



## The Meaning of Polysemy in Political Reporting: A Semantic Study of the Gorontalo Bureau of ANTARA's National Newspaper

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the form of polysemy (nouns, verbs, adjectives) in political news of LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau, describe its function in journalistic discourse, and reveal the nature of polysemy meaning as a relationship between lexical and contextual meaning in the Gorontalo election discourse community for the 2024-2025 period. Using a qualitative descriptive analysis approach with semantics, data was taken from 20 political news scripts on [antaranews.com/gorontalo](http://antaranews.com/gorontalo) (November 2024-May 2025) covering the issues of the North Gorontalo PSU, election lawsuits, money politics, grant budgets, and election law enforcement. Data analysis follows the Miles & Huberman model with a semantic theory foundation. The results of the study identified 81 polysemy data with an unequal distribution: dominant nouns (68 data) such as “decision”, “stages”, “grant”, “lawsuit”, “rights”; verbs (11 data) such as “title”, “release”, “upload”; and adjectives only 2 data (“conductive”, “heavy”). These words undergo expansion, specialization, and transference of meanings typical of institutional election discourse. The function of polysemy encompasses three layers: linguistic economy and referential precision, subtle expressive-persuasiveness without violating neutrality, and educational-contextuality that activates readers’ knowledge of election regulations. The essence of its meaning consists of general lexical meaning and specific contextual meaning active in the election community. Polysemy is not ambiguity, but rather a systematic and efficient linguistic strategy for conveying complex information while maintaining journalistic objectivity. These findings confirm polysemy as a characteristic of regional election discourse and a potential teaching material for semantic learning, media literacy, and civic education.

*Keywords: meaning of polysemy, political reporting, semantic study*

## Bentuk dan Makna Polisemi dalam Pemberitaan Politik: Kajian Semantik pada LKBN ANTARA Biro Gorontalo

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan: 1) bentuk dan makna penggunaan polisemi dalam berita politik LKBN Antara Biro Gorontalo; 2) fungsi polisemi dalam berita politik LKBN Antara Biro Gorontalo. Penelitian terbatas pada pemberitaan periode 2024-2025. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan analisis semantik. Data dikumpulkan dari 20 naskah berita politik di [antaranews.com/gorontalo](http://antaranews.com/gorontalo) (November 2024-Mei 2025) yang mencakup isu PSU Gorontalo Utara, gugatan pilkada, politik uang, hibah anggaran, dan penegakan hukum pemilu menggunakan pedoman observasi. Analisis data mengikuti model Miles & Huberman dengan landasan teori semantik. Hasil penelitian: 1) polisemi dengan distribusi timpang: nomina dominan (68 data) seperti “putusan”, “tahap”, “hibah”, “gugatan”, “hak”; verba (11 data) seperti “gelar”, “rilis”, “unggah”; serta adjektiva hanya 2 data (“konduktif”, “berat”). Kata-kata tersebut mengalami perluasan, spesialisasi, dan transferensi makna khas wacana institusional pemilu. Fungsi polisemi meliputi tiga lapis: kehematan bahasa dan ketepatan rujukan, ekspresif-persuasif halus tanpa melanggar netralitas, serta edukatif-kontekstual yang mengaktifkan pengetahuan pembaca tentang regulasi pemilu. Hakikat maknanya terdiri atas makna leksikal umum dan makna kontekstual khusus yang aktif dalam komunitas pemilu. Polisemi bukan ambiguitas, melainkan strategi kebahasaan sistematis dan efisien untuk menyampaikan informasi kompleks sambil menjaga objektivitas jurnalistik. Temuan ini menegaskan polisemi sebagai ciri wacana pemilu daerah serta bahan ajar potensial untuk pembelajaran semantik, literasi media, dan pendidikan kewarganegaraan.

*Kata kunci: makna polisemi, pemberitaan politik, kajian semantik*

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a primary means of human communication, dynamic, flexible, and constantly evolving in line with changing social, cultural, political, and institutional needs within society. As a symbolic system that connects thought to the realities of the outside world, language not only conveys information denotatively but also shapes perceptions, opinions, and shared understanding through deeper layers of meaning. In Indonesia's increasingly mature and procedurally sound democratic era, particularly following the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) and various election disputes at the regional level, language in political reporting has become a primary arena where the development of meaning occurs rapidly, structured, and highly functional. One of the most prominent linguistic phenomena in political journalistic discourse is polysemy, a condition in which a single lexeme or linguistic unit (especially a word) has multiple semantically related meanings, traceable to the same root meaning, but differing depending on the context of its use. This phenomenon differs from homonymy, where the meanings are unrelated, and also from ambiguity, which often leads to unclear understanding.

In political reporting by the National News Agency (LKBN) Antara Gorontalo Bureau between November 2024 and May 2025, polysemy was a highly dominant and systematic linguistic feature. A preliminary analysis of 20 official news articles published on [antaranews.com/gorontalo](https://antaranews.com/gorontalo)—covering crucial issues such as the revote (PSU) in North Gorontalo Regency, the election results lawsuit at the Constitutional Court, a vote-buying case involving a village head on the wanted list (DPO), the evaluation of election grant budgets, the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu)'s monitoring of the cooling-off period, and the use of the Sirekap application—found 81 instances of polysemy with a highly skewed word class distribution: 68 instances of nouns (approximately 84%), 11 instances of verbs, and only 2 instances of adjectives.

The dominance of nouns reflects the nature of political discourse, which is saturated with administrative, legal, and procedural terms related to election institutions. Dominant nouns such as "decision," "stages," "grant," "lawsuit," "rights," "trial," "evidence," "evaluation," "budget," and "conditions" repeatedly appear with meanings that have shifted significantly from their general lexical meanings as stated in the latest edition of the Great Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI, 2021). For example, the word "grant," which lexically means a voluntary gift without expecting anything in return, in the context of the 2024 Pilkada budget evaluation news specifically refers to state funds allocated through the Regional Grant Agreement (NPHD), strictly regulated by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 54 of 2020, subject to audit by the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK), and must be returned to the regional treasury if not fully utilized—as was the case with the remaining IDR 1 billion grant funds in Bone Bolango Regency.

The word "decision" no longer only means a general final decision, but rather an official and binding decision from the Constitutional Court (MK) or the Election Supervisory Agency that triggers a series of complex operational consequences, such as an estimated budget for the North Gorontalo PSU reaching Rp9.5 billion, the formation of a new ad hoc body, and the implementation of re-organization of technical guidance for Voting Officers and Voting Organizing Groups (KPPS). The word "stages" which originally meant ordinary steps has become the official stages of the election regulated in detail in the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU), complete with a fixed schedule, implementation mechanisms, and legal sanctions for violations.

The same shift in meaning was also observed in the verb class, which, although fewer in number, exhibited a highly consistent and institutionalized polysemy pattern. The word "gelar," which lexically means to spread or distribute something (Chaer, 2009), shifted to the meaning of formally organizing official election activities, such as



holding technical guidance for the Election Committee (PPS/KPPS) in various sub-districts or holding campaign coordination meetings ahead of the revote. The word "rilis" changed from meaning to release or free to officially announce information by a state institution, for example, the release of the wanted list (DPO) by the North Gorontalo Police regarding suspects in a money politics case. The word "unggah," which essentially means to elevate to a higher position, in the context of election digitization is interpreted as entering voting results form data into the Sirekap application with high speed and accuracy, placing the Gorontalo Provincial General Elections Commission (KPU) in second place nationally.

In the adjective category, although only two items were detected: "konducif" and "berat," the shift in meaning remains significant and evaluative. The word "conducive," which lexically means supporting the growth or development of something, has shifted to describe a safe, controlled situation, free from security disturbances, and supporting the smooth running of the post-2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections (Pilkada Serentak) democratic process throughout the Gorontalo region. Meanwhile, the word "heavy," which originally referred to physical weight, has become a metaphor for the difficulty, intensity, and pressure of the marathon task faced by election organizers in handling the simultaneous stages and resolving disputes.

This polysemy phenomenon is not a form of ambiguity that interferes with readers' understanding or a journalist's linguistic error, but rather a deliberate, systematic, and highly functional journalistic strategy for conveying complex political-legal information within a limited news space (Pateda, 2011). As a state news agency, LKBN Antara is obligated to uphold the principles of covering both sides, objectivity, accuracy, and neutrality, making polysemy an ideal tool for conveying concise information without falling into excessively persuasive language (Chaer, 2014). Furthermore, polysemy also carries a strong educational-contextual function because

it forces readers to activate background knowledge schemas regarding KPU regulations, the role of Bawaslu, Constitutional Court decisions, the Sirekap mechanism, and the management of regional election grant funds—thus indirectly increasing political literacy, election law, and media among the Gorontalo community (Aminuddin, 2008).

Thus, the semantic study of polysemy in political reporting by the Gorontalo Bureau of LKBN Antara not only provides a profound theoretical contribution to the development of Indonesian linguistics—particularly lexical semantics, institutional discourse semantics, and meaning relations in journalistic language—but also has broad practical implications for understanding the dynamics of procedural democracy at the regional level, strengthening critical media literacy in the era of massive digital information, and providing a corpus of authentic, current, and locally issue-based teaching materials for more contextual and meaningful Indonesian language learning at the high school level.

Based on the background of the problem described above, this study formulates the following research questions. First, how is the use of polysemous meaning—which includes the distribution of nouns, verbs, and adjectives as well as mechanisms of meaning shift such as expansion, specialization, and transference—in political news in the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau media from November 2024 to May 2025? Second, how does polysemous meaning—including its economy of language, subtle expressive-persuasive function, and educational-contextual function—function in building, strengthening, and maintaining the coherence and neutrality of political journalistic discourse in the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau media? Third, what is the nature of polysemous meaning, in the form of dynamic relationships, differences, and interactions between lexical meaning (general dictionary meaning) and contextual meaning (specific election meaning) that are only active within the election discourse community in Gorontalo Province through LKBN

Antara Gorontalo Bureau news coverage during the same period?

This research was conducted with the following objectives. First, it describes the use of polysemous meanings (noun, verb, and adjective) in political news in the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau. Second, it outlines the function of polysemous meanings in political journalistic discourse. Third, it reveals the nature of polysemous meanings, namely the relationship between lexical and contextual meanings active in the election discourse community in the province through the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau media for the 2024–2025 period.

This research is expected to provide broad theoretical and practical benefits for various stakeholders. Theoretically, this research enriches the body of Indonesian language semantics with empirical data on polysemy in the institutional discourse of regional elections, thereby serving as a reference for the development of theories of meaning relations, media discourse semantics, and corpus linguistics based on actual journalistic texts. Practically, for the researcher, this study provides an applicable platform for integrating semantic theory with real-world text analysis, enriching qualitative methodological experience, and building a research portfolio relevant to contemporary democratic issues. For high school students, the research findings help foster a critical attitude toward political media language, understand the layers of ambiguous meanings of words, and enhance media literacy to avoid news misinterpretations that can fuel social polarization in the digital age. For Indonesian language teachers, the research provides a corpus of authentic teaching materials in the form of 20 Antara news scripts that can be directly used to teach semantic polysemy, lexical-contextual meaning relations, and critical discourse analysis using an engaging and meaningful local issue-based project approach. For school principals and regional education policymakers, these findings provide a strategic foundation for designing programs to strengthen language and media

literacy, integrate civics education based on political news analysis, and prepare the younger generation to become intelligent voters capable of objectively interpreting the realities of democracy. Polysemy is a type of meaning relation in semantics which is defined as a linguistic phenomenon in which one form of lexeme or language unit (word, phrase, or even sentence) has several meanings which are semantically related, can be traced back to the same basic root meaning, and differ according to the context of speech or discourse (Pateda, 2011: 112; Chaer, 2009). In contrast to homonymy whose meanings are completely separate without semantic relationship, polysemy maintains a common thread of meaning which allows readers or listeners to trace the origins of the differences.

The mechanisms by which polysemy occurs include three main processes: generalization, where the basic meaning expands to encompass a new, broader domain; specialization, where meaning becomes more limited and specific within a particular field or institutional context; and transference, often metaphorical (transfer based on similarity) or metonymic (transfer based on proximity) from a concrete to an abstract domain or vice versa (Pateda, 2011).

In journalistic discourse, particularly political discourse, polysemy plays a strategic role as lexical economy, a crucial tool for language efficiency, given the limitations of news space, production time, and reader consumption capacity. This allows for the delivery of dense, complex, multi-layered information containing legal regulations without sacrificing clarity, accuracy, and the principles of journalistic objectivity and neutrality, which are the obligations of state news agencies (Chaer, 2014). Aminuddin (2008) asserts that meaning is essentially a dynamic relationship between language as a symbolic system and the outside world resulting from a shared agreement within the language-using community, so that contextual meaning will only be fully activated when the word is used in a specific discourse such as regional elections. Within the election discourse



community—which involves organizers (the General Elections Commission), supervisors (the Elections Supervisory Agency), the judiciary (the Constitutional Court), law enforcement officials (the police), journalists from state news agencies, and the reading public—a very strong consensus of specific meanings has formed so that polysemy becomes highly functional without creating ambiguities that are detrimental to shared understanding (Rahmawati, 2023).

Suaibah (2016) in his thesis entitled "Polysemy in the Media Indonesia Newspaper Political Column and its Implications for Indonesian Language and Literature Learning in Junior High School" conducted a qualitative descriptive analysis based on Stephen Ullmann's semantic theory on the corpus of Media Indonesia's political column in the March 2015 edition, successfully identifying 18 polysemous lexemes divided into three word classes (verbs, adjectives, nouns), found linguistic factors such as word class changes, metaphors, and metonymy as well as extralinguistic factors in the form of socio-political contexts as triggers for polysemy, and emphasized the potential of political news texts as authentic teaching materials to train the ability to understand contextual and critical meanings—so that this research becomes the main reference in compiling a theoretical framework for identifying polysemy, data analysis techniques, and justification for selecting a national political news corpus as a rich and relevant object of study for educational implications. Ardhila (2016) in her thesis entitled "Polysemy of the Word Good in Newspapers" applied a qualitative descriptive approach to 356 corpus data from the February 2016 editions of *Republika* and *Tempo* newspapers, finding ten different meanings according to the definition of the Big Indonesian Dictionary, all of which appeared in the data, as well as a shift in word classes from adjectives to verbs, nouns, and even particles in constructions such as "good... or...", thus providing in-depth methodological inspiration in categorizing meanings based on official lexicographic references as well as intensive

analysis of the productivity and flexibility of one high-frequency lexeme in everyday journalistic discourse.

In a journal article titled "The Use of Microstructures of Semantic Studies in Political News in the Sumatera Ekspres Daily, January 2019 Edition and Its Implications for Indonesian Language Learning," published in the Indonesian Language Didactic Journal, Volume 1, Number 2, July 2020, Sari and Edi (2020) found that polysemy in political news serves as a trigger for activating readers' political knowledge schemas, enhancing contextual understanding, and having significant educational implications for Indonesian language learning in schools. Therefore, this study is highly relevant because it uses a similar corpus of regional political news, focusing on aspects of contextual function, micro-semantic mechanisms, and learning benefits, which aligns with the study of polysemy in political news from the Gorontalo Bureau of the National News Agency (LKBN) Antara, as a representation of the institutional discourse of regional elections, rich in regulations, procedures, and local legal dynamics.

## METHOD

This study is a qualitative study using descriptive semantic analysis. The qualitative approach was chosen because polysemy is contextual and requires in-depth interpretation of the news text. The research design is a documentation study that analyzes political news scripts as authentic secondary data, without intervention from the subjects. The data collection site was the official website of the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau ([antaranews.com/gorontalo](http://antaranews.com/gorontalo)). The data collection period covered news published between November 2024 and May 2025, focusing on regional election issues such as the North Gorontalo re-election (PSU), election lawsuits, money politics, and grant budget evaluations. The data collection tool was a documentary study using a polysemy identification checklist based on Abdul Chaer's criteria (a single lexeme with multiple, interrelated meanings). A sample of 20 news

articles was purposively selected, specifically news rich in institutional election terms.

The data analysis technique followed the interactive model of Miles and Huberman, namely: (1) data reduction through selection and categorization of 81 polysemy data items based on word classes and mechanisms of meaning shift; (2) data presentation in the form of semantic analysis tables containing quotations, lexical meanings (KBBI), and contextual meanings; and (3) inductive conclusion drawing by comparing the findings with the semantic theories of Chaer, Pateda, and Aminuddin. Validity was strengthened through triangulation of theories and official election regulatory sources. This research is qualitative and uses descriptive semantic analysis methods. The data sources are 20 political news articles published on the official website of the LKBN Antara Gorontalo Bureau ([antaranews.com/gorontalo](http://antaranews.com/gorontalo)) between November 2024 and May 2025, covering the issues of the North Gorontalo Revote (PSU), regional election lawsuits, money politics, grant budget evaluation, and election law enforcement. The data collection technique used documentation studies, while data analysis followed the Miles & Huberman flow (data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions) based on Abdul Chaer's semantic theory.

## RESULT

### 1. *Hak* (Rights)

*"Kota Gorontalo (ANTARA) Sebanyak 578 warga binaan pemasyarakatan (WBP) Lembaga Pemasyarakatan (Lapas) Kelas IIA Gorontalo menggunakan hak pilihnya di tempat pemungutan suara (TPS) 901 di dalam Lapas di Kota Gorontalo, Provinsi Gorontalo, Rabu"*

"Gorontalo City (ANTARA) A total of 578 inmates (WBP) of the Class IIA Gorontalo Penitentiary (Lapas) exercised their right to vote at polling station (TPS) 901 inside the prison in Gorontalo City, Gorontalo Province, on Wednesday."

The polysemous meaning of the word "rights" consists of two meanings: basic (lexical) and contextual meaning: Basic (Lexical) Meaning: According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI): (1) noun: possession or ownership (e.g., goods that are not yours); (2) noun: authority or power to do something based on rules/laws (e.g., copyright, property rights); (3) noun: power over something or to demand (e.g., land rights); (4) noun: status/dignity (e.g., women's rights); (5) noun: balance between rights and obligations. The core meaning stems from the concept of truth, which extends to ownership. Derived (Contextual) Meaning: In discourse, "suffrage" refers to the political authority to elect leaders (voting rights in elections), which is derived from the meaning of legal authority. This is contextual because it is related to the civil rights of inmates (prisoners/detainees), which are still recognized even though they are limited in space.

The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are as follows: Metaphor: Rights as "power" is metaphorized from "right" (truth as a moral force that grants authority). Metonymy: Rights often represent parts of the legal system (e.g., "right" for human rights, where the word represents the entire concept). Associativity: Related to words such as "obligation" (opposition), "belonging" (partial synonym), or "vote" in a political context.

Interpretation of the Meaning & Interrelationship of the Word "rights": The basic meanings of "right" and "authority" are interconnected through legal association: inmates have the "right" (righteous authority) to vote, although this is not their full "ownership" (limited by status). In discourse, this emphasizes the inclusiveness of democracy, where political rights are not completely lost due to punishment, thus linking moral meaning (righteousness) with the civil context (authority). The connection between these meanings reinforces the narrative that rights are a social balance, such as the 578 people who "exercised their right to vote" even though 81 could not due to their region of origin.



## 2. Simulasi (Simulation)

*"Sebelum ini kita telah melakukan simulasi dari KPU Kota Gorontalo, "ucap dia."*

"Previously, we conducted a simulation from the Gorontalo City Election Commission," he said.

The polysemous meaning of the word "hak" consists of two, namely the basic meaning (lexical) and contextual meaning: Basic meaning (lexical): According to KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary): noun: (1) a training method by demonstrating something in the form of an imitation similar to the real situation; (2) depiction of a system/process through a statistical model or role-play. The core meaning is imitation or demonstration. Derived meaning (contextual): In discourse, "simulation from the Gorontalo City KPU" refers to a mock exercise of the voting process before the D-Day, derived from the meaning of training in preparation for the regional elections. This is contextual because it is carried out to ensure smooth running in prisons.

The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are: Metaphor: Simulation as "imitation" is metaphorized from physical reality to abstract (for example, a life simulation like a game). Metonymy: Represents overall preparation (part of the exercise for the main process). Associativity: Related to "exercise," "model," or the opposition of "reality" (not simulation).

Interpretation of the meaning & relationship between meanings in the word "hak" are: The basic meaning of imitation is related with training derivatives through preparatory associations: the KPU simulation was a simulation of an election to avoid problems in prisons, where 578 people ultimately voted safely. The linkage shows the simulation as a bridge between theory (model) and practice (voting), reinforcing the narrative of security discourse (assisted by the police).

## 3. Sidang (Hearing)

*"Sementara para teradu (KPU) membantah seluruh dalil aduan yang disampaikan kuasa pengadu dalam sidang pemeriksaan"*

"Meanwhile, the defendants (the General Elections Commission) denied all the arguments in the complaint presented by the plaintiff's attorney during the hearing."

The polysemous meaning of the word rights consists of two, namely the basic meaning (lexical) and contextual meaning: Basic meaning (Lexical): Based on KBBI: (1) noun: a meeting to discuss something; meeting (example: the meeting was attended by all members); (2) noun: all members of the council and so on (example: judge's trial; author's trial); (3) noun: many people; public; para (to indicate many). The core meaning comes from the concept of a formal gathering or meeting. Derived meaning (Contextual): In discourse, "examination hearing" refers to a court process or formal ethics examination (DKPP hearing), which is derived from the meaning of a meeting with a legal/administrative institution. This is contextual because it involves an examination of alleged violations of the KEPP by the KPU. The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are as follows: Metaphor: A hearing as a "meeting" is metaphorized from a physical assembly to an abstract process (such as a hearing as an "arena" for debate). Metonymy: Represents the entire institution (a section of members for the council as a whole, such as a judge's session for a court). Associativity: Related to "meeting" (synonym), "judge" (legal association), or the opposition "closed" (open vs. private hearing).

Interpretation of Meaning & Interrelationships between Meanings of the word "hak" are: The basic meaning of "meeting" is related to institutional derivatives through formal associations: the DKPP hearing is an examination meeting involving members (such as Chairman of the Assembly J. Kristiadi and the TPD), where "hearing" connects the collective meaning (the crowd) with the legal process. This association reinforces the narrative of ethical transparency, where the hearing becomes an arena for refuting the complainant's arguments against the KPU, highlighting the hearing as a tool for resolving election conflict.

#### 4. *Kuasa* (Power)

*"Beliau memberikan kuasa kepada saya dan rekan yaitu Rickiyanto J Monintja dan Gunawan, "katanya"*

"He gave authority to me and my colleagues, namely Rickiyanto J Monintja and Gunawan," he said.

The polysemous meaning of the word rights consists of two, namely the basic meaning (lexical) and contextual meaning: Basic meaning (lexical): According to KBBI: (1) noun: ability or capability (to do something); power; (2) noun: authority over something or to determine (to govern, represent, manage, etc.); (3) noun: a letter containing the granting of rights or authority from one person to another; a letter of mandate; (4) noun: representative (lawyer, substitute). The core meaning is power or authority. Derived meaning (contextual): In discourse, "complainant's power" refers to a legal representative or lawyer (Frengki Uloli as Herson Hadi's attorney), a derivative of the meaning of authority to legal representation. This is contextual because it involves granting a mandate to file a complaint against the KPU at the DKPP hearing.

The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are: Metaphor: Power as "strength" is metaphorized from the physical (body strength) to the abstract (legal authority as the "power" of representation). Metonymy: Representing a person holding authority (power of attorney for the attorney himself). Associative: Related to "authority" (synonym), "mandate" (power of attorney), or "weak" opposition (without power).

Interpretation of the Meaning & Interrelationships between the Meanings of the word "rights": The basic meaning of power is related to the derivative representation through legal association: the complainant's power of attorney is the authority granted by Herson Hadi to Frengki to dispute the KPU decree, linking the meaning of ability (to argue) with the mandate. The interrelationships between the meanings

emphasize the dynamics of discourse, where power becomes the complainant's tool to challenge the "arbitrariness" of the KPU, demonstrating power as a balance of power in the ethical process.

#### 5. *Putusan* (Decision)

*"Putusan* pengadilan atas kasus tindak pidana pemilu dalam pasal tersebut harus selesai dalam lima hari setelah penetapan hasil pemilu secara nasional. Tetapi SK terbit jauh melampaui itu yakni 21 Juni 2024, sementara penetapan hasil pemilu itu 20 Maret 2024, "kata Frengki".

"The court's decision on election crimes under the article must be completed within five days of the national election results being determined. However, the decree was issued much later, on June 21, 2024, while the election results were determined on March 20, 2024," said Frengki.

The polysemous meaning of the word "right" consists of two meanings: basic (lexical) and contextual: Basic (Lexical) Meaning: According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), the noun is the result of a decision (e.g., based on a court decision). The core meaning is the result of a decision or resolution process, related to the root "putus" (finished, cut off). Derived (Contextual) Meaning: In discourse, "court decision" refers to an official legal decision (Limbo District Court Decision Number: 39/Pid.Sus/2024/PN Lbo), derived from the meaning of "result" to a binding legal document. This is contextual because it serves as the basis for the KPU's elimination of legislative candidates.

The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are as follows: Metaphor: Metaphor: The verdict as a "result" is metaphorized from a physical cut (severance) to the abstract end of the process (the verdict as the "cut" of the debate). Metonymy: Represents the entire judicial process (the outcome section for the entire court). Associative: Related to "decision" (synonym), "punishment" (criminal association), or the opposition "process" (the verdict as the end).



Interpretation of the Meaning & Interrelationship Between Meanings of the word "rights" are: The basic meaning of the decision is related to legal derivatives through the association of resolution: the court decision is the result that triggers the decree of revocation, linking the meaning of resolution with the time limit (Article 484 of Law 7/2017). This connection strengthens the narrative of the discourse on legal flaws, where the verdict becomes the focal point of the dispute between the complainant and the KPU, highlighting the verdict as determining the fate of the legislative candidate.

#### **6. Klasifikasi (Clarification)**

"Furthermore, the complainant confirmed that the North Gorontalo Election Commission (KPU) had never asked for clarification."

The polysemous meaning of the word "hak" consists of two meanings: basic (lexical) and contextual: Basic Meaning (Lexical): According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI): noun: clarification, explanation, and return to the truth (regarding scientific work, etc.). Verb: clarify (to clarify, to explain). The core meaning is the process of explaining for clarity. Derived Meaning (Contextual): In discourse, "asked for clarification" refers to a formal request for clarification (the KPU requested clarification from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), but the complainant claims they were never asked), a derivative of the meaning of explanation, referring to legal/administrative verification. This is contextual because it relates to the procedures prior to removal.

Basic Meaning (Lexical): According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI): noun: clarification, explanation, and return to the truth (regarding scientific work, etc.). Verb: clarify (to clarify, to explain). The core meaning is the process of explaining for clarity. Derived Meaning (Contextual): In discourse, "asked for clarification" refers to a formal request for clarification (the General Elections Commission (KPU) requested

clarification from the PDIP, but the complainant claims it was never requested), a derivative of the meaning of explanation to legal/administrative verification. This is contextual because it relates to the procedures prior to the removal.

The semantic relations of metaphor, metonymy, and associativity are as follows: Metaphor: Clarification as "clarification" is metaphorized from clearing water (physical) to clearing information (abstract). Metonymy: Represents the entire verification process (the explanation part of the investigation). Associativity: Related to "explanation" (synonym), "verification" (association), or the opposition "blurry" (without clarification).

Interpretation of Meaning & Interrelationships between Meanings of the word "rights" are as follows: The basic meaning of explanation is related to the derived meaning of verification through the association of clarity: clarification to the PDIP (despite the complainant's denial) is clarification of information before the decree, linking the meaning of returning the truth to the procedure. The interconnectedness of meanings emphasizes the controversy of discourse, where a lack of clarification becomes a pretext for ethical violations, connecting it with other elements such as power (representation) and decisions (results).

#### **7. Esimasi (Estimate)**

"The estimated cost of the re-election (PSU) consists of over IDR 7 billion for the local General Elections Commission (KPU)."

First Meaning: (Estimate in Figures or Numerical Projection) In the context of news, estimate refers to a numerical estimate, namely a rough calculation or numerical projection based on initial data, such as the estimated cost of a revote (PSU) of Rp9.5 billion, which is stated as a provisional figure and still needs to be revised after consultation with the Supreme Audit Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI). Second Meaning: (Estimate in an Informal Context) In everyday conversation, estimate can be used to

express a casual guess or estimate without a formal calculation basis.

### 10. *Anggaran (Budget)*

"Previously, the General Elections Commission (KPU) proposed a budget of Rp8 billion, but after revisions, it was reduced to just over Rp7 billion," said the Regional Secretary. (news excerpt)

First Meaning: (Fund Allocation Plan or Cost Estimate) In the context of news, a budget refers to a structured fund allocation plan or cost estimate for a specific activity, such as the 2025 Regional Budget (APBD) used to fund a Revote (PSU), including efficiencies from items such as Unexpected Expenditures (BTT). Second Meaning: (Cost Estimate or Budget in a General Context) More broadly, a budget refers to an estimate or planned cost for an activity, project, or need, whether at the government, organizational, or individual level.

### 11. *Rapat (Meeting)*

"North Gorontalo Regional Secretary (Sekda), Suleman Lakoro, in Gorontalo, announced the estimated amount on Thursday after leading a Zoom meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) regarding the review of proposed PSU funding. The meeting, attended by the General Elections Commission (KPU), Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), elements of the Regional Leadership Communication Forum (Forkopimda), and relevant regional apparatus organizations, took place in the Tinepo room of the Regent's office." (news excerpt)

First Meaning: (Official Meeting with a Specific Agenda) In the context of news, a meeting refers to an official gathering or group of people holding a structured discussion with a specific agenda, such as a Zoom meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss the proposed funding for a Revote (PSU). Second Meaning: (General Meeting or Deliberation) More broadly, a meeting

refers to a gathering or deliberation held to discuss various topics, both in formal (such as organizational or governmental) and semi-formal (such as community) contexts.

### 12. *Ruang (Space)*

"North Gorontalo Regional Secretary (Sekda), Suleman Lakoro, in Gorontalo, Thursday, stated the estimated amount after leading a Zoom meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) regarding the review of the proposed PSU funding. The meeting was attended by the General Elections Commission (KPU), Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), elements of the Regional Leadership Communication Forum (Forkopimda), and related regional apparatus organizations. The meeting took place in the Tinepo room of the Regent's office." (news excerpt)

First Meaning: Physical Place or Concrete Location In the context of news, space refers to a physical place or concrete location, such as the Tinepo room at the Regent's office. The regent's office is used as a venue for Zoom meetings. Second Meaning: Opportunity or Freedom (Abstract) More broadly, space can refer to opportunity, flexibility, or the possibility to do something in an abstract context.

### 13. *Standar (Standards)*

"The General Elections Commission (KPU) uses the price standard in accordance with the Minister of Finance's Circular (SE) concerning standard costs for implementing the PSU. Meanwhile, the regional government uses Presidential Regulation (PERPRES) Number 33 of 2020 concerning regional unit price standards. We need to consult with them regarding this for appropriate budget allocation," he said (news excerpt).

First Meaning: Standard Measure or Official Benchmark In the context of news, standard refers to standard measures or official benchmarks, such as the regulations stipulated in the Circular Letter



(SE) of the Minister of Finance and Presidential Decree Number 33 of 2020, which are used to regulate the budget for the Re-Voting (PSU) and will be consulted with the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK RI). Second Meaning: (Quality or General Level) More broadly, a standard refers to a generally accepted level of quality, norm, or criterion used as a reference for evaluating something.

#### 14. *Pos* (Posts)

"There are budget items that we are streamlining to allocate to the costs of implementing the Revote (PSU). For example, the Unexpected Expenditure (BTT) allocated Rp 3 billion for this year, we are forced to streamline Rp 2.5 billion for the PSU costs," said the Regional Secretary (news excerpt).

First Meaning: (Fund Allocation Section in the Budget) In the context of news, a post refers to a specific section or item in the budget allocation used to fund a specific activity, such as budget items streamlined to fund the Revote (PSU), for example, the Unexpected Expenditure (BTT) of Rp 2.5 billion. Second Meaning: (Place or Physical Location) More broadly, a post can refer to a specific physical place or location, such as a guard post, police post, or command post within an activity.

#### 15. *Program* (Program)

"Several programs and activities will undergo the same measures, including streamlining budget allocations in the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). "Local" (news excerpt)

First Meaning: (Structured Activity Plan or Agenda) In the context of news, a program refers to a structured activity plan or agenda that has been designed in the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD), where budget efficiency is achieved by reducing funds from certain programs to fund the Revote (PSU). Second Meaning: (Program in the Context of Technology or

Computers) More broadly, a program refers to software or applications designed to perform specific tasks on computers or electronic devices.

#### 16. *Determinasi* (Determination)

"Next week we will discuss it with the DPRD Budget Agency. We will also target the determination of the costs for implementing the Revote," he added (news excerpt)

First Meaning: (Legal Decision or Official Determination by the Authority) In the context of news, a determination refers to an official decision or determination by the competent authority, such as the determination of the costs for implementing the Revote (PSU), which will be discussed with the DPRD Budget Agency to determine the final budget allocation. Second Meaning: (Determination or Appointment in a General Context) More broadly, determination refers to the act of officially determining or establishing something, such as appointing someone to a certain position or setting the date of an event.

#### 17. *Ruang* (Space)

"We have held a meeting with the regional government, in this case with Acting Regent Sila Botutihe, accompanied by Regional Secretary Suleman Lakoro, in the regent's office," said North Gorontalo General Elections Commission (KPU) Chairman Sofyan Jakfar in Gorontalo, Tuesday (news excerpt).

First meaning (Physical Place): Refers to a concrete or spatial location that can be physically identified, such as a specific room or area. In the news, this meaning is used to indicate the "regent's office" as the meeting place between the North Gorontalo KPU (led by Sofyan Jakfar) and Acting Regent Sila Botutihe and Regional Secretary Suleman Lakoro. This meaning originates from the basic concept of "space" as a physical dimension (from the Latin "spatium"), which in Indonesian is often used for official work locations in government contexts. Second meaning

(Opportunity/Expansion): Refers to the abstract concept of opportunity, chance, or scope to do something, without a physical dimension. In the news, this is explicit in the sentence "the meeting provided space for the parties to explain "budget needs," where "space" signifies the opportunity for the General Elections Commission (KPU) to convey its Rp 8 billion budget requirement to the Regional Leadership Council (TAPD). This meaning is related to the first meaning through metaphor: the "broad" physical space is analogous to an "open" opportunity. This semantic development is common in administrative language to imply flexibility in discussions.

### 18. Anggaran (Budget)

"Ready or not, the regional government must be ready to facilitate the implementation of the PSU. Regarding the budget, in addition to coordinating and communicating the regional financial condition to the provincial government, efficiency measures in the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) are also being implemented for the 2025 Fiscal Year," he said. (news excerpt)

First Meaning (Fund Allocation Plan): Refers to a structured plan for officially allocating funds, often in the context of the state or regional budget. In the news, this is dominant in the "budget needs" of Rp 8 billion presented by the KPU, as well as the efficiency in the 2025 APBD mentioned by Regional Secretary Suleman Lakoro. The origin of the meaning is "anggar" (limit or plan), which in the government context refers to the allocation of funds from the APBD for the PSU. Second Meaning (Cost Estimate/Alleged): Refers to a rough estimate or presumptive expenditure without a final, formal structure. In the news, this meaning is implied in the KPU's initial statement before further coordination, such as "we need Rp8 billion in funds," which is still awaiting TAPD approval. This meaning is related to the first meaning through the process: initial estimates (estimates) often form

the basis for official allocation plans, reflecting the semantic evolution from informal to formal.

### 19. Jadwal (Schedule)

"He said the implementation of the PSU is awaiting an official letter from the KPU RI, including the schedule and human resources (HR) of ad hoc bodies at the sub-district, village, and polling station (TPS) levels" (news excerpt).

First Meaning (Timetable): Refers to a structured list of activity timelines, often with specific temporal elements. In the news, this is used for the "timetable" for the re-election (PSU) awaiting official approval from the Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU), including coordination with ad hoc human resources at the sub-district and polling station (TPS) levels. The original meaning of "schedule" is a timetable (from the Arabic "jadwal" meaning table), which in the election context refers to an official timeline. Second Meaning (General Plan): Refers to broad planning without a specific time focus, such as an overall strategy. In the news, this meaning is not explicit but can be implied in the KPU's overall preparation for the re-election (PSU). These meanings are related through generalization: the (specific) timetable evolves into a general plan, reflecting the semantic expansion of planning language.

### 20. Surat (Letters)

"He said the implementation of the revote (PSU) is awaiting an official letter from the Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU RI), regarding the schedule and human resources (HR) of the ad hoc bodies at the sub-district, village, and polling station (TPS) levels" (news excerpt)

First Meaning (Official/Written Document): Refers to a document with legal or administrative authority, often containing official instructions. In the news, this is used for "an official letter from



the KPU RI" specifying the schedule and human resources for the revote. The original meaning of "surat" is an official writing (from the Arabic "surah"), which in a bureaucratic context means an official instrument. Second Meaning (Personal Message): Refers to written communication that is informal or personal in nature. In the news, this meaning is irrelevant, as the context is entirely administrative. These meanings are related through the written form, but differentiated by formality: official vs. personal.

## DISCUSSION

The polysemous meanings in these news stories can be divided into two interrelated yet distinct layers: lexical and contextual meaning. Lexical meaning is the basic meaning listed in dictionaries or generally applicable outside of a political context, while contextual meaning is the specific meaning that is only active when the word is placed within the discourse of election law and Antara Biro Gorontalo's journalistic practice.

The word "rilis," for example, lexically means to release or set free, but in the news about the money politics case in North Gorontalo, it changes to officially announcing the police's wanted list (DPO). The word "putusan," which lexically means a final decision, in this context becomes the decision of the Constitutional Court or Bawaslu (Elections Supervisory Agency) that triggers a re-election and a new budget allocation. The word "stages," which originally meant only ordinary steps, becomes an official election stage regulated by the Elections Regulation (PKPU) and has binding legal consequences. Similarly, "hibah," which originally meant a voluntary donation, becomes state funds for regional elections that must be accounted for.

This difference in meaning aligns precisely with Rahmawati's definition of polysemy (in Putri, N. M. & Winda, N. 2024:9), which states that a single lexeme has several interrelated meanings that can be traced back to the same root meaning, but these differences are triggered by different speech contexts. Aminuddin (2008:48) emphasizes

that meaning is the relationship between language and the outside world, resulting from mutual understanding among language users. Within the Gorontalo election community, consisting of the General Elections Commission (KPU), the Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), the Constitutional Court (MK), the police, Antara journalists, and readers who follow election issues, a strong contextual agreement has formed on meaning, allowing words to be directly understood in their political meaning without the need for additional explanation.

Thus, the polysemy in the political news of the Gorontalo Bureau of Antara News Agency is not a disruptive ambiguity, but rather a highly functional, efficient, and contextual adaptation of language to convey complex information within a limited news space, while maintaining the principles of accuracy, economy, and journalistic neutrality.

Implications of the use of polysemy in Indonesian language learning in schools. In Indonesian language learning at school, the polysemy that appears in political news in the Gorontalo Bureau of the LKBN Antara newspaper has become a very important and effective tool. When teachers bring original news texts about the re-election (PSU), money politics, grant funds, the Constitutional Court hearing, or Sirekap (recapitalization) into the classroom, students immediately recognize and understand the specific meanings of words like "stages," "decision," "grant," "release," "title," "conductive," "lawsuit," "voting rights," "trial," "evidence," and "evaluation" without requiring lengthy explanations. These words are already familiar because they have been appearing in their environment for the past year, so the contextual meaning of the election is immediately activated as soon as they are read or heard.

As a result, the material on polysemy and meaning relations, which usually feels abstract and boring, becomes very easy, quick, and enjoyable to teach and learn. Teachers only need to show a single sentence from the Antara news report and

then invite students to compare the lexical meaning (general dictionary meaning) with the contextual meaning (specific to the election), and students are immediately able to explain it themselves accurately and confidently. This process makes semantic competence, which has previously been difficult to achieve, very easy, while also naturally practicing critical reading and media literacy skills.

Indonesian language teachers now consider Antara's periodical reports to be the "most lively semantics textbook" ever, as the examples are authentic, always up-to-date, and eliminate the need for forced, contrived sentences. Material on meaning expansion, specialization, transference, and the distinction between lexical and contextual meaning, which used to take a long time, is now completed in a short time, while students are even more enthusiastic about learning.

Based on the discussion of the implications of polysemy, it can be concluded that Antara's reports are not a barrier, but rather the quickest and most effective bridge for teachers and students to achieve the goals of Indonesian language learning: understanding, analyzing, and using language appropriately in everyday contexts.

Based on an analysis of political news published in the Gorontalo Bureau of the National News Agency (LKBN) Antara, it was found that polysemy plays a significant role in shaping the meaning of political discourse. The polysemous meanings that emerge in news stories do not stand alone but are always influenced by the social, political, legal, and institutional context surrounding the events being reported. Thus, a word not only has its lexical meaning as stated in the dictionary but also experiences expansion and specificity of meaning according to the context of its use in the news.

Polysemous meanings in political news often appear in words related to democratic processes and elections. A word like "hak," for example, lexically means "ownership" or "authority." However, in the context of political news, it refers to a citizen's right to vote in determining leaders through elections. This meaning is not merely individual but also represents the principles of

democracy and popular sovereignty. Thus, the polysemous meaning of "hak" broadens readers' understanding that elections are a means of exercising citizens' constitutional rights.

Furthermore, polysemous meanings are also found in words related to legal institutions and processes. The word "decree," for example, generally means the result of a deliberation or decision. In the context of political news, this word specifically refers to the official decision of a judicial institution, such as the Constitutional Court, which is binding and determines the continuation of the election process. This polysemous meaning affirms the legal authority and legitimacy of state institutions in resolving political disputes.

Polysemous meanings are also evident in words related to election administration and finance, such as "budget." Lexically, this word means a financial plan. However, in the context of political news, "budget" can mean a plan, allocation of funds, and responsibility for the use of state funds. This broadening of meaning allows one word to represent the entire election finance management process, allowing complex information to be conveyed concisely and efficiently.

In the aspect of supervision and law enforcement, polysemous meanings appear in words that shift from concrete to abstract meanings. The word "patrol," for example, not only refers to the activity of patrolling to maintain security but also implies intensive monitoring for potential election violations. Similarly, the word "alarm," which lexically refers to a warning device, is interpreted in the news context as a sign of Bawaslu's vigilance against potential fraud. This polysemous meaning serves to emphasize the seriousness and preparedness of the election supervisory agency.

Polysemous meaning is also found in metaphorical words, such as "door" and "room." The word "door" doesn't just refer to a building's structure; in the context of political news, it's interpreted as the initial stage or access to a particular process, such as the entrance to handling



violations. Meanwhile, the word "room" doesn't just refer to a physical location; it also refers to an opportunity or authority held by a particular institution. The use of this metaphorical meaning helps readers understand abstract political and legal processes more concretely.

Overall, the polysemous meaning in the political news from the Gorontalo Bureau of the LKBN Antara shows a tendency to use concise, effective, and contextual language. Polysemy allows a single word to contain multiple layers of interrelated meaning, allowing news to convey information concisely without losing clarity. The polysemous meaning that emerges also avoids ambiguity, because the context of the discourse clearly directs the reader to the intended meaning.

## CONCLUSION

An analysis of 20 political news articles from the Gorontalo Bureau of the National News Agency Antara News Agency (LKBN Antara) for the period November 2024–May 2025 found 81 cases of polysemy. These cases indicate significant shifts in meaning in various lexemes used in reporting on regional election issues, such as the Revote in North Gorontalo, election disputes, money politics, grant management, and the election monitoring and digitization process. The emerging polysemy represents a systematic language adaptation within the context of the institutional discourse of the Gorontalo elections. The shift in meaning from general lexical to specific contextual meanings reflects the semantic richness of Indonesian in the fields of regional politics and law, while providing a valuable authentic corpus for the study of lexical semantics and media discourse analysis in Indonesia.

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