

Indonesian Presidential Statements on Crisis and Risk Communication During the Third Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic: A Discourse Analysis

NANI KURNIASARI (Corresponding author)
[0000-0002-5272-4671]
School of Communication
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia
nani.kurniasari@student.usm.my

SHARIFAH NADIAH SYED MUKHIAR [0000-0002-4458-9334]
School of Communication
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia
nadiahmukhiar@usm.my

SURIATI SAAD [0000-0002-6399-0473]
School of Communication
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia
suriatisaad@usm.my

ABSTRACT

The confirmation of the first Omicron case towards the end of 2021 was a turning point for Indonesia entering the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. This research aims to determine the practice of Indonesian's COVID-19 crisis and risk communication by the central government through examining how President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) communicated the crisis. Refers to discourse analysis, we use data from six presidential speeches related to key occasions in Indonesia during the third wave of the COVID-19. We did so in examples when Jokowi provided clear instructions regarding adhering to COVID-19 rules or other proper behaviours. This study found that the country's metaphorical construction unites Jokowi and the people as a family, which is demonstrated in linguistic choices, particularly 'we' and 'together'. On the other hand, Jokowi also uses 'I' as a central government representative to ask, emphasize, remind, and recommend certain actions to the public in an effort to stop the virus's spread. For instance, Jokowi emphasised the value of routine hand washing, keeping one's distance from others, and using a mask. 'Continue wearing masks', 'maintain your distance', and 'wash your hands', these communications were first given credit for 'cut-through' with Indonesian citizens because they were straightforward, unequivocal, clear, and simple to understand, which led to safety recommendations during the beginning of the pandemic. In the midst of a pandemic, the government can use this study to prominently interact with the public and deliver addresses, even for other crises in the future.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, crisis communication, risk communication, discourse analysis, government communication.

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INTRODUCTION

Effective leadership is an essential part of risk and crisis management, particularly for the president of a huge nation that is unable to avoid a catastrophic calamity such as the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. In order to keep the population calm while the government handles the situation, this is imperative. Therefore, the government must effectively manage crisis and risk communication. It is crucial to observe the presidential statement in this situation.

COVID-19 IN INDONESIA

At the end of 2019, the world has been hit by a public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It inevitably hits Indonesia for more than two years since the announcement of the first patient infected with the corona virus by President Jokowi on March 2, 2020. Based on the transmission of the COVID-19 variant in Indonesia, the public health crisis caused by the pandemic is divided into three waves: (1) the alpha variant in 2020, (2) the delta variant in 2021, and (3) the omicron variant in 2022. The third wave of COVID-19 in Indonesia began with the confirmation of the first omicron case at Wisma Atlet Jakarta on December 15, 2021 (Mahayana, 2022).

The high level of community mobilization during the 2021 Christmas and 2022 New Year holidays, both domestically and abroad, has resulted in an increase in cases of the omicron variant in Indonesia. At the same time, the data show that the omicron variant has a 33 times faster transmission rate than the delta variant (Hibban, 2022). As of 4 October 2022, the number of Indonesian COVID-19 positive cases reached 6.437.750 cases, with 6.262.820 recovered and 158.156 dead (Satuan Tugas Penanganan COVID-19, 2022).

Since COVID-19 first appeared in Indonesia, the government has used a number of distinct terms in handling the pandemic. Initially, on 17 April 2020 the government used large-scale social restriction (*Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar/PSBB*). Then, the government imposed the Community Activity Restriction (*Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat/PPKM*) in Java and Bali, then changed it again to Micro PPKM in February 2021. Back and forth, the President decided to take a tightening or thickening of the Micro PPKM in mid-June 2021. Nevertheless, COVID-19 cases continued to rise. Finally, Jokowi decided to establish an Emergency PPKM on July 3-20, 2021, in Java-Bali, and July 12-21, 2021, beyond Java-Bali. Then, the new designation PPKM Level 4 was added on July 20-25, 2021. On September 7, 2021, the government imposed PPKM based on Level 4, 3 in Java-Bali and PPKM Level 2,1 outside Java-Bali.

Table 1

The term used by the Indonesian government to limit the movement of people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Term	Period	Area
PSBB (<i>Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar</i>)	Start 17 April 2020	Throughout Indonesia
Micro (<i>Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat</i>) PPKM	February 2021	Throughout Indonesia
Emergency PPKM	July 3-20, 2021	Java-Bali
Emergency PPKM	July 12-21, 2021	Outside Java-Bali
PPKM Level 4	July 20-25, 2021	Throughout Indonesia
PPKM Level 4, 3	September 7, 2021	Java-Bali
PPKM Level 2, 1	September 7, 2021	Outside Java-Bali

Source: (Nurita & Wibowo, 2022)

This research aims to answer the following question: “How to analyse the Indonesian presidential statement on crisis and risk communication strategy during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic?” The current study looks at how Jokowi’s crisis and risk communication reflects his concern for COVID-19-appropriate behaviour. The current analysis focuses on how Jokowi addressed crisis and risk in his communication with Indonesian audiences as attention in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. This is accomplished by concentrating on Jokowi’s communication with directives regarding COVID-proper behaviour, vaccination, and other types of activities suggested to control the pandemic. One of the responsibilities of the government is to protect the public’s rights, as well as citizens’ and constituents’ entitlements to freedom and access to the legal system. Similar to this, communication between a government and its population includes delivering and receiving orders. Jokowi is renowned for creating new channels of connection with his audiences that incorporate a variety of relationships between them and him. We go on to inquire explicitly about what types of relationships Jokowi developed and employed to address concerns about his adherence to COVID-19 proper behaviour.

LITERATURE REVIEW

STATE LEADERS AS A CHANNEL FOR GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION ON COVID-19

In order to comprehend the findings and limitations of previous studies, we have examined several high-quality, relevant research in this section. The first study is the case of communication with the media by German Chancellor Angela Merkel during the first few months of COVID-19 in Germany (Jaworska, 2021). This research looks at how the media represented the first wave of the pandemic, from 13 March to 23 April 2020, from the moment COVID-19 limitations were implemented in Germany until they were gradually lifted. Specifically, it looks at broadcast press conferences and speeches by Angela Merkel. This study shows that interpersonal interactions were so far the most significant domain, as shown by the regular usage of individual pronouns, direct methods of communication and references to other citizens, kids, and co-workers. This shows that Merkel prioritised connecting with her audiences and using interpersonal persuasion in her talks. Time domain indicators were closely followed by modality markers; two modal verbs, *'konnen'* (can) and *'mussen'* (must), were found to be the most commonly occurring elements in this category and also fell within the 10 most popular items terms across the entire corpus. There was not much emphasis on scientific jargon in Merkel's statements, in contrast to some common misconceptions regarding the value of Merkel’s scientific education when tackling the pandemic. The discursive tactics that can help a leader succeed in a crisis are shown by discourse analysis of grammatical and lexical devices with corpus assistance used by Merkel in her remarks throughout the first wave of the pandemic. A pandemic necessitates a prompt and decisive response from people in positions of authority. Merkel highlighted this by significantly applying time-deictics to emphasise the urgency of the circumstances and the timing of the activities and decisions taken. Even so, there is a semantic difference between 'persuasion' and 'conviction'; both processes aim to modify the audience’s perspective or behaviour from the persuader’s or convincer’s point of view. Throughout the pandemic, Merkel has received accolades for providing composed, knowledgeable, and authoritative explanations. She effectively used her scientific training to demonstrate a command of the facts.

The second study is the analysis of the way Donald Trump and Boris Johnson crafted stories about their encounters with COVID-19, observing closely how they used these stories to display themselves as 'strong leaders' and deflect criticism of their careless actions that led to their infections and the government's inability to formulate effective strategies to contain the pandemic (Jones, 2021). On April 12, Boris Johnson was discharged from the hospital. He thanked the nurses and doctors who had treated him in a video message before leaving for his country home to resume his recovery. Many people saw Donald Trump's diagnosis as 'an indictment of his approach to the coronavirus', with CNN anchor Jake Tapper telling the President directly that Johnson's condition was an 'emblem of his misguided policy'. A common inclination that may be linked to the mediaeval notion of the king's two bodies—the natural body and the body politic—is for people to interpret their leaders' illnesses symbolically or draw parallels between their health and the nation's. This study shows that Trump's 'swagger' act exhibits a similar dynamic, having serious repercussions for actions relating to health. Many of the individuals who mimicked Trump's dangerous actions during the pandemic probably did so because they thought mask use and other public health measures substantially infringed on their 'personal freedom' rather than because they genuinely thought the pandemic was a hoax. However, rather so that could replicate their leader's masculine swagger and feel the same sense of power and invincibility for themselves.

The third study is conducted by Hunt (2021); she demonstrates how Cyril Ramaphosa, the president of South Africa, treats his relationships with the people as more founded on kinship than politics. Ramaphosa has not used Facebook and Twitter to engage the public in conversation regarding COVID-19. Rather than an overtly aggressive political dynamic, Ramaphosa's use of a traditional form, his linguistic choices, and the overarching "nation as family" metaphor creates a low social distance and familial relationship between the speaker and his audience. In every speech, he specifically mentions certain people and groups among South African, either by name or by a shared characteristic, to enlist their support and strengthen the group's unity. This is supported further by the pronoun "we" in the first-person plural, which is used frequently and switches between the expressions "we the government" and "we the South African people," each of which denotes a different degree of inclusivity. This conceptual metaphor is employed in the nation's ontological construction and serves normative and persuasive purposes, particularly in the connection between the president and the populace. Ramaphosa is shown as a parent in this metaphor, a role that not only reduces social distance but also preserves power disparity. Hunt (2021) contends that doing so enables him to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining his legitimacy and authority.

The fourth study focuses on the news conference as a framework for discourse where a politician can demonstrate real leadership through the use of personal tales (Vásquez, 2021). The media gave Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York's news conferences favourable coverage. However, as many discourse and media experts have argued, the mediatized structure of this discourse also altered it in ways that enabled the conveyance of more individualised, relational, and emotive forms of information important, for instance. However, narrative two showed how Chris Cuomo's professional career benefited from his pursuit of his passions earlier in life. Cuomo's personal stories served as genuine leadership performances in this widely publicized setting. Cuomo presented himself as a kind family leader whose sane, well-informed policies were meant to safeguard both the people he serves and those he loves while maintaining a strong and unyielding moral stance. Cuomo employed relational discourse-personal narratives about his family to achieve the more transactional objectives of educating the public about the rationale behind his policies. This particular

series of interconnected personal narratives embedded in a televised news briefing demonstrates this.

The fifth study attempts to provide additional insight into this discursive bargaining process in the framework of crisis-mediated leadership performance (Hafner & Sun, 2021). New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is credited for spearheading the successful creation of a comprehensive national COVID-19 plan during the early phases of the pandemic, seizing a ‘window of opportunity’ to halt the virus’s spread before it established itself (Wardman, 2020). Phrases like “we go hard”, “we go early”, and “New Zealand will not accept any deaths” served as examples of this (McGuire et al., 2020). Public speeches prominently highlighted the general approach and explained how critical services would continue to be available and how contact tracking and testing would function when the nation was put under lockdown. A straightforward, simple-to-understand “four stages of alert” approach was also developed to explain how the transmission and containment of the virus were methodically related to the relevant public health actions that would be done, such as the requirements defining when a lockdown would be initiated and lifted (Wilson, 2020). As opposed to taking into account additional media and contributing modes, such as social network sites, this study’s limitation is the verbal exchange during press briefings between officials and the media. Additionally, the analysis showed how other government team members might add animation to the government viewpoint by using the same pertinent metaphors. Specifically, the following common patterns were noted: (1) empathy, (2) negative vision, and (3) collaborative action.

The sixth study focused on addressing compliance, which was a key component of many efforts to react to the global COVID-19 pandemic, especially discourse appropriate and other actions in India (Sambaraju, 2022). Politicians use discursive strategies to justify a variety of activities, as the preceding study’s discursive strategies demonstrated. According to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these directives result from particular kinds of normative relationships among Indian groups who are citizens of a country. Modi developed relationships with his audiences that treat his directives as requests for assistance. It was distinct from the relationship between an elected official and the voters, and it also fostered a relationship of responsibility and service among the listeners, providing a normative framework for following the orders. With his use of pronouns in this context, Modi disassociates himself from niche audiences like the ‘youth’ or ‘farmers’ while identifying himself with the larger Indian political system. Likewise, the words “friends” and “countrymen” do not immediately imply any connection to politics. The finding demonstrates that ties between political leaders and the polity, and within the polity itself are another essential component of political communication. Given that most TV and radio broadcasts in India are likely consumed in family spaces, these discursive practices enable audiences to identify themselves as family members, members of these groups, or as those in other normative relationships with members of these groups within India.

Table 2

Literature review

Author (Year)	Title	Country	Theory	Method
Sylvia Jaworska (2021)	Competence and collectivity: The discourse of Angela Merkel’s media communications during the first wave of the pandemic	Germany	Concept: Persuasion, Leadership.	Corpus-assisted discourse analysis
Rodney H. Jones (2021)	The wounded leader: The illness narratives of Boris Johnson and Donald Trump	United States & Britain	Concept: Affect, Agency, Illness	Combining principles from applied linguistic approaches to illness

			narratives, Masculinity, Stance.	narratives and sociolinguistic approaches to language and gender.
Sally Hunt (2021)	COVID and the South African Family: Cyril Ramaphosa, President or father?	South Africa	Critical discourse analysis (CDA)	Corpus linguistics & CDA
Camilla Vásquez (2021)	Leading with stories: Andrew Cuomo, family narratives and authentic leadership	United States	Narrative discourse	Interactional sociolinguistic approach
Christoph A. Hafner, Tongle Sun (2021)	The 'team of 5 million': The joint construction of leadership discourse during the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand	New Zealand	Positioning theory	Interactional sociolinguistics approach
Rahul Sambaraju (2022)	'My countrymen have never disappointed me': Politics of service in Modi's speeches during COVID-19.	India	Concept: Compliance, Political discourse, Service, Duty.	Discourse analysis

METHOD

DATA AND PARTICIPANTS

Examining presidential statements in relation to important incidents throughout the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, this study employs a discourse analytic technique. Crisis discourse served as the source of the data for this study. For the period of the third COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, from 15 December 2021 to 30 May 2022, speeches used to communicate by President Jokowi were accessible online via the website presidenri.go.id (Sekretariat Presiden, 2022), one of the official Indonesian central government sources. The corpus for this study consisted of six speeches from the set of data during the above-stated period. The speeches were delivered in Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian language) then we translated them into English.

We concentrated on the times when Jokowi provided advice and direction about the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in keeping with the study's goal. We did this by carefully reading the official transcripts numerous times. Talking about the intended audience was also a part of the discursive practices of imparting instructions. Then, these data were coded and combined with Jokowi's directives and references to Indonesians when it comes to obtaining directives for the COVID-19 pandemic and included in the corpus. At the degree of the speech, coding was done. We classified all occasions where action-taking was the main focus because recipients; orientation does not consider whether a statement was intended to be a directive or merely advice. A data set with six occurrences was created as a result. This group included instructions that were given to 'Indonesians', a more general 'we', and particular Indonesian groups, including 'children', 'elderly', 'vulnerable group', or 'comorbid community'. To prepare for analysis, these instances were obtained through the six official transcripts offered.

The data were examined utilizing constructionist discourse analysis methods that were appropriate for studying mediated speech. These creations are formed within and via discourse to address ongoing social action. This strategy allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the social and discursive background as well as more micro-approaches that concentrate on talk-in-interaction and membership categories.

CODING

We concentrated on the situations in which Jokowi provided directives and advice about the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with the study's focus. We studied the official transcripts multiple times in-depth in order to accomplish this. The discourse regarding the instructions' recipients was a part of the discursive practices of instruction delivery. Then, references to Indonesians and instances in these data where Jokowi was providing instructions in relation to receiving instructions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic were coded in the corpus. The utterance level was the level of coding. Since recipients' orientation does not address whether a speech was intended to provide advice or instructions, we coded every instance where taking action was the main goal. This led to the development of a data collection with 6 instances in it. This group included situations in which directives were addressed to "we" and "together", and particular Indonesian demographics, including "children" and "elderly". These instances were viewed via the official transcripts that were made available and ready for analysis. The current goals are to look at the discursive processes that constructed Jokowi and the Indonesian government in order to address action compliance during the pandemic.

ANALYTIC PROCEDURE

Constructionist discourse analysis approaches were applied to the data analysis. This method stems from the social constructionist movement in the social sciences, which holds that our social interactions shape our social environment in different ways. These constructions are addressed by continuing social action and are created in and through language (Billig, 1991). Scholars closely and methodologically examine discourses to determine what and how social actions are carried out. This method allows for a deeper understanding of the social and discursive background as well as more in-depth micro-approaches that concentrate on talk-in-interaction and membership categories. The approach consists of three procedural components for the current paper.

Firstly, constructs are looked for in the descriptions. We locate and analyse descriptions that were used to develop certain images of Jokowi, the Indonesian government, and their interactions. We discussed pronoun usage and characterizing Jokowi and the kind of relationship that exists between them. We focus on how particular pronouns—"I", "we", "our," and so forth—are used in relation to these footing shifts and how they affect Jokowi's relationship with the groups in question. We look at these relationships in terms of the reciprocity of responsibilities and duties and the classifications of the Indonesian political elite as the ones receiving these directives. To mobilize the known-in-common qualities of these categories, we use membership categorization analysis approaches, where the focus is on classifying individuals as members in categories. We look at the relationships that Jokowi created by classifying the audience, himself, and the larger Indonesian political system.

Secondly, by concentrating on the function of generic overhearers of this utterance, we analyse these discursive elements and their results as essentially rhetorical. Thirdly, we examine these speeches' mediated nature. Ultimately, the speeches were examined for how different incarnations of Jokowi, audience members, and the relationships between them were formed and applied to concerns of following Jokowi's directives as well as Jokowi's own politics.

RESULTS

Governmental pandemic advice entails the coordination of partnering agreements at the national level, which calls for lateral knowledge, coordination, and sharing of power to assist

in mobilizing coordinated reactions and provide resources where needed. This is because of the fact that the risks, losses, and emergency action tasks connected to outbreaks of infectious diseases frequently span numerous sites, organisations, and networks. As a crisis scenario develops and changes course, this aids in fostering mutual comprehension, connectivity, and shared understanding.

Partnering arrangements also gain from early community involvement in the planning phase to provide assistance and direction where it may be necessary, such as with the creation of preparation for responding to disasters in the community and guidelines, strengthening ties, and integrating central government with the local system in preparation and assistance in implementing those plans when and if necessary. Citizens from throughout the nation participated in actions of mutual support in this collaborative spirit. This study looked at how the crisis and risk communication by the Indonesian central government through Jokowi's speeches contained directives for the people of Indonesia. We look at six presidential statements, as illustrated in table 3.

Table 3

Statement of Indonesian President Joko Widodo regarding the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic

No	Title	Date
1.	Press statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia After Reviewing the COVID-19 Vaccination for Children	15 Dec 21
2.	Press release of the President of the Republic of Indonesia about the Development of COVID-19	16 Dec 21
3.	Statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia regarding the Third Dose of Vaccination	11 Jan 22
4.	Statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia about the Omicron Case in Indonesia	18 Jan 22
5.	Press statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia about Easing the Use of Masks	17 May 22
6.	Statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia regarding COVID-19 Vaccination	30 May 22

Source: (Sekretariat Presiden, 2022)

The public views the COVID-19 vaccination of children as a complex issue, and many are conflicted or hesitant about the idea (S. N. Williams, 2022). A research finding showed that most Thai parents of children under 12 years old were reluctant to vaccinate their kids against COVID-19 (Kitro et al., 2022). Only 48% of Australian parents intend to vaccinate their kids. Despite their great desire to keep their kids safe and their readiness to learn about health issues, parents also expressed hesitation and a focus on risks, including worries about testing, side effects, and long-term results (Evans et al., 2021). Extract 1 is from Jokowi's public speech on vaccination for children. The release day for this was December 15, 2021. In his speech, Jokowi was grateful that vaccination for kids had begun in Jakarta and hoped that other provinces would soon follow suit to keep COVID-19 from spreading among them.

Extract 1

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

This morning, I came to see the start of vaccination for children (aged) between six and eleven years, of which there are approximately 26,5 million children in Indonesia that we need to vaccinate. And specifically in Jakarta, there are 1,2 million children who must be vaccinated.

I really appreciate the start of vaccination for these children. And we hope that not only in Jakarta, (but) other provinces will also immediately start vaccinating children, in order to protect our children from the spread of COVID-19, both the old and new variants.

And everything must also be adjusted, because our children also have to get immunized, get vaccinated for other diseases, so this arrangement is in the Ministry of Health, in the regional health office. And we hope that everything will be resolved soon.

I think that's all I can say.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Similar features can be seen to varied degrees in the Extract 2 taken from the press release's December 16, 2021 transcript. In Extract 2, Jokowi develops a bond with Indonesians by providing vaccination instructions. It is essential to have a high vaccination rate to stop the COVID-19 pandemic. To acquire herd immunity against COVID-19, vaccination coverage for the virus should be enhanced due to its highly contagious omicron variant. The provision of complete vaccinations to boosters facilitated by the government can create a higher defense for the community to fight COVID-19. As of October 5, 2022, the total number of people who have received the first vaccination is 204.594.174, and the second vaccination is 171.205.139 people (Satuan Tugas Penanganan COVID-19, 2022).

Extract 2

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Best wishes for all of us.

As stated by the Minister of Health, the Omicron variant has been detected in Indonesian territory. This is inevitable because one of the characteristics of this variant is that the transmission is very fast.

Now, what we have to do is together make every effort so that the Omicron variant does not spread in the country. Do not let local transmission occur. We must try to keep the situation in Indonesia good. We keep the number of active cases low. We monitor the transmission rate so that it stays below 1. Don't let it spike again.

Vigilance is important, but don't let these developments panic us. So far, the Omicron variant has not shown a life-threatening character for patients, especially for patients who have received the vaccine.

Therefore, I ask all residents who have not received two vaccines, especially those who have not been vaccinated at all, to immediately go to health facilities to get the vaccine.

Even though the situation in the country is approaching normal, all of you, don't slack off in implementing the health protocols. Continue wearing masks, maintain your distance, wash your hands. And for local governments, I ask that testing and tracing of close contacts be intensified again, to be increased again.

Lastly, I ask all citizens and state officials to refrain from traveling abroad, at least until the situation subsides.

That's what I say.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

In Extract 3, President Jokowi and the people are united by the use of the words 'we' and 'together' in particular, which illustrate the construction with metaphors of the country as a family. It includes the public in the process of determining decisions, strengthens the feeling of cooperation between the government and the public as they fight a common enemy, to emphasise the COVID-19 crisis from collective perspective, a sense that everyone is responsible for finding a solution and that everyone is in it together (Hunt, 2021). While 'I' represents the government. On several occasions Jokowi often uses 'I' to ask, emphasize, remind and recommend certain actions to reduce the spread of the virus as seen in Extract 2-6.

Extract 3

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Dear Sir/Madam and Brothers/Sisters,

Starting January 12, 2022, the government will implement a third vaccination, with priority for the elderly and vulnerable groups. This effort is important to do to increase people's immunity, given the COVID-19 virus that continues to mutate.

For this reason, I have decided that this third vaccination is free for all Indonesians, because once again I emphasize that the safety of the people is the first priority.

As for the terms and conditions needed to receive this third vaccination, prospective recipients have received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine more than 6 months earlier.

Even though have been vaccinated, I remind the public to remain disciplined in implementing health protocols, wearing masks, maintaining distance, and washing hands. Because vaccination and discipline of health protocols are key in overcoming this COVID-19 pandemic.

So that I can convey.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

A lot of effort has been put into educating and informing the public about the coronavirus. In extracts 2-5, for instance, President Jokowi emphasised the value of routine hand washing, keeping one's distance from others, and using a mask. 'Continue wearing masks', 'maintain your distance', and 'wash your hands', these communications were first given credit for 'cut-through' with Indonesian citizens because they were straightforward, unequivocal, clear, and simple to understand, which led to safety recommendations in the middle stages of the pandemic. The nearly daily press conferences have repeated these sentiments numerous times.

Extract 4

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Dear Sir/Madam and Brothers/Sisters,

We are currently experiencing an upward trend in COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant. Therefore, we should all be aware of this trend, but not overreact. Be careful, alert is necessary, but do not cause fear and do not cause panic. Various studies, including a report by the World Health Organization, say the Omicron variant is indeed more easily transmitted, but the symptoms are milder. Patients infected with this variant generally recover without having to be hospitalized. But again, we have to be vigilant, don't get carried away, and don't be rash. Therefore, if you do not have an urgent need, it is better to reduce activities in crowded centres. And for those who can work from home, do it. And I also ask not to travel abroad if there is no important and urgent business.

Sir/Madam and Brothers/Sisters,

I will never tire of reminding you to always wear a mask, keep your distance, and don't forget to wash your hands. In essence, follow health protocols with discipline.

Another important thing during a pandemic is vaccination. Those who have not received the vaccine, please get vaccinated immediately. Those who have received the first vaccine, immediately get the second vaccine. Those who have had two vaccines, immediately look for third vaccine (booster vaccine). Everything is free, because vaccination is important for the safety of all of us.

So that I can convey.

Thank you.

Wassalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

In extract 4, President Jokowi added that inappropriate response to the wave of omicron variant spread can have fatal consequences. In the statement on 18 January 2022, he said that the only way to limit the spread of this disease is by vaccination. However, the Indonesian government is easing the restrictions on COVID-19 in terms of wearing masks. It can be seen in Extract 5.

Extract 5

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Sir/Madam and Brothers/Sisters,

Taking into account the current conditions in which the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia is increasingly under control, I need to convey several things.

First, the government decided to relax the policy on wearing masks. If people are doing outdoor activities or in open areas that are not crowded with people, they are allowed to not wear masks. However, for activities in closed spaces and public transportation, you must still wear a mask.

For people who are categorized as vulnerable, elderly or have comorbid diseases, I still recommend wearing a mask when doing activities. Likewise, for people who experience symptoms of coughs and colds, they still have to wear masks when doing activities.

Second, for domestic and foreign travellers who have received a complete dose of vaccination, there is no longer a need to perform a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) or antigen swab test.

That's all I can say on this auspicious occasion.

Wassalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Apart from extract 4, in extract 6, President Jokowi also underlined the significance of vaccines to suppress the transmission of COVID-19. The Indonesian government begins vaccinations on 13 January 2021 (Nugraheny & Rastika, 2021). More than 170 million doses of vaccines have been given by 15 September 2022, and a total of 170.843.370 people have received all available doses (Hemawati, 2022). To put an end to the pandemic, it is crucial to

achieve an acceptable protective and long-lasting herd immunity level by vaccination. This immunity occurs only when a sizable (about 70%) proportion of a community receives vaccinations (Yousefinaghani et al., 2021). For instance, a study in the United States found a 67% of people are willing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. However, there were observable differences in vaccine acceptance across various geographic and demographic groups (Malik et al., 2020). Prioritising effective COVID-19 vaccine-acceptance messaging for the public, especially those who are most vulnerable, must be a top priority for public health officials and policymakers before a COVID-19 vaccine is made available.

Extract 6

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Dear Sir/Madam and Brothers/Sisters,

Alhamdulillah, the current condition of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed, community activities have started to return to normal, the community's economy has started to move again. Of course, all of this is thanks to the success of all of us controlling the COVID-19 pandemic well.

But remember, we all must not be careless. We must maintain this recovery momentum. For this reason, I ask the public to continue to carry out a complete two-dose COVID-19 vaccination, plus a booster vaccination to prevent transmission.

This booster vaccination is very important. Data from the Ministry of Health shows that booster vaccination can increase immunity up to two times compared to the second dose. This booster vaccination is also needed to protect the elderly and vulnerable or comorbid community groups from transmitting COVID-19.

The government's stock of COVID-19 vaccine for boosters is more than sufficient. I ask the public to immediately take advantage of this free booster vaccine facility. And don't be picky about the type of vaccine because all vaccines have the same benefits, to protect us all from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let's keep this good momentum together so that Indonesia will recover, and the economy will improve.

Thank you.

Wassalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

DISCUSSION

Crisis communication includes sending and receiving communications “to prevent or lessen the negative outcomes of a crisis and thereby protect the organization, stakeholders, and/or industry from damage” (Reynolds & Seeger, 2014). Thinking about communication strategies or methods for informing the audience in the most advantageous way is also stimulated by risk communication (D. E. Williams & Olaniran, 1998). The issue of effective leadership is being discussed concerning how well-equipped countries handled the COVID-19 pandemic (Wardman, 2020). As a leader, Jokowi must be able to communicate to the public regarding the crisis raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This study shows that using inclusive pronouns, Jokowi portrays himself in the current data as a member of the policy that is dealing with the issue and shares their concerns or obligations to take action. In reference to COVID-19, Renn (2020) reiterates this by highlighting the necessity of an “inclusive” approach that includes stakeholders in the conversation about policy solutions. Additionally, Jokowi presents particular interpretations of audience relations in a way that raises normative relationships between different Indonesian communities. Instead of being fresh activities portrayed as constraints, instructions are perceived as extensions of the normative connections that already exist among Indonesians. All things considered, structures and relationships point to the formation of a national community obligated to one another's obligations and duties rather than existing because of constitutional guarantees. Jokowi is included in this network of relationships as an organized party as well as a co-participant. Through his discursive practices, Jokowi created a national polity and relational nationalism with embedded commands and compliance.

As the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations approaches, it is also becoming increasingly important to understand the connection between risk communication and vaccination

(Bouder, 2022). The most common justifications given for refusing a vaccination were: general anti-vaccine sentiment, worries about the safety of believing a hurriedly produced vaccine is too dangerous, believing COVID-19 is harmless and thus making the vaccine pointless, general lack of trust, scepticism regarding the vaccine's effectiveness, believing one has already received an immunization, and scepticism regarding the vaccine's provenance (Troiano & Nardi, 2021). In his presidential statement regarding COVID-19 in Indonesia, especially during the third wave, Jokowi also emphasized the importance of vaccination. Almost all statements, specifically extracts 2, 3, 4, and 6, show this.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we looked at the president of Indonesia's remarks regarding crisis and risk communication during the COVID-19 pandemic's third wave. The investigation concentrated on cases where themes included advice on managing the pandemic. Overall, this study found that President Jokowi and the people are united by the use of the words "we" and "together" in particular, which illustrate construction with metaphors of the country as a family. In contrast, Jokowi also uses 'I' as a central government representative to ask, emphasize, remind, and recommend certain actions to the public to stop the infection from spreading.

For instance, Jokowi emphasised the value of routine hand washing, keeping one's distance from others, and using a mask. 'Continue wearing masks', 'maintain your distance', and 'wash your hands', these communications were first given credit for 'cut-through' with Indonesian citizens because they were straightforward, unequivocal, clear, and simple to understand, which led to safety recommendations during the beginning of the pandemic. In the midst of a pandemic, the government can use this study to prominently interact with the public and deliver addresses. The perspectives represented in this multidisciplinary study include those of communication, language, and public health.

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