endophoric markers refer to other parts of the text that provide additional information, support arguments, and guide the reader towards the desired interpretation. On *Lambe Turah*, the endophoric markers identified include 'ini' (this), 'itu' (that), 'kala itu' (at that time), and 'seperti yang bisa kita lihat' (as we can see). Conversely, on *Insert Live*, 25% of the data showed the following frequently occurring markers: 'ini' (this), 'itu' (that), 'tersebut' (aforementioned), and 'seperti yang diketahui sebelumnya' (as previously known).

Excerpt 5

***Kala itu**, dia juga diketahui sedang tidak enak badan. (LT)*

***Seperti diketahui sebelumnya** beredar video syur dirinya sebelum menjalin hubungan dengan Fadly Faisal. (IL)*

The marker 'kala itu' in excerpt 5 from *Lambe Turah* indicates a past event that has already occurred. This aligns with the function of endophoric markers, which aim to reference other parts of the text that assist readers in understanding the context of the news presented. In contrast, the marker 'seperti yang diketahui sebelumnya' in Table 8 from *Insert Live* represents a phrase used as a marker. This encourages readers to pay closer attention to the context of the previous sentence, thus enhancing their understanding of the ongoing text when they continue reading.

Interactional Meta-discourse Markers

In this subsection, the researcher describes the types and functions of interactional meta-discourse markers used in both gossip media platforms: *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*.

Table 5
Interactional Metadiscourse Markers

Category	Interactional Markers				Percentage	
	LT		IL		LT	IL
Hedges (HD)	Diduga, Terihat	Nampak,	Diketahui, Terlihat, Mungkin	Diduga,	47,4%	38,2%
Booster (BS)	Mengaku, Mengklaim	Membantah,	Membantu, Membantah, Mengklaim		21,6%	32%
Attitude Markers (AM)	Diketahui, Sayangnya	Sontak,	Pasalnya, Sayangnya	Sontak,	9,8%	11,7%
Engagement (EM)	Lo, Siapa, bersama-sama	Mari	Lo, Apa, Bagaimana		10,3%	9,6%
Self-Mention (SM)	Aku, Kita, Kami		Aku, Gue, Saya		11,34%	8,5%

6. Hedges

In the context of the gossip media *Lambe Turah*, hedges were found to constitute 47.4% of the data, while *Insert Live* had 38.2%. Both gossip media extensively use words in the forms of nouns, verbs, and adverbials within the context of “uncertainty.” Specifically, in *Lambe Turah*, the most frequently used words by the researchers to express uncertainty are “diduga” (allegedly), “menduga” (to suspect), and “dugaan” (suspicion). On the other hand, the most common hedges found on the *Insert Live* gossip page are also “diketahui” (To know) and “diduga” (allegedly).

Excerpt 6

*Klarifikasi saudara Amanda Manopo terkait **dugaan** endorsement situs judi online (LT)*

*Gunawan Dwi Cahyo, suami Okie Agustina **diduga** berselingkuh dengan wanita lain (IL)*

Based on the table above, both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* frequently use words with connotations of uncertainty or probability to represent hedges. However, *Lambe Turah* tends to use the term “dugaan” (suspicion, whereas *Insert Live* favors the term “diduga” (allegedly). The term “dugaan” is a noun, which, according to Azar (1999), functions as both an object and a subject, and can refer to a person, activity, or thing. In other words, the use of “dugaan” here connotes the outcome of suspicion, which is supported by direct clarification from the subject or object in question. On the other hand, “diduga” is a passive verb form, primarily used to obscure a subject involved in a particular event.

7. Boosters

In the gossip columns, boosters were identified in 21.6% of the data from *Lambe Turah*, while they appeared in 32% of the data from *Insert Live*. In the *Lambe Turah* gossip column, the most frequently encountered boosters by the researcher were "mengaku" (admit) and "klarifikasi" (clarification). In contrast, the most common boosters found on the Insert Live site were "mengakui" (acknowledge) and "Dengan tegas" (firmly). Below are examples of the data discovered by the researcher from both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*.

Excerpt 7

Musnawati **mengaku** memiliki bukti kedekatan Melly Goeslaw dan eks. suaminya yang tak wajar (LT)

Haji Faisal **dengan tegas** dirinya tak ingin menanggapi mengenai kekasih anaknya itu (IL)

From the excerpt 7 above, it can be observed that the term "mengakui" (acknowledge) in the *Lambe Turah* table and the phrase "dengan tegas" (firmly) in the *Insert Live* table share a similarity: both indicate statements made by the reported figures or public figures. In this context, the term refers to Musnawati's acknowledgment of having evidence of an inappropriate relationship between Melly Goeslaw and her ex-husband, as well as Haji Faisal's firm refusal to comment on his child's partner.

8. Attitude Markers

In the gossip pages, Attitude Markers were found in 9.8% of the data on *Lambe Turah* and 11.7% on *Insert Live*. The most frequently encountered words on both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* are "sontak" (immediately) and "sayangnya" (unfortunately). According to Hyland (2005), attitude markers can clarify the writer's or speaker's stance to the readers or audience through the use of deontic verbs, as observed in the data with terms such as "sontak" and "sayangnya." Below are examples of data identified as attitude markers from both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*.

Excerpt 8

Sayangnya, sampai berita ini dimuat, belum ada konfirmasi dari Melly Goeslaw soal dugaan perselingkuhan tersebut (LT)

Sontak saja unggahan netizen itu langsung diserbu warganet (IL)

Excerpt 8 indicates that the term "sayangnya" (unfortunately) in the *Lambe Turah* data and "sontak" (immediately) in the *Insert Live* data represent the writer's opinions, reflecting purely the writer's thoughts based on observations. However, these terms refer to different subjects in their respective contexts. In *Lambe Turah*, the term "sayangnya" pertains to the public figure "Melly Goeslaw," expressing the writer's attitude or opinion about the reported subject. The writer explicitly conveys their sentiment (regret) regarding the uncertainty of the news until it is published. Conversely, in *Insert Live*, the term "sontak" is used to express an opinion about subjects outside the main news, specifically referring to "netizens."

9. Engagement

On the gossip sites *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*, Engagement Markers were found to comprise 10.3% and 9.6% of the data, respectively. The most dominant markers include interrogative words and second-person singular pronouns. According

to Hyland (2005), these markers aim to involve the audience or readers in the discourse. This is evident from the data, which includes interrogative words such as "siapa" (who), "ke mana" (where), and "kenapa" (why), as well as the second-person singular pronouns "ata" and "lu." Below are examples of data found on *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*.

Excerpt 9

"Besok **siapa** lagi kak papanya Adzam?" cibir netizen lainnya (LT)
Kali ini gw kasih jempol buat **elu** mam," komentar @pen***. (IL)

From the excerpt 9 above, it can be explained that these markers were identified through quotations from subjects or figures outside the primary focus of the news. In the data from *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*, the context is similar, referring to comments from subjects outside the main news, specifically netizens. Both *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* use these markers to involve readers in the news discourse through quotations from secondary subjects not featured in the main news. Words like "siapa" (who) and "elu" (you) are quoted by the writers from subjects outside the main figures being reported on, positioning readers as participants in the news narrative alongside the writer.

10. Self-mentions

Self-mention in the gossip columns of *Lambe Turah* was found in 11.34% of the data, whereas in *Insert Live* it was found in 8.5% of the data. According to Hyland (2005), the function of self-mention is to provide personal input, express opinions, or establish credibility. Self-mention can serve various purposes, such as acknowledging the writer's contributions, building rapport with the audience, and conveying the writer's stance. The following are examples of data identified by the researcher from the *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live* platforms.

Excerpt 10

"kalau misalkan ada yang nyakitin **aku** tuh semua, kakak-kakakku tuh turun tangan," ucap Aaliyah Massaid (LT)
Hahaha keren ini mami online...kali ini **gw** dukung loe mami online," kata @nah***." (IL)

The term "Self-Mention" frequently appearing in the gossip columns of *Lambe Turah* is "aku" (I), while in the gossip column of *Insert Live*, the term is "gw" (I). Both terms represent quotations from the authors (Aini, 2021). They do not distinguish between *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*, as this data is derived from quoted speech. In this context, "aku" and "gw" refer to Aaliyah Massaid and netizens, respectively.

In this study, it was found that both media share similarities and differences in their use of meta-discourse markers and the frequency of word classes. This research introduces new insights that differ from previous studies. Compared to research on meta-discourse markers in formal written texts, such as those conducted by Ho & Li (2018), Lofi et al. (2019), Hayisama et al. (2019), and Mohamed & Rashid (2017), this study shows similarities in terms of interactive markers. However, it presents differences in interactional markers, as it deals with informal writing text, which influences the way arguments are constructed by the authors, particularly in gossip news. Additionally, this study employs two approaches: meta-discourse as a theoretical framework and corpus linguistics as a data collection technique.

In research on meta-discourse markers in spoken text, such as those conducted by Kuswoyo (2019) and Duruk (2017), there are fundamental differences, particularly when examining interactional markers. In the aforementioned studies, interactional markers are primarily used as persuasive strategies by speakers to influence listeners and garner as many votes as possible. In contrast, this study employs interactional markers to construct accusations and clarifications. However, this study supports the statement made by Hasanah & Wahyudi (2015) which implied that interactional markers such as hedges are a form of vague language, the implication of which can generate doubt in readers.

In the study of meta-discourse markers, particularly in entertainment and gossip media, the three prior researchers have reached conflicting conclusions. Zarza (2018) concludes that in entertainment media columns, hedges function as indicators of the names or personas of celebrities. Hardjanto (2023) asserts that both hedges and boosters in meta-discourse markers serve to elucidate abstract phenomena to readers. Unlike these previous studies, this research, utilizing a corpus-based approach to analyze various parts of speech, represents hedges as forms of probabilistic narration related to events involving public figures. In other words, the events involving public figures in the gossip media examined in this study may not necessarily be substantiated by evidence.

Conclusion

The researchers have conducted a comprehensive analysis, resulting in findings that address the research questions of this study. As for the first research question, the researchers conclude that both media display distinct tendencies in their use of parts of speech to depict gossip news content. The frequency of word lists predominantly used by *Insert Live* consists of proper nouns, such as directly mentioning the names of celebrities, as well as mental verbs, such as "diketahui". On the other hand, the frequency of word lists predominantly used by *Lambe Turah* consists of abstract nouns such as "kejadian", "foto", and "netizen" followed by mental verbs such as "diduga". It indicates that *Insert Live* tends to emphasize human objects or public figures as the central focus of its reporting while *Lambe Turah* tends to highlight the context of events or occurrences as the central focus of its news coverage.

As for the second research question, the researchers conclude that the functions of meta-discourse in gossip columns are utilized differently by *Lambe Turah* and *Insert Live*. *Lambe Turah* employs meta-discourse markers to steer readers' opinions toward believing a particular issue by producing accusations using speculative language. Meanwhile, *Insert Live* tends to use meta-discourse markers in gossip columns to provide clarifications derived from informants.

This study is limited to the domain of the gossip columns in the media outlets *Insert Live* and *Lambe Turah*. Therefore, the results and findings of this research are restricted to these two subjects of study. The results and findings may differ if the objects of study are expanded to another informal text from different objects. For future researchers, it is highly recommended to analyze the role of meta-discourse markers in other domains of informal discourse, such as advertisements, podcasts, or sitcoms.

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