Journal of Language and Literature
Vol. 25 No. 1, April 2025, pp. 106 – 118
DOI: 10.24071/joll.v25i1.9739
Available at https://e-journal.usd.ac.id/index.php/JOLL/index
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Salience and Erasure in the Indonesian Government Climate Change Discourse: A Corpus-Based Ecolinguistics Study

Diana Sri Suryani & Suhandano
dianasrisuryani@mail.ugm.ac.id
Master of Linguistics, Universitas Gadjah Mada, INDONESIA

Abstract

Climate change is a global phenomenon and has become a challenge to world society. According to that, this study examines linguistics strategies used in the erasure of climate change discourse through ecolinguistics lenses. This study used a specialized corpus that was built through 224 articles from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) website, which was collected with the keywords perubahan iklim 'climate change', krisis iklim 'climate crisis', and ketahanan iklim 'climate resilience'. The data was analyzed using Sketch Engine using keywords, concordance, and collocations features. Then, the analysis of data was conducted manually through semantic categorization. This paper used Stibbe's the void and the mask framework for its analysis. The major themes found in this paper are the government and its activities as a part of international organizations. This paper also found that KLHK used several linguistics strategies to demonstrate climate change, including abstract terms and nominalization to obscure the social actors. Also, the theme of nature, such as non-human species are completely erased from the discourse. These results show that climate change discourse on KLHK's website is contrary to the ecosophy of ecolinguistics that encourages highlighting the importance of non-human species in such discourse. It is clear that KLHK takes non-human species for granted in their climate change discourse compared to human activity in their discourse.

Article information

Received: 8 September 2024

Revised: 29 November 2024

Accepted: 3 December 2024

***Keywords**: salience; erasure; ecolinguistics; climate change discourse; CADS*

Introduction

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (*Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan* or KLHK) is one of the well-known governmental organizations tasked to educate the Indonesian people about climate change. The KLHK is the "face" of the Indonesian government in addressing climate change. In educating the Indonesians, the KLHK uses its website to produce and construct the latest news articles on climate change issues. Hence, the KLHK is constructing the climate change discourse through its news articles that

represent the government's view on climate change. According to that, analyzing the construction of climate change discourse in KLHK's website through an ecolinguistics lens is interesting to conduct.

Ecolinguistics could be a valuable tool for analyzing the relationship between language and environment in climate change discourse. Ecolinguistics is a framework that examines the relationship between language and the environment, including the way language shapes human perceptions and actions toward environmental issues (Fill & Penz, 2018; Stibbe, 2015). According to Fill & Penz (2018) environmental problems are the main concern of ecolinguistics. Especially in the way language is described, which exacerbates or reduces environmental problems. Thus, ecolinguistics is an important tool for analyzing the climate change discourse on the KLHK's website. To analyze the climate change discourse, this paper utilizes the void and the mask framework by Stibbe (2015). The void is a concept that refers to the erasure of some parts of elements from a discourse, meanwhile, the mask refers to the language used to erase or obscure reality (Stibbe, 2015). Those concepts are in line with this paper that is trying to uncover some elements that are erased or obscure through the use of language in climate change discourse constructed by KLHK on their website.

The major focus found in the climate change discourse of KLHK's website is the government activities. For example, governmental meetings and attending international conferences globally. Meanwhile, the non-human species are not presented in their discourse. The absence of non-human species in the government climate change discourse is concerning because it shows that the Indonesian government tends not to view those elements as essential as humans in the ecosystem. This view could be dangerous for the Indonesian environment since the survival of many non-human species depends on the condition of their natural environments (Tjitrosemito, 2023). Concerning Indonesia's rich biodiversity, the absence of non-human species in such discourse signals that the government's view could harm the Indonesian environment. Also, the marginalization of non-human species in climate change discourse shows a lack of understanding about sustainability.

Many researchers have been studying climate change in a discourse. For example, Kramar (2023) analyzed the framing and the construction of the agency of climate change discourse in leading United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) media through corpus analysis. Both UK and US media linked climate change to human agency and portrayed it as an evil force that has to be fought. This finding is flawed because it downplays the role of humans in producing and exacerbating climate change. Meanwhile, Gillings & Dayrell (2024) examine the evolution of climate change discourse in the UK media from 2003–2019 using Usage Fluctuation Analysis (McEnery et al., 2022) and corpus-assisted discourse analysis. The research findings indicate that there was a discursive shift, including the views of climate skeptics in 2008, and progressed to greater coverage and knowledge of the issue in recent years as the public began to participate in it more significantly.

Ecolinguistics has been used by researchers to analyze discourse in various context. In Indonesian context, Nuh & Prawira (2023) explore how Mongabay, a private media focused on environmental issues, represents climate change on its news. Nuh & Prawira (2023) utilized a web scraping tool named Octoparse to collect the Mongabay articles published from January to March in 2022 and articles published from January to March in 2023. Then, using NVivo to analyze the themes. Their analysis focuses on the stories around climate change discourse using an outline by Norton & Hulme (2019). The prominent stories found in this study is that Mongabay criticized the government environmental accountability, urged nature conservation, and supported policy and technological advances. Istianah & Suhandano (2022) also utilized ecolinguistics to discussed appraisal patterns used on Kalimantan's tourism text. The data was collected from Kalimantan official tourism website and built into a corpus consisting of 4.564 tokens. This study used AntConc 4.0, which provides the keywords and concordance to analyze the context, which contains appraisal terms. By

focusing on the purr-words, the findings indicate that appraisal words are used to evaluate the environment, specifically to attract global readers to visit the beautiful Kalimantan.

Besides that, Suhandano et al. (2024) used ecolinguistics to discuss inclusion and exclusion in infrastructure discourse. Focusing on Jogja Solo Toll Road (JSTR) this study utilized 410 articles from four Indonesian mass media: *Tribun Jogja, Kedaulatan Rakyat, Kompas,* and *Antara.* The JSTR corpus was then uploaded to AntConc 4.2.0 to analyze the keywords, collocations, and concordances. The keyword analysis was obtained by comparing the JSTR corpus and the Indonesian News 2020 as a reference corpus. Meanwhile, collocation is used to understand the patterns of language use. On the other hand, the concordance is used to understands the context comprehensively. This study found that infrastructure discourse is beneficial to the country and emphasize the Indonesia national project. The infrastructure discourse is considered anthropocentric due to its exclusion of voiceless agents.

However, many ecolinguistics studies in Indonesia are centralized in the relation of biological diversity, cultural values, and language endangerment (Isti'anah & Suhandano, 2023). Additionally, the study of ecolinguistics discourse in Indonesia focuses more on public or mass media discourse. On the other hand, the discussion about such discourse in the government media is slightly employed.

To broaden the discussion about ecolinguistics in government media, this study employs an ecolinguistics approach to uncover the salience and erasure in the Indonesian government's climate change discourse. This approach offers insights into how language can be utilized to change public perception and illuminates the linguistic strategies that support the erasure of non-human species. A more holistic and ecologically sound discourse that acknowledges the critical role of biodiversity in preserving ecological balance and lessening the effects of climate change can develop by shifting the focus beyond human-centered narratives. Hence, this study also employs corpus tools to establish a more comprehensive analysis. Using a corpus tool, this paper is expected to thoroughly analyze how the Indonesian government communicates climate change to the public in their discourse.

Based on the background, this study focuses on two research questions: 1) what themes are covered in the climate change discourse on KLHK's website? 2) how are the themes being salience or erased in the climate change discourse on the KLHK's website? To answer those two research questions, this paper utilizes Stibbe's (2015) the void and the mask framework. In line with that, this study aims to identify the linguistic strategies employed by the KLHK to construct a particular narrative about climate change.

Methodology

The method used in this research is corpus-based ecolinguistics. This method was introduced by Poole (2022), which stated that corpus-based ecolinguistics is a method that developed from corpus-based discourse analysis but focused on ecological philosophy. In accordance with corpus-assisted discourse analysis (CADS), corpus-assisted ecolinguistics has the same framework, methods, and objectives of study, which promote justice and equality (Stibbe, 2015). The corpus-assisted ecolinguistics uses corpus to provide a deeper understanding of narratives that focus on the marginalization or oppression of non-human species (Poole & Micalay-Hurtado, 2022), while CADS utilizes corpus to uncover linguistic patterns that enable a comprehensive understanding of how language is employed in discourse construction (Baker, 2023). For example, Suhandano et al. (2023) utilized the approach to contest two lexemes, *growth* and *sustainability*, in the Indonesian New Capital City (NCC) legal document. The research finding indicates that the concept of growth and sustainability in Indonesia's New Capital City legal document refers to economic growth, not to the sustainability of the environment. Thus, the Indonesian NCC legal discourse can be interpreted as ambivalent since human-to-human relationships are filled in the discourse. Therefore, by examining what

is erased or excluded in the discourse on climate change, this study aims to demolish the representation of human and non-human entities in that discourse.

According to that, this research used a specialized corpus named KLHK Climate Change. The corpus was built by 224 news articles from KLHK's website. The corpora consist of 115,387 tokens and 96,384 words. The news was published on the KLHK website during the 2015–2023 period. This period represents how the two periods of President Jokowi's administration communicated about climate change on their website. The data was collected manually through several keywords such as *perubahan iklim* 'climate change', *krisis iklim* 'climate crisis', and *ketahanan iklim* 'climate resilience'. The data compilation was conducted through a copy-paste schema into an application named Notepad.

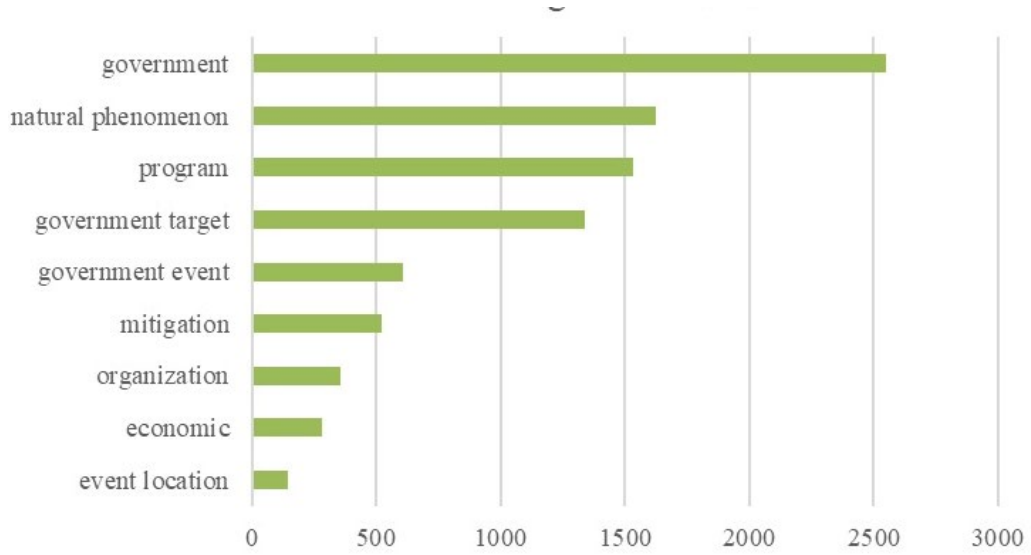
After that, the data was gathered into a specialized corpus named KLHK Climate Change in Sketch Engine. From that corpus, the data analysis was conducted both manually and automatically. The manual analysis is used to analyze the prominent and erased themes through semantic categorization. Meanwhile, Sketch Engine features, such as keyword analysis to find out the top 100 frequent words, were used to perform the analysis automatically. The Sketch Engine is a leading corpus tool that allows a large number of corpora and supports a range of comparisons between any pair of the same language (Kilgarriff et al., 2014). Furthermore, in terms of analyzing language patterns, the Sketch Engine has a lot of features to be used (Baker, 2023).

This paper used three main features in the Sketch Engine to analyze the data: keywords, concordance, and collocation. The keyword is essential in discourse analysis because it helps to uncover the prominent themes in a corpus (Baker, 2023). The keyword in this study was acquired by comparing the KLHK Climate Change corpus to a larger corpus, named Indonesian Web 2020 (idTenTen20). This study limits to 100 keywords and categorizes them based on their semantic meaning to show the most prominent and erased themes in the climate change discourse. Then, the concordance is used to understand the context and to confirm a certain frame. In addition, the collocation was used to delved into the words that appear with the keywords in understanding the specific pattern (Brezina, 2018). As Poole & Micalay-Hurtado, (2022) stated in their study that collocations show the pattern of two words that contribute to the cognition of the use of language. Furthermore, the method used in this paper were adopted study by Suhandano et al. (2024) which investigate the exclusion and inclusion in infrastructure discourse in Indonesian mass media.

Results and Discussion

This study aims to uncover the salient and erased themes in KLHK's climate change discourse. This section shows the themes obtained from the keywords analysis. Using Sketch Engine, the theme was identified through the top 100 keywords. Following that, the keywords are grouped semantically according to how they appear in the sentence's context. To understand the contextual meaning, the data is examined using the Sketch Engine's concordance function to validate the results. According to Baker (2023), a concordance analysis can provide detailed context for keywords and their collocation. From those top 100 keywords analysis, this paper identified nine prominent themes in the KLHK's climate change, as seen in graph 1 below.

Graph 1. Themes in Climate Change Discourse of KLHK



Based on Graph 1, the nine themes found in the KLHK's climate change discourse are government '*pemerintah*', natural phenomenon '*fenomena alam*' program '*program*', government target *'target pemerintah'*, kegiatan *'event'*, mitigation *'mitigasi'*, organization *'organisasi'*, economic *'ekonomi'*, and event location *'lokasi kegiatan'*. Those findings slightly indicate that the climate change discourse constructed by KLHK was human-centered. Hence, the analysis of salience and erasure is presented below.

1. Salience in the KLHK Climate Change Discourse

Salience refers to a story in people's minds that an area of life is important or worthy of attention (Stibbe, 2015). Linguistically, salience could be identified through patterns, which are concrete, specific, and vivid depictions (Stibbe, 2015). As seen in the graph 1, the themes identified are varied. To ensure those findings, this paper identified the keywords related to the themes, as seen in Table 1.

Table 1. List of Keywords Associated with the Theme

Theme	Frequency	Keywords
government *'pemerintah'*	2550	*LHK 'Environment and Forestry'* *KLHK 'The Ministry of Environment and Forestry'* *Laksmi Dhewanti* *(proper name)* *Alue Hodong (proper name)* *Siti Nurbaya Bakar (proper name)* *Ruandha Agung Sugardiman (proper name)* *BPDLH (Badan Pengelola Dana Lingkungan Hidup)* *wamen* *kehutanan 'forestry'* *perhutanan 'forestry'* *negosiator* *PPI (Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim)* *Sarwono Kusumaatmadja (proper name)* *Agus Justianto (proper name)* *BRGM (Badan Restorasi Gambut dan Mangrove)* *wanabakti* *Nur Masripatin (proper name)*

Theme	Frequency	Keywords
		PHL (Pengelolaan Hutan Lestari) *delri* *Bambang Hendroyono (proper name)* *co-chair* *PDASRH (Pengendalian Daerah Aliran Sungai dan Rehabilitasi Hutan)* *PPKL (Pengendalian Pencemaran dan Kerusakan Lingkungan)* *minister*
natural phenomenon *'fenomena alam'*	1622	*iklim* 'climate' *mton* 'meter ton'
program *'program'*	1531	*NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions)* *Proklim (Program Iklim)* *FOLU Net Sink* *edm-cswg (Environment Deputies Meeting and Climate Sustainability Working Group)* *LTS-LCCR (Long Term Strategy Low Carbon Climate Resilience 2050)* *SRN (Sistem Registri Nasional)* *communiqué* *RBP (Result Based Payment)* *REDD (Reduction Emission on Deforestation and Degradation)* *registri (Sistem Registri Nasional)* *ENDC (Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution)* *diplomacy* *pengendalian 'control'* *ICCEF (Indonesia Climate Change Expo and Forum)*
government target *'target pemerintah'*	1339	*FOLU (Forestry dan Land Use Sector)* *grk (gas rumah kaca) 'greenhouse gas'* *emisi* 'emission' *emission* *co2e* *deforestasi* 'deforestation' *net-zero* *berketahanan* 'resilience' *mangrove* *netsink* *terbarukan* 'renewable' *dekarbonisasi* 'decarbonization'
government event '*kegiatan pemerintah'*	607	*Cop Conference of the Parties (COP)* *presidensi G20* *cop26* *rakernis 'national meeting'* *cop28* *AALCO (Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization)* *agreement* *IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)* *sustainability (Grand Launching 2nd National Essay Competition Energi Climate, and Sustainability)* *actions* *EDM (Environment Deputies Meeting)* *Pertikawan (Perkemahan*

Theme	Frequency	Keywords
		Bakti Saka Kalpataru dan Saka Wanabakti)
mitigation *'mitigasi'*	523	*mitigasi* 'mitigation' *adaptasi* 'adaptation' *aksi-aksi* 'actions'
organization '*organisasi'*	353	*UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)* *SRE (Society of Renewable Energy)* *non-party* *APHI (Asosiasi Pengusaha Hutan Indonesia)*
economic *'ekonomi'*	279	*multiusaha* 'multibusiness' *sirkular* 'circular' *karbon* 'carbon'
event location '*lokasi kegiatan'*	146	*Glasgow* *paviliun* *persemaian* 'seedbed' *rumpin*

Based on Table 1, the keywords for each of the nine themes vary. These terms express how concrete or abstract the discourse's themes are. According to Stibbe (2015), using concrete terms represents the salience of the discourse. The concrete terms refer to a words or phrase that are specific and perceivable by the sense and easy to visualize (Stibbe, 2015). It is evident that the themes of government, program, government target, events, organization, and event location use concrete terms such as proper name or personalization as linguistic strategies to disclose the concreteness. This is shown in the following data.

1) ***Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan (KLHK)*** *menggelar rangkaian kegiatan Rapat Kerja Teknis Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim Regional Jawa, Bali, dan Nusa Tenggara (Rakernis PPI Regional JABALNUSRA) secara daring dan luring pada 3 - 4 April 2023 di Surabaya.*

   *'**The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK)** held a series of activities for the Java, Bali and Nusa Tenggara Regional Climate Change Control Technical Working Meeting (Rakernis PPI Regional JABALNUSRA) online and offline on April 3 - 4, 2023 in Surabaya."*

2) ***Program Kampung Iklim atau ProKlim*** *telah berjalan selama satu dekade sejak dicanangkan pada Tahun 2012.*

   ***"The Climate Village Program or ProKlim** has been running for a decade since it was launched in 2012."*

The concreteness in datum (1) is shown through the use of the proper name of the *Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan (KLHK)* 'The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK)', while in datum (2) is shown through the name of a specific program which is *Program Kampung Iklim* 'The Climate Village Program'. The use of concrete keywords is a form of salience in ecological discourse (Awny, 2023). Those findings are relevant to what Stibbe (2015) assert that proper name is a form of concreteness and can provide a more clearer picture to a reader compared to abstract keywords. Datum (1) demonstrates that the KLHK held the meeting in Bali. Meanwhile, the government program in datum (2) highlights the effectiveness of the climate village

program to tackle climate issues at the local level.

In accordance with that, this research finds the use of individualization as salience strategies. Individualization refers to the use of specific name which presenting individuals as distinct and valuable (Awny, 2023). This is demonstrated in the following data.

3) ***Menteri Siti Nurbaya*** *dalam sambutannya menyampaikan bahwa dibutuhkan komitmen nasional dan internasional serta kerjasama di semua tingkatan dari lokal hingga ke tingkat global untuk menjalankan Paris Agreement.*

   "Minister Siti Nurbaya *in her speech said that it takes national and international commitment and cooperation at all levels from local to global level to implement the Paris Agreement."*

4) ***Direktur Jenderal Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim KLHK, Laksmi Dhewanti*** *menyatakan bahwa target Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) mitigasi mencakup banyak sektor di Kementerian/lembaga dan lintas Organisasi Perangkat Daerah di Provinsi dan Kabupaten/Kota.*

   "Director General of Climate Change Control KLHK, Laksmi Dhewanti *stated that the mitigation Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target covers many sectors in Ministries/institutions and across Regional Apparatus Organizations in Provinces and Districts/Cities."*

The KLHK lists Siti Nurbaya as a Minister, according to datum (3). Given that Siti Nurbaya is a distinct person with a defined position. The phrase Menteri Siti Nurbaya is an example of salience through individualization. Furthermore, datum (4) demonstrates the KLHK's use of Laksmi Dhewanti's name as an official. The individualization strategies are highlighted through a specific name and positions held by individuals in the KLHK. By expressing their viewpoint, each individual gains distinction and prominence in the discussion of climate change on the KLHK website.

Another linguistics strategy used to salience the discourse is activation. Activation highlights social actors as participants in a process that executes actions (Stibbe, 2015; Van Leeuwen, 2008). Activation can be achieved by using a sentence structure that portrays a person as the doer of an action related to thinking or feeling (Van Leeuwen, 2008) In other words, the way a person is positioned in a sentence can indicate whether they are the one taking action or being acted upon in a mental process. This can be seen in the following examples.

5) *UNFCCC dan Pemerintah Inggris telah* ***menetapkan*** *prosedur ketat berupa COVID-19 Code of Conduct yang perlu ditaati oleh seluruh peserta, dan agar dipatuhi oleh seluruh delegasi.*

   'The UNFCCC and the UK Government have established strict procedures in the form of the COVID-19 Code of Conduct that all participants need to adhere to, and to be obeyed by all delegates.'

6) *Presiden COP Alok juga* ***memberikan apresiasi*** *kepada Presiden Jokowi yang menyatakan akan meletakkan perubahan iklim dan biodiversitas menjadi substansi penting pada pertemuan G-20.*

   "COP President Alok also ***expressed his appreciation*** *to President Jokowi who stated that he would put climate change and biodiversity into an important substance at the G-20 meeting."*

In datum (5), the UNFCCC is presented as the main actor, taking an active role in establishing a set of rules for delegates to follow. Meanwhile, in datum (6), the President of the COP, Alok, is shown as an active participant, praising President Jokowi for Indonesia's commitment to addressing climate change and biodiversity.

Those findings indicate that the KLHK climate change discourse prioritizes human-

centric content, emphasizing its individual and government activities. This creates a mask that proposes the government's action and reinforces the anthropocentric view, where human agency dominates the discourse while the other non-human elements are invisible. These findings contradict the ecolinguistics framework, which advocates for a focus on nature and non-human species (Stibbe, 2015). This narrative reveals a significant gap in comprehensive climate change coverage. It appears that the KLHK or government in general online communication is primarily driven by its own agenda, rather than a balanced presentation of climate change issues.

2. Erasure in The KLHK Climate Change Discourse

While the most prominent theme covered by the KLHK is their own agenda, the theme erased or obscure from the discourse is the nature and non-human species. The concept of erasure is related to the absence of social actors in a discourse (Stibbe, 2015; Van Leeuwen, 2008). Based on the findings above, the social actors are only present for the government agenda. Hence, the social actors do not appear specifically on the natural phenomena theme. Some names identified as actors in tackling the climate issue are seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Social Actors Mentioned in the Keywords

Social Actors	Frequency	Word's Collocate
Siti Nurbaya Bakar (The Minister of KLHK)	449	*menteri, LHK, menyampaikan, bahwa, lanjut, menjelaskan, ungkap, sambutannya, kehutanan, menegaskan*
Laksmi Dhewanti (Director General of Climate Change Control (PPI) of KLHK)	106	*PPI, menjelaskan, terang, perdagangan, ujar, internasional, pungkas, kata*
Alue Dohong (The Vice Minister of KLHK)	67	*wamen, LHK, wakil, berharap, menyatakan, lebih, kata, ungkap, menegaskan*
Ruandha Agung Sugardiman (Director General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management (PKTL))	41	*ungkap, menerangkan, lanjut, KLHK, menyampaikan, Kementerian, iklim*
Sarwono Kusumaatmadja (Chairman of the Advisory Council on Climate Change Control (DPPPI))	39	*mengatakan, jelas, ketua, kata, perubahan, iklim, ujar, menyampaikan, bahwa*
Bambang Hendroyono (General Secretary of KLHK)	32	*sekretaris, jenderal, lanjut, KLHK, ujar, menyampaikan*
Agus Justianto (Head of Research and Development and Innovation Agency of KLHK)	16	*inovasi, Lestari, KLHK, menyampaikan, Indonesia*
Nur Masripatin (Senior Advisor to the KLHK on Climate Change and International Conventions)	13	*Direktur, perubahan, iklim*

Based on Table 2, the words collocate with the social actors are related to their position in the ministry and their statements. For example, the words *menteri* 'minister', *direktur* 'director', *wamen (wakil menteri)* 'vice minister', *sekretaris jenderal* 'general secretary', and *ketua* 'chief' underscore those actors' institutional roles and their authority in

the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK). These collocations construct an anthropocentric worldview, which is centralized in human activities. In addition, those collocation indicate the dominance of human-centered narrative in climate change discourse. By focusing more on human actors and their institutional roles, the KLHK's climate change discourse tends to marginalize the non-human species and the ecosystem.

Moreover, the use of verbs *menjelaskan* 'explain', *menyampaikan* 'stated', *menegaskan* 'assert', *mengatakan* 'said', *menerangkan* 'clarify' emphasize the authority of the actors and the government goals rather than ecological actions. This can be seen in the following data.

7) *Selanjutnya, Menteri Siti **menjelaskan** tentang kebijakan mendasar tentang akses kelola hutan dan kebijakan Presiden Jokowi yang menegaskan keberpihakan pada masyarakat, membangun Indonesia dengan tetap menjaga lingkungan serta mampu berdaya saing di dunia internasional dengan sosok yang kokoh di mata internasional.*

   *"Furthermore, Minister Siti **explained** about the fundamental policies on forest management access and President Jokowi's policies that emphasize siding with the community, building Indonesia while protecting the environment and being able to compete internationally with a strong figure in the eyes of the international community".*

8) *Direktur Jenderal Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim (PPI), Laksmi Dhewanti, pada kesempatan ini juga **menyampaikan** bahwa dalam Festival ini dilakukan diseminasi informasi kepada publik mengenai kinerja pengendalian perubahan iklim bersama stakeholders, serta mendiskusikan perkembangan terakhir serta berbagai peluang dukungan lintas program untuk sinergitas pengendalian perubahan iklim di Indonesia.*

   *"Director General of Climate Change Control (PPI), Laksmi Dhewanti, on this occasion also **stated** that in this Festival information was disseminated to the public regarding the performance of climate change control with stakeholders, as well as discussing the latest developments and various opportunities for cross-program support for the synergy of climate change control in Indonesia."*

Based on data (7) and (8), the verbs *menjelaskan* 'explained' and *menyampaikan* 'stated' refer to the policies and program of the government. Those data creating an abstract nuance due to lacks specific actions from the actors in addressing climate issue. The use of abstract verbs such as *menjelaskan* 'explained' in datum (7) highlight the focus on government policy rather than ecological action. Furthermore, the phrase 'fundamental policies' in datum (7) did not specify how this policy directly address climate problems, such as deforestation or biodiversity loss. Meanwhile the datum (8) did not specify the outcomes from the dissemination of climate change control program in Indonesia. This finding is aligned with what Fairclough (2013) and Stibbe (2015) stated that the description of certain situations using abstract terms is a form of erasure.

Besides the abstractness, this paper identified the use of nominalization as a strategy to obscure the social actors. Stibbe (2015) asserts that nominalization is the process of converting verbs into nouns, so that the actions taken by the subject or actor are not explicitly visible. For example, this is seen in the following data.

9) *Wamen LHK memaparkan bahwa diskusi Pojok Iklim selama ini telah memberikan masukan dan ide inovatif bagi pengembangan kebijakan **pengendalian** perubahan iklim di Indonesia dan diharapkan forum Pojok Iklim ini dapat terus dikembangkan ke depan, termasuk salah satunya sebagai forum untuk mempersiapkan bagi Indonesia dalam rangka menghadapi COP26 UNFCCC yang akan diadakan di Glasgow di akhir 2021.*

*"The Deputy Minister of Environment and Forestry explained that the Climate Corner discussion so far has provided input and innovative ideas for the development of climate change **control** policies in Indonesia and it is hoped that the Climate Corner forum can continue to be developed in the future, including one of them as a forum to prepare Indonesia for the UNFCCC COP26 which will be held in Glasgow at the end of 2021."*

10) *Ia meyakini dan mengetahui jika Pemerintah Indonesia sangat serius dalam isu **penanggulangan** perubahan iklim, karena pencapaian yang dilakukan Indonesia tidaklah mudah, diperlukan kerja sama teknis yang baik lintas sektor dan juga dukungan politik yang kuat pada setiap penerbitan kebijakan-kebijakan terkait penanggulangan perubahan iklim.*

*"He believes and knows that the Government of Indonesia is very serious in the issue of climate change **counter measures**, because the achievements made by Indonesia are not easy, it requires good technical cooperation across sectors and also strong political support in every issuance of policies related to climate change mitigation."*

The use of nominalizations, such as *pengendalian* 'control' in datum (9) and *penanggulangan* 'countermeasures' in datum (10), obscures the human agency involved in causing and addressing climate change. In datum (9), the subject performing the action of control is left ambiguous, suggesting that climate change is a natural phenomenon to overcome rather than a problem caused by human actions.

Meanwhile, the nominalization in datum (10) shows the Indonesian government's involvement and implies their passive role. The government tends to focus on actions at the community or grassroots level rather than systematic initiatives led by the government. This focus is erasing the government's role in mitigating climate change through systematic action. This also indicates that the government is kind of reluctant to acknowledge the systemic nature of climate change and the need for substantial government intervention in mitigating climate change. This aligns with Stibbe (2015) assertion that nominalization can be used to erase issues.

Further, Suhandano et al. (2023) underscore that nominalization could obscure human agency and downplay the systemic nature of environmental problems. The absence of nature and non-human species in KLHK's climate change discourse is considered an erasure, referring to a narrative or story in the mind of people that an area of life is unimportant or unworthy of consideration (Stibbe, 2015). Based on the analysis, non-human species are totally erased from the discourse. Meanwhile, the Indonesian government tends to highlight their agenda, instead of the nature or non-human species.

The erasure of non-human species creates a void in KLHK's climate change discourse because it obscures the ecological entities, such as forests and animals, affected by human action. This void tends to ignore the connection between humans and nature, which creates an anthropocene view rather than an eco-centric narrative. The anthropocentrism could lead to many destructive stories in environmental discourse, which not only marginalize the lives of non-human species but perpetuate views that justify the exploitation of the environment (Stibbe, 2015). Furthermore, Stibbe (2015) emphasize that such erasure leads to unethical acts that could harm both the environment and humanity, which contributes to environmental degradation. In other words, this view indicates that the nature or non-human species is passive and secondary to human concerns, while in fact, it is part of our dynamic ecosystem.

Hence, this absence of non-human species reflects the government's view that they consider nature or non-human species to be unimportant. This finding is opposite to ecosophy, which emphasizes the value of nature or non-human species in ecological discourse (Awny, 2023; Younis &

Abdulmajeed, 2023). This is indicating that the government is neither mitigating nor communicating climate change accurately. They only focus on their agenda, rather than focus on another essential part of climate change mitigation, which is nature and non-human species.

Conclusion

This paper aims to uncover the salience and erasure theme in the climate change discourse of KLHK. Based on the corpus-assisted ecolinguistics analysis, the salience theme found is the government and their agenda. Meanwhile, the nature and non-human species are considered as unimportant or erased from the discourse. This opposite finding from the ecosophy is creating an ambivalent discourse. The KLHK climate change discourse is considered ambivalent due to its lack of representation of nature and non-human species in its discourse. This opposite of ecolinguistic philosophy underscores the need for a discourse that is more focused on the ecological part.

However, these findings are limited to the analysis of the KLHK's website and may not fully represent the government's overall approach to climate change discourse. Further research may explore other government channels, such as social media, press releases, or legal documents, to gain a more comprehensive understanding. Additionally, the study focused on linguistic strategies on salience and erasure of ecolinguistics and did not delve into the ideologies related to the climate change mitigation by the government. Future research may analyze the underlying values and ideologies embedded in such discourse. By conducting more comprehensive and in-depth research, future research can contribute to a better understanding of climate change discourse and promote more ecologically centered and inclusive communication.

References

Awny, N. (2023). An ecolinguistic analysis of the salience of non-human beings in children's literature as represented by Katherine Applegate's Wishtree. *Journal of Languages and Translation*, *10*(4), 1–32. https://doi.org/10.21608/jltmin.2023.323509

Baker, P. (2023). *Using Corpora in Discourse Analysis*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Brezina, V. (2018). *Statistics in Corpus Linguistics: A Practical Guide* (1st ed.). Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316410899

Fairclough, N. (2013). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language* (2. ed., [Nachdr.]). Routledge.

Fill, A. F., & Penz, H. (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of Ecolinguistics*. Routledge.

Gillings, M., & Dayrell, C. (2024). Climate change in the UK press: Examining discourse fluctuation over time. *Applied Linguistics*, *45*(1), 111–133. https://doi.org/10.1093/applin/amad007

Isti'anah, A., & Suhandano. (2023). *(Re)defining ecolinguistics in Indonesia's research: A systematic review*. *7*(2).

Istianah, A., & Suhandano, S. (2022). Appraisal patterns used on the kalimantan tourism website: An ecolinguistics perspective. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, *9*(1), 2146928. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2022.2146928

Kilgarriff, A., Baisa, V., Bušta, J., Jakubíček, M., Kovář, V., Michelfeit, J., Rychlý, P., & Suchomel, V. (2014). The Sketch Engine: Ten years on. *Lexicography*, *1*(1), 7–36. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40607-014-0009-9

Kramar, N. (2023). Construction of Agency within Climate Change Framing in Media Discourse: A Corpus-Based Study. *Respectus Philologicus*, *43 (48)*, 36–48. https://doi.org/10.15388/RESPECTUS.2023.43.48.106

McEnery, T., Brezina, V., & Baker, H. (2022). Usage Fluctuation Analysis: A new way of analysing shifts in historical discourse. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 413–444. https://doi.org/10.1075/ijcl.18096.mce

Norton, C., & Hulme, M. (2019). Telling one story, or many? An ecolinguistic analysis of climate change stories in UK national newspaper editorials. *Geoforum*, *104*, 114–136. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2019.01.017

Poole, R. (2022). *Corpus-Assisted Ecolinguistics*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Poole, R., & Micalay-Hurtado, M. A. (2022). A corpus-assisted ecolinguistic analysis of the representations of tree/s and forest/s in US discourse from 1820-2019. *Applied Corpus Linguistics*, *2*(3), 100036. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acorp.2022.100036

Stibbe, A. (2015). *Ecolinguistics: Language, ecology and the stories we live by*. Routledge.

Suhandano, Firmonasari, A., & Isti'anah, A. (2024). Infrastructure discourse in Indonesian media: An ecolinguistic perspective. *World of Media. Journal of Russian Media and Journalism Studies.*, *3*, 36–59. https://doi.org/10.30547/worldofmedia.3.2024.3

Suhandano, S., Isti'anah, A., & Febrina, R. (2023). Contesting "growth" and "sustainability" in Indonesia's capital city relocation: A corpus ecolinguistic study. *RESEARCH RESULT Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, *9*(3). https://doi.org/10.18413/2313-8912-2023-9-3-0-5

Van Leeuwen, T. (2008). *Discourse and practice: New tools for critical discourse analysis*. Oxford University Press.

Younis, M. F., & Abdulmajeed, R. K. (2023). Salience and Erasure in Environmental Advertisements: An Ecolinguistic Study. *Journal of the College of Education for Women*, *34*(4), 14–29. https://doi.org/10.36231/coedw.v34i4.1700