



## Metafunctional Meaning of the Ministry of Education and Research Policy on Education during the Pandemic: Functional Systematic Linguistic Study

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### ABSTRACT

The Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbudristek), is trying to overcome the spread of the Covid-19 virus so that it does not spread further. In connection with this, the Ministry of Education and Culture has issued a circular letter from the Minister of Education and Culture regarding the implementation of education policies during the Covid-19 emergency period and a circular letter from the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture regarding guidelines for organizing learning during the emergency period. This research aims to reveal ideational meaning which includes expressive meaning and logical meaning. This research is a type of qualitative research. The data for this research are clauses that contain ideational meaning. The data source is quoted from a letter published by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology regarding learning during the 2020-2021 pandemic. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation techniques, reading techniques and note-taking techniques. The data analysis techniques include data reduction, data presentation, inference and verification. The findings of this research are ideational meaning which includes (1) experiential meaning, and (2) logical meaning. The experiential meaning is, (a) the meaning of the material process in the phrase wash your hands, get used to a clean lifestyle . This phrase means living clean, preventing viruses, (b) the mental process in the phrase knowing learning methods contains the meaning of understanding, and in the phrase getting used to a clean lifestyle contains the meaning of habituation, (c) verbal process of the phrase implementing health protocols and hopefully we can share with each other. The first verbal phrase contains the meaning of prevention, and helping each other in dealing with Covid 19, (d) the relational process in the phrase being an ambassador for change and implementing cough etiquette, both phrases contain the meaning of preventing virus transmission, (e) the behavioral process in the phrase avoiding physical contact and the phrase limiting guests. This phrase contains the meaning of keeping your distance. (2) Logical meaning, namely the use of conjunctions and, after, as long as, because, as, as, and before.

**Keywords: metafunctional meaning, ideational meaning of policy, education, pandemic times.**

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The development of Covid-19 spread very quickly to a number of regions in Indonesia and has ultimately caused drastic changes in various aspects of life, starting from the economic, social, cultural, religious and educational aspects .

One of the policies that has undergone fundamental changes is the education sector. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemdikbudristek) has issued a Circular Letter from the Minister of Education and Culture Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policy in the Emergency Period for the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (covid-19) and a Circular Letter from the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture Number 15 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Learning from Home during the Emergency Period for the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (covid-19).

As a result of this policy, educational institutions began to stop face-to-face learning (Khasanah et al., 2020) . Instead, the learning process takes place remotely and is carried out using social media networks called online learning (Astini, 2020) . There are several applications that can be used to help carry out teaching and learning activities, including *Whatsapp Group*, *E-learning*, *Google Classroom*, and *Zoom* .

Functional Systemic Linguistics or often called LSF studies the use of language in certain functions and social backgrounds. This LSF theory focuses more on text and context. LSF has two main aspects, namely 'systemic' and 'functional'. Systemic refers to

a system of choice, while functional means that language is in a context of use and that language forms carry out functions (Wiratno, 2018: 1).

Metafunctional meaning is meaning that is simultaneously constructed from three language functions, namely ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. The meaning within the scope of these three functions is called ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning. Thus, metafunctional meaning encompasses these three types of meaning, and its realization in the text can be seen from the lexicogrammatical elements, namely the way words are arranged along with all the consequences of their meaning in forming their register, namely the variety of language that is influenced by the context of the situation that surrounds the subject matter being discussed. expressed in the text in such a way that a type of text is formed in a particular cultural context ( *genre* ) (Wiratno, 2009).

Ideational meaning is experiential meaning *or* experiential meaning and logical *meaning* . Experiential meaning is a meaning that refers to the function of language as a reflection of the experience, knowledge or ideas of the speaker/writer about himself, about other people, about the real or fictional world (Thompson, 2004: 30). In this research, the focus of attention is experiential meaning. Experiential meaning describes the meaning of experience in each clause. Experiential meaning consists of process, participants, and circumstantial. Processes are divided into: material processes, mental processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, and existence processes. Participants are people or objects involved in the process. Circumstantial is a

description of the place, time and method involving the participants.

Refers to the activities that occur in a clause, which in traditional or formal grammar is the same process as a verb. Processes will be classified into material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, and form/existence processes. Participants are entities involved in a process. Circumstan is the environment, nature or location where the process takes place.

Several studies have been conducted previously by other researchers and are relevant to this research, such as 1) Modalities in Hoax News Texts (Amrullah et al., 2020); 2) Academic Analysis of Observation Report Text (Widiastuti 2019); 3) Metafunctional Meaning in Anecdotal Texts (Munawwar, 2018). These three studies have similarities with this research, namely using a Functional Systemic Linguistics approach and the difference is that they use various data sources. With the diversity in the use of data sources from several studies, no one has used circulars as a source of research data. The reason for choosing functional systemic linguistic theory is because this theory can analyze texts. As stated by Halliday and Hasan (1992) and Thomposon (2004), a text contains three metafunctions, namely

### Experiential Meaning

#### Data 01 *Material Process*

*Wash your hands with soap in running water for 20 seconds when you arrive at the educational unit .*

Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020

Process	Participants	Circumstan
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ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning. Therefore, this research will describe the experiential meaning in circulars published by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology using functional systemic linguistic theory.

### METHODOLOGY

Deep data study This form a unit of clauses in the policy text of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology which contains metafunctional meaning, namely ideational meaning. The data sources in this research are: is text high school Indonesian includes: (1) Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020, (2) Circular Letter Number 4 of 2020, (3) Circular Letter Number 15 of 2020, (4) Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021, (5) Circular Letter Number 2 of 2020 2022, (6) Circular Letter Number 4 of 2022, (7) Circular Letter Number 5 of 2022, (8) SKB of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Minister of Religion, Minister of Health, and Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 2021. Data were analyzed using documentation techniques, techniques reading, and note-taking techniques.

### ANALYSIS

Material process: - wash your hands with soap in running water	-	Circumstantial time: - for 20 seconds Circumstantial places: - upon arrival at the educational unit environment
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Based on the results of data analysis table 01, one process element and two circumstantial elements were found. The process of *washing hands with soap in running water* is categorized as a material process because it is a physical activity that is actually carried out by the perpetrator and this activity can be observed by the senses. The circumference found, namely *for 20 seconds*, is the circumference of time, and *when arriving at the educational unit environment*, it is the circumference of place.

According to Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020, it provides an indication of the meaning that in the context of preventing and spreading Covid-19 within educational units, the Ministry of Education and

*Students must know the learning methods that will be carried out independently at home.*

Culture has instructed educational units to ensure the availability of facilities and infrastructure and to ensure that residents of educational units wash their hands with soap (CTPS) at a minimum. 20 seconds. So it can be concluded that this policy is logical. The habit of washing hands is very important to practice continuously so that it has an effective impact, especially in preventing disease. During the Covid-19 pandemic, people were motivated to participate in CTPS with the aim of preventing the transmission of Covid-19. This momentum must be utilized to make CTPS practice a habit. So it can be concluded that this policy is logical.

**Data 02 Mental Process**

Circular Letter Number 15 of 2020

Process	Participants	Circumstan
Mental Process: - know learning methods	Sensing: - learners	Circumstantia places: - At home

Based on the results of data analysis table 02, one element was found to be a process, one

participant element, and one circumstantial element. The process of *knowing learning methods* is categorized as a mental process because it is an activity that concerns the senses, cognition, emotions and perceptions that occur within

humans. The participants found were *students* who in mental processes are also known as perceivers. The circumference that was found was *in the house* which was a strange place.

According to Circular Number 15 of 2020, this provides an indication of the

meaning that in online learning the teacher must first ensure whether all the equipment needed to carry out online learning has been met. If the minimum requirements are guaranteed to be owned by both the teacher and the students then the teacher can plan and implementing online learning including implementing project-based learning methods.

Students as objects and subjects in online learning are a very important part of the success of implementing project-based learning methods. For this reason, teachers must ensure that they have the skills and knowledge of communication technology

as a minimum requirement for online learning. So it can be concluded that this policy is logical.

**Data 03 Verbal Process**

*Students from outside the region/abroad are required to ensure that they are in good health, carry out self-quarantine for 14 days or carry out a swab test, or according to the regulations/protocols that apply in the local area .*

Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021

Process	Participants	Circumstan
Verbal Process: - make sure you are in good health - carry out self-quarantine - do a swab test	Goal (target): - student	Circumstantia places: - abroad/overseas - in the local area  Circumstantial time: - for 14 days

Based on the results of data analysis table 03, one element was found to be a process, one participant element, and three circumstantial elements. Three elements of the process, namely *ensuring oneself is in good health, carrying out self-quarantine, and taking a swab test* are categorized as verbal processes. The participants found were *students* who in the verbal process were also called targets. *Outside the region/overseas , in the local area* it is a circumstantial place, and *for 14 days* it is a circumstantial time.

According to Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021, this provides an indication of the meaning that in implementing face-to-face learning, universities must continue to prioritize the health of all campus residents

by carrying out regular *testing* and *tracing* as well as carrying out swabs or self-quarantine for 14 days in accordance with applicable health protocols. So it can be concluded that the policy issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture through the circular letter referred to is logical.

**Data 04 Relational Process**

*Campus residents are expected to be ambassadors for behavior change in their respective environments .*

Circular Letter Number 4 of 20

Process	Participants	Circumstan
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Relational Process: - is expected to be an ambassador for behavior change	Person: - campus residents	Circumstantia places: - in their respective environments
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Based on the results of data analysis table 04, one element was found to be a process, one participant element, and one circumstantial element. The process of *being expected to be an ambassador for behavior change* is categorized as a relational process because it is an entity or characteristic that refers to the person with it. The participants found were *campus residents* who in the relational process are also known as people with disabilities. Circumstants that are found are *in their respective environments* which are remote places.

According to Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021, it provides an indication of the meaning that with the behavior change ambassador program, students and

*Education units must provide masks only for residents who have coughs or colds. Then he was asked to go home and check himself at a health facility .*

Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020

#### Data 05 Behavioral Process (Behavior)

Process	Participants	Circumstan
Behavioral process: - cough and cold	Behavior: - its citizens	Circumstantia places: - education units - to a health facility.

Based on the results of data analysis table 05, one process element, one participant element, and one circumstantial element were found. The process of *coughing and running a cold* is categorized as a behavioral process because it is a process that shows the behavior or behavior of the noun. The participants found, namely *the citizens* , in the behavioral process are called behavior. Circumstants that were found were

*educational units and health facilities* which were Circumstantial places. According to Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020, it provides an indication of the meaning that by looking at the level of risk of spreading Covid-19 from low level to high level. Education units must always ensure the availability of masks in various strategic locations to be given to their residents who suffer from coughs and

colds. Then residents who have coughs and colds are asked to immediately check themselves at the nearest health facility. And socialization to maintain health by promoting a culture of hand washing and healthy lifestyles must be carried out in all environments, both at school and at home.

*In the event that there is an increase in the status of an increase in the risk of Covid-19 in the district/city, University leaders coordinate with the Covid-19 handling task force local area to continue or stop face-to-face learning .*

Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021

**Data 06 Existential/Existential Process**

Process	Participants	Circumstan
Formation process: - there is an increase in the status of increased risk of Covid-19	Being ( <i>existent</i> ): - college leaders	Circumstantia places: - in districts/cities .

Based on the results of data analysis table 06, one process element, one participant element, and one circumstantial element were found . The process of *increasing the status of increasing the risk of Covid-19* is categorized as a tangible/existential process because it shows one entity. The participants found were *university leaders* who in the existential/existential process were called *existent* . Circumstan is found, namely *in the district/city* which is Circumstan.

According to Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021, this provides an indication of the meaning that the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology emphasizes that face-to-face learning that will be opened by universities must implement strict health protocols. Apart from that, universities must also continue to provide online learning. For universities that will hold face-to-face learning,

whether lectures, practicums, studios, field practice, or other forms of learning, must always carry out regular monitoring so that they can coordinate with the local Covid-19 handling task force to continue or stop face-to-face learning. .

**Logical Meaning**

**Data 07 Addition Conjunctions**

*Get used to a clean, healthy lifestyle and regular sports activities.*

(Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020)

Based on the data above, we found conjunctions *and* which combine events in two clauses in one complex clause. The conjunction *and* is classified as an addition conjunction. In accordance with the contents of Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020, it provides an indication of the meaning that adopting a clean and healthy lifestyle should be implemented by

everyone. This movement is a form of good behavior because it is the right step in dealing with various diseases that enter the body. It is best to cultivate the movement from school level children starting from the Early Childhood Education level so that a healthy culture will always be a guide for carrying out daily activities.

Apart from that, implementing a clean and healthy lifestyle culture must become the main habit in the household environment. Households are the main pillar during this pandemic, because most of all activities are at home or *work from home*. At least there must be a place to wash your hands and soap before entering the house. Get into the habit of showering and changing clothes after leaving the house.

#### Data 08 Time Conjunctions

*Disinfecting infrastructure in the university environment **before** and **after** learning focuses on the facilities used during learning.*

(Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021)

Based on the data above, a conjunction was found “ *before* ” and “ *after* ” are classified as time conjunctions. The logical meaning of time “ *before* ” and “ *after* ” orders events in one complex area. In accordance with the contents of Circular Letter Number 4 of 2021, it provides an indication that before and after learning is carried out, to maintain the health and safety of campus residents, all facilities must be sprayed with disinfection.

#### Data 09 Comparative Conjunctions

*Ensure that registered education unit residents who are in close contact with Covid-19 are handled **according to** recommendations from the Covid-19 handling task force or health service facilities.*

(SKB 4 Ministers of 2022)

Based on the data above, a conjunction was found *which* is classified as a comparative conjunction. The logical meaning of comparison *is like* contrasting events in one complex clause. In accordance with the contents of the 2022 Joint Decree of 4 Ministers, it provides an indication of the meaning that in 2022, the government requires the implementation of limited Face-to-Face Learning (PTM) for educational units in areas where Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) levels 1-3 are implemented. Even though the limited PTM has implemented strict health protocols, there is still a chance of finding positive cases of Covid-19 in the educational unit environment. If a school finds that its residents have symptoms when screening before or while in the school environment, the school is obliged to report it to the supervisory health center. The supervisory health center will carry out swab tests on school residents who have symptoms. The results of the examination are followed up according to Covid-19 handling standards.

If at least two confirmed cases of Covid-19 are found which are close contacts of an index case in a certain group, the educational unit is included in the cluster category. Certain groups can be like classrooms or extracurricular activities that were physically present together during group activities in the fourteen days



before Covid-19 symptoms appeared or a positive swab test result. Community health centers are required to immediately carry out and complete contact tracing within 2 x 24 hours using a standard tracking format. The regional government has temporarily stopped holding limited face-to-face learning for educational units that fall into the Covid-19 case transmission cluster category. Furthermore, limited PTM was switched to distance learning for fourteen days.

### Data 10 Cause-Effect Conjunctions

*Swimming during the Covid-19 pandemic should not be done, because pools that are used/used by many people can become a medium for transmission that needs to be watched out for.*

(SKB 4 Ministers of 2021)

Based on the data above, it was found that the conjunction *because* is classified as a cause-effect conjunction. The role of the conjunction explains why and how events occur. In accordance with the contents of the 2021 Joint Decree of 4 Ministers, it provides an indication of the meaning that according to *the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC), there are no reports or studies that prove that swimming pool water can be a medium for spreading Covid-19. This is because the presence of disinfectant substances in pool water, such as chlorine and bromine, can kill various types of microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses. This may be the reason why the transmission of Covid-19 through swimming pool water is very small compared to through the air. Even though swimming during the Covid-19 pandemic

is permitted and relatively safe. However, the risk of transmitting the virus remains, especially if you swim in crowded swimming pools or beaches. Of course, when you are in a crowd it will be more difficult to keep your distance from other people. Plus, when swimming, of course you can't wear a mask. This can make it possible to inhale saliva droplets when someone else is talking, sneezing, or coughing.

### CONCLUSION

The ideational meaning contained in the Circular is seen from the experiential meaning which consists of a material process: *washing hands* with soap in running water. Mental processes: *knowing* learning methods. Verbal process: *ensure* that you are in good health, *carry out* self-quarantine, and *do* a swab test. Rational process: expected to *be* an ambassador for behavior change. Behavioral processes: coughs and colds. The existential/existential process of Covid-19 transmission clusters *occurs*; Meanwhile, participants are perceivers, targets, performers, behavior; Furthermore, circumstantial is in the form of adverbs of time and adverbs of place.

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