

**AN ANALYSIS OF LOGICAL FALLACY ON ARGUMENTATION
BETWEEN JOKO WIDODO AND PRABOWO SUBIANTO DURING 2019
INDONESIA PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

Thesis

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain the Strata One
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**Jaka Satria Warman
2015/15019011**

Advisor

**Dr. Hamzah, MA M.M
NIP. 196112211990031001**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
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HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

Judul : An Analysis of Logical Fallacy on Argumentation
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during 2019 Indonesia Presidential Debate

Nama : Jaka Satria Warman

NIM : 15019011/2015

Program Studi : Sastra Inggris

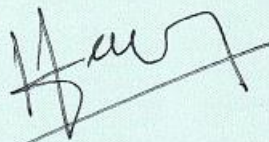
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

Disetujui oleh,

Pembimbing



Dr. Hamzah, M.A., M.M.
NIP. 19611221 199003 1 001

Mengetahui
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi
Program Studi Sastra Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang
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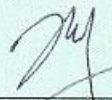
Nama : Jaka Satria Warman
NIM : 15019011/2015
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

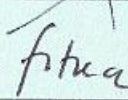
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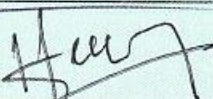
1. Ketua : Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum.

: 

2. Sekretaris : Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd.

: 

3. Anggota : Dr. Hamzah, M.A., M.M.

: 



UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI
JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INGGRIS
Jl. Belibis, Air Tawar Barat, Kampus Selatan FBS UNP, Padang, Telp/Fax: (0751) 447347

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Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Jaka Satria Warman
NIM/TM : 15019011/2015
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

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Diketahui oleh,

Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

...ng menyatakan,

Jaka Satria Warman
15019011/2015

ABSTRACT

Warman, Jaka Satria. 2018. “An Analysis of Logical Fallacies on Argumentation between Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto during 2019 Indonesia Presidential Debates”. Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Pdang

This research aimed at finding the types of logical fallacies made by two presidential candidates, Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto, during 2019 Indonesia presidential debates. The type of this research is descriptive research. The data are utterances which contain logical fallacies and the source of the data is the transcripts of four videos. The theory of fallacy classification by Damer (2009) was employed in this research. There are totally sixty types of fallacies based on the theory, but only the common ones (twenty types) were analyzed. The results show that there are some similarities and differences between the two candidates in making the types of fallacies. The fallacies of *arguing in a circle*, *drawing the wrong conclusion*, *false alternatives*, *cofusion of a necessary with a sufficient condition* and *red herring* were made by both condidates. The fallacies of *question begging definition*, *using the wrong reason*, *insufficient sample*, *abusive ad hominem*, *two-wrong fallacy*, *attacking a straw man* and *trivial objections* were only made by Joko Widodo. Meanwhile the fallacies of *incompatible premise*, *genetic fallacy*, *appeal to irrelevant authority*, *appeal to force or threat*, *manipulation of emotions*, *fallacy of composition*, *causal oversimplification* and *resort to humor or ridicule* was only made by Prabowo. *Abusive ad hominem* became the most dominant fallacy made by Jokowi with the frequency of 21.73% while *false alternative* was the most dominant fallacy made by Prabowo with the frequency of 31.25%.

Key words: logical fallacy, argumentation, presidential debate

ABSTRAK

Warman, Jaka Satria. 2018. “An Analysis of Logical Fallacies on Argumentation between Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto during 2019 Indonesia Presidential Debates”. Skripsi, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Pdang

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan tipe-tipe kesalahan logis yang dibuat oleh dua kandidat presiden, Joko Widodo dan Prabowo Subianto, selama debat presiden Indonesia 2019. Data penelitian adalah ujaran yang mengandung kesalahan logis dan sumber data adalah transkrip dari empat video debat. Teori klasifikasi kesalahan oleh Damer (2009) digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Ada enam puluh tipe kesalahan logis secara keseluruhan berdasarkan teori, tetapi hanya yang umum saja (dua puluh tipe) yang dianalisa. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa terdapat beberapa persamaan dan perbedaan antara kedua kandidat dalam membuat tipe-tipe kesalahan logis. Kesalahan logis *arguing in a circle, drawing the wrong conclusion, false alternatives, cofusion of a necessary with a sufficient condition and red herring* dibuat oleh kedua kandidat. Kesalahan logis *question begging definition, using the wrong reason, insufficient sample, abusive ad hominem, two-wrong fallacy, attacking a straw man and trivial objections* hanya dibuat oleh Jokowi. Sedangkan, kesalahan logis *incompatible premise, genetic fallacy, appeal to irrelevant authority, appeal to force or threat, manipulation of emotions, fallacy of composition, causal oversimplification and resort to humor or ridicule* hanya dibuat oleh Prabowo. *Abusive ad hominem* merupakan kesalahan yang paling dominan yang dibuat oleh Jokowi dengan frekuensi sebanyak 21.73% sedangkan *false alternative* merupakan kesalahan yang paling dominant yang dibuat oleh Prabowo dengan frekuensi sebanyak 31.25%.

Kata kunci: kesalahan logis, argumentasi, debat presiden

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

JW: Joko Widodo

PS: Prabowo Subianto

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research Problem

Linguistics has relationships with a lot of other disciplines which are referred to macro-linguistics. One of those disciplines is logic. It is the correlation between logic and meaning that makes logic interesting from a linguistic perspective (Gamut, 1991 p. 5). He added that the contribution of logic to linguistics is not only restricted to provide precise descriptions of the meanings of the grammatical conjunctions, negation, expression quantification and so on. It also offers semantic interpretations of syntactic operations when examining what arguments are valid on the basis of the meanings of the grammatical conjunctions and negation. Similarly, Lawyer (n.d.) states that logic is all about the relationships of meanings which are called propositions. In order to understand how language works, it is important to find its logical structure.

More specifically, Gamut (1991) regards logic as the science of reasoning. Reasoning has a variety of applications and one of them is argumentation. One area in which argumentation becomes the main focus is presidential debate. Presidential debates become the moments for the candidates to deliver their vision and mission as well as to encourage citizens to vote for them. Therefore, it is imperative for them to say something with adequate reasons or strong arguments. Otherwise, their saying is questionable or might be unacceptable. An argument consists of premise(s) and conclusion(s). Once the premises fail to support or

inadequately support its conclusions, the arguments of that sort are categorized as (logical) fallacy (Copi et al., 2014).

Language is also related with argument because language is used to formulate an argument. The tricky use of language can be manipulative or deceptive, and the thoughtless use of language can cause misperception and dispute (Copi et al., 2014). The result of such use of language is fallacy. Zhou (2018) argues that fallacies in political discourse are deceptive tricks that people include in their arguments which seem credible, yet they are actually used to fool the audience. The fallacy might occur both intentionally and unintentionally, yet both ways could cause a serious problem especially in presidential debate because it can influence and deceive people's perception toward what the politicians say.

Presidential debates becomes the most contributive and decisive factors in determining the winner of the election. Hayon (2005) states that the formulation of certain statements or arguments becomes an important consideration that it can influence public emotion and perception creating desired response from the public. Since a wide segment of society with different levels of knowledge and education is specially targeted, the aspects of logic are considered less important and might be eliminated, he added. What is more important for the politicians is how to raise public emotion and achieve their desired goals. That is why many political statements contain fallacies or have no consistency between the premise and conclusion (Hayon 2005). Zhou (2018) concluded in his research that political debates are now simply misleading and citizens are not aware of this problem. Therefore, the problem might not only influence the citizens' perception toward the candidates themselves, but also might influence the citizens' choice or vote.

Several studies on logical fallacies have been conducted in some areas such as argumentative writing, federal court and politics. In argumentative writing, there are several studies that have been conducted (Atai & Nasser, 2010; Ramasamy, 2011; Oktavia, 2014; Indah & Kusuma, 2015; Niamika and Utami, 2017; Widyastuti, 2018). Mahmood and Maryam (2010) conducted a gender-based research of informal fallacies on Iranian advanced EFL learners' argumentative writings. They found out that there was no significant difference between male and female in making logical fallacies. Similarly, Ramasamy (2011) also conducted a research with regard to informal fallacy. However, the objective of her research was to measure the level of critical thinking ability among Malaysian undergraduates by using informal fallacy and critical thinking dispositions.

Another research related to fallacy in argumentative writing was carried out by Indah and Kusuma (2015). They attempted to find fallacies in English department students' claims of fact, value and policy. The result shows that there were several 10 common fallacies made by the students namely hasty generalization, irrelevancy, slippery slope, oversimplification, begging the question, *ad populum*, appeal to emotion, appeal to authority, red herring, and straw man. In addition, Niamika and Utami (2017) also studied logical fallacies on argumentative writing specifically in the argumentative writing of Indonesian EFL learners. They also sought to ask the students' perspectives about the fallacy by doing focus group discussion with the participants.

In federal court, a research related to fallacy has been conducted by Enos et al. (2017). He examined negative effects of fallacy on the court decision and he

tried to eradicate the use of negative effect of fallacy in federal courts. He found that the fallacy has proliferated into the federal circuit and district court levels.

In politics, there are some kinds of studies regarding logical fallacies which have been conducted (Hayon, 2005; Khan et al., 2016; Melakopides, 2018; Zhou, 2018). Hayon (2005) studied the types of fallacies in political statements by presenting actual cases as illustrations. He found that many political statements contain the fallacy of composition which is shifting the distributing understanding to collective understanding. Khan et al. (2016) conducted a comparative research to investigate the manipulation of informal fallacies and their relevance as identity markers. He specifically only analyzed two types of fallacies; appeal to force and appeal to pity. The result of his research indicated that informal fallacies can be regarded as identity markers from political associations. Zhou (2018) examined the use of logical fallacies in political statements. While there are numerous types of fallacies, he only focused on 18 common ones and found several fallacies in each type.

Still in politics, but particularly in presidential debates, there has also been a research about logical fallacies which was conducted by Jennifer (2017). She examined the fallacies in the arguments of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the first U.S. presidential debate and found six common types of fallacies; straw person, *ad hominem*, hasty generalization, false cause, slippery slope and *ad populum*.

Based on the previous studies that have been conducted, the researcher attempted to conduct a research related to the topic, but in different atmosphere, which is in 2019 Indonesia presidential debate. The debates in each country could

be different one another because it can be influenced by a lot of factors just like what Isolatus (2011) found in his research. His research shows that a Finnish presidential debate is different in many ways from an American presidential debate. In addition, there are numerous studies of fallacy carried out in Western countries as mentioned above and particularly on American presidential debates (see Santoso, 2017; Zhou, 2018; Hameed, 2018), but the research is still rarely conducted in Eastern countries and there is no yet found in Indonesia. Therefore, this research sought to analyze and find out the types of logical fallacies in 2019 Indonesia presidential debates.

1.2. Identification of the Research Problem

Presidential debate is an interesting topic to be discussed as it grabs attention of millions of people in a particular democratic country. It can be studied through a number of linguistic approaches such as functional theory, critical discourse analysis, stylistic analysis and argumentative discourse. Each approach has its own goals. Functional theory sees the debate as inherently instrumental, a method to a desired end: gaining adequate votes to win the election. The approach has been commonly used to analyze the discourse of a complete campaign and frequently television debates and this approach can reveal the impacts of the debate. Critical discourse analysis can be employed to analyze discursive structures within the political discourse as well as to identify the ideology underlying them. Stylistic analysis is commonly used to find out the language styles used by the candidates. The last one is argumentative discourse which is the least common used approach. This approach can be used as a tool to examine arguments and logical fallacies on argumentation.

1.3. Limitation and Scope of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher only focused on the last approach in order to explore and analyze the types of logical fallacies produced by the two candidates in Indonesia presidential debate 2019. Sinnott-Amstrong and Fogelin (2010) explain that there are numerous kinds of fallacies and the number and variety could be limitless. However, it is unnecessary to construct a complete list of fallacies. What is necessary, they add, is to recognize the common and appealing types of fallacy. Therefore, the analyses of fallacies in this research were restricted to the twenty common types of fallacies based on theory of fallacy classification proposed by Damer (2009).

1.4. Formulation of Research Problem

The problem is formulated as follows: “what are the comparisons of logical fallacies between Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto during 2019 Indonesia presidential debates?”

1.5. Research Questions

The research questions in this research are as follows:

1. What are types of logical fallacies found in Jokowi’s arguments during Indonesia presidential debate 2019?
2. What are types of logical fallacies found in Prabowo’s arguments during Indonesia presidential debate 2019?
3. What are differences and similarities of logical fallacies on Jokowi’ and Prabowo’s arguments?

1.6. Purposes of the Research

This research seeks:

1. To find out the types of logical fallacies found in Jokowi's arguments during Indonesia presidential debate 2019
2. To find out the types of logical fallacies found in Prabowo's arguments during Indonesia presidential debate 2019
3. To find out the differences and similarities of logical fallacies on Jokowi' and Prabowo's arguments

1.7. Significance of the Research

This research theoretically contributes to logical fallacy theory especially on debate-related research which is still rarely studied. This can also be an assistive source for future researchers who want to research logical fallacies. Practically, for common people, this research is significant for them as a guidance to recognize logical fallacies which often take place and fool them. For Indonesians, this research is highly helpful to find out which candidate that, in fact, is more credible.

1.8. Definition of Key Term

Logical fallacies

Logical fallacy is a defective argument that violates one of the five criteria of a good argument; (1) structural criterion, (2) relevance criterion, (3) acceptability criterion, (4) sufficiency criterion and (5) rebuttal criterion.

Argument

Argument is a group of propositions that consist of premises and conclusions.

Indonesia Presidential debate

Indonesia presidential debates are argumentative debates between Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto which were held four times with different themes of each before the general election was held.