

The Application of MIPVU in News Texts: Comparison between Male and Female Writings

Noor Amalia Utami

Alphabet / Volume 02 / Number 02 / October 2019, pp. 93-101 doi: 10.21776/ub.alphabet.2019.02.02.05, Published online: October 2019

How to cite this article :

Utami, N. A. (2019). The application of MIPVU in news texts: Comparison between male and female writings. *Alphabet*, 02(02), 93-101. doi: 10.21776/ub.alphabet.2019.02.02.05

The Application of MIPVU in News Texts: Comparison between Male and Female Writings

Cliphabet ©2018, by Study Programme of English, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya ISSN: 2615-630X (print) 2615-6296 (online)

Vol. 02, No. 02

Noor Amalia Utami¹

Abstract

The study of metaphor has extended from conceptual theory to metaphor identification. The proposed procedure known as MIPVU has been used in many works to determine the metaphorical words. There are some modifications on the use of MIPVU such as what Pitcher (2013) and Wu (2017) did. This research will present qualitative result as an illustration of the identification and quantitative result as measurement of the findings. Both results show that male's writing uses indirect metaphor and direct metaphor. The use of direct metaphor also causes the use of metaphor indicator. Meanwhile, the only metaphor type found in female's writing is indirect metaphor. The metaphors found in female's writing spread on noun, verb, adjective and preposition. While, metaphors in male's writing are highly identified in verb.

Keywords: MIPVU, metaphor identification, female, male.

The study of metaphor had been huge and widespread throughout the world for quite long period. The use of conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) in conveying the metaphorical meanings of contexts is found in nearly all preceding metaphor works. Lakoff's CMT (1980) focuses on bridging target and source domain concepts. CMT has been a prominent work which inspired researchers to look at metaphor not only as a figure of speech but as a cognitive device.

The theory has provided a fundamental method in understanding contrasting concepts between target and source domain. However, most of the researchers use intuition in identifying metaphor. The use of intuition along the process of selecting metaphors in the text blurs the reliability of this method (Pitcher, 2013). Previously, Steen (2007) had stated that the identification of metaphor is somewhat controversial. No empirical procedure to determine which word has metaphoric meaning was the issue. In 2007, a group of researchers created a procedure which provide a reliable way to identify metaphors known as MIP Pragglejaz. Many researchers have used MIP method and develop it according to the cases they found. Some had proposed modification and critics along the process itself.

For example, a work done by Pitcher in 2013 entitled 'Using Metaphor Analysis: MIP and Beyond'. He went beyond the usual work of MIP which was previously applied in a qualitative research. Pitcher suggested MIP may be applied in a way that would produce a quantitative or qualitative result. The use of MIP for qualitative result was new. In his work, he used qualitative data of identified metaphors to give an illustration of relationship between words and the alternative meanings. Furthermore, he used quantitative method as well. The quantitative method was used to find the frequency of metaphor used. He also presented further work by a degree of 'aliveness' or 'deadness' of the metaphors in the text. He

¹ Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jalan Bulaksumur, DI Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Email: n.amaliautami@gmail.com

suggested that using MIP for quantitative result would provide statistic presentation.

Another type of work on metaphor using MIP as a tool in identifying metaphor is a work entitled 'Using Dictionaries in Metaphor Identification' by Jihong Wu in 2017. Commonly, MIP uses learners' dictionary such as Macmillan dictionary, Longman dictionary, and Oxford dictionary in conveying words meaning. However, Wu took the analysis a little bit further by using some more other dictionaries. The dictionaries were historical dictionaries, collocation dictionaries, and specialized dictionaries such as Longman Business Dictionary. Wu suggested that the use of other dictionaries would complement the analysis.

Wu (2017) compared MIP with MIPVU. There she concluded that MIPVU, to a certain degree, provides more comprehensive and objective criteria than MIP. MIPVU is the extension version MIP which was developed by Steen *et al* (2010). The idea is similar to MIP where the difference lies on some aspects such as the terms and its extensions to simile. Though the procedure is remarkably new, MIPVU has been used in many researches.

For example, a study conducted by Krisnawati (2014) entitled 'Metaphors in Indonesian Soccer News'. In her work, Krisnawati used MIPVU to identify the metaphoric words in the news text. Then, these words were analyzed with Lakoff's CMT. Her analysis depended heavily on Lakoff's theory rather than the identification result. Krisnawati concluded that games of soccer are conceptualized as hunting and mining in the selected Indonesian news text.

Another work which applied MIPVU for metaphor identification is a work by Nokele (2014). Nokele's aim was to illustrate conceptual metaphors and its translation in the target language. She used MIPVU for both languages. Then, the identified metaphors are classified into CMT classifications. The result showed that there are some cases at which one metaphor in ST but non-metaphor in TT. Her presumption was that the translator chose the expression which might convey the real meaning of the ST words. Most of the works which use MIPVU analyze particular text in a particular discourse. However, there is little or no work which concern on differentiating between metaphors in male and female writings. The present research will work on viewing a pattern of how both gender applied metaphors in their writings. Since there is a common belief that woman and man tend to write differently, to examine the difference of their writings is quite appealing work. Thus, this study is important since it will fulfill the puzzle of this area. Along with this research, I propose a modification on method which will be explained in more detail later.

METHODS

Present research uses MIPVU as its tool of identification. MIPVU stands for Metaphor Identification Procedure Vrije Universitet. This procedure is basically an extension of MIP (Metaphor Identification Procedure), the preceding method. The procedure is arranged with detail information on how to identify a metaphor in any context. In their book, Steen et al (2014) showed that there are several distinctions between MIPVU and MIP. First of all, the terms used in marking the metaphors were coined in the MIPVU. They are MRW, (MRW, direct), (MRW, impl), and (MFlag). For unidentified metaphors or doubtful cases, researchers can use WIDLII (When In Doubt, Leave It In). Another marker is DFMA which stands for Discarded for Metaphor Analysis. This marker is only used if the lexical units in incomplete utterance has possibility to be metaphor. However, this is probably highly relevant with spoken discourses.

To put it simply, the identification runs in comparing between basic and contextual meaning. The use of dictionary is fundamental within the process. Macmillan Dictionary is largely used in MIPVU since it is a corpusbased dictionary. The second look for lexical unit meanings is Longman Dictionary and Oxford English Dictionary. The most obvious limitation in this research is the use of BNC (British National Corpus). MIPVU, as suggested by Steen *et al* (2010), uses BNC database in deciding lexical units. BNC work is basically tagging the word based on its grammatical tag of part of speech (POS). However, the BNC itself is not easily accessed. Thus, this research will only use an accessible website of tagging, CLAWS.

This research used two articles from online newspaper website, the Jakarta Post. The selection of articles are based on the source, topic, period of publishing, and gender of the writers. Two online newspaper articles which will be used as the data were taken from the Jakarta Post. The Jakarta Post was chosen because it uses English for its language publication. The topic itself was about the death of third president of Indonesia, B.J. Habibie.

The articles must be written on September 12, 2019, a day after his demise. This consideration is based on the relevance with the topic. Since the aim of this research is to find the difference of metaphors used in male and female works, the writers of the articles were selected based on its gender as well. There are two articles to represent each gender. The first article was written by male and the second article was written by female.

The articles were accessed and rewritten in a new form of presentation to support the data analysis. The analysis itself will start from checking each word tag by accessing CLAWS. Then, the lexical units will follow MIPVU to find any metaphorical expressions. MIPVU is a complex procedure in identifying metaphor in text. The process will follow this procedure:

- 1. Finding the metaphor-related words (MRWs) by examining the text on a wordby-word basis. The word examination aim is to determine the lexical units found in the text. The proposed tool is BNC, while this research uses CLAWS for the POS tagging.
- 2. If the lexical unit is used indirectly and explained by cross-domain mapping, it should be marked as MRW.
- 3. If the word is directly used and explained by cross-domain mapping, it should be marked as (MRW, direct). In other word, it

means that finding the local referent and topic shifts should be done first before analyzing the lexical units. If the lexical units are found in some form of comparison, test whether the comparison is nonliteral or cross-domain.

- 4. Following Halliday and Hasan (1976) who stated that metaphor can be found in some form of substitution and ellipsis, the words replaced by these grammatical cohesion should be marked as (MRW, impl).
- 5. Some words might play roles in marking the simile or analogy which create the cross-domain mapping. The lexical units are called MFlag.

The procedure will be stopped when the words have been identified. Then the metaphors found in the texts will be compared. The results will only to show how metaphors used by male different from female. After the words are identified as metaphor, the metaphor categories will be compared. Some measurement might be found to simplify the analysis presentation.

As stated by Wu (2017), the method of MIPVU is somehow tiring since it requires the researcher to go through all words and check it on dictionaries. If the data is in a form a full-length article, it would have been a mammoth task to finish. Therefore there will be a simplification on the analysis presentation.

Furthermore, I propose a modification on the use of statistic in finding agreement among raters that is commonly used in previous researches. This research is a sole work so the use of Cohen's Kappa or any statistic tool will not serve any benefit.

RESULTS

For reasons of efficiency, only some metaphors will be discussed in the following illustration. Each lexical unit is divided with slashes. This partition is following the result of CLAWS web tagging. Proper name of a person made of several words, for example, will be counted as a single lexical unit. Any linguistic item which has meaning or results in meaning changes will be considered as one lexical unit. Discussion is below for each finding.

Metaphors in Female's Writing

(1) International / dignitaries / are / offering / their / condolences / over / the / demise / of / Indonesia / 's / former / president / Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie / at / the / age / of / 83 / on / Wednesday.

From 22 lexical units, there is one word identified as metaphor. The analysis is as follows.

Contextual meaning: According to Macmillan dictionary, the word 'over' has been used for saying what people disagree about or what they feel worried, sad, happy etc about. This meaning relates with the use of this word in the sentence. Contextually, the word 'over' means that the condolences is about the former president.

Basic meaning: Meanwhile, the more basic meaning of word 'over' is a position of something or someone above someone or something else. This meaning is not relevant with the context. It appears to be the first meaning for 'over' in the Macmillan dictionary.

Sufficiently distinct: The contextual and basic meaning have something to do with a position of an entity. The contextual meaning refers to the news of the passing of former president and its relation with the condolences offered. From the sentence, it is understood that the condolences are offered towards the information. It has a slight correlation of saying a direction of the condolences with the position of an entity in its basic meaning.

(2) <u>Deepest</u> / condolences / on / the / passing / of / Indonesia / 's / third / president / , BJ Habibie.

From 11 lexical units, there is one word identified as metaphor. The analysis is as follows.

Contextual meaning: In the context, it shows that the word 'deepest' modifies the word condolences. It means that it explains the emotion of condolences. Here, based on Macmillan dictionary, 'deep' means strong emotion. Since it has been added with suffix est, it gives a superlative meaning to the word. Thus, the contextual meaning of word 'deepest' is the strongest emotion of condolences.

Basic meaning: On the list of meanings in Macmillan dictionary, going a long way down from the top or surface is the first and more basic meaning of word 'deep'. It usually relates with three-dimensional space.

Sufficiently distinct: Both meanings give similar sense of depth. One, the contextual meaning, concern on how it describes emotion. While another, the more basic meaning, describes distance from surface of concrete thing to its base.

(3) Bapak / BJ Habibie / , as / all / Indonesians / call / him /, had / a / very / <u>close</u> / relations / with / Germany.

From 14 lexical units, there is one word identified as metaphor. The analysis is as follows.

Contextual meaning: This sentence explains Habibie's relation with Germany. Following this context, the most suitable meaning for word 'close' is directly involved with someone. Since Habibie had spent many years in Germany for studying and working, therefore, it describes that Habibie and Germany have a close relations.

Basic meaning: Commonly, the word 'close' refers to short distance of a person or thing to another. The distance meant is the real length of things. So, it cannot be used to explain the word in the sentence since it refers to different reference.

Sufficiently distinct: Both words surely define distance. But both words are not interchangeable. One can only be used to describe a physical distance, while the other describes abstract distance.

(4) An / official / condolence / letter / issued / by / the / Embassy / of / the / Republic / of / Indonesia / in / Berlin / cites / BJ Habibie / 's / intellectual / journey / in / Germany / , making / his / passing / hit / home / harder / for / the / Indonesian / people / living / , working / and / studying / in / Germany.

There are 38 lexical units in the sentence and 4 words are identified as metaphor.

'Journey'

Contextual meaning: In this context, the word journey refers to a process of changing and developing over a period of time. It is preceded with word 'intellectual' which strengthens its context of abstract quality. The word 'journey' indicates Habibie's studying and working experience in Germany.

Basic meaning: The more basic meaning is an occasion when you travel from one place to another. It usually refers to travelling experience from one place to another.

Sufficiently distinct: Both might refer to experience. However, the word 'intellectual' creates a distinct meaning. One meaning can explain an abstract experience, while its basic meaning refers to more concrete experience.

'Passing'

Contextual meaning: Following this context, the word 'passing' means someone's death. It is preceded with 'his' which refers to Habibie. The word 'passing' is usually used to avoid the use of word 'death'.

Basic meaning: Word 'passing' is derived from verb 'pass' which means go past something. 'Passing' means the process by which something ends or stops existing.

Sufficiently distinct: The use of word passing in the context will be similar to this sentence 'Her grandmother's passing is a great loss for the family'. While the basic meaning will fit in this sentence 'Her grandmother witness the passing of her own culture'. Although both speak of the end of something, the contextual meaning is more suitable to be used in human sense while the other is not. Thus, those words are in contrast.

'Hit'

Contextual meaning: The word 'hit' in this sentence is grammatically recognized as a verb. It explains the subject 'his passing' that suddenly starts to affect someone or something. Thus, word 'hit' means causing an effect to something that is described as home.

Basic meaning: If a hammer hits a glass, the glass is touched with force. Simply, the word 'hit' basically means as an (extreme) physical force to be given or put onto something.

Sufficiently distinct: Both words are contrast. In the contextual meaning, there is no physical interaction. It only explains what the subject does to the object but it can only be experienced. While, the more basic meaning has something to do with physical entity.

'Home'

Contextual meaning: In this context, 'home' means the country or city you live. It surely refers to it as 'Indonesian' mentioned afterward. The context talks about how Indonesians who live in Germany receives the news.

Basic meaning: For a basic meaning, 'home' refers to the place where your parents live or you grew up. It usually entails childhood memories or personal stories.

Sufficiently distinct: The contextual and basic meaning refer to a place. However, the contextual meaning do not refer to the personal space such as house, but a bigger context such as country. This meaning is quite distinct from the basic meaning.

(5) The / circular / also / said / that / the / Embassy / of / the / Republic / of / Indonesia / in / Berlin / is / opening / its / doors / for / members / of / diplomatic / corps / , / as / well / as / any / Indonesians / and / Germans / , / who / would / like / to / pay / their / respects / to / BJ Habibie / by / writing / in / a / condolence / book / on / Sept. / 12 /, / 13 / and / 16.

From 51 lexical units, there is one word identified as metaphor. Word such as 'door' in

this sentence is not acknowledged as metaphor because it is a case of synecdoche.

'Pay'

Contextual meaning: If a grandson pays his respect to his late grandmother, he goes to her funeral to show his condolences and to honour the grandmother. In the context, the Embassy open an opportunity to public to show their condolences. So, 'pay' can be understood as 'giving respect'.

Basic meaning: Its more basic meaning is to give money in order to buy something. It is commonly found in everyday conversation such as 'I will pay the bill'. Usually, it is recognized as an obligation.

Sufficiently distinct: The contextual meaning contrasts with the basic meaning. Both relates in the sense that someone must give something as a sign of responsibility or honor. Thus, it can be said that word 'pay' is a metaphor.

Metaphors in Male's Writing

There are five sentences chosen as representative of metaphor identification analysis in male's writing.

(6) He / <u>played</u> / crucial / and / controversial / roles / for / Indonesia.

From 8 lexical units, there is only one metaphoric word found.

Contextual meaning: From the context, word 'play' means to have a particular part in a play. For example, 'I play as a Romeo in the drama'. The use of 'play' equals in the sentence such as 'My uncle plays a big role in the company'. It means that 'play' can be understood as the responsibility of certain position or role.

Basic meaning: Word 'play' is commonly understood as taking part in sport. So if someone plays football, he is taking part in the game of football.

Sufficiently distinct: Both words indicate the involvement of the subject in certain event or activity. Even though the meanings are different, the relation of meanings can be understood by the comparison of both. When the context refers to responsibility in a play or organization, the basic meaning refers to position in the game which holds related responsibility as well.

(7) As / a / journalist / who / covered / the / Presidential / Palace / for / years /, I / sensed / he / seemed / most / proud / not / of / his / achievement / as / an / internationally / recognized / expert / on / the / aircraft / industry /, but / his / romantic / relationship / with / his / wife.

There are 36 lexical units in this sentence, but there is only one word containing metaphor.

Contextual meaning: The word reference is the subject journalist and the domain of the word 'cover' is journalism. Thus, the contextual meaning of 'covered' is to give a report or description on television or media.

Basic meaning: Word 'cover' can be found as a noun or verb. Here, the word is in verb with its more basic meaning is to put something over something else. Thus, if a book is covered with a blanket, it means that the book is underneath the blanket.

Sufficiently distinct: The contextual meaning contrasts with basic meaning. The relation between these two is by looking at the comparison. The contextual meaning refers to an area under the responsibility of the journalist. While, the basic meaning refers to something that is hidden, protected, or surrounded by something else.

(8) Still / , / according / to / the / book / , / Soeharto / trusted / " / Habibie / 's / capacity / and / capability / to / build / super / modern / and / <u>high</u> / technology / that / is / equal / with / the / West / " / , / so / he / allowed / him / to / control / so / many / strategic / industries / and / allocated / nearly / unlimited / funds / for / him.

There are 42 lexical units in this sentence. Only word 'high' is identified as metaphor. Contextual meaning: The word 'high' in this context modifies the noun 'technology'. Here, word 'high' equals with very good. The contextual meaning talks about quality.

Basic meaning: Usually, word 'high' explains the height of something or describe a physical appearance of something.

Sufficiently distinct: Both words describe a quality of something. Although, the meanings are distinct in the sense that one talks about non-physical quality while the other talks about physical quality. With this contrastive meanings, it can be said that the word 'high' is used metaphorically in the sentence.

(9) Habibie / 's / critics / said / he / failed / to / deliver / his / promises / to / his /mentor.

There are 13 lexical units constructing this sentence, but there is only one metaphoric word.

Contextual meaning: In Macmillan dictionary, a meaning which correlates with the context is in the fourth order. If a person deliver his promises, it means that he must do what he promises.

Basic meaning: For the more basic meaning, 'deliver' means take something or someone to a place. So, if a person delivers a paper, it means that this person takes the paper to a certain place.

Sufficiently distinct: The distinctive relation between both meanings is that a promise must be brought from a word into an action in the sense a paper is brought to a certain place.

(10) Soeharto / <u>brought</u> / him / to / stardom / , / even / appointing / him / vice / president / in / March / 1998.

There are 13 lexical units in the sentence, but there is only one metaphoric word.

Contextual meaning: If my family brings me to happiness, it means that my family caused me to be in the state of happiness. So, to put it simply, the word 'bring' can be understood as the cause of a state. Basic meaning: Its basic meaning has something to do with a movement. The word 'bring' means taking someone or something somewhere. For example, 'I bring my book to my room.' means that I take my book to my room.

Sufficiently distinct: To understand the contrast between contextual meaning and basic meaning is to find the relations between the concepts. The concepts relate as that to cause someone or something in a certain state, someone must be brought there. Thus, the word 'brought' is a metaphor.

DISCUSSION

Overall, both writings indicate high use of MRW. While female tend to use indirect metaphor, male's writing tend to use more varied types such as direct metaphor. The metaphors are found in diverse part of speech. Both gender show different results as follow.

Table 1. Metaphor in Part of Speech

POS Gender	N	р	V	ADJ	VP	Total Metaphor	Word in article	Frequency of appearance
Female	5	2	4	3	-	14	362	0.038
Male	4	3	8	3	1	20	905	0.022

From the data, female's writing uses a higher frequency of metaphor. It can be seen that female tend to write in metaphoric language. Meanwhile, male tend to be half less frequent to use metaphor in their writing. Both gender show different pattern in using metaphor. In female's writing, metaphor spread in noun, verb, adjective, and preposition in a slight number difference. While in male's writing, it commonly occurs in verb.

The most considerable amount of metaphor type found in both articles is MRW. Indirect use of word in the articles is due to limited source of word which can correctly explain the idea of the writers. The metaphoric words represented some abstract concepts that can be done by using MRW. There is no use of implicit metaphor in both texts. It presumably because the pronouns are not metaphorically used.

All metaphors found in female's writing is identified as metaphor related word (MRW) while in male's writing there are 3 types of metaphor found; MRW, (MRW, direct), and (MRW, implicit). The (MRW, direct) is identified right after MFlag. Therefore, it can be said that this MFlag mark the appearance of (MRW, direct) afterward. The overall comparison of both gender's writing can be seen in the table shown below.

 Table 2. Type of Metaphors

Type Gender	MRW	MRW, direct	MRW, implicit	MFLag
Female	100%	-	-	-
Male	90%	5%	-	5%

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Overall, within 362 words in the article written by female writer, there are 15 metaphors found. All metaphors are identified as metaphor related word (MRW). The correlation between meanings is indirect since there is no conjunctive words to explain direct cross-domain mapping. In male's writing, there are 20 MRWs found in around 900 words article. The most common type of metaphor is MRW. The other types such as direct metaphor and metaphor indicator are also found in the same sentence.

For future consideration, the comparison between male and female writings is quite a challenge. The selection of newspaper article as the data took quite long time since there are limited sources which provided desired topic and length. Uneven length of both articles chosen for this research might slightly affect the result. To compare between one writing to another, the number of words should be similar. Moreover, to be a more comprehensive work the amount of articles should be a lot more considerable. Thus, the analysis will be more substantial. Furthermore, the result might show a more diverse result. These two issues are found to be the major limitations in this research.

Work on gender is interesting to discuss since basically both are somewhat different. To extend this work, an addition in number of objects will be relevant. Further research in the appearance of metaphors in certain part of speech in both gender is also compelling work. It would be interesting to find out comparison of metaphor existence between different sources as well. To look at how similar topic brought in different articles in different languages is also appealing to discuss even though finding the metaphors in both languages might require a lot of work. It is even more challenging if it extents to different discourses.

Furthermore, the present work does not use BNC or BNC-Baby for word tagging due to the limited access to the database. It would be very helpful if future works are able to access the BNC or BNC-Baby corpus database.

REFERENCES

- Halliday, M. & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman.
- Krisnawati, E. (2014). Metaphors in Indonesian soccer news. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 4(1), 24-29. doi: 10.4304/ tpls.4.1.24-29
- Lakoff, G. & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors we Live by*. University of Chicago Press.
- Nokele, A. BB. (2014). Identifying conceptual metaphors using the metaphor identification procedure Vrije Universitet. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 34(1), 75-86. 10.1080/02572117.2014. 949471
- Pitcher, R. (2013). Using metaphor analysis: MIP and beyond. *The Qualitative Report, 18* (34), 1-8. Retrieved from https:// nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol18/iss34/2
- Steen, G. (2007). Finding metaphor in discourse: pragglejaz and beyond. *Culture*,

Language and Representation, (V), 9-25. Diakses dari https://core.ac.uk/download /pdf/84752554.pdf

- Steen, G. (2010). A Method for Linguistic Metaphor Identification: from MIP to MIPVU. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Wu, J. H. (2017). Using dictionaries in metaphor identification. *Canadian Social Science*, 13(6), 56-61. Available from: http:// www.cscanada.net/index.php/css/article /view/9713 doi: http://dx.doi.org/ 10.3968 /9713

APPENDICES

Jakarta Post. (n.d.). Commentary: Habibie: Icon for Indonesian mothers and children. Retrieved from https://www. thejakartapost.com/news/2019/09/12/commentary -habibie-icon-indonesian-mothers-andchildren.html.

Jakarta Post. (n.d.). Condolences pour in as nation mourns Habibie's death. Retrieved from https://www.thejakartapost.com/ news/2019/09/12/condolences-pour-inas-nation-mourns-habibies-death.html.

TOOL

Ucrel-api.lancaster.ac.uk. (2020). Free CLAWS web tagger. [online] Available at: http://ucrel-api.lancaster.ac.uk/claws/free .html [Accessed 16-17 Dec. 2019].