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# Corpus-Based Diachronic Study of WAR Metaphor in Indonesian Political Discourse

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#### Abstract

The use of metaphor in political discourse is pervasive. One of the common source domain used in political metaphor is of WAR source domain. The increasing use of WAR metaphor reflects the intensity of the political situation. This paper examines the diachronic used of WAR metaphor in Indonesian Political Discourse. The aim is to analyze the use of the WAR source domain of metaphor used to speak about the Indonesian Political Situation and to compare the use of the metaphor before and after the direct election system is in effect (in 2004). The data are taken from 1896 news articles related to the political situation dan political coalition, that spans from 1980 to 2020 in Tempo online magazine. The study is corpus-based with The Conceptual Metaphor Framework of Lakoff and Johnson used as the theoretical background. The data analysis is conducted in two stages, first by quantitative analysis using Antcone Corpus Concordance Software to measure the frequency of WAR metaphor used to speak about Political situation and the second is the qualitative analysis to evaluate the change and the development of metaphor use. The result of the study should reflect how the political change that occurred in Indonesia can be reflected through the language in particular reflected from the metaphor used to speak about the political condition. The finding shows that there are three categories of diachronic change of WAR metaphorical expression: the first is the terms that have been used metaphorically even before 1998 (reformation era); the second is the terms that are recorded in use as a metaphor after 1998 and the last is the metaphorical expressions that are recorded in use before 1998 but have not been recorded after that.

**Keywords:** Antconc Concordance, Corpus Study, Conceptual Metaphor, Political Discourse.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The use of metaphor in discourse is important for some reasons; Chilton (2004) agrees that "Metaphor has long been recognized as important in political rhetoric" (p. 51) and further asserts that metaphor in political discourse is frequently used not just as additions to literal propositions, but as modes of reasoning. Charteris-Black (2011) underlines the persuasive function of metaphor in political speech. Whereas Littlemore & Low (2006) states that metaphor can serve as an evaluative function, toning down an extreme position, or flagging the irony in a statement. Arcimavičienė (2011) agrees that political discourse especially in media becomes a complex interactive media that relate to the politician, media, and public.

Van Dijk (2003) summarizes characteristics of political discourse that are defined in terms of contextual categories, such as (a) Politics as the global domain (b) The global act(s) being implemented: legislation, policy mailing, etc. (c) The global setting (House of Parliament, session of parliament, etc.) (d) The local political acts being accomplished: (e) The political roles of the participants: MP, representative, party member, member of the opposition, etc. (f) The political cognitions of the participants: Political beliefs and ideologies; aims and objectives. Those aspects of politic are frequently described using war terms as metaphor. There are several purposes of conceptual metaphor in political discourse. Charteris-Black (2004: 11) accounts for the role of metaphor to articulate the speaker's standpoint, feelings, attitude, and inner subjectivity when confronted with a particular situation.

Lakoff and Johnson (1993) who approach metaphor from a cognitive perspective agree that metaphor is understood as an experientially based mapping between a concrete source domain and an abstract target

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domain (Lakoff & Johnson, 1993; Weda et al., 2019; Fairuz et al., 2022; Rahman & Weda, 2019; P. Amir et al., 2022). Goatly (2007) who shares a similar view defines metaphor as thinking about one thing (A) as if it is another thing (B). Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) view metaphor as something that lies on the conceptual and cognitive level (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980) where there are two domains involved Kovecses (2010) The source domain is the topic that is more abstract, whereas the target domain is a domain which is more concrete and is used to speak about the source domain This paper aims to focus on the source domain of Islamic Religious terms. Stefanowitsch, (2006) affirms that the study of the metaphor can be on source domain-oriented. In this study, the source domain is the War terms with the politics target domain. Several studies discuss the use and the importance of metaphor in political discourse, one of them is by Umar & Rasul (2017) that examine political myths in Nawaz Sharif political speech.

From various studies above, in particular to the Indonesian political context, there hasn't been any study that focuses on diachronic study of WAR metaphor. The main theoretical framework is the CMT with further approach within Steen's Deliberate Metaphor Theory (DMT) as one of the extended paradigm of CMT that focus on the deliberateness of the metaphor in use, Steen (2011) affirms that a metaphor is deliberate when it is intentionally used and require everyone involve in the communication to move attention away from the target domain to the source domain. Furthermore, the elements mapping from target domain to source domain will also be examined.

This study focuses on the diachronic change of the political metaphor used in Indonesian political discourse. The reformation era in 1998 has brought a significant change and political dinamics in Indonesian democracy. One of the change is the direct election of head of nation, head of province and head of regency that trigger a heater discourse in politic and lead to the use of various source domain of metaphor especially War source domain.

## RESEARCH METHOD AND SOURCES OF DATA

This study is qualitative with a simple quantitative display of data collected. This research is mainly qualitative in nature, to analyze the War source domain of metaphor in political discourse from corpora of news from Tempo magazine from 1980 to 2020. Anteone concordance tools will be used in identifying the target keywords based on the common source domains and the sub-target domains of political metaphor and metonymy.

Stefanowitch (2006) provides a number of strategies for extracting linguistic expressions manifesting conceptual mappings from corpora, one of them searching for source domain vocabulary. Metaphorical and metonymic expressions always contain lexical items from their source domain, it is a reasonable strategy to begin an investigation by selecting a potential source domain (i.e., a semantic domain or field that is known to play a role in metaphorical or metonymic expressions (Jam et al., 2016). In the first step, the researcher can then search for individual lexical items from this domain, it can be based on existing exhaustive lists, or it can be based on a preceding keyword analysis of texts dealing with target-domain topics.

In this research, since the researcher will use the concordance feature of Key Word in Context format (KWIC) in Antconc. This will enable the researcher directly look for the key word based on the lexical items related to the source domains WAR. The data in this will be collected from the Tempo magazine 1980-2020 edition that is accessed from https://majalah.tempo.co/. The process of data gathering and data analysis of this research were conducted back and forth, and the process of data collection, data analysis, and data interpretation will be done simultaneously. During the data collection stage, the researcher will collect data from Tempo magazine online news from 1980-2020 by accessing the web at: https://majalah.tempo.co/

All the data that will be collected and downloaded will be saved as text. files type. This is to enable the files to be able to be analyzed in a later stage in AntConc Concordance tools for KWIC analysis is used by using the source domains lexical items with the target domain of WAR. The data interpretation is conducted almost simultaneously with the data collection stage, where the source domain and target domains metaphor and the metonymy will be identified and categorized. After the data have been categorized, the analysis will be conducted to give the quantitative comparison related to the metaphor and metonymy found. Antconc is used

since the researcher is familiar with the tool and it is freely available to use. To analyze the metaphor from the data that will be collected, the researcher will use the qualitative analysis stage to analyze the data. The step as Miles and Huberman (1994) data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing will be conducted in combination with Charteris-Black (2013) Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) steps.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

There are in total 1896 articles analyzed in this research that extends from Tempo Edition 1980 until Tempo Edition 2020. The Key Words in Context (KWIC) search is done using the terms or lexical items of each source domain. For KWIC of WAR that represents tension, division, and enemy, the keywords include (ber) perang (war), pertempuran (battle), amunisi (ammunition), and peluru (bullet);

The data collection for WAR political metaphor is conducted using fourteen keywords as seen in Table 1. Each keyword will be typed in the KWIC feature of Antconc tools, and then each of the data will be read and analyzed by the surrounding co-text to determine whether the use is metaphorical or not.

The List of Key Words in Context for WAR Source Domain

The fourteen keywords from WAR terms as seen from the table below vary from several word categories. The search is not only focusing on the based word but also its derivational form, since the frequency of metaphor may occur from a particular derivational process.

Source domain	Key words in context (KWIC)
WAR	(Ber) Perang (to fight -Verb)
	Peperangan (wars - Noun)
	Memerangi (to fight - Verb)
	Diperangi (being fighted - Verb)
	Serang (attack - Verb) )
	Penyerangan (attack-Noun)
	Menyerang (to attack-Verb)
	Diserang (being attacked-Verb)
	Serangan (attack - Noun)
	Peluru (bullet - Noun)
	Amunisi (ammunition - Noun)
	Senjata (weapon - Noun)
	Pertempuran (combat - Noun)
	(Ber)tempur (to combat - Verb)

Table 1. The list of Key Words in Context (KWIC) for WAR terms.

The list of keywords above is chosen based on the common lexical field of war terms. The search of Key Word in Context (KWIC)in AntConc will be conducted on all 1896 articles that have been prepared as the source of data.

The Political Metaphor of WAR Source Domain

The fourteen WAR terms that have been analyzed in Antconc and have been reduced to identify the metaphorical expression result in a total of 347 metaphorical expressions. The highest use as a metaphor is the affixation process of the base word serang (to attack), i.e.: serangan (attack) with 118 metaphorical use out of 245 hits.

KWIC	Number of hits	Metaphorical expression	Percentage
Serangan (attack)	245	118	48.2
Menyerang (to attack)	129	61	47.3
(ber)perang (to fight)	339	42	12.2
Pertempuran (combat)	47	30	63.8
Senjata (weapon)	252	22	8.7
Peluru (bullet)	118	20	16.9
Diserang (being attacked)	27	13	48.1
Amunisi (ammunition)	20	11	55.0
Serang (attack)	40	9	22.5
Memerangi (to fight)	18	9	44.4
Bertempur (to combat)	17	6	35.3

Table 2. Number of Hits and Number of WAR terms metaphor.

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Tempur (combat)	73	3	4.1
Penyerangan (attack)	42	2	4.8
Peperangan (wars)	4	1	25.0
Diperangi (being fought)	1	1	100.0
	1377	347	25.2

The highest number of use of WAR terms metaphor, which is the noun derivation process of based word serang (to attack), i.e.: serangan (attack) that appears 118 usages. The first use detected was in the article dated July 25, 1981. Whereas the second highest use of WAR terms metaphor is the affixation process of the same base word, i.e.: menyerang (to attack) with 61 metaphorical usage with the first use in an article on Oct 31, 1981.

The third highest use as a metaphor is the word (ber)perang (to fight) with 42 metaphorical expressions, followed by pertempuran (combat) with 30 metaphorical expressions. The only WAR metaphor that appeared first used after the Indonesian reformation era is amunisi (ammunition) which was first recorded as used as a metaphor of politics in Aug 1, 1999 edition.

There are four clusters of keywords analyzed, the first cluster is of base word *perang* (war), the second cluster is the base word *serang* (attack), the third cluster is the group of word *senjata* (weapon), *peluru* (bullet) and *amunisi* (ammunition) and the last cluster is the base word *tempur* (battle). The grouping of WAR terms into based words and categories shows the distribution of metaphorical use for each cluster. The result shows the highest use of metaphor is from the cluster of based word '*serang*' (attack) with its derivational process that recorded with 203 metaphorical uses.

Table 3. The number of hits and political metaphors based on cluster.

WAR	KWIC	Number of Hits	Metaphorical Expression
	Perang (war)	318	37
	Berperang (to fight)	21	5
	Peperangan (wars)	4	1
	Memerangi (to fight)	18	9
	Diperangi (being fought)	1	1
			52
	Serang (to attack)	40	9
	Penyerangan (attack)	42	2
	Menyerang (to attack)	129	61
	Diserang (being attacked)	27	13
	serangan (attack)	245	118
	, ,		203
	Peluru (bullet)	118	20
	Amunisi (ammunition)	20	11
	Senjata (weapon)	252	22
			53
	Tempur (combat)	73	3
	Bertempur (to combat)	17	6
	Pertempuran (combat)	47	30
	* '		39

Clustering and grouping based on base word and word group shows the highest metaphorical expressions recorded are from the base word serang (attack), with other four derivational processes, i.e. serangan (attack), menyerang (to attack), diserang (being attack), penyerangan (attack). The total metaphorical expression from the cluster is 203.

From the cluster of based word *perang* (war), the highest frequency used as a metaphor is the base word itself with 37 metaphorical use; where the top 5 word that comes after it is: *perang ayat* (verses war), *perang terbuka* (open war), *perang dingin* (cold war), *perang urat syaraf* (psywar), *perang bubat* (bubat war). The metaphorical use extends from 1985 to 2019.

The derivational process of *memerangi* (to fight) comes next as metaphorical use with 9 political metaphors where the first use recorded was in 2001. most frequent phrases that come after it is: *memerangi korupsi* with 4 usages, *memerangi politik uang* (to fight money politics), *memerangi praktek kolusi* (to fight collusion), *memerangi segala diskriminasi* (to fight all discrimination), *memerangi praktik KKN* (to fight corruption, collution and nepotism), *memerangi tagar* (to fight hashtag).

There are three words from the cluster *perang* (war) that recorded as metaphorical after 1998, i.e. *berperang* (go to war), memerangi (to fight), and the passive form of diperangi (to be fought against); whereas the base word perang (war) and derivational noun peperangan (wars) have been recorded before 1998.

The next cluster from the base word serang (attack) results in 203 metaphorical uses, with the highest metaphorical expression from derivational serangan (attack). The highest metaphorical use is from the cluster of based word serang (to attack), with 203 political metaphors with several affixation processes. The highest use is the derivation into the noun serangan (attack) with 118 metaphorical expressions. The collocation of serangan when it is used as a metaphor includes: serangan balik (counter-attack) and serangan fajar (dawn attack)

The distribution of use based on year shows that the metaphorical use of serangan (attack) and menyerang (to attack) shows relatively longer years in use. Distribution of metaphorical use from the cluster. The next cluster is the group of amunisi (ammunition), peluru (bullet) and senjata (weapon). This cluster consists of senjata (weapon), amunisi (ammunition), and bullet (peluru). Senjata is used 22 times, peluru is used metaphorically 20 times, and amunisi with 11 metaphorical uses. From this cluster, the first usage recorded was in 1989, with the metaphorical use of peluru (bullet), and three metaphorical use of this cluster until 1998. From 1999 onward, the number of metaphorical uses increased significantly. Amunisi (ammunition) was recorded and first used as a metaphor in 1999.

From cluster tempur, the metaphorical expression of the base word tempur (combat) and bertempur (to combat) are recorded in use as metaphors after 1998. whereas the derivational form of pertempuran (combat) has been used as far back as 1980 and it is the highest metaphorical expression with 30 uses as a metaphor.

# The distribution of year of metaphorical expression

Based on the years of use of metaphorical expressions of war terms, the highest usage is in 2010 and 2017 with 26 usage. There has been a tendency for higher frequency of use since 1998 onwards, but the use of the WAR metaphor has been recorded since the 1980 edition. The three war terms that are used as metaphors in the 1980 edition are peperangan (war) in the Sep 30, 1980 edition, penyerangan (attack) from the May 17, 1980 edition, and pertempuran (battle) from the Sep 6, 1980 edition.

Year	ME	Year	ME	
1980	3	1999	14	
1981	2	2000	21	
1982	1	2001	24	
1985	7	2002	8	
1986	4	2003	10	
1987	1	2004	18	
1988	3	2005	7	
1989	3	2006	3	
1990	1	2007	6	
1991	2	2008	13	
1992	8	2009	18	
1993	3	2010	26	
1998	1	2011	14	
	39	2012	8	
		2013	10	
		2014	12	
		2015	25	
		2016	13	
		2017	26	
		2018	17	
		2019	11	
		2020	4	
			308	

Chart 1. Comparison of ME of WAR source domain.

Since 2004, Indonesia has held a direct general election for president. The tendency of the high use before, the year of, and after the election can be observed from the metaphorical use. The year 2009 as the second direct presidential election shows 18 metaphorical expressions and the year after 2010 shows one of the highest Corpus-Based Diachronic Study of WAR Metaphor in Indonesian Political Discourse

with 26 metaphorical expressions. Again, in 2014 with 12 metaphorical expressions followed by 2015 with 25 metaphorical expressions, which is the second highest.

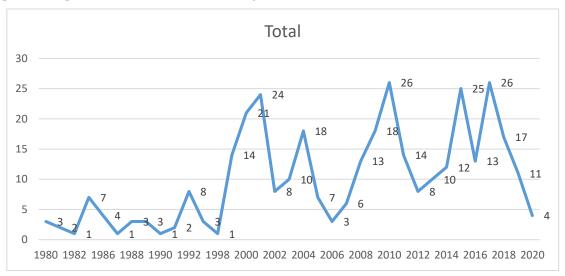


Chart 2. The distribution of ME by Year

The year 2010 and 2017 shows the highest number of political use with twenty-six use of the WAR metaphor. The tendency of high-frequency use since 1998 can be seen from chart 1 above. The use of WAR terms metaphor before 1998 is 39, whereas from 1999 until 2020, there are 208 usage. This tendency of the high frequency of metaphorical use of WAR terms in politics reflects the dynamic of the Indonesian political situation after 1998.

The Diachronic Change of WAR Metaphor in Political Discourse

Diachronically, there are three categories of diachronic change of WAR metaphorical expression: the first is the terms that have been used metaphorically even before 1998 (reformation era); the second is the terms that are recorded in use as a metaphor after 1998 and the last is the metaphorical expressions that are recorded in use before 1998 but have not been recorded after that.

The terms of WAR that have been used metaphorically and recorded before 1998 include all words from cluster *serang* (attack), Also, *senjata* (weapon) and *peluru* (bullet) have been recorded in use as a metaphorical expression before 1998. Whereas the WAR terms that are only recorded metaphorically in use after 1998 include: *amunisi* ammunition, *tempur* (combat), bertempur (to combat), *perang* (war), and *peperangan* (wars). Based on the comparison of the number of metaphorical expressions before and after 1998, all clusters show a rise in use.

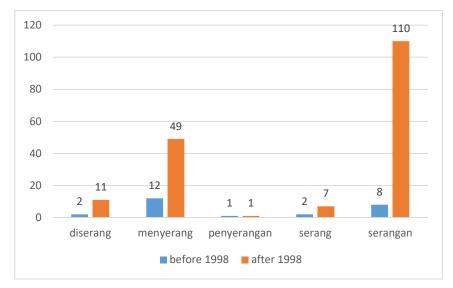


Chart 3. The ME before and after 1998 Cluster Serang (Attack).

From cluster serang (attack), the significant number of metaphorical expressions before and after 1998 are recorded from two derivational forms, i.e. menyerang (to attack) and serangan (attack).

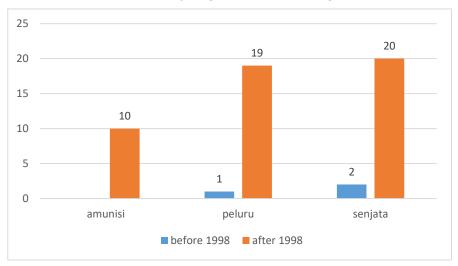


Chart 4. The ME before and after 1998 cluster ammunition, bullet, and weapon

From the cluster amunisi (ammunition), peluru (bullet), and senjata (weapon), a significant rise in metaphorical expression can be seen. Amunisi (ammunition) even only used after 1998, whereas peluru (bullet) with 19 metaphorical expressions, and senjata (weapon) with 20 metaphorical expressions.

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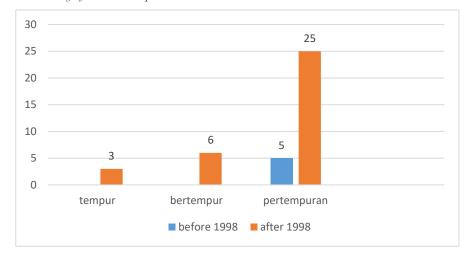


Chart 5. The ME before and after 1998 cluster tempur (combat)

The use of metaphorical expression from cluster *tempur* (combat) and its derivational form also changed significantly before and after 1998. the base word *tempur* (combat) and the derivational bertempur (to combat) were only recorded in use as metaphorical expressions after 1998, whereas *pertempuran* (combats) has been recorded as five metaphorical expressions before 1998 and 25 metaphorical expressions after 1998.

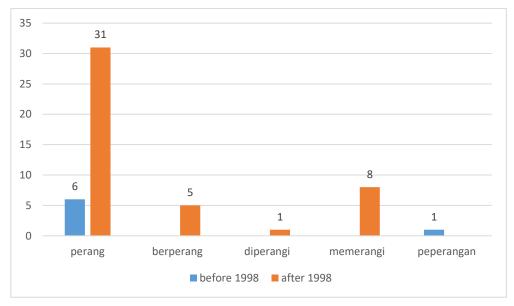


Chart 6. The ME before and after 1998 cluster perang (war)

The cluster perang (war) has all of the variations of the derivational process as well as the base form used as a metaphor. The highest metaphorical expression is the base word itself, perang (war) with a total of 37 metaphorical expressions. 6 metaphorical expressions were used before 1998, whereas 31 metaphorical expressions were used after 1998. The derivational from of berperang (to fight), diperangi (being fought), and memerangi (to fight sth) have all been used as metaphors after 1998. whereas peperangan (wars) is recorded with only 1 metaphorical expression and was used before 1998.

## **CONCLUSION**

The rise of the use of war source domain to speak about politic can be observed after 1998. It shows that conceptually the political disourse is seen as a two pole that against each other. Furthermore, there are few war

metaphors that are only observed after 1998. The change and dynamic of Indonesian politics has brought an impact to language variation especially in semantic change and meaning extension where previous literal term has been extended to be used metaphorically to describe the abstract concept of politics. This diachronic development of language that is observed proof that the social political change that occur within particular speech community will also impact the development of a language. Further study should be conducted to analyze a longer span of diachronic use of particular metaphor and to relate it with Indonesian social political change and development.

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