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Olympic Games 2020: Discourse of the Japanese Government after Postponed in japantimes.co.jp

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Abstrak - Wabah COVID-19 telah berhasil membuat penyelenggaraan Olimpiade Tokyo 2020 ditunda. Ini menjadi kabar yang memilukan ketika Jepang hampir siap menjadi tuan rumah Olimpiade ke-32. Ini adalah yang kedua di Jepang selama Olimpiade yang diadakan pada Olimpiade tahun 1940 tetapi harus dibatalkan karena Jepang masih berperang dengan Cina sejak tahun 1937. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui wacana pemerintah Jepang tentang Olimpiade 2020 di pertengahan wabah COVID-19 setelah ditunda. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah analisis wacana kritis van Dijk pada berita online di japantimes.co.jp setelah penyelenggaraan Olimpiade Tokyo 2020 akhirnya diumumkan pada 24 Maret 2020 untuk ditunda. Temuan dalam penelitian ini adalah selama penundaan Olimpiade 2020 pemerintah Jepang berusaha menggunakan waktu untuk menstabilkan kondisi ekonomi di tengah wabah COVID ke-19 dan memanfaatkan waktu tersebut untuk menjadikan Olimpiade Tokyo menjadi ajang Olimpiade terhebat dari sepanjang waktu.

Kata kunci: Olimpiade 2020; Wacana; Pemerintah Jepang; COVID-19; Ditunda.

Abstrak - *The COVID-19 outbreak had succeeded in making the holding of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games postponed. This became heartbreaking news when Japan was almost ready to host the 32nd Olympic Games. This was the second in Japan during the Olympic Games, held in the 1940 Olympic Games but had to be canceled because Japan was still at war with China since 1937. This research aims to determine the Japanese Government's discourse on the 2020 Olympic Games in the mid of the COVID-19 outbreak after postponed. The method used in this research is the analysis of van Dijk's critical discourse on online news in japantimes.co.jp after the implementation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was finally announced on 24 March 2020 to be postponed. The findings in this study are that during the 2020 Olympic Games postponement, the Japanese Government tried to use the time to stabilize economic conditions during the*

19th COVID outbreak and use the time to make the Tokyo Olympic Games become the most incredible Olympic Games event of all time.

Keywords: *Olympic Games 2020; Discourse; Japanese Government; COVID-19; Postponed.*

INTRODUCTION

The Olympic Games have never been delayed ever since it was first held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. Nevertheless, the Olympic Games never multiplied. The first Cancellation of the Olympic Games took place in 1916 due to the First World War, which took place from July 1914 to November 1918. The sixth Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Berlin, Germany, were canceled. In 1940 the Olympic Games were again postponed. Originally the XII Olympic Games were supposed to occur in Tokyo but later relocated to Helsinki, Finland. The Second World War lasted from 1939 until 1945 then canceled the 1940 Olympic Games. The Games set for London, England, in 1944 were also canceled due to World War II. London also hosted Olympic Games in 1948, Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952, and Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964 (Haryanto, 2020). The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is the first multi-pronged event to be postponed in Olympic Games history.

They are tracing the performance of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018. Participation by residents shows that the economic, infrastructure, and tourism impact has positively impacted the local, sustainable development and cultural exchanges, which positively affect community engagement. Sustainable regional development also has a positive and significant effect on community engagement. It also provides insight into the impact of host communities on developing areas (Kim et al., 2020). As the largest sporting event, the Olympic Games are generally believed to have a universally positive impact on the Olympic host country due to economic growth, job creation, increased patriotism, and significant press coverage. For example, the country's image and the image of the destination of the host country Brazil and the perceived image of the Olympic Games changed after the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, and it was reported that not everything was what the nation expected (Tasci et al., 2020). On the cost side, understated cost estimates result from an outdated bidding process that drives viewing beyond efficiency. The non-bid environment is more efficient and allows the host city to negotiate effectively with the International Olympic Committee. The 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games were lucrative and have shown that infrastructure reuse can save a lot of money to make the Olympic Games economically sustainable (Khraiche & Alakshendra, 2020). The postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games became the first Olympic Games to be postponed due to the outbreak, namely COVID-19, not because of war or security conditions that were the reasons for the previous Olympic Games.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) continues to spread throughout the world nine months after the first outbreak in China in November 2019. COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) as confirmed cases are approaching 200 000 patients with more than 8000 deaths in more than 160 countries (WHO, 2020). Following the initial description in Wuhan and China, Italy was first hit in Europe, and the impact was immense. The virus spread quickly, so 1,000 patients had been tested positive for two weeks from the first cases. One week later, the number of positive instances exceeded

4600, reaching more than 30 000 patients and 2500 deaths on 18 March 2020 (Pellino & Spinelli, 2020). The biggest challenge in the modeling of the outbreak of COVID-19 is that a large number of patients are hidden in the general population as they continue to infect others and that the only observable metric on which estimates can be based is the number of positive daily new cases confirmed by PCR tests (Odagaki, 2020).

The IOC President and Japan's Prime Minister have agreed that the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date after 2020, but not later than the summer of 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, of all those participating in the Olympic Games and of the international community (Tokyo2020, 2020). This is both a blessing and a challenge for Japan because Japan is the first Asian country to get twice the chance to host the Summer Olympic Games. But on this second occasion as the host, Japan was confronted with the COVID-19 outbreak that forced the Olympic Games to be postponed.

Preparations made and almost completed make Tokyo-Japan as the host of the Olympic Games must take a deep breath and be patient. They were given in large performances such as the Olympic Games unquestionably many foreign tourists come to watch this four-year sports event. However, specific reasons must be put in place to avoid the things that are not desirable. Nakamura, Wada, Yanagisawa, & Smith (2018) also argue that highly recommended that visitors attending Tokyo 2020 maintain an up-to-date routine vaccination schedule and appropriate hygiene measures for food and waterborne diseases as well as health promotion of heat-related illnesses. It is highly recommended that visitors attending Tokyo 2020 maintain an up-to-date routine vaccination schedule and appropriate hygiene measures for food and waterborne diseases and health promotion of heat-related illnesses (Nakamura et al., 2018). Even though according to Hori, Wakamatsu, Miyata, & Oozeki (2020), the planning process for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Tokyo is an opportunity to create new perspectives on outreach to the consumers of seafood and to encourage its potential sustainability (Hori et al., 2020).

Adequate diagnostic capacities must be planned for the host nation. Prevention measures and the appropriate epidemiological data should be given, so the correct decision concerning the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 is made (Gautret et al., 2020). The research is written by Gallego, Nishiura, Sah, & Rodriguez-Morales, (2020) hopes that the epidemic related to COVID-19 can spread quickly and widely in Japan. But the world medical community must be prepared to detect it early and provide the necessary epidemiological evidence so that preventive actions and appropriate decisions are made regarding the Olympic Games and Paralympic in Tokyo 2020 (Gallego et al., 2020). Added again that the hepatitis A virus (HAV) induces acute hepatitis A that spreads by contaminated food or water or through contact between individuals, And in Tokyo since 2018, it has been an epidemic among people who have sex with men (MSM) (Kurata et al., 2020). The postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games can be an evaluation and improvement in perfecting the readiness as a host and safety and comfort for those who come to Japan (such as Athletes, Trainers, officials) Games.

These reasons make the Japanese Government do a lot of work to organize the 2021 Olympic Games. Several previous studies related to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games examined related issues to provide epidemiological data for implementing the

Tokyo Summer Olympic Games 2020. Preventive action can be taken, and the right decisions for the Tokyo and Paralympic Games 2020 can be taken (Gallego et al., 2020). It also relates to Japanese national interest, using the concept of State Behavior, with four critical policy-making indicators, namely interests, challenges, opportunities, and capabilities. Interest factors dominate Japan's decision to host the 2020 Olympic Games. That the political, economic, and cultural interests of Japan are the 2020 Olympic Games (Mutiara, 2020).

However, in this study, the research focuses more on the news discourse on japantimes.co.jp as a Japanese media portal in reporting on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games' postponement. Each media has a different way to frame a story in a package. The news that has been displayed cannot be separated from its alignments (Dodd et al., 2017; Fitri & Suryawati, 2020; Maharani & Pasandaran, 2018). So, this research aims to find out the news discourse in japantimes.co.jp related to the Japanese Government in taking advantage of the 2020 Olympic Games' postponement.

METHODOLOGY

This research used a qualitative approach and van Dijk's method of critical discourse analysis. Qualitative research focuses mainly on the use of test methods and describes the belief that some persons or groups have arisen due to social or human problems (Creswell & Poth, 2017). For this research, Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework was used as it related textual analysis for general, focusing not just on the text but also on a more systematic approach to how a document was structured, not only concerning individuals but also between cultures (Susilo, 2017; Susilo & Haezer, 2017). Hence, using these three dimensions as a unit to be integrated is an important point from this debate review.

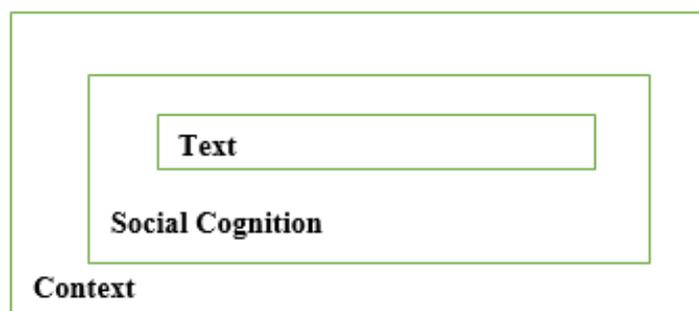


Figure 1. Discourse analysis framework model of Teun A. van Dijk
Source: (Eriyanto, 2001)

One of the most critical ways of thinking about discourse is recognizing that discourse is not merely a collection of signs or sections of a text but also a process used systematically to construct an object that is addressed (Mills, 1997; Sugihartati et al., 2020; Susilo et al., 2019; Susilo & Sugihartati, 2020). In this method Van Dijk dissects into three stages the components of this theoretical approach: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

Table 1. The components of van Dijk's analytical

Macrostructure
Global/general meanings of a text that can be observed in a topic/theme departs from a certain text.
Superstructure
Frame of a text, such as introduction, contents, closing remarks, and conclusion.
Microstructure
Local meaning of a text that can be observed from word choices, sentences, and word styling used in a text.

Source: (Eriyanto, 2001)

The text has a structure, which can be grasped in this analysis. Macrostructure is a significant meaning of a text which can be discussed in a document by the subjects or themes. The superstructure is a discourse feature that refers to the context of a text that already retains and assembles other sections in. The microstructure is a meaningful discourse that can be interpreted like a phrase, a paragraph, a preposition, a subsentence and images from a small part of a text.

Table 2. Elements of discourse van Dijk

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	ELEMENTS
Macrostructure	THEMATIC Theme/topic brought forward in a text	Topic
Superstructure	SCHEMATIC How a part and order of a news are being schemed in an intact news text	Scheme
Microstructure	SEMANTICS Meaning that wants to be emphasized in a news text such as by giving a detail on one side or making an explicit form of one side and reducing other sides.	Background, details
	SYNTAX How a sentence (form, arrangement) is being selected.	Sentence form, coherence, preposition
	STYLISTICA How a word being chosen as a part of news text	Lexicon

	RHETORICS How and in what way an emphasis is conducted.	Graphics, metaphor, expression
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Source: (Eriyanto, 2001)

The unit of analysis in this study is the signs in the form of online news texts from japantimes.co.jp related to Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo after 24 March 2020.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Postponed is Best Decision for Japanese Economic

Table 3. News analysis on 26 March, 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Postponing the Tokyo and Paralympic Olympic Games until the summer of 2021 amid a coronavirus pandemic is a fair decision which is intended to include an assessment for all participating athletes.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	Now the effort has to shift to organizing next year's game in a safe environment not just for athletes but for all the officials and spectators expected from around the world.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	The delay will push back the economic benefits associated with the Olympic Games. This will add to Japan's economic woes, which have been hit by the pandemic's impact, including swooping in inbound tourism, and are widely feared will lead to a prolonged recession.
	SYNTAX	Appearance of "economic" word
	STILISTICA	The choosing of "economic" and its mentioning as many as three times
	RHETORIC	Family caricature watching television with images symbolizing the coronavirus

Source: (Japantimes.co.jp, 2020b)

Based on the analysis, the Japanese Government made efforts to postpone the Olympic Games as a form of action to tackle the country's economic losses while fighting the spread of the COVID-19 infection in Japan. Especially in Tokyo, which has been declared a "serious risk of further outbreaks" due to the reported delays. Whether that decision will lead to Olympic Games success next year depends on what Japan will achieve in the coming months. The planning for the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games believes

that the postponed Olympic Games could help "launch" the Japanese economy. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated Japan like any other country, and may be in recession when the Olympic Games open on 23 July, 2021. Nevertheless, the Olympic Games offer an excellent economic stimulus tool. This Olympic Games can help revive the economy. The Olympic Games may be the rebirth of the tourism industry. However, high prices and crowds prevented visitors from attracting them to the previous Olympic Games, so tourism promotion should also be increased.

2021: The Greatest Olympic Games Ever

Table 4. News analysis on 31 March, 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Its final date has not yet been determined and depends largely on whether the latest outbreak of coronavirus is under control. If they are held next year as expected, the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games will be the biggest and most celebrated Olympic Games ever held.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	It is reported that financial considerations weighed heavily on the decision, with Japanese hosts and the IOC worried that a one-sided move would risk billions of dollars in liabilities falling on the decision-maker. Both had to work together to make sure they didn't get the blame for either. For delay both are still paying a high price.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	2020 Olympic Games, using it as a symbol of Japan's revitalisation, national unity and pride, just as the Tokyo Games of 1964 did. A successful Olympic Games would validate the Abe programme, allowing him to leave office to genuine cheers.
	SYNTAX	Appearance of "cost" word
	STILISTICA	The choosing of "cost" word and its mentioning as many as eight times

	RHETORIC	A runner dressed in white because of being chased by the corona virus, until finally the corona virus was destroyed in 2021
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Source: (Japantimes.co.jp, 2020a)

Based on the analysis, with quite a long time, until 2021, made an opportunity to ripen the readiness of Japan as the host. Adaptation is needed from the Japanese Government as the organizer of the Olympic Games in various aspects, expressions, and also the celebration of the Olympic Games. So as the only Olympic Games postponed in history, the Tokyo Olympic Games must be made as a global event. Of course, the opening ceremony which has become a tradition at every event in the Olympic Games has been awaited moment. All eyes of the world are the objects that must be satisfied in this Tokyo Olympic Games because the COVID-19 outbreak that has made people unable to freely enjoy the entertainment that is in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. So this opportunity should really be utilized by Japan as the host of the postponed 2020 Olympic Games. The Tokyo Olympic Games is a rare Olympic Games event in history, so it is unfortunate if held just like that in a mediocre way. The Japanese Government is trying to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak quickly and quickly, of course also with brilliant steps so that the 2021 Olympic Games will really be carried out as expected. The 2021 Olympic Games must be a world celebration that defeats little nationalism, not one that reinforces it. If that can happen, then this will be the greatest Olympic Games ever.

Commitment for Everyone

Table 5. News analysis on 7 April, 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	No Olympic Games have been delayed before, so no one knows what a month, let alone 12 months, is required to eliminate the gap in the game. No one knows how the pandemic coronavirus will be carried out.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	Executives of the organizing committee at least reassure staff in an email that a lot of their promotional effort wasn't going to waste. The decision to keep the games title Tokyo 2020 ensures the medals and merchandise won't have to be recast.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe announced the Japanese Government's full support and determination to make this solution work and eventually to have good games

	SYNTAX	Appearance of "commitment" word
	STILISTICA	The choosing of "commitment" and its mentioning as many as three times
	RHETORIC	The Olympic Games logo consists of five circles depicted in black, with an image of the corona virus behind the logo, and the words "Tokyo 2021"

Source: (Japantimes.co.jp, 2020c)

Based on the analysis, The Tokyo Organizing Committee has thousands of staff members asking whether their jobs are to be extended, whether they are to be temporarily laid off, or whether it is business as normal. So far, corporate sources suggest they haven't learned anything concrete about their near future. It also seems that there will be enough in the organizing committee's coffers to pay for the extension, with the responsibility to make sure that is the case falling to the Government. So that with the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many staff were temporarily not employed to keep the country's economic conditions stable and awake during the COVID-19 outbreak.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis that has been carried out, the discourse built by the Japanese Government in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak and after the postponement of the 2020 Olympic Games to 2021 on japantimes.co.jp that Japan as the host of the 2020 Olympic Games took advantage of the postponement of the Olympic Games by stabilizing Japan's economic conditions after a lot of funds must be spent to prepare for the 2020 Olympic Games. In addition, with a long enough time before the Olympic Games actually held, the Japanese Government will maximize itself as the host and make the Tokyo Olympic Games the greatest Olympic Games in this event.

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