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English Lexical Borrowing in The April 2023 Editorials of Kompas: A Discourse Analysis

Rifa Suci Wulandari[1], Nihaya Nur Fadila[2], Nur Aini Syah[3]

[1] UIN Kiai Ageng Muhammad Besari Ponorogo, Indonesia; rifasuci@uinponorogo.ac.id
[2] UIN Kiai Ageng Muhammad Besari Ponorogo, Indonesia; fadhila01@gmail.com
[3] UIN Kiai Ageng Muhammad Besari Ponorogo, Indonesia; nuraini@uinponorogo.ac.id

Abstract	The increasing use of English terms in Indonesian-language newspapers reflects the influence of globalization on media discourse. While previous studies have discussed code-mixing and lexical borrowing in mass media, few have specifically examined the systematic use of English terms in editorial columns, which are influential in shaping public opinion. Addressing this gap, this study investigates the use of English terms in the editorial column of the *Kompas* daily newspaper, focusing on the April 2023 edition. The data were drawn from Indonesian-language editorials published in *Kompas* and analyzed using qualitative discourse analysis. The results indicate that English terms in *Kompas* editorials are most common in politics, law, and governance (29.9%), followed by economy and development (22.4%) and society and culture (19.4%). These terms are mainly used to express formal and contemporary issues. Verbs account for only 4.4% of the data, indicating that English borrowing is largely limited to content words, especially nouns. Overall, English influence in the editorials is primarily lexical and does not affect Indonesian grammatical structure. This study contributes to sociolinguistic and media discourse research by providing empirical evidence on the grammatical distribution of English terms in Indonesian editorials and highlighting their functional role in written journalistic discourse.
Keywords	English terms, Editorial column, Kompas newspaper

Corresponding Author
Rifa Suci Wulandari
UIN Kiai Ageng Muhammad Besari Ponorogo, Indonesia; rifasuci@uinponorogo.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a powerful. It means that the language as a tool for communication is used to express thoughts, ideas, emotions, and opinions (Sherlya, 2021). English as international language has emerged as the most dominant language uses in this world. It is widely used in diplomacy, education, science, technology, and media. In Indonesia, English is considered as foreign language. Yet it holds a significant role in education and communication, especially in the context of globalization. English is now encountered more frequently, not just in formal education settings but also through mass media, entertainment, advertisements, and online platforms. One of the areas where the influence of English is visible is in the language of newspapers.

Editorial columns serve as a platform for professional insights and critical analysis of current events and social issues. These columns are traditionally written in Indonesian. However, it is become more common to find English terms and expressions integrated with this text. The use of English in Indonesian newspaper editorials often reflects an attempt to keep up with global trends. It also

emphasizes particular meanings, or convey ideas that lack exact equivalents in Indonesian. This linguistic phenomenon raises important questions about how and why English is used in such contexts.

Kompas, as one of Indonesia's most respected national newspapers, provides a valuable case study for observing this trend. This editorial column is widely read and often sets the tone for national discussion, making it an ideal source for linguistic analysis. This study aims to identify the English terms used in the editorial column of the April 2023 edition of Kompas newspaper, classify the identified English terms based on their grammatical categories (such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.), analyse the reasons for the inclusion of English terms in the editorial column, and examine the implications of English usage in Indonesian newspaper editorials in relation to stylistic, cultural, and linguistic influences.

The use of English terms in Indonesian newspaper editorials can be explained through the theories of language contact and lexical borrowing. Language contact occurs when speakers of different languages interact regularly, leading to the influence of one language on another (Thomason, 2001). In the context of globalization and mass media, Indonesian is increasingly exposed to English, resulting in the incorporation of English elements into local discourse. Lexical borrowing is a direct outcome of language contact and refers to the adoption of words or expressions from one language into another (Haugen, 1950). Borrowed lexical items are often used to fill lexical gaps, express technical or modern concepts, or convey prestige and stylistic emphasis. In media texts such as newspaper editorials, lexical borrowing from English serves not only communicative purposes but also reflects ideological, cultural, and stylistic considerations within journalistic practices.

This research also builds upon previous studies, such as the one conducted by Bayu Rahmat in 2019. In that research found that the frequent use of English terms in Kompas editorials included mostly nouns and served to clarify meanings or reflect terms that lacked Indonesian equivalents. By focusing on that recent edition, this study will contribute updated insights into the evolving role of English in Indonesia's media landscape and the dynamic relationship between local and global languages in journalistic discourse.

2. METHOD

This study employs a case study approach combined with a descriptive research method (Elya, 2023) to analyze the use of English in Indonesian editorial discourse. The primary data consist of editorial texts from the April 2023 edition of Kompas newspaper written in Indonesian, which serve as the main object of analysis. Secondary data are drawn from relevant literature, including books, academic journals, previous studies, and dictionaries, to support the analysis and interpretation.

Discourse Analysis is applied as the method of data analysis. As a qualitative approach, discourse analysis examines how language is used to construct meaning within texts (Mills, 2001). This method enables the researcher to explore the contextual and communicative functions of English terms used in the editorials. Through this method, researchers want to understand how and why certain messages are conveyed, uncovering the underlying intentions and contexts of the discourse (Nisa' Azkiyatun, 2023).

The data analysis procedure involved several steps. First, the editorial texts were carefully read to identify English words or phrases. Second, the identified terms were classified according to their forms, such as direct borrowing or adapted borrowing. Third, the terms were analyzed in relation to their contextual meanings and functions within the discourse.

To ensure data reliability, the identified English terms were repeatedly rechecked. Authoritative references, including Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) and English dictionaries, were consulted to verify the origin and meanings of the terms. Relevant scholarly sources were also used to support the classification and interpretation of the data.

This study employs purposive sampling, in which data are deliberately selected based on their relevance to the research objectives. The sample consists of editorial texts from the April 2023 edition

of Kompas newspaper written in Indonesian. These editorials were chosen because they are considered representative of the use of English elements in Indonesian editorial discourse, making them suitable for in-depth analysis. The data include primary data in the form of editorial texts and secondary data obtained from supporting sources such as books, academic journals, previous studies, and dictionaries, which are used to strengthen the analysis and interpretation of the findings.

The coding process was conducted qualitatively and systematically through several stages. First, the editorial texts were carefully read to identify the presence of English words or phrases. Next, the identified English terms were classified according to their forms, such as direct borrowing and adapted borrowing. Subsequently, each term was analyzed in relation to its contextual meaning and communicative function within the editorial discourse. This coding process aims to reveal how English is employed in the texts and how these linguistic elements contribute to the construction of meaning and the delivery of messages in the editorials.

To ensure data validation and reliability, the identified English terms and their classifications were repeatedly rechecked. Authoritative references, including Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) and English dictionaries, were consulted to verify the origin and meanings of the terms. In addition, relevant scholarly sources were used to support the classification and interpretation of the data. Through repeated checking and triangulation of sources, this study seeks to ensure that the analysis is accurate, consistent, and academically trustworthy.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study on the use of English terms in the editorial columns of the April 2023 edition of Kompas newspaper. The analysis focused on identifying the types and frequency of English words used, particularly classifying them based on parts of speech—nouns, adjectives, and verbs. The aim was to uncover patterns in how English lexical items are incorporated into Indonesian editorial writing and to determine the functional role these terms play in shaping editorial discourse. English terms were identified through close textual reading and re-checked using authoritative dictionaries (Oxford Learner's Dictionary and Merriam-Webster) to ensure accurate part-of-speech (POS) classification. Each item was classified as a noun, adjective, or verb based on its contextual usage in the editorial text rather than its isolated dictionary form.

The findings reveal a significant tendency toward the use of nouns and adjectives, with a minimal presence of verbs. This pattern reflects a broader trend in media language where English borrowings are used primarily to express abstract concepts, technical terminology, or institutional discourse that may not have direct or concise equivalents in Indonesian. The dominance of certain lexical categories also highlights how English terms contribute to the editorial tone—characterized by precision, formality, and alignment with globalized public discourse. A total of 107 English lexical items were identified. While several items appear more than once (e.g., regulation, infrastructure, generation), they were counted only once in the classification table to avoid inflating category totals. Repetition in the editorials indicates thematic emphasis rather than lexical diversity and reflects the prominence of certain issues in public discourse.

Table 1. English Lexical Items Grouped by Semantic Domain

A. Politics, Law, and Governance

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Commissioner	Noun
2	Commission	Noun
3	Legislative	Noun / Adjective

No	English Term	Part of Speech
4	Executive	Noun
5	Regulation	Noun
6	Legality	Noun
7	Constitution	Noun
8	Ideology	Noun
9	Doctrine	Noun
10	Coalition	Noun
11	Strategy	Noun
12	Lobby	Noun
13	Elite	Noun
14	Party	Noun
15	Intervention	Noun
16	Delegation	Noun
17	Radicalism	Noun
18	Democratization	Noun
19	Decentralization	Noun
20	Investigation	Noun

B. Economy, Development, and Infrastructure

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Investment	Noun
2	Inflation	Noun
3	Deficit	Noun
4	Infrastructure	Noun
5	Export	Noun
6	Productivity	Adjective
7	Efficient	Adjective
8	Efficiency	Noun

No	English Term	Part of Speech
9	Volume	Noun
10	Accumulation	Noun
11	Transition	Noun
12	Reform	Noun
13	Destination	Noun
14	Mobility	Noun
15	Majority	Noun

C. Environment, Ecology, and Science

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Ecology	Noun
2	Ecological	Adjective
3	Emission	Noun
4	Carbon	Noun
5	Degradation	Noun
6	Oxygen	Noun
7	Phenomenon	Noun
8	Statistic	Adjective
9	Parameter	Noun
10	Evaluation	Noun

D. Society, Culture, and Ideology

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Public	Noun
2	Professional	Adjective
3	Profession	Noun

No	English Term	Part of Speech
4	Integrity	Noun
5	Credibility	Noun
6	Label	Noun
7	Perspective	Noun / Adjective
8	Status	Noun
9	Practice	Noun
10	Popular	Adjective
11	Universal	Adjective
12	Absurd	Adjective
13	Pragmatic	Adjective

E. Technology, Media, and Digital Discourse

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Technology	Noun
2	Digital	Adjective
3	Code	Noun
4	Dialog	Noun
5	Global	Adjective
6	Instance	Noun

F. Action and Process (Verbs)

No	English Term	Part of Speech
1	Care	Verb
2	Safeguard	Verb
3	Conduct	Verb

Table 2. Distribution of English Terms by Semantic Domain

Semantic Domain	Number of Terms	Percentage (%)
Politics, Law, and Governance	20	29.9%
Economy and Development	15	22.4%
Society and Culture	13	19.4%
Environment and Science	10	14.9%
Technology and Media	6	9.0%
Verbs (Processes/Actions)	3	4.4%
Total	**67 lexical types***	**100%**

Percentages are calculated based on 67 distinct lexical types. Lexical types refer to unique English terms; repeated occurrences are counted once.

As shown in Table 2, the distribution of English terms across semantic domains demonstrates a clear pattern of lexical borrowing driven by language contact, as described by Thomason (2001). The dominance of terms in politics, law, and governance (29.9%) reflects intense contact with global political discourse, where English functions as a prestige and source language for institutional and abstract concepts. According to Thomason (2001), such borrowing is typical in situations where speakers adopt foreign lexical items to fill conceptual or terminological gaps without significant structural change to the recipient language.

Similarly, the substantial presence of English terms in economy and development (22.4%) and society and culture (19.4%) aligns with Haugen's (1950) notion of borrowing as a response to cultural innovation. Haugen argues that lexical borrowing often occurs when new ideas, practices, or social phenomena enter a speech community, making foreign terms more efficient or symbolically appropriate than native equivalents. In this context, English terms in Indonesian editorials index modernity, globalization, and international alignment.

In contrast, the relatively low proportion of verbs (4.4%) supports both Thomason's and Haugen's observations that content words—particularly nouns—are more easily borrowed than grammatical elements. This pattern confirms that English influence in *Kompas* editorials is largely lexical rather than structural, indicating a moderate level of language contact that affects vocabulary choice while preserving Indonesian grammatical integrity.

This semantic clustering indicates that English borrowings are concentrated in domains closely linked to globalization and international discourse. The predominance of nouns supports theories of lexical borrowing and language contact, which argue that nouns are borrowed more readily because they are less grammatically constrained and carry high informational value. Adjectives, though less

frequent, play a crucial evaluative role in editorials by shaping stance and persuasion. For instance, the use of comprehensive or pragmatic reinforces authority and analytical tone. Verbs, by contrast, are rarely borrowed due to their complex morphological integration into Indonesian, which already has a productive verbal system.

Textual evidence from the editorials further illustrates this pattern. English nouns are often embedded seamlessly within Indonesian syntactic structures, such as in phrases discussing policy regulation or economic strategy, indicating functional integration rather than casual code-switching. Compared to previous studies on English borrowing in Indonesian media, which similarly report the dominance of nouns and adjectives, this study reinforces the argument that English is used strategically rather than randomly. However, this research adds specificity by focusing on editorial discourse, where persuasive intent and ideological positioning are more prominent than in straight news reporting.

The borrowing of these English terms primarily serves to: clarify meaning, especially in contexts where Indonesian lacks precise equivalents, maintain equivalency with global discourse, ensuring that Indonesian editorials resonate with international standards or concepts, and enhance prestige or authority, as English terms often carry connotations of modernity, education, or professionalism. This aligns with language economy theory, which posits that speakers often borrow terms that convey meaning more efficiently, especially in technical or specialized contexts like politics, economics, or science. Overall, the findings demonstrate that English lexical items in Kompas editorials function to enhance precision, align local discourse with global frameworks, and strengthen institutional credibility—key characteristics of editorial language in a globalized media environment.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that English terms in *Kompas* editorials are most common in politics, law, and governance (29.9%), followed by economy and development (22.4%) and society and culture (19.4%). These terms are mainly used to express formal and contemporary issues. Verbs account for only 4.4% of the data, indicating that English borrowing is largely limited to content words, especially nouns. Overall, English influence in the editorials is primarily lexical and does not affect Indonesian grammatical structure.

Beyond these findings, the study has broader implications for Indonesian language policy, media language practices, and linguistic identity. The selective and limited use of English in editorials suggests an ongoing negotiation between maintaining the integrity of Bahasa Indonesia and responding to the global influence of English in public discourse. This phenomenon highlights the role of national media in shaping language norms and raises important considerations for language planning and policy, particularly regarding standardization, acceptability, and the preservation of linguistic identity in formal written communication.

This study examines only a limited sample of English terms in Indonesian print media. Therefore, many foreign lexical items and their discursive functions remain unexplored. Future research is encouraged to adopt comparative approaches by examining English usage across different Indonesian-language newspapers or media platforms, as well as longitudinal studies that trace changes in the frequency, form, and function of English lexical items over time. Such studies would provide deeper insights into patterns of language contact, borrowing, and identity construction in Indonesian media discourse.

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