



## An Analysis of Appositive Phrases in Observation Report Texts: Qualitative Approach

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to describe the forms, functions, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage in observation report texts written by eighth-grade students of SMP Deli Murni Diski. The study was conducted at SMP Deli Murni Diski during the 2024/2025 academic year. The population consisted of all observation report texts produced by eighth-grade students, while the sample comprised 69 observation report texts selected using a total sampling technique. This study employed a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The researcher served as the primary research instrument, supported by a data analysis sheet developed based on the indicators of the forms, functions, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage. Data were collected through documentation techniques and analyzed using the stages of data reduction, data presentation, linguistic analysis, and conclusion drawing. The findings revealed that the use of appositive phrases in the students' observation report texts was very limited. Of the 69 texts analyzed, only one contained an appositive phrase, namely Kucing Peliharaan. The phrase consists of two noun phrases referring to the same entity, with Kucing peliharaan functioning as the head phrase and kucing peliharaan as the explanatory phrase. The appositive phrase was used accurately because it fulfilled the characteristics of an appositive construction. Meanwhile, most of the texts did not contain appositive phrases and instead relied on definitional, classificatory, and descriptive sentences to present information about the observed objects. These findings indicate that students' ability to use appositive phrases in observation report writing has not yet developed optimally.

*Keywords: appositive phrase, observation report text, qualitative approach*

### INTRODUCTION

Writing ability is a language skill that students must master during Indonesian language instruction. Through writing activities, students are expected to convey ideas and information logically, systematically, and in accordance with Indonesian language rules. One writing competency taught at the junior high school level is the composition of observation report texts. These texts serve to present factual information based on objective observations; therefore, their construction requires attention to text structure and the precise use of linguistic elements. The correct use of linguistic elements results in a text that is clear, informative, and easily understood by the reader. Conversely,

imprecise use of linguistic elements leads to less detailed information and potentially gives rise to varying interpretations.

One linguistic element that helps clarify information in observation report texts is the appositive phrase. Appositive phrases fall under the study of syntax and serve to provide additional explanation regarding a noun that shares the same referent. The inclusion of an appositive phrase makes the information within a sentence more detailed without altering its core meaning. Alwi et al. (2014:10) state that an appositive phrase is a noun phrase that provides information about another noun sharing the same referent, while

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Chaer (2015:45) explains that an appositive phrase is placed alongside the core element to act as a clarifying element. Thus, the use of appositive phrases serves as an indicator of a student's ability to utilize syntactic aspects to produce communicative and informative observation report texts.

Based on preliminary observations conducted by the researcher in the Grade VIII class at SMP Deli Murni Diski, it was found that the use of appositive phrases in students' observation report texts remains very limited. Students predominantly use simple sentences without adding explanatory phrases that could clarify the object of the observation. An analysis of 69 observation report texts revealed that only one text (1.4%) utilized an appositive phrase, whereas the remaining 68 texts (98.6%) did not. This situation indicates that the majority of students have not utilized appositive phrases as a linguistic element when composing observation report texts; consequently, the information conveyed tends to be general rather than detailed.

This phenomenon aligns with previous studies showing that the application of linguistic aspects in observation report texts remains problematic. **Dian Permata Nela and Zulfikarni (2024:3)** found various inaccuracies in students' use of phrases within these texts. **Okvita Zuryarti Reska (2020)** reported that while students did employ linguistic elements in their observation report texts, errors in usage were still evident. Similarly, **Vira Rahayu and Trinil Dwi Turistiani (2025:13)** concluded that the linguistic quality of students' observation report texts requires improvement, particularly regarding the use of phrases and sentences. However, existing research has largely focused on phrases or linguistic elements in general. Studies specifically analyzing appositive phrases in students' observation report texts remain scarce; thus, this research offers a novel contribution by focusing on the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage in the observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski.

Based on the preceding explanation, the problem formulation for this study is as follows: what are the forms and functions of appositive phrases, and how accurately are they used in the observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski?

This study aims to describe the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage in the observation report texts of eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski. From a theoretical perspective, the results are expected to enrich the study of syntax, particularly regarding appositive phrases in the Indonesian language. From a practical perspective, the findings are expected to serve as a basis for teachers to evaluate and improve instruction on writing observation report texts, as well as to provide a reference for other researchers examining phrase usage in Indonesian language education.

## METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach utilizing descriptive and syntactic methods. A qualitative approach was selected because the study aims to describe the use of appositive phrases in students' observation report texts based on linguistic data—specifically words, phrases, and sentences—while the syntactic approach is used to examine the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage within sentences. The descriptive method is applied to characterize the phenomenon of appositive phrase usage systematically, factually, and objectively, in accordance with the data obtained. Data analysis is conducted using content analysis to identify and interpret the use of appositive phrases in the students' observation report texts.

The study is conducted at SMP Deli Murni Diski—located at Jalan Binjai Km 14.5, Sumber Melati Diski Village, Sunggal District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra—involving eighth-grade students during the 2025/2026 academic year. The research procedure comprises three stages: data collection, data identification and



classification, and data analysis leading to the drawing of conclusions. The research data consists of 69 observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski. Data was obtained from students' written documents and analyzed based on the research focus: the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage. The researcher served as the primary instrument, responsible for identifying, classifying, and interpreting the data. Data collection involved documentation and note-taking techniques; documentation was used to gather students' observation report texts as the data source, while note-taking was used to record sentences containing appositive phrases in accordance with the research indicators. To ensure data validity, the study employed credibility checks through persistent observation and theoretical triangulation, comparing analysis results against the theories of Alwi et al. (2014:10), Chaer (2015:45), and Kridalaksana (2008:10).

Data analysis proceeded in stages: reading the complete observation report texts, identifying sentences containing appositive phrases, classifying the data based on form, function, and usage accuracy, and coding each data item. Subsequently, the data was analyzed using the distributional method—specifically the Immediate Constituent (BUL) technique—to break down the relationships between core elements and explanatory elements. The analysis continued with deletion, substitution, and expansion techniques to examine the function, semantic relationships, and usage accuracy of the appositive phrases within the sentences, thereby yielding a comprehensive description of appositive phrase usage in the students' observation report texts.

## RESULTS

This study analyzes the use of appositive phrases in 69 observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski during the 2025/2026 academic year. The analysis aims to describe the forms and functions of appositive phrases, as well as the accuracy of their

usage within the observation report texts. All texts underwent a process of identification, classification, and syntactic analysis to obtain data aligned with the research focus. The results indicate that the use of appositive phrases in the students' observation report texts is very limited. Out of the 69 texts analyzed, only one (1.4%) contained an appositive phrase, while the remaining 68 texts (98.6%) did not. These findings suggest that while most students are capable of structuring observation reports according to the standard format, they have not yet utilized appositive phrases as a linguistic device to provide additional explanation regarding the observed objects.

### 1. Forms of Appositive Phrases in Observation Report Texts

Based on the identification process, only one instance met the characteristics of an appositive phrase: Data D13, found in an observation report titled *Kucing Peliharaan* written by Clara Selian. This instance represents the only use of an appositive phrase identified across the entire research corpus.

Data D13: "Pet cats (\**Felis catus*\*) are carnivorous mammals belonging to the Felidae family. These cats are among the most popular pets in the world due to their tame, docile nature and their ability to easily adapt to human environments. Based on breed, cats can be categorized into two main types: purebred cats (Persian, Angora, and Siamese) and domestic or common cats (\*kucing kampung\*)."

Based on this excerpt, the phrase being analyzed is "Kucing peliharaan (*Felis catus*). " The identification results indicate that the phrase kucing peliharaan (pet cat) is a noun phrase functioning as the core element, while *Felis catus* is a noun phrase functioning as the explanatory element. Both phrases refer to the same entity: the pet cat. The first element employs the object's common name, whereas the second uses its scientific name, providing a more specific identification of the same object. Thus, the phrasal structure identified

consists of two noun phrases juxtaposed in an appositive relationship.

During the identification process covering all research data, no other appositive phrase structures with similar characteristics were found. While some texts did employ scientific terms, common terms, or explanatory sentences, further analysis revealed that they did not meet the criteria for an appositive phrase, as they failed to demonstrate a relationship between two noun phrases referring to the same entity. Consequently, Data D13 serves as the sole instance used to describe the appositive phrase structure in this study.

## 2. Function of the Appositive Phrase in the Observation Report Text

Analysis of Data D13 indicates that the phrase *felis catus* functions as an explanatory element for the phrase *kucing peliharaan*. The inclusion of the scientific name provides a more specific identification of the object under discussion, thereby rendering the conveyed information more comprehensive. The addition of this explanatory element does not alter the sentence's core meaning; rather, it clarifies the object's identity by citing its scientific name. Thus, the function of the appositive phrase identified in this study is to provide additional information that clarifies the identity of the object of observation.

The identification results also indicate that this function was not found in the other data. Most students preferred to explain objects using definitional, classificatory, or descriptive sentences. While these patterns conveyed information about the object of observation, they did not provide additional explanation through an appositive relationship. Consequently, the information conveyed tended to be purely descriptive, without utilizing appositive phrases as explanatory elements.

## 3. Accuracy of Appositive Phrase Usage in Observation Report Texts

In addition to analyzing form and function, this study examined the accuracy of appositive

phrase usage in students' observation report texts. The analysis revealed that the phrase "*Kucing peliharaan (Felis catus)*" [Pet cat (*Felis catus*)] was used correctly. Both elements constituting the phrase were noun phrases referring to the same entity, with the second element serving to explain the first. Based on this identification, Data D13 was deemed to meet the study's criteria for appositive phrase usage.

Conversely, 68 other texts did not exhibit the use of appositive phrases. The findings showed that students predominantly used definitional sentences to define the object, classificatory sentences to categorize it by type, and descriptive sentences to outline its characteristics, alongside sentences explaining the object's function, benefits, habitat, and environment. While these patterns align with the characteristics of observation report texts, they do not constitute an appositive relationship, as they lack two noun phrases referring to the same entity within a single construction. Therefore, none of these data points were categorized as instances of appositive phrase usage.

Overall, the research findings indicate that the use of appositive phrases in observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski remains very low. Out of the 69 texts analyzed, only one instance met the criteria for an appositive phrase, while the vast majority of texts did not utilize this linguistic form. These findings indicate that students are able to construct observation report texts by employing definition, classification, and descriptive sentences; however, the use of appositive phrases to clarify the identity of the object remains very limited. These results serve as the basis for further discussion regarding the use of appositive phrases in observation report texts.

## DISCUSSION

This study aims to describe the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage in observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski. Based on the



analysis of 69 observation report texts, the use of appositive phrases was found to be very limited. Only one text exhibited the characteristics of an appositive phrase, while the majority of texts did not demonstrate the use of this linguistic structure. These findings indicate that while students are capable of composing observation report texts according to the required structure, they have not yet utilized appositive phrases—a syntactic element that can clarify the identity of the observed object.

The appositive phrase identified in this study appears in Data D13: kucing peliharaan. The analysis reveals that the phrase kucing peliharaan functions as the core element, while kucing peliharaan serves as the explanatory element. Both phrases share the same referent, thereby establishing an appositive relationship. Placing the scientific name after the common name provides the reader with more specific information without altering the sentence's core meaning. The inclusion of this explanatory element renders the conveyed information clearer, more detailed, and more objective. This demonstrates that the use of appositive phrases plays a significant role in enhancing the quality of information delivery in observation report texts, particularly when the writer describes objects that possess scientific names or specialized terminology.

These findings align with the views of Alwi et al. (2014), who define an appositive phrase as a construction consisting of two noun phrases sharing the same referent, where the second element serves to explain the first. In the research data, the phrase kucing peliharaan does not introduce a new object but rather provides a scientific identity for the previously mentioned phrase, kucing peliharaan. Consequently, the relationship established is one of clarification, enriching the information without changing the sentence's primary meaning. The results indicate that the concept of appositive phrases proposed by Alwi et al. is present in student writing, even though the frequency of usage remains very low.

The results of this study also support the view of Chaer (2015), who states that an appositive relationship occurs when two linguistic elements share the same referent and one element serves to explain the other. In the phrase kucing peliharaan, both elements refer to the same object but are expressed using different forms of designation: the first uses a common name, while the second uses a scientific name. This difference in designation actually provides the reader with greater clarity regarding the object under discussion. Thus, the use of an appositive phrase not only enriches the syntactic structure but also enhances the precision of information—a key characteristic of observation report texts.

Furthermore, the research findings align with the view of Kridalaksana (2008), who explains that apposition is a relationship between two linguistic elements sharing the same referent, where the second element serves to elaborate on the first. Analysis of Data D13 reveals that the phrase kucing peliharaan functions as an elaboration of the phrase kucing peliharaan; thus, the resulting relationship satisfies the characteristics of an appositive phrase. The use of this scientific name clarifies the object's identity without altering the information previously conveyed. Consequently, the use of appositive phrases in the research data can be considered consistent with Indonesian syntactic rules.

On the other hand, the findings indicate that the majority of students did not employ appositive phrases in their observation report texts. Identification of texts lacking appositive phrases reveals that students predominantly used sentences for definition, classification, and description, as well as sentences explaining the object's function, benefits, and habitat. This pattern suggests that students are more accustomed to using simple sentence structures to describe the objects of their observations. Although these patterns meet the fundamental characteristics of observation report texts, syntactic structural variations capable of providing more detailed explanations have not

been optimally utilized. As a result, while the produced texts successfully convey core information, they lack diversity in the use of linguistic elements.

This tendency indicates that instruction on writing observation report texts still places greater emphasis on mastering text structure than on the in-depth use of linguistic elements. In classroom practice, students are generally guided to write sections covering general definitions, classifications, and object descriptions in accordance with the text structure. However, instruction regarding phrase variation—specifically appositive phrases—has not received adequate attention. This situation may be a contributing factor to the infrequent use of appositive phrases in the observation report texts analyzed in this study.

When compared to the research conducted by Dian Permata Nela and Zulfikarni (2024), a similarity exists in that both studies examine the use of phrases in students' observation report texts. That study revealed inaccuracies in students' use of phrases, whereas this study demonstrates that the use of appositive phrases is actually quite limited. The difference lies in the scope of the research: Dian Permata Nela and Zulfikarni analyzed various types of phrases, while this study focuses specifically on appositive phrases. Consequently, this study provides a more in-depth insight into a type of phrase that has received little attention in previous research.

The results of this study also relate to the research conducted by Okvita Zuryarti Reska (2020), which examined linguistic conventions in observation report texts. That study concluded that while students employed linguistic elements in their observation reports, certain inaccuracies in usage persisted. These findings align with the current study, as the infrequent use of appositive phrases indicates a need to improve students' mastery of linguistic elements. The distinction lies in the scope: Okvita Zuryarti Reska's study addressed linguistic conventions comprehensively, whereas the present study focuses specifically on

appositive phrases as a syntactic element. Thus, this study complements previous research by providing a more specific analysis of appositive phrase usage.

Furthermore, the results of this study are linked to the research by Vira Rahayu and Trinil Dwi Turistiani (2025). Their study indicated that the linguistic quality of students' observation reports was generally good, although certain aspects—particularly phrase and sentence usage—required improvement. The current study reinforces these findings; the limited use of appositive phrases suggests that students have not yet optimized their ability to utilize a variety of phrase structures. The difference is that while Vira Rahayu and Trinil Dwi Turistiani assessed linguistic quality in general terms, this study specifically examines the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage. Consequently, this study offers more detailed information regarding a specific linguistic aspect that warrants attention in the teaching of observation report writing.

Based on the research results and comparisons with prior studies, this research offers a novel contribution by specifically analyzing appositive phrases in observation reports written by eighth-grade junior high school students. While previous studies largely addressed phrase usage in general or linguistic conventions as a whole, this study concentrates on the form, function, and accuracy of appositive phrases. Thus, this study contributes to the field of syntactic research, specifically regarding the use of appositive phrases in the writing of observation reports.

The findings of this study have implications for Indonesian language instruction at the junior high school level. Teachers need not only guide students in structuring observation reports correctly but also pay attention to the use of linguistic elements, particularly appositive phrases. Through continuous practice, students are expected to use appositive phrases accurately, thereby making the information conveyed in the text clearer, more specific, and more scientific.



Consequently, students' writing skills will develop not only in terms of text structure but also in the precise use of syntactic elements in the Indonesian language.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of 69 observation report texts written by eighth-grade students at SMP Deli Murni Diski, it can be concluded that the use of appositive phrases in student writing remains very limited. The research results indicate that only one text contained an appositive phrase, while the majority of the other texts did not demonstrate the use of this linguistic form. These findings suggest that when composing observation report texts, students rely more heavily on definition, classification, and description sentences to explain the observed objects, rather than utilizing appositive phrases—a syntactic element that serves to provide additional explanation for a noun.

The appositive phrase identified in this study is kucing peliharaan. This phrase consists of two noun phrases sharing the same referent: "kucing peliharaan" serves as the core element. The analysis confirms that the identified appositive phrase meets the characteristics of appositive phrases as defined by the study's indicators.

The study also demonstrates that the function of an appositive phrase in an observation report text is to provide additional explanation for a noun, thereby rendering the conveyed information clearer, more detailed, and more specific. The inclusion of the explanatory element within the appositive phrase does not alter the sentence's core meaning but reinforces the object's identity through the mention of its scientific name. Thus, the use of appositive phrases supports the delivery of more objective information and clarifies the object serving as the focus of observation within the report.

Regarding the accuracy of usage, the phrase "Kucing peliharaan (Felis catus)" was employed correctly; both constituent elements are noun phrases referring to the same entity, and the second element functions to explain the first. Conversely,

the other texts failed to meet the criteria for appositive phrases, as no relationship was found between two noun phrases sharing the same referent. Therefore, it can be concluded that the use of appositive phrases in the observation report texts written by Grade VIII students at SMP Deli Murni Diski has not yet fully developed, even though the students were able to construct texts that adhered to the general structure and characteristics of observation reports. This conclusion indicates that the research objective was achieved through the description of the forms, functions, and accuracy of appositive phrase usage, based on data obtained from the students' observation report texts.

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