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INVESTIGATING CONVICTION, ERASURE, AND SALIENCE STORIES ABOUT A GOLD MINING PROJECT IN SANGIHE ISLAND, INDONESIA

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Abstract: Mining is one of the most significant contributors to environmental degradation. The media played their role in spreading the narrative about the situation on the ground. This narrative has the potential to affect readers' opinions toward the environment. Taking the gold mining operation on Sangihe Island cases, this article attempted to use Stibbe's (2015) story of "erasure, salience, and conviction" to analyze gold mining news by Tempo.co and VOI.id on the project of gold mining in Sangihe Island. The data were then examined with Stibbe's (2015) ecosophy as well as eco-critical discourse analysis. This article discovered that Tempo generated a valuable story for ecological wellbeing by building the conviction that 'mining causes ecological damage' and offering a clear image of the aspects of ecology in Sangihe. Meanwhile, the story

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from VOI.id developed a potentially detrimental effect by undermining the description of ecological features in Sangihe and building a conviction of economic benefit.

Keywords: *ecolinguistic, conviction, erasure, salience, ecosophy*

INTRODUCTION

Environmental challenges have involved pollution and climate change, as documented in Paris and Kyoto Protocol agreements. Gold mining is a one-of-a-kind and contentious issue. This activity is one of the key factors that caused climate change. Gold mining on Sangihe Island, Indonesia, is remarkable because Constitution Article 1, 2014 explains the criteria of areas which is allowed to be used for mining. Sangihe project clearly violated the criteria, yet the government continues to give an opportunity to continue this initiative (BPK RI, 2014). During these continuous environmental cases, the media have been given an essential role in spreading and informing people across the world.

This role puts the media in a crucial position because people can understand the current situation of environmental damage globally. . Above all, people's beliefs that the language they have exposed to can shape the severity level of our environment (Cheng & He, 2022). Mass media mainly support this exposure (Richardson 2007). They have played an essential role in educating readers about current environmental problems. Thus, many scholars have discussed this topic.

The way media and other resources transfer their value through narratives and reports on environmental issues is very crucial to analyze for readers to be critical. Previous studies have focused on the topics of media ideology construction (Fernández-Vázqueza, 2021; Moernaut et al., 2019 Norton & Hulme, 2019) and lexical choices (Alva, 2022). However, these studies have mostly focused on a global issue, mainly a climate change in Western mass media. Other regional

environmental challenges that contribute significantly to ecological crises have received little attention in comparative discourse studies, frequently limited to corpus-assisted analysis used (e.g., Fernández-Vázquez, 2021; Jaworska, 2018; Runge, 2021), multimodal discourse analysis (e.g., Fernández-Vázqueza, 2021; Zhdanava et al. 2021), and cognitive linguistics (e.g., Pratiwi et al. 2021). This shortage leads to the underrepresentation of local voices and circumstances, inhibits theoretical growth in ecolinguistics. Besides, it perpetuates the dominance of Global North perspectives in environmental discourse over the Global South such as Indonesia.

The present study follows up this trend by examining the news coverage of gold mining in Sangihe Island, Indonesia, employing a different framework, that is, the approach of eco-critical discourse analysis combined with the concept of ecological philosophy (ecosophy) proposed by Stibbe (2015). Since gold mining is one of the key factors which generate climate change, analyzing the discursive realization in news texts and assessing the news based on an ecological perspective helps define the "stories we live by" that might affect people's cognition and behaviors (Stibbe, 2015).

The purpose of this study is to investigate the media's hidden values and how they affect the environment by examining the language use of the two media under investigation. It is remarkable that Sangihe, a vulnerable island, is subject to a suppression of Indonesia government interest in economic development. A comparative analysis of different media positioning (Tempo and VOI) can uncover ecological stories of media as third parties that improve people's ecological behaviors by raising their ecological awareness and helping them recognize the contrasting discourses.

To uncover these hidden values, this study adopts Stibbe's (2015) framework, which introduces eight types of stories that shape environmental discourse. These stories are formed by different linguistic patterns: "ideology, framing, metaphor, evaluation, identification, conviction, erasure, and salience (p. 17)." Every story has a deep connection to the other stories. As a result, when conducting

ecolinguistics, the researcher should consider recognizing multiple related stories (Stibbe, 2015).

The following previous studies have specifically explored the concepts of conviction, erasure, and salience within environmental discourse. In the context of conviction, Jaworska (2018) examined the attitude of major oil companies toward environmental issues using corporate social responsibility (CSR) reports from 2000 to 2013. She found that CSR documents exploit linguistic elements to minimize the relevance of addressing environmental issues; for instance, when the reports discuss climate change and environmental impact, they use the word *believes*. Furthermore, energy consumption is described as tremendous, implying that it is considered more important than greenhouse gas emissions. Wang (2022) also published a study about conviction in political discourse. He found that Donald Trump and Xi Jinping used "authorization (authority of personal and impersonal authority, tradition), rationalization (instrumental, theoretical, and nominalizations), mythopoesis (storytelling), appeals to emotions, and moral evaluation (legitimation through modality, evaluations, and comparisons)" to construct justified claims in an attempt to address the COVID-19 problem (Wang, 2022, p. 902).

The narrative of erasure is also depicted in mainstream media. Franklin et al. (2022) and Cunningham et al. (2022) used the theory of corpus to analyze data collected from various websites, revealing a constant association between consumer terms and corporate-related vocabulary. Cunningham et al. (2022) used corpora of English online data from 2018 to assess public figures' responses to climate change. Meanwhile, Franklin et al. (2022) assessed the degree of disparities between British consumer language and supermarkets and government entities as a public-facing entity using corpora from the website UK campaign (Gov.uk) as well as corpora from Twitter, Reddit, and Mumsnet. These two studies have identical methods but different data that results in different findings. Franklin et al. (2022) discovered that the economy and finance of a corporation are agents of change in environmental damage, whereas Cunningham et al. (2022)

discovered that economic degradation occurred as a result of climate change.

Furthermore, Fouad (2019) studied salience within ecological discourse, examining language tactics employed in articles to assess their impact on the environment. They found that multiple erasure techniques were employed within texts to bolster the government's rationale behind the extermination of the swine population. Similar finding presented in Fernández-Vázquez (2021). He found that only 50% of oil firms and NGOs have references and articles pertaining to climate change on their webpages, suggesting a lack of awareness in addressing the subject of climate change. Nevertheless, in Zhdanava (2021), she found that the salience narrative on 27 posters used in the vegan campaign "Go Vegan World" depicted the animal as a living being capable of experiencing emotions and exhibiting individuality, while the conviction narrative presented a strong argument that animals hold equal importance to humans.

While previous studies have predominantly focused on environmental issues such as oil companies, veganism, and climate change within the context of Western mass media, this study seeks to expand the discussion by highlighting a regional issue that also contributes to ecological crises. Specifically, it examines how two Indonesian media outlets, Tempo and VOI Indonesia, report on the gold mining project in Sangihe Island. Through a comparative analysis of their discourse, this study conducts a deep linguistic examination to uncover how media narratives influence public awareness of local environmental issues. By focusing on a less-represented context, this research aims to provide a new perspective on how environmental issues are constructed in the media, addressing the current gap in ecolinguistic studies and contributing to a more inclusive understanding of environmental discourse.

METHOD

This study attempted to assess the lexicogrammar of the portrayal of Sangihe's commitment to sustainability in Tempo and VOI magazines. This study selected Tempo and VOI Indonesia as data

sources because both are recognized as credible and trusted media outlets. VOI Indonesia has been officially verified by the Indonesian Press Council (VOI Publication, 2021), while Tempo is ranked among the top ten most trusted media in Indonesia (Digital News Report Publication, 2021). Their established credibility ensures the reliability of the discourse analyzed in this research.

The approach was carried out using a qualitative technique and an interpretative paradigm. To achieve the objective of uncovering the hidden ecological values in media narratives and their influence on environmental awareness, this study addresses the following research questions: 1. How do the linguistic patterns in Tempo and VOI articles construct the factual description that "mining activities cause ecological damage"? 2. In what ways do linguistic patterns contribute to the omission or suppression of ecological elements in the reporting of the Sangihe gold mining project? 3. How are linguistic strategies employed to emphasize or highlight ecological concerns within the narratives presented by Tempo and VOI?

The stories of conviction, erasure, and salience were examined in the three research questions to fully comprehend the narratives surrounding the Sangihe gold mining project. The claim that mining caused ecological damage was the main narrative that was spread throughout this issue. The story of conviction was used to understand how this claim was presented in the discourse. Furthermore, erasure and salience were identified as two-story types that can influence a conviction. These patterns played an essential role in expressing the issue. Martin and Rose's (2003) explain that in the idea of modality, some degree of reality is contained in a sentence uttered by a writer. In conviction analysis, this study referred to the language pattern as the facticity pattern. A facticity pattern is defined as a collection of linguistic strategies used to indicate whether a narration in a story is certain, uncertain, or untrue (Stibbe, 2015).

Meanwhile, the salience pattern is seen in an actor's distinctive identity as portrayed in the text. Salience allows the writer to clearly describe an object and portray it as an important component of the narrative (Leeuwen, 2008). Stibbe (2015) applied this approach to the

field of ecology. Stibbe (2015) describes that salience is "a story in people's minds that an area of life is important or worthy of attention" (p. 162). In his approach, salience is employed to reintroduce an ecology element that had been lost in the story. Stibbe contends that it is critical to classify the aspects of life that are typically overlooked but should be highlighted.

Concurrently, in the text, Leeuwen (2008) explained that "there are two participants: the explicit participant and the omitted participant (p. 29)." According to Leeuwen (2008), when an actor is omitted from a text, the author usually erases them because they are useless or irrelevant to the text's value. He further argued that this exclusion may be implemented verbally. Backgrounding and suppression are language tactics for excluding individuals from a discourse. Even though suppression and backgrounding both involve the exclusion of participants, they do so in different ways. Suppression makes no mention of the conversation participant. Meanwhile in backgrounding, they are still visible but their action is shown in another context in the discourse.

The data sources are an English article in Tempo Magazine and VOI Indonesia titled "Large Gold, Small Island" by Rizky Ferdianto, Fransisca Christy Rosana, and Ronny Buol, as well as VOI "There Is No Justification for Mining on the Small Island of Sangihe" by Yudhistira Mahabarata and Detha Arya Tifada, published on July 11, 2021.

With the first study question, we began the language examination of the story, specifically, conviction. Machin and Mayr's (2012) theory of committing and dodging, as well as Martin and Rose's (2003) modality, served as the foundation. We classified the data into three categories: Modality, which describes how probable a description is; Hedge, which is often used to detract from what others hold to be the case; and non-modal or non-hedge. Then, we examined the stories constructed by the media and analyzed the certainty or uncertainty of the ecological wellbeing descriptions in the first research question.

For the second research question, the data were divided into background and suppression linguistic techniques based on Leeuwen's (2008) exclusion theory. Then, using Stibbe's (2015) analytical

paradigm, we examined which aspects of ecology were overlooked or excluded from the accounts. For the third research question, we classified the data as personalization or activation, following Leeuwen's (2008) theory of inclusion.

Finally, we evaluated all of the stories to determine whether they were good or harmful in shaping people's attitudes on this environmental issue, using Stibbe's (2015) ecosophy concept. All in all, these three analysis processes and data collection were the best steps to achieve deep comprehension of the issue.

FINDINGS

The Construction of Environmental Issues through Ecolinguistic Lens

This study explored how environmental issues regarding the gold mining project in Sangihe Island were constructed by two media outlets, Tempo.co and VOI.id, using an ecolinguistic framework proposed by Stibbe (2015), focusing on conviction, erasure, salience, and ecosophy. To provide a clearer overview of the distribution of findings, Table 1 summarizes the number of data points identified in each ecolinguistic aspect (conviction, erasure, and salience) across the two media outlets analyzed.

Table 1. Summary of Data Points in Each Ecolinguistic Aspect

Aspect	Media Outlet	Data Points (Datum)	Number of Data Points
Conviction	Tempo	Datum 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8	6
	VOI	Datum 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	8
Erasure	Tempo	Datum 17, 19	2
	VOI	Datum 20, 21	2
Salience	Tempo	Datum 22, 23, 24	3
	VOI	None	0

Among the three ecolinguistic aspects analyzed, conviction was the most dominant aspect, accounting for 66.7% (14 out of 21) of the total findings. This indicates that both Tempo.co and VOI.id heavily emphasized constructing certainty (or uncertainty) regarding the

environmental impacts of the gold mining project in Sangihe Island. The focus on conviction reflects the media's role in shaping public Perceptions and attitudes toward ecological issues.

The following sections elaborate on each ecolinguistic aspect highlighting the specific linguistic strategies employed by the two mass-media.

Conviction

Tempo

Tempo employed the modality and hedging to supplement the narration that mining triggers ecological damage. The absence of modality and hedging were also used in Tempo to support the ecology wellbeing. Meanwhile, some of the hedges referring to political participation in the conversation reduced the certainty of the description.

The Absence and Presence of Modality

Datum 1

"Now the region is in danger of being damaged because it has become a part of a mining concession of Tambang Mas Sangihe". (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

A sentence without a modal indicates a high level of factual accuracy in the description. This line stated that the proposed mining site is in danger of being damaged, rather than that it may be damaged. Non-modal sentences indicate a high level of commitment (Stibbe, 2015).

Datum 2

"Tambang Mas will carry out open mining, excavating four million tons of material containing approximately 900,000 tons of gold ore, which will be extracted using cyanide." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

The modal *will*, which shows certainty, was used in this statement to improve its facticity. *Will* asserts that open mining, which employs cyanide, is unavoidable. This mining process has a deleterious impact on the balance of nature. It can lead to erosion, water contamination, and habitat degradation (Eisler, 1991).

Furthermore, the great amount of gold ore excavation, 900,000 tons, has a big potential damage to the natural beauty of Sangihe Island. This damage has been proven in the other mining cases in Indonesia, for instance Freeport project in Mimika, Papua, IWIP nickel project in North Maluku, and coal mining project in East Borneo (*BPK: Limbah* Freeport *Cemari Laut*, 2017; Climate Rights International, 2024; Salim, 2018). Their mining regions that were no longer in operation were often abandoned without adequate management, resulting in the formation of stagnant bodies of water and the depletion of fertile soil (Widyaningrum, 2018). In addition, the mining process sometimes entailed deforestation, resulting in the depletion of water catchment areas in nearby areas of the mine. Consequently, this could lead to the occurrence of both floods and droughts throughout the summer season. Then, the danger in datum 1 certainly happened.

Datum 3

"Wahyu Muryadi, a spokesman for the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), said that Tambang Mas cannot exploit Sangihe Island because they do not have a recommendation from their ministry. For that reason, such utilization must obtain a recommendation from the KKP." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

This has high facticity, indicating that mining in Sangihe is permissible provided KKP agrees to submit a recommendation. It means that mining causes environmental damage if not closely monitored. The verb *must* make this phrase certain (Martin & Rose, 2003), indicating that KKP observation is required to avert damage. Furthermore, the negative form of *have* and *can* (do not have, cannot) strengthen the argument that PT. Tambang Mas Sangihe has a minimal chance of mining on Sangihe Island.

However, the gold mining proposal in Sangihe Island could continue although it did not get recommendation from KKP. This is common in Indonesia where a project that boosts the national economy is more considered even though it vividly damages the ecology surrounding it (Maulana, 2022). The project, which offers economic benefits, is likely to attract significant attention from relevant authorities seeking to contribute to its success. Bribery incidents are

frequently observed in the context of project implementation, as they are employed to facilitate the successful realization of projects and streamline legal administrative processes (Fikri, 2021; Utomo & Arief, 2023). Thus, this ongoing tension between economic growth and environmental protection highlights the challenges in ensuring sustainable development and accountability in Indonesia.

The Absence and Presence of Hedge

Datum 4

"The mining endangers the small island ecosystem". (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

This line, with no hedge, accurately reflected the destruction caused by mining to ecosystems (Stibbe, 2015). Despite stating how mining was likely to affect the ecosystem, this statement utilized no hedge to plainly explain how 'mining endangers' the Sangihe ecosystem.

Datum 7

"As of Saturday, July 3, the general treasurer of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) had not responded to the letter." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

Datum 8

"A request for confirmation made to Chief of Communication and Informatics Office Christiano Talumepa also did not provide any results. He did not reply to any messages sent to his WhatsApp number." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

Both data 7 and 8 highlight the actions (or lack thereof) of officials who were expected to engage with a specific issue. According to Stibbe (2015), the use of reference in negative expressions reduces facticity, such as *had not responded*, *did not provide*, and *did not reply*. These negative expressions describe the official's abstention from the meeting. The government's absence from the meeting was a sign of agreement with parties that claim mining causes ecological damage. This sign was strengthened by the abstain of confirmation from the politician's representative who should have come to the meeting. Also, it can be interpreted that this topic is sensitive to be discussed in the public forum.

However, apart from becoming a sensitive discussion, this can also indicate a political involvement in succeeding the project. This was indicated by how the project holder did not want to discuss AMDAL which is very important to be considered before executing the project. Some of the previous projects that have a bad AMDAL or even accelerate the process of AMDAL were proven to damage the ecology (Mjo & Dal, 2022). Unfair and harmful activities like this were mostly done by the authorities which have strong political influences in the project. Gratification and corruption are the common rituals that always appear in mining projects (Fikri, 2021; Utomo & Arief, 2023). Therefore, law enforcement is usually questioned in every development project in Indonesia.

VOI

VOI used modality to compose the first research question as a fact. Nevertheless, the certainty was decreased in some paragraphs using comparison and negation, as hedges.

The Absence and Presence of Modality

Datum 9

"So, the entire ecosystem in Sangihe will be in danger of being lost, even damaged". (VOI, June 11, 2021)

Datum 10

"Because it will have big consequences for the environment, …" (VOI, June 11, 2021)

Modal *will* was used to start the conviction process. These statements suggested a high degree of confidence that environmental harm occurred due to the strong likelihood of modal *will* (Martin & Rose, 2003). Referring to VOI certainty, there was a high likelihood that mining would destroy the Sangihe environment. Furthermore, the adverb "even" in datum 9 reinforced the loss by implying the severe effects of mining activities (Online Oxford Dictionary).

Datum 11

"Human safety must be prioritized. Don't just look at it from an economic perspective". (VOI, June 11, 2021)

The facticity was then enhanced by using the modal "must". It highlights the importance of ecological protection instead of a mining project that brings economic growth value (Machin & Mayr, 2012).

Datum 12
"Whatever the system, the handling of tailings—whether the disposal of waste into the sea commonly known as Submarine Tailings Disposal (STD) or the disposal of waste into the deep sea, Deep Sea Tailings Placemet (DSTP)—both have great risks and are harmful to the environment." (VOI, June 11, 2021)

In this declaration, VOI said unambiguously that handling tailings poses considerable risks and is detrimental, rather than potentially posing major risks and harm. When a sentence does not have a modal, it presents a certainty on the meaning (Martin & Rose, 2003). This aligned with the existing report that Indonesia still has no better waste management (*BPK Limbah* Freeport, 2017). Some of the previous mining projects even became a threat to human safety. For instance, the lack of reforestation following deforestation leads to a decline in people's food supply, the absence of land re-covering after dredging results in the accumulation of water at a depth that poses a drowning risk, and the disposal of mining waste in the ocean, although not entirely secure, is nonetheless practiced (Prasetyadi, 2021).

The Absence and Presence of Hedge

Datum 13
"The project not only threatens the lives of the Sangihe residents but also threatens the extinction of endemic birds" (VOI, June 11, 2021)

Datum 14
"Not only for rare species of flora and fauna (one of which is Sariwang Sangihe) but also the people of Sangihe are threatened with their lives and livelihoods". (VOI, June 11, 2021)

In the hedging technique, VOI used conjunctions to increase the description of facticity. Machin and Mayr (2012) explained that the conjunction which appeared in the sentence "not only threaten the lives of the residents but also threaten the endemic bird" emphasizes the multiple danger of mining for ecological conditions.

Datum 15
"The mining permit is contrary to Law (UU) Number 1 of 2014 concerning amendments to Law Number 27 of 2007 concerning the management of coastal areas and Small Islands". (VOI, June 11, 2021).

Official references were used by VOI to increase the certainty of mining damage (Machin & Mayr, 2012). In datum 15, official Law Number 27 of 2007, which outlines the legal management of small islands and their surrounding areas, was cited to show that the gold mining project in Sangihe undermines proper small island management (bpk.go.id publication 2014).

Datum 16
"Because the economic value of the entire ecosystem in Sangihe is much more meaningful, which is able to provide a sustainable life for the surrounding community". (VOI, June 11, 2021)

Meanwhile, in datum 16, economic perspective and quantifiers in the text undermined the description on the first research question. Using *much* and *more*, as quantifiers, to explain the uncountable and greater benefits of mining projects (Machin & Mayr, 2012). These linguistic devices introduced a new description compared to the preceding paragraph, which presented the mining project from an economic perspective as having a positive impact on the surrounding ecology.

Erasure
Tempo
Datum 17
"This company will likely manage a mining area on 42,000 hectares of land in Sangihe based on a working contract." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

In datum 17, the ecology element was also backgrounded using a generalization. The writer used the word Land to describe a forest that was used for mining. The term "land" refers to any section of the ground that is not covered by water, obscuring the clear perception of trees and animals in the forest (Leeuwen, 2008).

Instead of raising readers' understanding of the ecological damage, the phrase Land conjured up a nebulous notion of what would be lost aside from the earth's surface, which is land rather than the sea. Moreover, the significant number for the mining area, 42,000, has a great potential to destroy the ecosystem (Maulana, 2022). This covered almost half of the island, which means almost 50% of the inhabitants are going to lose their houses.

Datum 19
"This endangers the endemic animal population." (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

Tempo utilized impersonalization in datum 21. Datum 21 shows that mining activities have an impact on endemic animal populations. The language does not paint a vivid picture of the depicted animal. Because there was no precise depiction of the animal mentioned, this impersonalization generates less imaginable danger (Stibbe, 2015). It may reduce awareness of the Niu bird's plight, as it is already endangered.

VOI

The discursive technique essentially is generally more intricate in VOI in a subtle way. The reason for this essential is that VOI repressed and backgrounded the ecological component. They employed a number of strategies, including impersonalization, overdetermination, passivation, and generalization.

Datum 20
"… but also affects the economic management ecosystem of the Sangihe residents who live from natural resources". (VOI, June 11, 2021)

Descriptions that are more salient can increase awareness of life in the area (Stibbe, 2015). Datum 20 showed that the VOI failed to provide a clear representation of the persons harmed by mining. Sangihe refers to the afflicted residents. Although Sangihe inhabitants referred to the entire island, the project was only carried out in a few sections. Since the description did not refer to the Bowone residents,

the local community of Sangihe, this generalization was unable to give a distinct impression.

Datum 21
"The reality is that the tailings (waste) handling technology system in Indonesia is still inadequate. Whatever the system, the handling of tailings—whether the disposal of waste into the sea, commonly known as Submarine Tailings Disposal (STD) or the disposal of waste into the deep-sea, Deep-Sea Tailings Placement (DSTP)—both have great risks and are harmful to the environment " (VOI, June 11, 2021)

The nominalization of tailing produced an abstract representation of what was being discarded. Especially whether or not they are harmful to the body (Stibbe, 2015). Furthermore, the term 'tailings' erases the material disposal process that forced marine animals away from their homes to serve as waste dumps. This backgrounding is consistent with how the waste management system in Indonesia is still inadequate (*BPK Limbah* Freeport, 2017). Many lives have been lost due to inadequate waste management, specifically in mining projects.

Salience

Tempo's story contained a unique and clear picture of ecology. Tempo utilized personalization to highlight the dominant visualization of ecology. Meanwhile, a clear picture of ecology was not found in VOI.id.

Datum 22
"THE Sahendaruman Mountain is located about 15 kilometres from government offices of the Sangihe Islands Regency, North Sulawesi". (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

Personalizing Sahendaruman Mountain demonstrated a vivid depiction of the nonhuman world. Naming a mountain is equivalent to naming a settlement; both indicate the presence of unique living creatures (Stibbe, 2015). This raises people's awareness that mountains are home to a diverse range of animals and plants, which is equally worth considering.

Datum 23
"Its densely forested hills act as the main water reservoir area for this island located north of Manado". (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

The detailed description of hills as mining sites highlighted the depiction of life. The hills were depicted as densely forested. This illustration provides the reader with impression of seeing many trees in the hills that rich with inhabitants. As a result, this description provided a clear picture of Sahendaruman Mountain ecosystem, a mining area (Stibbe, 2015).

Datum 24
"Residents of Bowone learned that the land around their places of residence was to be cleared out when Tambang Mas invited all of them to a school building on March 22". (Tempo, July 4, 2021)

Furthermore, mining activities projected in the community, implying that the parties involved were also humans. However, the term "human" is too ambiguous to provide the reader a clear picture of the people who would be impacted by mining. More detailed descriptions can improve understanding of local life (Stibbe, 2015). This statement referred to the village by its name, BOWONE. It was clearly proven that the individuals impacted by the initiative are Bowone's society.

Ecosophy: Evaluating Tempo's and VOI's News Report Using Three Ecological Lens

The tale must be evaluated using ecological philosophy to assess whether or not it is worth preserving ecology in its current state. Tempo's story is consistent with Stibbe's (2015) ecological philosophy of 'being ecocentric (paying regard to other species as well as humans)' (p.15). The article highlights the dangers that mining poses to the life of Sangihe's inhabitants. The high facticity pattern in a description of a mining process, such as cyanide excavation, demonstrates living beings' well-being. Tempo tells how cyanide wiped out four million tons of natural biotic and abiotic species in the area. Indeed, cyanide can endanger the lives of living things since leach ponds for metal

extraction pollute water and soil. Moreover, supporting the fact that the local populace, predominantly including individuals of Sangirese and Talaud ethnic backgrounds, exhibits a profound affinity with their surroundings, heavily dependent on agricultural and fishing activities for sustenance (BPS Sangihe Publication, 2022). In conclusion, Tempo's use of high facticity in its descriptions raises awareness of ecological vulnerability.

Nonetheless, the VOI tale is harmful to the health of the environment because it contradicts ecological philosophy. This evidence supported the conviction in the verbal pattern. Initially, VOI believes that mining causes ecological damage since it accurately expresses the risk that *might* affect Sangihe's ecology. However, the accuracy drops when the justification for mining permits is explained. In their description, the danger to Sangihe's life occurred due to ambiguity. VOI demonstrated the modality 'can', which undercut the likelihood of danger. Furthermore, in addition to undercutting the description, the VOI promoted the other description, which argued that mining benefits the economy. This is proven by VOI's statement that Sangihe's environment is vulnerable due to its economic worth. It means that the VOI decided that ecological damage equals economic growth. This has the potential to reduce people's knowledge of environmental sustainability. As a result, the VOI tale harmed the ecosystem.

To supplement this amended description, VOI emphasised the vivid portrayal of affected parties in the story, such as the generalization of residents influenced by the phrase 'Residents of Sangihe'. This excludes the affected parties. Residents who are not touched by the project—those who live outside of the project area—will be unaware of the individual who bears the repercussions. They are more prone to believe that everything is well because their village continues to operate normally. This diminished the understanding that there are living beings who are directly affected by mining. To summarize, VOI's story does not take into account the lives of living beings or the environment. As a result, this story has the potential to ruin the well-being of the environment.

DISCUSSION

This research has shown numerous linguistic features used by Tempo and VOI.id that have the potential to impact ecological well-being. To begin, Tempo and VOI.id offer the conviction of a description using hedge and modality statements. They both use positive terms like 'will' and 'must' to underline the fact that mining has caused environmental damage. Some unmodulated sentences were used in Tempo to explain mining-damaging actions. Tempo, for example, utilized phrases without modals to describe the environmental dangers of mining. This demonstrates the assurance that ecology must be protected (Zhdanava, 2021).

Tempo also employed 'hedges' such as 'modal adverbs' and 'authoritative references' to increase the correctness of the description in study question one. Nonetheless, VOI.id uses hedging strategies like authoritative references, comparative form, and passivation to counter the allegation that mining harms the environment. When characterizing the influence of mining on the environment, for example, the phrase "more complex" is used. Because it does not fully explain the impact, this hedge diminishes the value of ecology (Jaworska, 2018).

Furthermore, the various linguistic parts provide different patterns for building a belief based on Tempo and VOI.id. Tempo established a pattern that gradually increased the truth of the assertion that mining causes environmental damage. Tempo stories might persuade readers that mining activities inevitably cause environmental damage in this manner. Meanwhile, VOI.id devised a process that began by demonstrating the high facticity description, then weakening it, and finally offering a new description. This inconsistency began with the description that mining is damaging to the environment. Then, it slightly contradicted the description by undermining the damage. At the end, the article provided a new description that mining provides economic benefits. This pattern may persuade readers that mining activities do not impact the environment. Instead, they help to increase the local economy. As a result, VOI.id produced a conviction that may

be destructive to the environment, whereas Tempo produced a conviction that favored environmental conservation.

Second, Tempo and VOI.id emphasized the story's ecological features through generalization, impersonalization, and overdetermination. Tempo and VOI.id, for example, used the terms' endemic animal' and 'endemic birds' to describe Niu birds, an endangered species in the area. People's awareness of environmental degradation is reduced because of generalization, passivation, and impersonalization (Fouad, 2019). Nonetheless, VOI.id employed passivation to suppress the ecological factor. The term' tailing' is used to describe the dangers of mining, which represses the marine life touched by the operation.

Moreover, by utilizing the 'commercial' perspective in articulating the benefits of mining, VOI.id passivized the significance of ecological factors. Passivation, as Stibbe (2015) observed, can produce ambiguity and an inconceivable image of a species when used to suppress it. Using these patterns, VOI.id rendered the element of ecology meaningless and unnecessary in the debate. These patterns keep readers oblivious to the existence of aspects of ecology, animals, plants, and humans, causing them to disregard the importance of safeguarding their lives. Meanwhile, Tempo continued to use the eco-lexicon to give parts of ecology an abstract existence. Tempo's technique made readers aware of the presence of ecology, but they still need a clear depiction of it. As a result, as compared to Tempo, the trace of VOI.id language patterns, the void, is possibly damaging to the biosphere.

Third, in terms of salience, we discovered that the dominant image of the ecosystem was only displayed in Tempo. For example, it used phrases like "Bowone's villagers" and "Sahendaruman Mountain" to characterize the mining project's environmental consequences. Using personalization to create a vivid image of ecology can help people become more conscious of the presence of sensitive living species (Fouad, 2019).

The media's goal may have influenced the three stories' linguistic patterns. The media that created green narratives, discourses

or stories, show the presence of ecology and have a beneficial influence on ecology's wellness (Jaworska, 2018; Norton & Hulme, 2019; Runge, 2021; Zhdanava, 2021). Previous research on the worldwide issue of climate change reveals that progressive media that promote mainstream scientific views on climate change contradict the neoliberal agenda. Meanwhile, the current study, which focuses on the national issue of biodiversity loss, found that anti-government media also questioned the neoliberal agenda, such as Tempo

Tempo, which is regarded as a media outlet that takes a green discourse, supporting ecological awareness. This political position is often in conflict to the Indonesian government's position. The government banned Tempo in 1994 and 1982. This was owing to Tempo's strong criticism of the government. Following that event, Tempo founded *Aliansi Jurnalis Indonesia* (AJI) to oppose the government's control over media and journalists. It is worth noting that Tempo's major stakeholder is a group of independent foundations, including the Jaya Raya Foundations, which allows Tempo to operate more freely without being obligated to produce stories (Keller 2009).

VOI.id, on the other hand, produce a possibly harmful story for the health of the environment. They appear to value economic growth in their story, reflecting the organization's perspective toward the technology sector. In that regard, VOI tend to promote neoliberal agendas (Alva, 2022; Fernández-Vázqueza, 2021; Fouad, 2019; Jaworska, 2018; Pratiwi, 2021) or political affiliations (Norton & Hulme 2019; Runge 2021) which tend to produce stories that prioritize economic or technological growth over ecological vulnerability. VOI.id is a subsidiary of PT VOI *Media Informasi*, which is directed by CEO Satria Pinandita (VOI news 2021) and Commissioner Moho Setiya Putra (LinkedIn profile). Pinandita and Putra both have professional experience with technology and have obtained technology-related degrees. Their strong background in technology has the potential to favour economic growth because it influences the development of the technological sector. This shows that media ideology is shaped by its founders, journalists, and users (Iskandar, 2018).

Technology and economic development are inextricably linked. As a developing country, Indonesia depends on technological advancement to sustain its businesses. Moreover, economic difficulties substantially influence technical advancement (Haque & Martin, 1995), because such innovations require financial support, which can be provided through economic stability. Finally, the VOI.id's ideology promotes economic growth. Its founders and leaders working in the technology business have the potential to influence it.

The novelty of current research is the in-depth examination of the ecological evaluation determining whether the story about the gold mining operation on Sangihe Island is beneficial or harmful to the ecosystem. For example, Tempo's salience story presented a clear picture of ecological elements, reminding the reader of their existence in the story. The reader is then aware of their vulnerability. Stibbe (2015) stated that different evaluation philosophies can result in varying outcomes. Tempo's narrative benefits environmental health by validating the argument that mining causes environmental damage. This benefits both the natural beauty of Sangihe and the local population.

Furthermore, despite using a broad definition of the term, this story manages to convey a vision of ecology. Tempo's plot maintains a clear image of ecology. On the contrary, VOI's story is harmful to the ecology's well-being because it delivers a new description that mining provides economic advantage rather than ecological awareness. Additionally, there is no dominant image of ecology in this story. This has a potential effect to damage the environment, as conducted in Prasetyadi's (2021) study.

In conclusion, the current study addressed all of the issues raised by the prior study on the linguistic pattern for the story of conviction, erasure, and salience in the Tempo and VOI articles. Overall, this study provides two novelties. First, the use of the following three frameworks, Machin and Mayr (2012), Van Leeuwen (2008), and Stibbe (2015) provide a more complicated analytical framework for each story. Second, utilizing Stibbe's ecological philosophy (2015), this study determined whether the discourse is

good for ecology's well-being or not. This type of interdisciplinary study provides a detailed explanation of how media benefits or harms ecology.

CONCLUSION

The current research was conducted through micro-level analysis, such as the use of words, phrases, and sentences, using three analytical frameworks. Based on the analysis, we can conclude that each news' agenda, e.g. green discourse (Tempo) agenda and neoliberal/economic agenda (VOI) shapes the ways in which the language is used. Thus, the ideology of the media shapes the news reporting. Media ideology is also determined by who the owners of the media is/are and the types of interests they have.

We believe that this research will aid in the development of more efficient approaches to advancing environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. However, it still would not come perfectly since the data were limited to the written article that could not cover the visual image and interview of related parties. Therefore, for a more comprehensive understanding of this interdisciplinary field, further study can enlarge the analysis of the other story proposed by Stibbe (2015), namely ideology, framing, metaphor, identities, and evaluation with more data to be analyzed.

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DECLARATION OF AI AND AI-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES

During the preparation of this work the first author used Quillbot (v19.54.10) to optimize language and readability which was then edited by the second author during the revision process. The authors have reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication after the use of this tool/service.

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