
The Writer's Appreciation towards Joko Widodo Biography

'Man of Contradiction': Appraisal Perspective

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the writer's appreciation towards Joko Widodo biography 'Man of Contradiction'. This study focuses on appreciation which comprised one of attitude appraisal categories. Appreciation can be interpreted as our evaluation considering to 'things' as we make or action (Martin & White, 2005). This study employs qualitative method and adopts appraisal theory proposed by Martin and White (2005). The source of data in this study was taken from biography of Joko Widodo purposively and it was published in 2021 by Penguin Books. The data are collected by employing content analysis. Meanwhile, the data were validated by three raters through Forum Group Discussion (FGD). The result of this study reveals that the most dominant appreciation category found in Joko Widodo Biography 'Man of Contradiction' is valuation (30%), Reaction: quality (25.45%), Composition: complexity (21.81%), Reaction: impact (19,1%), Composition: balance (3.64%) simultaneously. Furthermore, based on the findings, it shows that positive appreciation is dominantly found in Joko Widodo biography. It shows the writer's appreciation towards some of Joko Widodo's achievements and works during his leadership as a president of Indonesia as well as when he was a Mayor of Solo and Governor of Jakarta

INTRODUCTION

A biography illustrates a person's life story written by someone else using the third-person point of view (Daud, 2013; Sucipto, 2014). In addition, a biography is also seen as a note or a scratch about a person's life, it usually involves a certain character (Patmono, 1998; Kuntowijoyo, 2003). Martin and Rose (2007) classify biography into recount genre since both recount and biography have similar in common especially in part of schematic structure which comprises orientation^event^reorientation. To see the biographer's appreciation, it is needed a tool to see his/her appreciation towards the actors/actresses or even political figures he/she writes. Whereas, as suggested by Martin and White (2005) appraisal is one of the tools which enable researchers to observe this appreciation.

Appraisal under systemic functional linguistics specifically interpersonal meaning is concerned with evaluation in which negotiated in a text, the feelings' strength involved and the ways in which values are sourced and readers aligned (Martin and Rose, 2007: 30). Furthermore, Martin (1995: 28) and Hart (2014:

44) define as a semantic resources system for reacting emotionally (affect), evaluating aesthetically (appreciation), judging morally (Judgment), modalising, and amplifying. Additionally, Martin and White (2005) said that appraisal as interpersonal system is placed at the level of discourse semantics. At this level, appraisal expresses two systems namely negotiation and involvement. The focus of appraisal negotiation is to complete with the discourse interactive aspects, speech function, and exchange structure. Meanwhile, involvement fits out appraisal by focusing on non-gradable resources for negotiating tenor relations, specifically solidarity. Appraisal is segmented into three systems namely attitude, graduation and engagement (Martin & Rose, 2003; Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007; Hood, 2010; Hart, 2014). This present study focuses on one item of attitude appraisal namely appreciation. Appreciation deals with our evaluation of 'things', including object (material and semiotic), processes, people's behavior and also natural phenomenon (Martin and White, 2005; Martin and Rose, 2007; Hart, 2014).

There have been many scholars conducted research on appraisal such as Kamal, Santosa & Djatmika, (2017); Fitriati, Solihah & Tusino (2018); Cahyono and Setyaningsih (2019); Thahara etc (2019); Ananda, Nababan & Santosa, 2019; Purwoko and Cahyono, (2021). They observed three subsystem of appraisal including attitude, engagement and graduation. In their studies, the source of the data mainly used by the researchers are in term of students' writings, president speeches, articles in online newspaper and letters. Thus, in present study, the researchers limited the study only on one item of attitudes called appreciation. Additionally, the researchers also employ different source of data which is taken from a biography of Indonesia president Joko Widodo entitled "Man of Contradiction: Joko Widodo and the Struggle to Remake Indonesia". In so doing, the problem of this study can be formulated as follows: what types of appreciation are found in Joko Widodo biography?

As suggested by Martin and White (2005) appraisal is considered as language evaluation that it uses to negotiate meaning which is related to emotion, behavior and reaction to something. There are three system of appraisal including attitude, graduation and engagement (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007). Hart (2014) said that attitude expresses people's emotional reaction, aesthetic evaluation, and social judgment. Judgment conveys speakers' moral evaluation of other people, behavior, and character. Whereas, appreciation allows speakers to aesthetically evaluate 'things' including objects (material and semiotic) and processes. Below is the illustration of sub-attitude appraisal realization.

Appreciation is part of attitude appraisal consisting of reaction, composition and valuation (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007). They argue that reaction is associated to affection or emotive. Meanwhile, composition is connected to perception and valuation is related to cognition. This realization can be seen in the figure showing the appraisal system of attitude below:

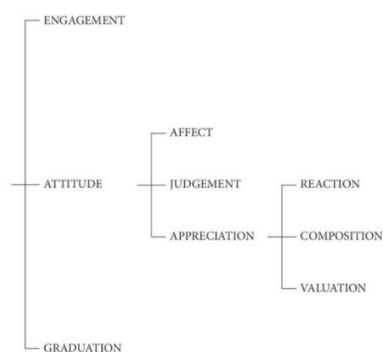


Figure 1. Appraisal system of Attitude
Source: (Martin and White, 2005)

METHOD

This study employs qualitative method by describing linguistics phenomenon found in the data. The source of data of this study was obtained from Joko Widodo biography "Man of Contradiction: Joko Widodo and the Struggle to Remake Indonesia" which was published in 2021 written by Ben Bland. Meanwhile, the samples of data were obtained by applying purposive sample and they were analyzed using content analysis in order to distinguish the data. In addition, domain, taxonomy, and componential analysis which were proposed by Spradley in Santosa (2017) are applied to analyze the data. Furthermore, the framework to classify the biographer's appreciation employed the theory of Appraisal developed by Martin and White (2005).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In line with the research problem stated above, the findings of appreciation made by the writer of Joko Widodo Biography "Man of Contradiction: Joko Widodo and the Struggle to Remake Indonesia" can be illustrated in the table 1 below:

Table 1. Types of Appreciation found in Joko Widodo Biography

No	Types of Appreciation		Σ	%	
1	Reaction	Impact	+	18	15.52
			-	4	3.45
		Quality	+	13	11.21
2	Composition		-	15	12.93
		Balance	+	4	3.45
		Complexity	+	17	14.66
3	Valuation		-	12	10.34
			+	25	21.55
			-	8	6.90
Total				116	100

Based on the table above, it can be seen that valuation positive is the highest of all and there is no composition of negative balance found in the data of Joko Widodo biography. The number shows that the writer gives his positive appreciation towards some tasks and jobs done by Joko Widodo during his leadership as Mayor of Solo, Governor of Jakarta and as a president of Indonesia. The following excerpts are some examples showing the biographer's appreciation toward Joko Widodo.

1. Reaction

As Martin and White (2005) suggested that reaction deals with affection or emotive. Meanwhile, Hart (2014) said that reaction is a quality expression. It means there is reaction towards some action made by someone. For a brief explanation can be found in the sub chapter below:

a. Impact

In this part, the writer gives his positive reaction of appreciation to Jokowi's political activity. It can be seen in the excerpt 1 below.

Excerpt 1

It represented a **remarkable reunion** of the original political triumvirate that had propelled Jokowi onto the national stage, when Megawati and Prabowo backed him to run as Jakarta governor in 2012.

As it is seen in the excerpt 1 above that 'remarkable reunion' is classified as appreciation: reaction: impact: positive. In this line, the biographer gives his appreciation towards reunion of political figures such as Jokowi, Megawati and Prabowo. They met again after their last meeting in 2012 when Jokowi run as a governor of Jakarta. The biographer expresses his positive appreciation to their meeting because it seems that their meeting discusses about nominating Jokowi's as a president for 2014.

The following excerpt is another example describing negative appreciation made by the biographer toward Jokowi.

Excerpt 2

At the same age, Jokowi was running an **unremarkable** furniture factory in Solo, his hometown.

The bold word above is classified as appreciation: reaction: impact: negative. The biographer shows his negative reaction towards young Jokowi when he was running a furniture factory in Solo back then. Here, the biographer does not mean to mock him but the writer of Jokowi's biography wants to show the readers that he compares Jokowi and Obama when they were 30 years old. They have different point of view and way of life at that time. Obama, when he was 30 years old, has already involved in politics, however, Jokowi was running a small business and still far from politics world. He was sourcing lumber supplies and overseeing sawmills in his own business at that age.

b. Quality

Some data show quality appreciation made by the biographer can be seen in the following excerpts below:

Excerpt 3

... and the fact that his mother's brother was **well-off**.

It can be seen in the example of the excerpt above that 'well-off' is distributed as appreciation: reaction: quality: positive. The writer reveals that in Jokowi's biography, he shares his positive appreciation towards Jokowi's uncle who is rich. In this case, the writer reacts to the condition of Jokowi's rich uncle because it is contrast to Jokowi's family who is from a humble family.

Another example showing positive quality appreciation is illustrated in the excerpt 4 below:

Excerpt 4

Aside from occasional coffee-shop conversations about what was happening in Indonesia, he was **more interested** in climbing the awe-inspiring volcanoes of Java and the adjacent island of Sumatra.

Based on the excerpt 4 above, it can be seen that the bold phrase is distributed as appreciation: reaction: quality: positive. The biographer gives his positive appreciation towards the topics Jokowi's like to discuss. He prefers to talk about climbing volcanoes rather than talk about coffee shop. In this

case, Jokowi's understanding about politics is still low compared to other political figures who joined as president candidates. Furthermore, the biographer also would like to describe Jokowi as a struggling man because after he graduated from university, he worked at a state-owned forestry company in Aceh.

2. Composition

Composition deals with perception (Martin and White, 2005). It can be the writer's point of view towards the figure he/she writes. There are two types of composition namely balance and complexity. Below is the description of each composition.

a. Balance

Below are the examples of composition: balance found in Joko Widodo biography.

Excerpt 5

That often conflicts with the perceived need to preserve national dignity and **limit** outside interference in Indonesia's internal affairs - and ever-present, and rarely justified, fear for military.

It is found in the excerpt 5 above that the bold word "limit" is classified as appreciation: composition: balance" positive. Here, the writer wants to show that Jokowi tries to emulate Suharto's foreign policy as a tool to generate investment. However, it becomes a problem for Indonesia because Jokowi's foreign policy is unpredictable, seesawing between nationalism and globalism. So that, Jokowi needs to limit the outside interference in Indonesia's internal affair to avoid internal problems.

Another example of composition of balance is illustrated in the following excerpt described below:

Excerpt 6

There are many reasons why: the wealth of story, the warmth of the people, the ease of access to political leaders, and **the sheer size and diversity** of the nation.

It can be seen in the excerpt above that the bold phrase is segmented into appreciation: composition: balance: positive. The biographer of Joko Widodo tries to describe Indonesia by expressing his positive appreciation. He mentions the size of Indonesia in his writing to emphasize that Indonesia is one of the biggest countries in the world and it consists of many islands which are more than ten thousand islands. Besides that, the writer also mentions the diversity of Indonesia which means that Indonesia contains many different cultures, religions, and beliefs.

b. Complexity

The following excerpts below reveal some examples of complexity appreciation found in Jokowi Widodo biography. A brief explanation is presented below:

Excerpt 7

It was an incredible turnaround for **a simple boy** from a simple family, in a country

Based on the example illustrated in the excerpt above, the bold phrase is segmented into appreciation: composition: complexity: positive. In his biography, the writer narrates Jokowi positively. In describing Jokowi, the writer gives his positive views towards young Jokowi that he is such a humble boy from a simple family. It can be assumed that the writer gives his opinion towards young Jokowi that when he was young, he was very humble and he never show others that he was from a wealthy family.

The excerpt 8 below is another example showing appreciation of complexity made by the writer.

Excerpt 8

His **ambition** was for Indonesia to become a developed nation by 2045,

As it is shown in the two excerpt 8 above that the word 'ambition' is segmented into appreciation: composition: complexity: positive. Ambition does not mean negative, it means a desire. Here, the biographer explains that Jokowi has an ambition that he will change Indonesia to be a great country by the year 2045. In addition, as described in the biography, he also would like to develop Indonesian economy better by putting Indonesia as five biggest economies in the world where Indonesia is currently at sixteenth place. To achieve his ambition, Jokowi also plans to make bureaucracy reformation in order to smooth his way.

3. Valuation

Valuation is considered as something which is worthwhile (Martin & White, 2005). In addition to, they also said that valuation is connected to cognition (our considered opinions). It also represents to things which have a value. Furthermore, valuation is distributed into positive or negative item. Below are the examples of valuation of appreciation found in the data of Joko Widodo biography.

Excerpt 9

Yet, his inner drive has pushed him to grasp the top job from the hands of the nation's **wealthiest**, **greediest**, and most corrupt politicians.

The example presented in the excerpt 9 above consists of two words which are classified into appreciation: valuation. However, it can be seen that the word 'wealthiest' is categorized as positive and the other one 'greediest' is segmented into negative one. The writer of Joko Widodo's biography gives his positive and negative appreciation towards the previous president Suharto who is considered as the wealthiest president because he has ruled Indonesia for more than thirty years. Also, he is considered as the greediest president because he gives his children and his siblings position in the Indonesian government at that time. So, when Jokowi grasps to be the top job as an Indonesia president to replace him, he is the hope for Indonesian people. In his hands, Indonesia gradually makes changes and its development into better future.

Another example showing valuation can be seen in the excerpt below. The following example illustrates the writer positive valuation towards Jokowi.

Excerpt 10

First, he had a **real** talent for retail politics - the more time he spent with voters, the more they warmed to him

The realization of the lexis 'real' in the above excerpt is classified as appreciation: valuation: positive. The biographer emphasizes that Joko Widodo is the truly figure that Indonesian longing for. There are some actions that has been done by Jokowi to remake Indonesia to be a better country and one of them is *blusukan* a Javanese word for the impromptu spot checks that would become his political stock-in-trade. In the excerpt above the word 'real' describes Jokowi's action that he likes directly asks people about their problems. Surely that this is one of Jokowi's weapons to enter higher politics world.

CONCLUSION

Based on the statement formulated above, it can be summarized that the highest number of appreciations found is reaction with fifty occurrences. It indicates that the biographer gives his reaction towards political figures he wrote especially Joko Widodo. The writer expresses his appreciation through the use of positive and negative lexis to indicate that Jokowi is a very humble and nice person especially to the people of Indonesia. Through *Blususkan* he searches every problem faced by people, and thanks to his action (*blusukan*), he becomes a president who has many positive contradictions. However, composition and valuation are balance with each 33 occurrences found in the data. As it seen in the table 1 above, that positive valuation and balance are mostly occurred which indicate that the writer reveals his views towards Jokowi and other political figures he wrote. He appreciates everything he sees such as Indonesia as a beautiful country and Jokowi's opponents or previous president who is greedy and rich.

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