

Functions and Issues of Block Language in English Newspapers

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Abstract

The current writer examined the functions and issues of block language (special vocabulary items and grammar) in three online newspapers published in English, namely, the Indonesian *The Jakarta Post* (JP), the American *The Washington Post* (WP) and the British *The Telegraph* (TT). Sample uses of block language, such headlines as *Obama to visit RI* (JP), *Blaze hits Jersey Shore boardwalk* (WP) and *The UK jobs market: seven key charts* (TT), were collected from the three newspapers and were analyzed to explore the functions and issues of this special language. To discuss the collected data, the current writer referred to ideas on block language and headline writing proposed by various authors. It is expected that the discussion results would be beneficial to readers, including learners of the English language, to understand better the functions and issues (complexities) of block language, for instance, *back* meaning *support*, *bid* meaning *attempt*, and *blast* meaning *explosion* and *criticize severely*.

Keywords: *block language, headline, newspaper*