# Mapping the meaning of "*Keadaan*" in the news of *DPR* demonstrations demands: A natural semantic metalanguage study

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the variations in the use of the word "*keadaan*" ("state") in news about the DPR's demands demonstration and to map its meaning categories based on the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (MSA) approach. This study uses a qualitative method with documentation techniques on online news texts containing the word "*keadaan*" ("state") and collected from various national news portals during the period of August–September 2025. The analysis was carried out in three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions based on the Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory of Wierzbicka and Goddard (2014). The results of the study found 20 words variations that represent five main categories of meaning of "*keadaan*" ("state"): stable and positive states, negative and chaotic states, states of density/mobility, psychological/emotional states, and uncertain states. The dominant semantic primes are *PEOPLE*, *HAPPEN*, and *GOOD/BAD*. This study confirms that the MSA approach is effective in explaining the meaning of state words in a simple but profound way, while at the same time shows that media language shapes socio political perceptions through lexical choices .

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The language of mass media in political news discourse often uses lexical terms with layered meanings shaped by specific socio-political contexts. The real phenomenon underlying this study is the escalation of mass demonstrations in Indonesia, particularly a wave of protests against the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) during August–September 2025. In a situation with high political tension, the media's use of the word "condition" is not merely a factual description but serves as an indicator of attitude and discursive strategy to shape public perception. For example, the term "condition" can refer to the physical situation on the ground (chaotic or controlled) to broader political situations (emergency or critical).

Therefore, examining the meaning of "*keadaan*" ("state") is significant, as media discourse often constructs social reality through specific lexical choices. However, the meaning of "*keadaan*" ("state") tends to be abstract, necessitating a semantic analytical framework capable of revealing its universal core meanings. The Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) approach—known in Indonesian as *Metabahasa Semantik Alami* (MSA)—developed by Anna Wierzbicka and her colleagues, enables semantic analysis through paraphrasing based on semantic primes. By applying the NSM framework, the meaning of "*keadaan*" ("state") can be systematically mapped into simpler and more measurable components, allowing readers to better understand the representations constructed by the media.

In the Indonesian context, NSM-based research rarely focuses on media texts. This is evident from the five recent studies reviewed in this article that apply the NSM framework to explain lexical or cultural meanings: a lexical case study in Palembang (Tazami & Subiyanto, 2022) and a study on color terminology in Indonesian. "Kesenjangan dalam penelitian NSM di Indonesia sering kali terletak pada kurangnya pengujian terhadap data yang dinamis seperti berita politik. Previous studies by Tazami & Subiyanto (2022) and Kalvintinus (2020), focus more on action verbs or colour categories than on situational discourse analysis."Studies on the word 'state' require careful attention because of its abstract nature and frequent overlap with adjective categories in the Indonesian language structure. Wardana and Mulyadi (2022) show that the NSM approach is effective in mapping how Indonesian speakers conceptualize abstract categories in their minds". Wardana and Mulyadi (2022) conducted a contrastive analysis of motion verbs in English and Arabic. "The use of the NSM framework in analyzing media texts allows researchers to break down ideological complexities into universal basic meaning components" (Al-Hammadi & Yagi, 2024).

An NSM study of state verbs of the "seeing" type in the Bima language (Adawiyah & Syakur, 2022), and a study on the meaning of the verb "*membersihkan*" ("to clean") in the Nias language (Ndruru, 2020). Although these studies demonstrate the analytical potential of the NSM approach, they exhibit methodological limitations. All rely primarily on qualitative methods with relatively small numbers of informants, meaning that the empirical validity of their semantic explications has not been experimentally tested yet. Moreover, none of these studies have investigated interactions across semantic domains, such as the relationship between action verbs and emotional meanings within a single semantic system. While previous NSM studies tend to focus on individual lexical items, NSM analysis of news texts involves more complex units of analysis, encompassing meanings embedded in social, ideological, and affective discourse contexts.

Another important rationale for applying NSM to media texts is its methodological and theoretical advantages. NSM not only facilitates the explanation of word meanings in a universal and empirically grounded manner, but also enables a deeper understanding of the relationship between language, culture, and media ideology. Within semantic research, the application of NSM to news discourse is particularly effective in tracing how lexical choices shape readers' cognition, emotion, and social attitudes. Although various studies have demonstrated the analytical potential of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) approach, these studies still have significant methodological limitations. Most NSM studies in Indonesia currently tend to rely on qualitative methods with a limited number of informants, so the empirical validity of their semantic

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explications has not been widely examined. In addition, no study has thoroughly investigated the interaction between semantic domains within a complete discourse system.

This study focuses on political news published between August and September of 2025. Previous research has largely been limited to analyses of synonymy, polysemy, or connotative meaning and has not employed the NSM framework to explicate the core meanings of abstract lexical items such as "*keadaan*" ("state"), particularly in the context of contemporary political reporting on demonstrations demanding action from the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR). Consequently, a significant analytical gap remains in the literature. This study therefore aims to (1) describe the variation in the use of the word "*keadaan*" ("state") in news coverage of demonstrations demanding action from the DPR and (2) map the semantic categories of "*keadaan*" ("state") using a Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach. Furthermore, NSM-based analysis of news texts offers several advantages, including providing objective meaning analysis that does not rely on technical linguistic terminology, systematically revealing implicit meanings and ideological bias, and effectively supporting media-framing analysis.

The main research gap in this study lies in the limited NSM analysis of political media texts, which are dynamic and loaded with ideological content. Until now, NSM researchers in Indonesia have mostly focused on single lexical items or regional cultural concepts, while analyses of complex political news discourse are still very rare. Therefore, this study contributes to the literature by applying the NSM framework to demonstration news texts to reveal how the lexical choice of 'state' is used by the media in constructing social reality and public perception amidst fluctuating political situations.

Sudipa (2010:8) argues that one of the fundamental assumptions underlying NSM theory is that meaning cannot be adequately described without reference to semantic primes. These primes can be explicated through ordinary language, which constitutes the only viable means of representing meaning (Wierzbicka, 1996:31). Semantic primes are defined as a set of irreducible meanings that are universal and innate, inherited by humans from birth (Goddard, 1994:2). Goddard and Wierzbicka (2014:12) identify a total of 65 semantic primes, which form the foundation of NSM analysis. See Table 1

**Table 1. Semantic Primes**

| NO. | CATEGORIES | SEMANTIC PRIMES (English Components) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Substantives | I-ME, YOU, SOMEONE, SOMETHING- THING, PEOPLE, BODY |
| 2. | Relational Substantives | KIND, PARTS |
| 3. | Determiners | THIS, THE SAME, OTHER-ELSE |
| 4. | Quantifiers | ONE, TWO, SOME, ALL, MUCH-MANY, LITTLE-FEW |
| 5. | Evaluators | GOOD, BAD |
| 6. | Descriptors | BIG, SMALL |
| 7 | Mental/Experimental Predicates | KNOW, THINK, WANT, DON'T WANT, FEEL, SEE, HEAR |
| 8 | Speech | SAY, WORDS, MOVE |
| 9 | Actions and Events | DO, HAPPEN, MOVE |
| 10 | Existence and Possession | THERE IS/EXIST, BE (SOMETHING), BE (SOMEONE) |
| 11 | Life and Death | LIVE, DIE |
| 12 | Time | WHEN/TIME, NOW, BEFORE, AFTER, A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT |
| 13 | Space | WHERE-PLACE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, FAR, NEAR, SIDE, INSIDE |

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| 14 | Logical Concepts | **NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF** |
|----|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15 | Intensifier, Augmentor | **VERY, MORE** |
| 16 | Similarity | **LIKE-WAY-AS** |

This study's findings are expected to contribute to research on Indonesian semantics, particularly the analysis of abstract lexical items in political discourse. From a practical perspective, this study demonstrates how the media employs the word "*keadaan*" ("state") to construct public perception, thereby enriching critical studies of media language.

## 2. METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative design to explore the use of language in news texts in a deep and holistic manner This study adopts a qualitative research design aimed at producing descriptive data in the form of utterances, written texts, and observable behaviours of individuals, groups, or organizations, which are then examined from a comprehensive and holistic perspective. Saryono (2010:80) states that qualitative research seeks to explore, obtain, and explain the quality or characteristics of a research topic that has been addressed.

The data sources for this study consisted of online news texts obtained from national news portals. According to Arikunto (2019:172), a data source refers to the subject from which the data were obtained. In this study, the data comprised news texts containing specific words or expressions relevant to the research focus, particularly the word "*keadaan*" ("state"). The data were collected from online news sentences published during the period when demonstrations demanding action from the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR) were being conducted. These data were obtained from several leading online news outlets. A total of 20 news sentences were collected, covering the period from August to September 2025, along with their variations in meaning, collected from leading national news portals such as Tempo.co, Kompas.com, Detik.com, BBC News Indonesia, and CNN Indonesia. These news portals were selected based on their reputation and influence in shaping public discourse in Indonesia. To ensure objectivity and minimize researcher subjectivity bias in interpreting meaning, the analysis is conducted by strictly referring to the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) framework, which uses 65 universal semantic primes from Goddard and Wierzbicka (2014). The use of these primes serves as a methodological control tool because the explication of meaning is not based on complex linguistic technical terms but on basic concepts that are intuitive and cross-cultural, thus producing a more transparent and verifiable analysis.

Data collection in this study employed a documentation technique. Sugiyono (2018:240) defines documentation as a data collection technique that involves the examination of written documents, images, or monumental works. In this study, the documents analyzed were online news texts. The data collection procedures included the following steps: (1) determining the criteria for relevant news articles, (2) downloading news texts from online media, (3) selecting sections of the news texts that contain the target word or phrase, and (4) recording the data in a research data table. The data population in this study includes all online news texts related to the dynamics of national politics in Indonesia. The sampling technique used is purposive sampling with specific inclusion criteria: (1) news texts that contain the word "condition" or its variations referring to the mass situation; (2) news published during the period from August to September 2025. The selection of this time frame is crucial as it represents the peak period of large-scale demonstrations related to demands directed at the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI). Focusing on this period provides a strong sociopolitical context, ensuring that the data obtained truly represents media language use under real crisis conditions or public pressure. Through this time limitation, methodological transparency is maintained because the data is directly tied to empirical phenomena occurring at that time.

Data analysis was conducted using the Miles and Huberman model. According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), qualitative data analysis involves three concurrent and iterative processes: (1) data reduction, which involves selecting and focusing on data relevant to the research objectives; (2) data display, which entails organizing the data in the form of tables or semantic categories; and (3) conclusion drawing and verification, which involves interpreting the data based on the semantic theory employed, namely the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) framework (Wierzbicka & Goddard, 2014:12).

## 3.    RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the analysis of the meaning of "*keadaan*" ("state")  in Indonesian using the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) approach. Yulianti (2016:79) states that the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) is a theory that links linguistics with disciplines beyond linguistics, such as philosophy, psychology, anthropology, and other social sciences. Various academic fields are represented through semantic primes. This discussion focuses on words that represent particular states or states that frequently appear in social and political discourse as well as in everyday life.

From a linguistic perspective, "*keadaan*" ("state") is understood as a lexical category with a specific semantic function. In the structure of Indonesian, words denoting states or states are generally classified as nouns, as they can occupy the subject or object position within a sentence (Kridalaksana, 2008:141). However, semantically, state-related words often closely resemble adjectives, as both serve to describe qualities or states (Kridalaksana, 2008:4).

### 3.1. Variations of the Word *"Keadaan"* in  the News of *DPR* Demonstrations Demands

In the context of news reporting on demonstrations demanding action from the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR), variations in lexical items used to express "*keadaan*" ("state")  constitute an important aspect of understanding how the media constructs the social and political situations at hand. The analysis of these lexical variations aims to identify the lexical choices employed by the media in framing protest events and to examine the semantic meanings underlying each term.

**Table 2. Variations of the Word "*Keadaan*" in the News of *DPR* Demonstrations Demands**

| No | State/State Variation | Semantic Prime | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | *Damai* | PEOPLE, DO, BAD, HAPPEN, FEEL, GOOD | Sederet Fakta Demo 28 Agustus di DPR: Isi Tuntutan Buruh hingga Larang Anarko Ganggu Aksi \| tempo.co |
| 2 | *Tertib* | PEOPLE, DO, SAME, NOT, BAD, ALL, HAPPEN, GOOD | **Tempo.co https://share.google/PUw24mXsZ06y3pn7S** |
| 3 | *Aman* | BAD, CAN, HAPPEN, SOMEONE, PEOPLE, FEEL, GOOD | Polisi Kenakan Peci Saat Amankan Demo 17+8 di Gedung DPR |
| 4 | *Sunyi* | NOT, MANY, PEOPLE, HERE, HEAR, HAPPEN | https://apps.detik.com/detik/ |
| 5 | *Terkendali* | SOMETHING, CAN, BECAUSE, DO, LIKE, NOT, BAD, HAPPEN | https://news.detik.com/berita/d-8097960/1-371-personel-dikerahkan-jaga-demo-di-dpr-polisi-pastikan-aman |

| 6 | *Kondusif* | THIS, PLACE, GOOD, PEOPLE, DO, SOMETHING | https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2025/08/25/17274701/anggota-dewan-minta-aparat-tak-represif-tangani-demo-di-dpr |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | *Lancar* | SOMETHING, HAPPEN, NOT, MANY, BAD, ALL, MOVE, GOOD | Situasi Terkini di Depan Gedung DPR Jelang Demo Buruh - tvOnenews |
| 8 | *Ricuh* | MANY, PEOPLE, DO, BAD, SOMETHING, HAPPEN | Demo '25 Agustus' tolak tunjangan rumah anggota DPR ricuh, Dasco: Tunjangan Rp 50 juta dihentikan - BBC News Indonesia |
| 9 | *Viral* | MANY, PEOPLE, KNOW, THIS, SAY, WORDS, TIMES | https://apps.detik.com/detik/ |
| 10 | *Darurat* | SOMETHING, BAD, CAN, HAPPEN, PEOPLE, DO | https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20240823153426-20-1136726/mahasiswa-kembali-demo-peringatan-darurat-di-gedung-dpr-jumat-sore |
| 11 | *Tersendat* | SOMETHING, NOT, MOVE, LIKE, BEFORE, BAD, HAPPEN, TIME | https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20240823153426-20-1136726/mahasiswa-kembali-demo-peringatan-darurat-di-gedung-dpr-jumat-sore. |
| 12 | *Tidak menentu* | PEOPLE, NOT, CAN, KNOW, HAPPEN, AFTER | https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2025/09/22/11520181/buruh-demo-di-depan-gedung-dpr-mpr-bawa-5-tuntutan-utama |
| 13 | *Memanas* | PEOPLE, FEEL, BAD, MORE, CAN, HAPPEN | https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/research/20250829112149-128-662500/demo-memanas-ini-kronologi-kericuhan-tuntutan-massa-yang-menggema?utm |
| 14 | *Padat* | MANY, PEOPLE, HERE, NEAR, OTHER | https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20250922111724-4-669019/massa-demo-di-dpr-mulai-padat-polisi-alihkan-arus-lalu-lintas |
| 15 | *Ramai* | MANY, PEOPLE, HERE, HEAR, HAPPEN | Bisnis.com |
| 16 | *Anarkis* | PEOPLE, DO, MANY, BAD, NOT, THINK | Demo Anarkis: Ketika Aspirasi Rakyat Ditunggangi Kepentingan |
| 17 | *Lumpuh* | SOMETHING, NOT, MOVE, NOTHING, HAPPEN, LIKE, BEFORE | Jalur KRL Tanah Abang-Palmerah Lumpuh Total, Massa Padati Rel |
| 18 | *Terganggu* | SOMETHING, BAD, HAPPEN, SOMEONE, NOT, DO, LIKE, BEFORE | Kompas.com |
| 19 | *Serius* | SOMEONE, THINK, THIS, VERY, BIG, NOT, SMALL | Situasi Demo Terkini di DPR, Buruh: Dari pada Joget-joget Mending Mogok Nasional |
| 20 | *Prihatin* | SOMEONE, FEEL, BAD, SOMETHING, HAPPEN, PEOPLE | Brimob: Kendaraan polisi melindas pengemudi ojol hingga tewas, Istana minta maaf dan tujuh polisi diperiksa - BBC News Indonesia |

Based on the table 2, 20 variations of the situation of the demonstration at the DPR can be found. Each variation of the situation includes more than one prime pattern, namely*Prime "PEOPLE*" dominates, indicating that the state always involves human presence/behavior. Prime "*HAPPEN*" indicates a state as something that occurs in the context of time. Prime "*GOOD/BAD*"give an evaluative assessment of the situation. Prime "*MOVE/NOT MOVE*" appears in the state of mobility (smooth, stuttering, paralyzed) or *(lancar, tersendat, lumpuh)*. Prime "*FEEL"* refers to the emotional dimension (warming, safe, concerned) or *(memanas, aman, prihatin)*.

In terms of semantic categories, 20 variations of the meaning of states can be categorized into states: Stable & Positive States: peaceful, orderly, safe, quiet, controlled, conducive, smooth, characterized or *(damai, tertib, aman, sunyi, terkendali, kondusif, lancar)* by prime *GOOD, NOT BAD, HAPPEN*. Negative & Chaotic States: chaotic, anarchic, emergency, heated, disturbed or *(ricuh, anarkis, darurat, memanas, terganggu)* characterized by prime *BAD, PEOPLE, DO, MANY, BAD, CAN, HAPPEN*. State of Density/Mobility: dense, crowded, congested, paralyzed or *(padat, ramai, tersendat, lumpuh)* characterized by prime *MANY PEOPLE, MOVE/NOT MOVE.*Psychological/Emotional State: serious, concerned, viral or *( serius, prihatin, viral)* characterized by prime*THINK, FEEL, KNOW, SAY*. Uncertainty: uncertainty or *(tidak menentu)* marked by prime *NOT, CAN, KNOW, HAPPEN, AFTER*.

### 3.2. Mapping the Meaning of "*Keadaan*" in the News of *DPR* Demonstrations Demands: A Natural Semantic Metalanguage Study

This semantic mapping aims to trace the relationships among lexical elements and to identify the semantic structures that shape the understanding of the reported social states. Through this mapping, the study seeks to reveal the conceptual patterns underlying the use of words denoting *"keadaan"* in news discourse.

### 3.2.1. *Keadaan / Damai*

According to the *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI), *damai* (peaceful) refers to a state without war, conflict, or hostility, in which matters can be resolved amicably. Budiono (2005:130) defines *damai* as a calm, harmonious state without turmoil or hostility.

Data (1) is drawn from a statement by Said Iqbal, President of the Indonesian Confederation of Labor Unions (KSPI), who estimated that approximately 10,000 workers from the Greater Jakarta area would gather at the main protest site in the capital on August 28, 2025. He emphasized that the demonstration focused solely on labor issues and rejected all forms of violence.

**(1)** *"Dia menyerukan agar aksi penyampaian aspirasi itu berlangsung **damai** dan tertib".*

**(Tempo.com, 2025)**

Explication (NSM):
 X = ***Damai***

1.  people can think about something like this
2.  people know this
3.  because of this people can feel:
    – good
    – calm
4.  people can live together like this for a long time

Based on this explication, peaceful in Indonesian denotes a state without conflict, characterized by calmness and harmony. The explication captures the absence of negative events, the absence of harmful intentions, and the presence of positive and calm feelings. The meaning of peaceful applies both to interpersonal contexts ("living peacefully") and socio-political contexts ("peace").

### 3.2.2. *Keadaan / Ricuh*

According to KBBI, ricuh (disorderly) refers to a chaotic and uncontrolled state, often due to the absence of leadership. Budiono (2005:419) defines it as noisy, chaotic, and conflictual.Data (2) is taken from a news report describing the arrest of several students participating in a demonstration at the DPR, including minors under the age of 17.

**(2)** *"Sebelumnya, unjuk rasa sekelompok orang di sekitar gedung DPR, Jakarta, yang berlangsung hingga Senin (25/08) malam, berlangsung* **ricuh***".*

**(BBC News Indonesia, 2025)**

Explication (NSM):

X = **Ricuh**

1. at that time, many bad things could happen quickly
2. many people were in one place
3. because of this, people could think something
4. some people wanted to do something to others;
   others did not want this, because of this, people did many bad things to one another

This explication shows that *disorderly* describes a high-intensity, uncontrolled social situation involving conflict and violence. Unlike *noisy* or *chaotic*, *ricuh* implies confrontation and aggressive interaction among many people, often triggered by dissatisfaction and the absence of responsible authorities.

### 3.2.3. *Keadaan/ Terkendali*

According to KBBI, *terkendali* means "able to be controlled." Budiono (2005:254) defines control as restraining impulses and maintaining regulation.

Data (3) is drawn from a statement by the Head of Public Relations of the Jakarta Metropolitan Police during the demonstration.

**(3)** *"Kami sampaikan bahwa situasi di sekitar gedung DPR itu aman* **terkendali***. Masyarakat tidak perlu khawatir, kami ada, kami hadir di sini untuk memberikan rasa aman, untuk memberikan perlindungankepadamasyarakat,"*

**(Detik.com, 2025)**

Explication (NSM):

X = **Terkendali**

1. something is happening in a place
2. people can think: "this is not more than it should be,"
   "this can stay good if people do what they usually do"
3. because of this, people can feel:
   "I do not need to be afraid that something bad will happen"
4. others can say:
   "this is in a good state,"
   "people can manage this"

This explication indicates that under control refers to a manageable situation that does not pose danger. Such a state conveys normality, stability, and security, applicable both to personal self-control and collective socio-political stability.

### 3.2.4. *Keadaan / Anarkis*

According to KBBI and Budiono (2005:42), *anarkis* refers to actions that reject rules or state authority. Data (4) comes from an opinion article criticizing violent protest actions.

**(4)** *"Namun, ketika demonstrasi bergeser menjadi aksi **anarkis**, nilai-nilai luhur demokrasi seketika runtuh."*

**(Marinews, 2025)**

Explication (NSM):

X = ***Anarkis***

1. this can happen when some people are in one place
2. these people do not want others to control them
3. because of this, they do things in ways that are not normal
4. often this causes bad things to happen to people or places
5. others can feel something bad because of this (fear, anger, pain)
6. others can think:
   "this is not good,"
   "this makes many things disordered"

Based on the above explication, the term *anarkis* ("anarchic") in Indonesian refers to a state or pattern of action in which a group of people rejects control by others or by established rules. Such actions are typically carried out in an uncontrolled manner, resulting in disorder or causing harm to other individuals and the surrounding environment. From the perspective of others, anarchic behavior is evaluated negatively, as it evokes feelings of fear, anger, or pain and leads to a state of social disorganization

## 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study indicates that a total of 20 lexical variations were identified as expressing the meaning of *"keadaan"* ("state"). In general, these meanings can be classified into positive states, such as *aman* (safe), *tertib* (orderly), *mereda* (subsiding), *kondusif* (conducive), *sunyi* (quiet), *damai* (peaceful), and *lancar* (smooth). In contrast, negative states comprise 13 lexical variations, namely *memanas* (escalating), *tersendat* (disrupted), *kacau* (chaotic), *ricuh* (disorderly), *anarkis* (anarchic), *darurat* (emergency), *tidak menentu* (uncertain), *ramai* (crowded), *padat* (dense), *viral, lumpuh* (paralyzed), *terganggu* (disturbed), *serius* (serious), and *prihatin* (concerning). Lexical items representing the meaning of *"keadaan"* are predominantly found in negative contexts. This finding reflects the empirical reality observed during demonstrations demanding action from the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR). Moreover, the selection of lexical items denoting *"keadaan"* in news texts implicitly signals a means through which the media articulates public criticism and dissatisfaction with governmental policies.

The meaning of *"keadaan"* in this study is not explained through a single semantic prime but can instead be categorized into five major semantic groups. First, stable and positive states (e.g., *damai, tertib, aman, terkendali, kondusif, lancar*) are characterized by the semantic primes GOOD and NOT BAD. Second, negative and chaotic states (e.g., *ricuh, anarkis, darurat, memanas, terganggu*) are associated with the primes BAD, PEOPLE, DO, and MANY. Third, states of density or mobility (e.g., *padat, ramai, tersendat, lumpuh*) reflect the primes MANY, PEOPLE, and MOVE/NOT MOVE. Fourth, psychological or emotional states (e.g., *serius, prihatin, viral*) correspond to the primes THINK, FEEL, and KNOW. Fifth, uncertain states (e.g., *tidak menentu*) are marked by the primes NOT, CAN, KNOW, HAPPEN, and AFTER.

This study affirms that the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) approach is effective in explicating the meaning of *"keadaan"* in a manner that is both simple and analytically profound. Each

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state does not merely denote a factual state but also conveys emotional, social, and moral values that reflect public perspectives on socio-political events such as demonstrations.

Several recommendations can be proposed for future studies. First, antonymic pairing analysis may be conducted to explore contrasting state pairs in greater depth, such as *damai–ricuh* (peaceful–disorderly), *lancar–tersendat* (smooth–disrupted), and *aman–darurat* (safe–emergency). This approach would reveal how the media constructs dichotomies of *"keadaan"* to frame social reality. Second, future research may focus on metaphorical analysis within the NSM framework, as states such as *memanas* (escalating) and *lumpuh* (paralyzed) carry metaphorical meanings. Examining the shift from literal to abstract meanings would strengthen the cognitive analysis of media language. Third, cross-media comparison is recommended by analyzing protest-related states across national, local, and alternative social media platforms to determine whether lexical choices differ according to media ideology. Fourth, a quantitative approach using corpus linguistics may be employed to calculate the frequency of state-related lexical items (e.g., *damai*, *ricuh*, *memanas*) in protest news coverage, thereby reinforcing qualitative NSM analysis with empirical data. Fifth, public perception analysis may be pursued through reception studies, such as reader interviews or surveys, to examine how audiences interpret these lexical choices. Finally, future studies may integrate NSM with pragmatic analysis, particularly speech act theory, to highlight the pragmatic functions of state-related lexical items in political discourse.

**Ethical Approval**
Not Applicable

**Informed Consent Statement**
Not Applicable

**Disclosure Statement**
The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

**Data Availability Statement**
The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author due to privacy reasons.

**Notes on Contributors**

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