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# ON SATIRICAL COMMENTS: POLITICAL HUMOR OF INDONESIANS DEPICTED IN INSTAGRAM POSTS

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## Abstract
This study explores the phenomenon of political humor within Indonesian society, focusing specifically on the expression of satirical comments through Instagram posts. Employing critical discourse analysis as the methodological framework, the study examines how Indonesian users utilize humor to comment on political events, figures, and ideologies in the digital realm. By analyzing a selected sample of Instagram posts, the study aims to shed light on the linguistic and discursive strategies employed by users to construct satirical commentary and investigate the underlying socio-political implications of such discourse. The study findings highlight the significance of satirical comments in shaping public opinion and fostering political dialogue within Indonesian society. It uncovers Instagram users' diverse strategies to express their discontent, promote alternative perspectives, and foster critical thinking through humor. The study identifies recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns in satirical comments, offering valuable insights into contemporary Indonesia's political discourse and collective sentiment. This study contributes to the existing literature on critical discourse analysis. It provides an in-depth analysis of the unique ways Indonesians engage in political satire through Instagram, elucidating the intricate relationship between language, humor, and political critique.

**Keywords:** critical discourse analysis, Indonesian society, Instagram posts, political humor, satirical comments

## Introduction
Political humor and satire have long been recognized as effective forms of social commentary (cf. Attardo, 2001; Feldman, 2000; Tsakona, 2009; Young, 2017), allowing individuals to express their discontent, challenge power structures, and engage in critical dialogue. In the digital age, social media platforms have emerged as influential spaces for disseminating such humor, allowing users to share satirical comments and memes with a wide audience (cf. Dynel, 2013; Dynel & Chovanec, 2021). In the Indonesian context, Instagram has gained immense popularity as a platform for political expression, providing a creative outlet for users to engage in political humor and critique (cf. Harun et al., 2015; Nugraha, 2020). This study aims to investigate the phenomenon of satirical comments in Indonesian



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society as depicted in Instagram posts, utilizing critical discourse analysis (henceforth CDA) as the primary methodology. By focusing on the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in these comments, the study seeks to uncover how Indonesian users utilize humor to comment on political events, figures, and ideologies. CDA offers a valuable framework for examining the relationship between language, power, and social change. By analyzing the language used within satirical comments, this study will delve into the content, structure, and rhetorical devices employed in satirical comments, exploring how users manipulate language, irony, sarcasm, and parody to construct political criticism and social commentary. Examining a selected sample of Instagram posts will identify recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns, shedding light on the prevalent issues and concerns within Indonesian society.

Furthermore, political humor and satire have long been recognized as powerful tools for social commentary, providing individuals with a means to express dissent, challenge authority, and engage in critical dialogue (Attardo, 1994; Balakrishnan et al., 2019; Boukes et al., 2015; Feldman, 1995). In recent years, the rise of social media platforms has transformed the landscape of political communication, offering new avenues for disseminating satirical content (Daniels, 2007; Lent, 2014; Ostrom, 2007; Sen & Hill, 2007). Scholars have highlighted the significance of political humor as a form of resistance and social critique. In the Indonesian context, political humor has a rich history, with traditions such as wayang (shadow puppetry) (cf. Cohen, 2007; Pandin, 2020; Pranowo et al., 2022) and ludruk (traditional comedy theater) (cf. Kholidah et al., 2020; Pandin et al., 2019; Pranowo et al., 2021) serving as platforms for satirical commentary. However, with the advent of digital media, particularly social media platforms like Instagram, individuals now have unprecedented opportunities to engage in political humor and satire, reaching a wider audience and shaping public discourse.

In the coming five years, several studies (e.g., Hasanah & Hidayat, 2020; Nugraha, 2022; Rahman, 2022) examined political satire in Indonesian online communities, focusing on social media platforms. These studies highlighted how political humor is crucial in constructing public opinion and challenging political narratives. However, this study primarily focused on textual analysis of memes and overlooked the specific linguistic strategies employed within satirical comments. Other relevant studies (e.g., Triputra & Sugita, 2016; Putri, 2018; Mahadian & Hashim, 2022) explored the role of political memes on Instagram in shaping political communication during the Indonesian presidential election. While the study shed light on the use of visual humor and memes, it did not specifically focus on satirical comments and the linguistic strategies employed within them.

Building upon these previous studies, this research aims to fill the gap in the literature by examining the linguistic and discursive strategies employed within satirical comments on Instagram in the Indonesian context. By employing CDA, this study seeks to highlight the unique ways in which individuals utilize humor to comment on political events, figures, and ideologies. Moreover, this research will draw upon linguistics and media studies theories to comprehensively understand the phenomenon. It will analyze the manipulation of language, irony, sarcasm, and parody as tools of political criticism and social commentary within satirical comments. By conducting an in-depth analysis of a selected sample of Instagram posts, this research aims to identify recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns

in satirical comments, offering valuable insights into contemporary Indonesia's political climate and collective sentiment.

Accordingly, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the political humor and satirical comments found within Indonesian Instagram posts. By examining the linguistic strategies employed and analyzing the social and political implications, this study seeks to contribute to understanding the relationship between humor, language, and politics in contemporary Indonesian society. Accordingly, the research questions are as follows: (1) what are the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts that contribute to the construction of political humor; (2) how do satirical comments in Indonesian Instagram posts challenge prevailing power structures, critique political figures and policies, and engage in public discourse; and (3) what are the recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns found in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts, and what do they reveal about the socio-political climate in contemporary Indonesia?

## Method

This study employed CDA as the primary methodology to examine the phenomenon of satirical comments and political humor depicted in Indonesian Instagram posts. CDA offers a framework for analyzing the relationship between language, power, and social change, making it well-suited for investigating the linguistic and discursive strategies employed within satirical comments in a specific socio-political context (cf. Fairclough, 2013; Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000; Weiss & Wodak, 2007). Specifically, the study stages were as follows. First, Data Collection: A systematic approach was adopted to collect data for the analysis. A sample of Indonesian Instagram posts containing satirical comments was selected based on relevance to political events, figures, and ideologies. The sample encompassed various posts, capturing themes, targets, and stylistic patterns prevalent in satirical comments. The collection coverage was from 1st January 2022 up to 31st July 2023. The data were retrieved from the Instagram account @katakitaig.

Second, the data analysis involved a multi-stage process. Initially, a comprehensive reading of the selected Instagram posts was conducted to gain familiarity with the content and context. Then, the satirical comments within these posts were extracted and transcribed for detailed examination. Qualitative techniques identified and analyzed the linguistic and discursive strategies employed within the comments. The analysis focused on various aspects, including manipulating language, using irony, sarcasm, parody, and other rhetorical devices. The study focused on how these linguistic strategies contribute to constructing political humor, challenging power structures, critiquing political figures and policies, and engaging in public discourse. Furthermore, the analysis examined recurring themes and targets within the satirical comments to understand Indonesian society's prevalent issues and concerns. This examination provides insights into contemporary Indonesia's socio-political climate and collective sentiment.

Third, ethical considerations had been considered throughout the research process. The researcher adhered to ethical guidelines regarding publicly available data on social media platforms. Fourth, it is important to acknowledge certain

limitations of this research. The sample of Instagram posts might only represent part of the spectrum of satirical comments in Indonesian society, as it was limited to the available data within the selected timeframe. Additionally, the analysis was based on the researcher's interpretation and is subject to his biases and perspectives.

## Findings and Discussion

### *The linguistic and discursive strategies*

The analysis revealed a range of linguistic and discursive strategies utilized within satirical comments. These strategies included the manipulation of language through wordplay, puns, and clever linguistic constructions. Satirical comments often employ irony, sarcasm, and parody to convey political critique humorously. Users frequently employed intertextuality, drawing upon popular culture references and memes to enhance the satirical effect. Some samples of the data are presented as follows.

First, in the post published in mid-May 2023 (see Figure 1. a), wordplay and parody were the most prominent linguistic strategies used. Wordplay manifested in two figures from the cartoon. The first figure, a legislative candidate, is dressed in a formal shirt (symbolizing his social status and level of relationships). The figure is in a campaign billboard frame that reads "*Dul Semprul* (wordplay in Javanese)," which indicates the figure's unprofessionalism. In the same billboard, the cartoon maker adds "*jujur, merakyat, anti korupsi* (*transl*. honest, populist, anti-corruption)" as a satire. As a series of parodies of the cartoon, the second figure, an ordinary citizen, sings cheerfully. The wordplay quoted from the song lyrics is the second figure singing. The verse "*tersenyum dianya padaku, manis, manis, manis* (*transl.* she smiled at me, so sweet, sweet, sweet)" is a mockery of the figure being campaigned for on the billboard.

Second, in another example post, a political cartoon published in mid-2022 (see Figure 1. b), the cartoonist used the linguistic strategies of puns and sarcasm. In the post, a teacher is teaching the subject "*pelajaran kata-kata* (transl. matter of words)' (the figure shown is satirizing a national politician known to be good at narrating). In the post, there are five phrases by the cartoonist. The five phrases are puns the politician often uses to deceive the public of his mistakes in handling the public problems in the nation's capital. Sarcastically, the cartoonist wants to criticize the politician and convey that the public needs to be careful with the politician's tendency to manipulate language, especially related to words.

Third, in the last data sample (see Figure 1. c), the last pattern of linguistic strategies used in the post is found: clever linguistic construction and irony. As shown by the cartoonist, the verb "keruk (dredge)" is used denotatively and connotatively in the political cartoon post. In its denotative context, the verb describes the real performance of local leaders in flood management efforts. The phrase "keruk kali (dredge the river)" is an expression used to refer to the real actions of the regional leader in question. In contrast, denotatively, "keruk APBD (dredge the APBD-government fund)" satirizes regional leaders who ironically spend government funds without good performance. The use of these verbs is claimed to be the linguistic intelligence possessed by the cartoonist to critique the political issues ironically.




(a) (b) (c)

Figure 1. The linguistic and discursive strategies of political cartoons on Instagram posts

Accordingly, the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts play a crucial role in constructing political humor. One of the key linguistic strategies observed in satirical comments is the manipulation of language. Satirists often use wordplay, puns, and clever linguistic constructions to make humorous comments. These linguistic devices add a layer of amusement and satire to the comments, capturing the audience's attention and evoking laughter (Asidiky et al., 2022). By playing with language, satirical comments draw attention to the absurdity or contradictions in political events, figures, or policies, thus contributing to the construction of political humor.

Furthermore, satirical comments frequently employ irony, sarcasm, and parody to convey political critique. Irony expresses the opposite of what is meant, often highlighting the gap between appearance and reality (Witek, 2022). Sarcasm, on the other hand, involves using cutting or mocking remarks to express disapproval or contempt (Meibauer, 2019). By employing irony and sarcasm, satirical comments challenge prevailing narratives, subvert power structures, and provide an alternative perspective on political issues. Parody, another commonly employed strategy, involves imitating or mimicking a particular style or manner of communication, often exaggerating it for comic effect. Through parody, satirical comments critique political figures or ideologies and provide a satirical reinterpretation of their actions, speeches, or behaviors.

Intertextuality is another linguistic strategy frequently observed in satirical comments (Landreville, 2015). Satirists often draw upon popular culture references, memes, or other media artifacts to enhance the satirical effect. By referencing well-known cultural symbols, events, or characters, satirical comments establish a sense of familiarity and relatability with the audience. This intertextuality adds humor and serves as a vehicle for conveying political critique in a manner that resonates with the target audience.

Moreover, the discursive strategies employed within satirical comments construct political humor. Satirical comments engage in playful and critical

discourse, challenging power structures and questioning dominant narratives (Fein et al., 2015). They often use exaggeration, hyperbole, or absurdity to highlight political events or figures' flaws, contradictions, or hypocrisies. By amplifying certain aspects or distorting reality, satirical comments expose the inconsistencies or injustices within the political sphere, drawing attention to societal issues and fostering critical reflection. Satirical comments also engage in social commentary, discussing and critiquing broader social, cultural, or moral issues. They provide a platform for users to express their discontent, voice alternative perspectives, and challenge the status quo. By raising awareness and initiating discussions on societal concerns, satirical comments construct political humor by stimulating critical thinking and encouraging active engagement with political issues.

In short, the linguistic and discursive strategies employed within satirical comments in Indonesian Instagram posts are integral to constructing political humor. The manipulation of language through wordplay, irony, sarcasm, and parody adds wit and satire to the comments. Intertextuality enhances relatability and cultural resonance. Discursive strategies such as exaggeration and social commentary challenge power structures and expose societal issues. By employing these strategies, satirical comments effectively convey political critique, engage the audience, and contribute to the vibrant political humor found in Indonesian Instagram posts.

***Challenges to power structures***

Satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts were found to challenge prevailing power structures. Political figures, institutions, and policies were subject to scathing criticism through humor. Satirical comments often expose hypocrisy, inconsistency, and corruption within the political realm, providing a platform for users to express their discontent and promote alternative perspectives. By subverting dominant narratives, satirical comments aimed to undermine the legitimacy and authority of those in power. Some samples of the data have been presented as follows.

First, in a post in May 2023 (*see* Figure 2. a), a political cartoon was found that challenged the power structure of the government, especially the executive board or DPR (The People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia). As shown in the cartoon, there are three figures who both have allergies. The first figure is a man who has an allergy to dust. The second figure is a man who has a food allergy. The last figure is a member of the board (DPR). The last figure has an allergy to "drafting asset forfeiture laws." The last figure satirizes the slow process of formulating laws for those convicted of corruption. As an allergic person, he always protects himself from any bacteria. In this case, the cartoonist satirizes the urgency of law issuance as an allergy. So, the board of DPR should take a distance and avoid the disease. This political cartoon challenges the executive council, which seems slow in discussing and formulating the draft law process. The political cartoon satirically criticizes these government institutions for their inconsistent performance in formulating laws.

Second, in another political cartoon post in May 2023 (see Figure 2. b), some illustrations challenge politicians and hypocrisy. As shown in the post, the figures caricatured by the cartoonist are a minister and three university students. Other figures that appear are ordinary people. In one scene, the minister seems to

comment on the House of Representatives. He complained about the slowness in formulating the Asset Forfeiture Law. Perhaps the law or regulation is planned to be applied to corruption suspects. In the other scene, the cartoonist uses the figure of the common people to underline the hypocrisy of the student group, who seem not to see the problem. Students are often critical and vocal about any signs of abuse of power by members and institutions of the DPR. However, those attributes disappear due to unclear reasons of the students. At its core, the cartoons challenge political figures and the nuances of hypocrisy that arise concerning the issues highlighted.

Meanwhile, in the political cartoon posted in June 2023 (*see* Figure 2. c), there is a challenge to the policies and corrupt attitudes of state officials. The cartoon shows a part of the illustration about a damaged road that has become national news in a province. The damage is in the public spotlight because it has occurred for years without any repair efforts from the governor and his staff. Another part of the illustration is a smiling figure of President Jokowi with the caption that he will visit the area. Meanwhile, the last part of the illustration is a picture of a road that looks smooth because it has been repaired in a short time. The cartoonist of the post wants to challenge illogical provincial government policies. The irregularity is a strong indication that there is a budget game for handling the damaged road. Visually and textually, the cartoon satirizes provincial officials for their manipulative and corrupt policies.




(a) (b) (c)

Figure 2. Challenges to power structures of political cartoons on Instagram posts

Admittedly, satirical comments in Indonesian Instagram posts significantly challenge prevailing power structures, critique political figures and policies, and engage in public discourse. Satirists use humor to expose politicians' flaws, inconsistencies, and questionable actions (Boukes et al., 2015). By highlighting their shortcomings or hypocrisies, satirical comments undermine the legitimacy and authority of those in power. These challenge the dominant narratives propagated by political elites and allow alternative perspectives to emerge.

Furthermore, satirical comments critique political policies and actions. They provide a platform for users to express their dissatisfaction or discontent with specific government decisions or initiatives. Through humor and irony, satirical comments draw attention to these policies' negative consequences, inconsistencies, or unfairness (Hill, 2013). By exposing the gaps between rhetoric and reality, satirical comments critically assess political decisions and policies, promoting accountability and transparency. Satirical comments also foster dialogue and encourage active participation in public discourse. They serve as a means for citizens to express their opinions, concerns, and alternative viewpoints on political issues. Satire catalyzes discussions as users respond, share, and engage with the comments, creating a virtual space for public deliberation. This engagement in public discourse contributes to democratizing political communication, empowering individuals to have a voice and participate in shaping public opinion.

Additionally, satirical comments provide a form of social critique that goes beyond traditional modes of political discourse. Satirical comments can address sensitive topics and challenge societal norms and conventions (Stewart, 2015). Satirists often use these comments to highlight societal inequalities, corruption, or censorship, highlighting issues that may be overlooked or downplayed in mainstream political discourse. Satirical comments thus serve as a form of social commentary, prompting reflection, raising awareness, and initiating discussions on broader societal concerns.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of satirical comments in challenging power structures, critiquing political figures and policies, and engaging in public discourse relies on their ability to resonate with the audience. Satirists tap into shared cultural references, use local languages or dialects, and draw upon popular culture to establish a connection with their intended audience (Nuriarta & Sujayanthi, 2020). Using familiar cultural symbols and references, satirical comments become relatable and accessible, maximizing their impact and reach.

In conclusion, satirical comments in Indonesian Instagram posts are a powerful tool for challenging prevailing power structures, critiquing political figures and policies, and engaging in public discourse. By targeting political elites, highlighting policy inconsistencies, and fostering public deliberation, satirical comments contribute to a more inclusive and participatory political landscape. They allow citizens to voice their concerns, express alternative perspectives, and collectively shape public opinion. Through humor and social critique, satirical comments significantly promote accountability, raise awareness, and foster critical engagement with political issues in Indonesian society.

***Prevalent themes and targets***

The analysis identified several recurring themes and targets within satirical comments. Politicians and government officials were frequent targets of satire, with their actions, speeches, and policies subjected to ridicule. Satirical comments also tackled societal issues, such as inequality, corruption, and censorship. Moreover, satirical comments often engage with current events and political scandals, providing commentary and critique promptly. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that satirical comments often touched upon sensitive topics and taboos, challenging societal norms and conventions. By addressing controversial issues through humor,

users sought to initiate discussions and provoke critical thinking among their audience. Some samples of the data are presented as follows.

First, in a post in 2023 (see Figure 3. a), the targets of satirical cartoons are Indonesian politicians. In the cartoon, there are three politicians from three different backgrounds. All three are appointed as targets of the cartoon because they are nominators of Indonesian presidential candidates in the upcoming 2024 elections. The first politician figure is underneath his grandfather's big name. The expression of his caricature does not seem to shine despite the formal dress that symbolizes his level of knowledge and social status. The second politician is not much different but cannot stand out from his father's influence. With similar fashion nuances to the previous figure, the second figure does not appear to be smiling in the caricature. A third figure is an average person not dressed in formal attire, just a regular shirt. He appears to be smiling broadly and proudly. On the third figure, the cartoonist adds a caption about his achievements as a politician increasingly trusted by the public. Thus, the political cartoon targets politicians as the target of its humorous criticism.

Second, in political cartoons posted in mid-2023 (see Figure 3. b), cartoonists target politicians' actions, speeches, and policies. The cartoon features two politicians the public recently criticized for their corrupt behavior. The cartoonist highlights two different event scenes in the cartoon. In the first scene, the first politician is presented who is satirized because he was not right in making policies during his term of office. The policy relates to the national information system, particularly the provision of fast internet networks. The politician said, "What is fast internet for?" In the second scene, the cartoonist highlights the figure of the first politician's colleague named a suspect in the fast internet policy process. Satirically, cartoonists target these politicians because of their actions, speeches, and policies. Implicitly, the cartoonist also invites the public to realize that the two politicians can make corrupt policies simultaneously.

Third, in the last sample of political cartoons posted in mid-2022 (see Figure 3. c), cartoonists deliberately targeted events that captured the public's attention, peppered with political scandals. The cartoon illustrates an electronic car racing event held in Jakarta. The two figures in the cartoon are an executive committee member and the head of the activity's politician. The caption attached to the committee figure reads independent race, in the sense that all event elements are managed by themselves, starting from the committee, the audience, to the news publication. There is a play on words that are used to satirize explicitly. The figure of the head of the committee seemed to be carrying a huge pile of tickets. The tickets were purchased so that the event could run smoothly. The cartoonist from the post satirically criticized the strange event and targeted politicians and the policies taken related to holding the event.




(a) (b) (c)

Figure 3. Prevalent themes and targets of political cartoons on Instagram posts

Accordingly, the recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns found in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts offer valuable insights into the socio-political climate of contemporary Indonesia. One recurring theme in satirical comments is the critique of political figures and leaders. Political elites, including government officials and prominent politicians, often become the primary targets of satire (Balakrishnan et al., 2019). Satirical comments mock their actions, speeches, behaviors, or personal characteristics, exposing their flaws, inconsistencies, or perceived corruption. This theme reflects the public's skepticism and discontent with political leaders and their perceived abuses of power.

Another prevalent theme in satirical comments is the critique of government policies and actions. Satirists use humor to draw attention to policies that are seen as ineffective, unjust, or misguided (Holbert et al., 2011). They highlight the discrepancies between the stated objectives and the outcomes, shedding light on these policies' negative consequences or unintended effects (Weydmann & Großmann, 2020). This theme underscores the public's desire for more accountable and responsible governance.

Furthermore, societal issues such as inequality, corruption, and censorship are frequently addressed in satirical comments. Satirists use humor to critique and raise awareness about these issues, often employing irony, exaggeration, or absurdity to make their point (Morgan, 2010). By addressing sensitive topics through satire, satirical comments challenge societal norms and conventions, prompting critical reflection and promoting public dialogue. The targets of satirical comments extend beyond political figures and policies. Satirists also aim for cultural or social phenomena, including popular trends, social behaviors, or cultural norms. These comments often rely on intertextuality and references to popular culture to enhance the satirical effect. By critiquing cultural or social aspects, satirical comments reflect the broader societal concerns and provide a commentary on the state of contemporary Indonesian culture.

Regarding stylistic patterns, satirical comments in Indonesian Instagram posts often exhibit a combination of humor, wit, and sarcasm. They employ linguistic devices such as wordplay, puns, and clever constructions to create humorous remarks. Satirists make use of irony and sarcasm to convey their critique, often employing a tone of mockery or derision. The stylistic patterns aim to engage the audience, evoke laughter, and provoke thought (Piata, 2016). The recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts reveal important insights about the socio-political climate in contemporary Indonesia. They reflect a public sentiment characterized by skepticism, discontent, and a desire for change. The themes of critiquing political figures and policies point to a growing demand for accountable and responsible governance. Critiquing societal issues highlights the public's concerns about inequality, corruption, and censorship, indicating a desire for a more just and equitable society.

Moreover, the choice of targets and the use of humor and satire as a means of expression reflect a societal need for alternative communication channels and dissent. Satirical comments provide a platform for individuals to voice their opinions (Faliha & Putri, 2022), challenge authority, and participate in shaping the socio-political landscape. The recurring themes and stylistic patterns in satirical comments demonstrate the role of humor as a tool for social critique and political engagement in contemporary Indonesia.

In sum, the recurring themes, targets, and stylistic patterns found in satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts shed light on the socio-political climate in contemporary Indonesia. They reflect the public's skepticism towards political figures and policies, their concerns about societal issues, and their desire for change and accountability. Satirical comments provide an outlet for critical engagement and offer a glimpse into Indonesian society's diverse perspectives and opinions.

## Conclusion

This study analyzed satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts, exploring their linguistic and discursive strategies, their impact on challenging power structures and critiquing political figures and policies, and their contribution to public discourse. Through the lens of CDA, this study has provided valuable insights into the nature of political humor in contemporary Indonesia. The findings of this research have revealed several important aspects of satirical comments. Linguistically, satirists employ various strategies such as wordplay, irony, sarcasm, and intertextuality to create humorous comments. Discursively, satirical comments challenge prevailing power structures, critique political figures and policies, and engage in public discourse by fostering dialogue and encouraging active participation. The recurring themes of critiquing political figures, policies, societal issues, and cultural norms reflect Indonesia's socio-political climate.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the limitations of this study: (1) The analysis was limited to satirical comments on Instagram, which may not capture Indonesia's entire spectrum of political humor. Future studies can expand the scope to include other social media platforms or offline contexts to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. (2) This study focused on satirical comments in the Indonesian context, and the findings may not directly apply to other cultural or linguistic contexts. Cross-cultural studies could be

conducted to explore the similarities and differences in political humor across different societies. (3) This study primarily employed critical discourse analysis as the methodological approach. While this approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in satirical comments, future research could consider using complementary methods such as qualitative interviews or surveys to gain insights into the audience's perspectives and reception of political humor.

Investigating the impact and reception of satirical comments in future research directions would be valuable. Understanding how different audiences interpret and engage with political humor can shed light on its effectiveness in shaping public opinion and promoting social change. Additionally, longitudinal studies can provide insights into the evolving nature of political humor over time, capturing the dynamics of satirical comments and their response to socio-political developments. In conclusion, this study has contributed to understanding satirical comments within Indonesian Instagram posts and their significance in the socio-political climate. By examining the linguistic and discursive strategies, the impact on power structures and political critique, and the engagement in public discourse, this study has highlighted the role of political humor as a form of expression, critique, and engagement. Despite the limitations, this study lays the foundation for future investigations into the dynamic landscape of political humor in Indonesia and beyond.

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