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RHETORICAL MOVES IN BROADCAST DISASTER NEWS: A CORPUS-ASSISTED GENRE ANALYSIS

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Abstract
Growing scholarly attention to media discourse has stimulated increasing interest in the rhetorical organization of news texts. However, much of this research has focused on print journalism, leaving the structural dynamics of broadcast news, particularly disaster reporting, relatively underexplored despite its crucial role in communicating urgent information to the public. This study examines how disaster-related events are rhetorically structured and linguistically realized in broadcast television news. Drawing on a corpus of 23 disaster news reports produced by TVRI Sulawesi Tengah between 2024 and 2026, the study employs a corpus-assisted genre analysis to investigate the move structure and linguistic patterns that shape disaster news discourse. Using Hajimia et al.'s (2022) nine-move framework, the analysis first identifies the rhetorical moves that organize the reports and examines their distribution across the corpus. It then explores recurring linguistic patterns using AntConc to illustrate how these rhetorical functions are realized in the texts. The findings reveal that broadcast disaster news follows a relatively stable rhetorical structure centered on introducing the disaster event and elaborating its impacts and response actions. Move 1 (Title), Move 2 (Introducing the news lead), and Move 4 (Elaborating the event) emerge as the most obligatory components, while Submove 4b (Stating factual information) forms the core narrative element. These findings contribute to genre studies of media discourse and offer insights for journalism-related language instruction.

Keywords: broadcast disaster news, rhetorical moves, corpus-assisted genre analysis

Introduction

Media discourse has long attracted scholarly attention due to its rhetorical structures, which play an important role in shaping effective communication and influencing public understanding. From an educational perspective, the communicative style of media texts can also serve as a useful model for teaching both conventional and critical writing. In Indonesian higher education, particularly in English Education study programs, the English for Journalism course is commonly offered to train students in conventional news writing while also preparing them for potential careers in journalism.

However, one criticism frequently directed at English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instruction is that students may struggle to handle the rhetorical and textual conventions of professional genres when entering workplace settings such as media institutions. These challenges are often linked to limited awareness of the communicative purposes and discursive practices that shape professional communication. Research in genre-based pedagogy suggests that insights from genre and discourse studies can provide valuable guidance for language teachers and material developers in designing more effective instructional practices (Hyland, 2019). Such research also helps learners understand the rhetorical patterns and writing conventions that characterize particular discourse communities (Tardy, 2016).

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The study of rhetorical structures in media discourse is commonly examined within the framework of genre analysis. Within this perspective, genres are understood as conventionalized forms of discourse used by members of a discourse community to accomplish shared communicative purposes (Bhatia, 1993; Swales, 1990). Genre analysis therefore investigates how these communicative purposes are realized through the structural organization and rhetorical patterns of texts.

Among the various forms of media discourse, broadcast news occupies a particularly influential role because it delivers information to the public through audiovisual narration. This role becomes especially significant in disaster reporting, where news organizations must communicate urgent developments while helping audiences understand the scale and implications of unfolding events. This context is particularly relevant in Central Sulawesi, where the city of Palu and its surrounding regions are highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Between 2024 and 2025, a total of 453 disaster incidents were recorded in the region (Biro Administrasi Pimpinan Provinsi Sulawesi Tengah, 2025). Consequently, disaster-related issues frequently become a central topic in television news coverage produced in the region.

Despite the importance of disaster reporting in television journalism, relatively limited attention has been devoted to examining the rhetorical organization of broadcast disaster news, particularly in the context of Indonesian television media. Accordingly, this study examines the rhetorical organization of broadcast disaster news from an Indonesian national television station through a corpus-assisted genre analysis. The study is guided by two research questions. First, it examines the rhetorical moves that structure broadcast disaster news reports. Second, it explores how these rhetorical moves are linguistically realized in the news texts.

Literature Review

With regard to media discourse, it is worthwhile to review the rhetorical structure of newspaper editorials, as this genre has been widely adopted in journalistic practice across both native and non-native English contexts. Bonyadi (2012) examined the rhetorical moves of *New York Times* editorials through genre analysis and found that the organization of editorials tends to follow a triad structure consisting of Lead (L), Follow (F), and Valuate (V), in which the Lead introduces the topic, the Follow develops the issue being discussed, and the Valuate provides an evaluation or concluding comment. Importantly, the study emphasizes that editorials function not merely as informational texts but as discursive instruments through which media institutions convey attitudes, evaluations, and collective stances on public issues.

Moving beyond a single-context analysis, Wornyo (2022) examined the rhetorical strategies of newspaper editorials in Ghana and the United States by analyzing editorials from *The Daily Graphic* and *The New York Times*. The study characterizes editorials as opinion-oriented texts intended to influence public opinion and stimulate societal change. Structurally, the body of the editorial typically develops and evaluates the issue under discussion, whereas the concluding section often performs an informative or directive function by suggesting possible actions or responses. While these rhetorical stages largely correspond to the Lead–Follow–Valuate structure proposed by Bonyadi (2012), Wornyo further highlights the influence of socio-cultural context on editorial discourse. In the Ghanaian context, criticism tends to be expressed more cautiously and politely in order to maintain social harmony and promote national unity, whereas American editorials often employ more direct evaluative language when addressing public issues. This observation suggests that socio-cultural norms may play an important role in shaping the realization of rhetorical moves in editorial discourse.

Beyond editorial discourse, scholars have also examined the rhetorical organization of newspaper news reporting, which shares similarities with broadcast news in terms of reporting events and presenting factual developments. In the Brazilian context, Bonini (2009) analyzed newspaper news texts and identified structural components consisting of the Title, Lead, and Text Body. These components function respectively to highlight the most salient aspect of the event, summarize the core information, and narrate, describe, and contextualize the reported facts.

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Extending the discussion across different journalistic contexts, Jabbari and Farokhipour (2014) conducted a contrastive genre analysis of news reports in Iranian and American newspapers. The study examined a corpus of 120 reports drawn from four newspapers: *Iran Daily*, *Tehran Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. The findings reveal notable differences in rhetorical organization between the two contexts. While American reports tend to present a clear thesis and a more explicit argumentative structure, Iranian reports primarily emphasize informational content and often lack an explicit "main thesis" move. Compared to Bonini's (2009) framework, which emphasizes narrative and contextual moves in event reporting, Jabbari and Farokhipour's model introduces additional rhetorical moves such as a main thesis and directive, suggesting a more argumentative orientation in certain news reporting contexts.

Furthermore, Hajimia et al. (2022) examined the rhetorical organization of newspaper reports in the Malaysian context. The study analyzed different categories of news, including crime, environmental, and political reports, and proposed a detailed move structure for news discourse. While the overall organization largely corresponds to the narrative and contextual moves identified by (Bonini, 2009) and shares similarities with the move patterns described by Jabbari and Farokhipour (2014), Hajimia et al. provide a more fine-grained classification of submoves within the text body, illustrating how different types of news reports realize these moves in slightly different ways.

Quite recently, Gul et al. (2025) explored stance in relation to sustainability issues in Pakistani news articles. Using a corpus-based genre analysis of environmental news reports from three English-language newspapers namely *Dawn*, *The Nation*, and *The News International*, the study identified rhetorical moves through which environmental issues and government responses are presented and evaluated. While the move structure broadly corresponds to those identified in earlier research on news reporting, the study highlights how these moves function to frame evaluations of environmental governance and public sustainability concerns.

As shown in Table 1, previous studies have proposed various rhetorical structures for newspaper discourse. Among these frameworks, Hajimia et al.'s (2022) model offers one of the most comprehensive classifications of rhetorical moves in news reporting, providing a detailed account of how news narratives are organized and elaborated within journalistic discourse.

Table 1. Comparative Overview of Previous Studies on Newspaper News Discourse

Study	Context	Structural Components	Rhetorical Moves
Bonini (2009)	Brazilian newspapers	1) Title 2) Lead 3)Text Body	Move 1: Citing the most evident aspect (Title) Move 2: Summarizing the fact (Lead) Move 3: Narrating the fact Move 4: Describing details of the fact Move 5: Contextualizing the event
Jabbari and Farokhipour (2014)	Iranian and American newspapers	1) Headline 2) News Body	Move 1: Title definition Move 2: Preparatory comment Move 3: Main topic Move 4: Main thesis Move 5: Analysis (argumentation and supporting claims) Move 6: Directive
Hajimia et al.	Malaysian newspapers	1) Headline	Move 1: Establishing a

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(2022)		2) Lead 3) Text Body 4) Ending	territory Move 2: Introducing the news lead Move 3: Providing secondary information Move 4: Elaborating the event Move 5: Providing supporting facts Move 6: Providing historical context Move 7: Narrating unrelated events Move 8: Pointing out related facts Move 9: Referencing verbal reactions
Gul et al. (2025)	Pakistani environmental news articles	1) Issue introduction 2) Argument development 3) Evaluation 4) Recommendation	Move 1: Presenting the case Move 2: Providing arguments Move 3: Reaching a verdict Move 4: Recommending action

In the Indonesian broadcast context, Herlina et al. (2017) investigated the rhetorical organization of news scripts from the TVRI program *Kaltim This Week*. Drawing on conventional structures of broadcast journalism, the study identifies three structural components: climax, cause, and effect, which respectively present the main point of the story, explain the circumstances surrounding the event, and provide the outcome or concluding implication. The analysis further evaluates these components by distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant realizations, depending on whether the rhetorical elements effectively support the overall news narrative. While the study provides useful insight into the structural organization of television news writing in the Indonesian context, its analytical framework primarily reflects journalistic writing conventions rather than a genre-analytical perspective. Consequently, the analysis focuses mainly on structural components of news scripts and pays limited attention to the rhetorical organization of broadcast news from a genre-based standpoint.

In general, earlier studies have provided valuable insights into the rhetorical organization of media discourse, particularly in the context of newspaper editorials and news reports. However, the majority of these investigations focus primarily on print journalism, while relatively limited attention has been given to broadcast television news, which combines spoken narration with visual elements and therefore operates within a different communicative format. In addition, although Hajimia et al. (2022) examined several categories of newspaper news, including crime, environmental, and political reports, and demonstrated that different categories may involve distinct submoves within the text body, disaster news category has not been specifically explored, leaving open the possibility that this category may exhibit additional rhetorical patterns.

To address these gaps, the present study examines the rhetorical organization of broadcast disaster news from an Indonesian national television station using genre analysis supported by corpus-assisted methods. While genre analysis provides a framework for identifying rhetorical moves that structure the discourse, corpus tools can assist in identifying recurring linguistic patterns that illustrate how these rhetorical functions are linguistically realized. This approach, commonly referred to as corpus-assisted genre analysis, combines qualitative analysis of rhetorical structure with corpus-based observations derived from frequency lists and

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concordance lines (e.g., Khany & Malmir, 2019). By applying Hajimia et al.'s (2022) move framework and examining recurring linguistic patterns within the news corpus, the study aims to provide a clearer understanding of how broadcast disaster news is rhetorically organized and linguistically realized.

Research Method

This study adopts a qualitative approach supported by corpus-assisted analysis to examine the rhetorical and linguistic features of broadcast disaster news. The analysis is grounded in the framework of genre analysis, which investigates how communicative purposes are realized through the rhetorical organization of texts within a particular discourse community (Bhatia, 1993; Swales, 1990). In this study, rhetorical move analysis is employed to examine the structural organization of broadcast disaster news, while corpus-assisted techniques are used to identify recurring linguistic patterns that illustrate how these rhetorical functions are linguistically realized in the news texts.

The primary data consist of a corpus of 23 broadcast disaster news texts produced by TVRI Sulawesi Tengah, a regional station of the Indonesian public broadcaster Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI). The corpus is derived from a weekly news update program called *Palu News Service*, which airs every Thursday and typically presents 11 news items reporting recent developments in Central Sulawesi, including disaster-related events. The selected texts were taken from broadcasts aired between 2024 and 2026 to capture recent discourse practices in television news reporting and to align with the disaster context described in the Introduction. The news reports were transcribed and compiled into a small specialized corpus for analysis.

The identification of rhetorical moves was guided by the nine-move framework proposed by Hajimia et al. (2022), which synthesizes previous genre-based studies of news discourse. The analysis proceeded in several stages. First, each news text was examined to identify and tag the sequence of rhetorical moves occurring within the body of the report. After the moves had been identified across the corpus, the frequency of each move was calculated to determine its prominence in the genre. Following the classification adopted by Hajimia et al., moves occurring in 75–100% of the texts were categorized as most obligatory, those occurring in 50–74% as obligatory, those appearing in 25–49% as optional, and those occurring in 0–24% as not obligatory.

Second, corpus-assisted analysis was conducted using AntConc to generate frequency lists and concordance lines for identifying recurring linguistic patterns. These patterns were examined to determine how specific grammatical and lexical features contribute to the realization of rhetorical moves in the news reports. The corpus analysis therefore served to complement the qualitative move analysis by providing linguistic evidence that supports the interpretation of the rhetorical structure of broadcast disaster news.

Results

Rhetorical Moves Identified in Broadcast Disaster News

The first stage of the analysis involved identifying and tagging the rhetorical moves in each news text using the nine-move framework proposed by Hajimia et al. (2022). Each report in the corpus was carefully examined to determine the sequence of moves occurring across the structural components of the news, including the title, lead, text body, and ending. During this process, segments of the text were assigned move labels according to the communicative functions defined in the framework. This tagging procedure enabled the identification of how each report organizes information and how the discourse develops throughout the broadcast news script. The rhetorical moves framework used in this study is summarized in Table 2

Table 2. Rhetorical Move Framework Adapted from Hajimia et al. (2022)

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Core Component	Move	Function
Title	Move 1 – Establishing a territory	Introduces the topic of the news report
Lead	Move 2 – Elaborates the topic	Elaborates the topic through a concise summary of the event (5W+1H)
	Move 3 – Providing secondary information	Provides additional information not included in the title
Text Body	Move 4 – Elaborating the event	Further elaborates the news topic
	Submove 4a – Establishing follow-up action	Reports actions taken by authorities or institutions
	Submove 4b – Stating factual information	Describes events, conditions, or impacts
	Submove 4c – Indicating cause and effect	Explains factors contributing to disasters and its consequences
	Submove 4d – Predicting negative consequences	Highlights potential risks or future impacts
	Submove 4g – Expressing expected outcome	Presents anticipated results of actions taken
	Move 5 – Providing supporting facts	Presents statistical data or supporting evidence
	Move 6 – Providing historical context	Refers to previous events or background conditions
	Move 7 – Narrating unrelated events	Introduces information not directly related to the main event
Ending	Move 8 – Pointing out related facts	Provides additional contextual details
	Move 9 – Referencing verbal reactions	Reports statements from authorities or community members

The analysis shows that all reports begin with Move 1 (Title), which functions to introduce the topic of the news report and provide a concise indication of the main issue being covered. This is followed by the lead section, where Move 2 (Introducing the news lead) presents the central event of the report, typically summarizing key elements of the news story such as the event, location, or actors involved. In many cases, the lead also includes Move 3 (Providing secondary information), which offers additional details that further clarify or elaborate the initial summary of the event.

Following the lead, the text body is primarily characterized by Move 4 (Elaborating the event). This move serves to expand the information presented in the lead and provide a more detailed account of the disaster-related event. Move 4 is realized through several submoves that perform different communicative functions within the report. These include stating factual information (4b) to describe the conditions or impacts of the disaster, establishing follow-up actions (4a) to report responses taken by authorities or institutions, and indicating cause–effect relationships (4c) to explain factors contributing to the occurrence or consequences of the event. In some cases, the reports also include predicting possible consequences (4d) or expressing expected outcomes (4g), which highlight potential risks or anticipated results of actions taken in response to the disaster.

In the ending section, the reports may provide additional contextual information through Move 8 (Pointing out related facts), which presents supplementary details connected to the main event. More commonly, the reports conclude with Move 9 (Referencing verbal reactions), where

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statements from authorities, officials, or community members are reported. These verbal reactions often function to reinforce the information presented earlier in the report or to provide official perspectives on the disaster situation.

Illustrative Examples of Rhetorical Moves

To illustrate how the rhetorical moves identified in the framework are realized in the corpus, selected excerpts from the broadcast disaster news reports are presented below. Each excerpt is taken from the dataset and labelled according to the move it represents. For reference purposes, each report in the corpus was assigned a code ranging from DN01 to DN23. These examples demonstrate how different moves operate within the structure of broadcast disaster news and contribute to the development of the news narrative.

Move 1 – Establishing a territory (Title)

Heavy Rain Disrupts Access on Napu–Doda Road

(DN15)

This excerpt represents Move 1, which introduces the main topic of the news report. The title highlights the key event, namely heavy rainfall that disrupts transportation access, thereby immediately informing the audience about the central issue being reported. In broadcast disaster news, such titles typically foreground the primary event and signal the focus of the report that will be elaborated in the subsequent sections.

Move 2 – Introducing the news lead

Heavy rainfall that hit Lore Tengah Subdistrict, Poso Regency, on Monday, 26 May 2025, has disrupted access on the Napu–Doda Road.

(DN15)

This sentence exemplifies Move 2 by presenting the central event of the news report. The lead introduces the disaster event, heavy rainfall that disrupted access to the Napu–Doda Road, while also specifying the location (Lore Tengah Subdistrict, Poso Regency) and the time of occurrence. By summarizing these key elements at the beginning of the report, the lead provides the audience with an immediate overview of the situation and establishes the context for the more detailed information presented in the subsequent sections.

Move 3 – Providing secondary information

The damaged bridge is the only route connecting Lore Tengah to Palu City and Poso Regency.

(DN15)

This excerpt illustrates Move 3, offering additional information that elaborates the summary presented in the lead. The sentence explains the significance of the damaged infrastructure by indicating that the bridge serves as the only access route connecting Lore Tengah to Palu City and Poso Regency. By providing this contextual detail, the report helps the audience understand the seriousness of the disruption and its potential impact on community mobility.

Submove 4a – Establishing follow-up action

In response, the Palu City government deployed personnel from the fire department and the Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) to assist with cleanup efforts.

(DN12)

This sentence represents Submove 4a, reporting actions taken by authorities or institutions in response to the disaster. The statement describes the deployment of government personnel to support cleanup operations following the flooding incident. Such information informs the audience about measures implemented by local authorities to address the situation and assist affected communities. By presenting these response efforts, the report highlights the role of institutional intervention in managing the disaster and restoring normal conditions in the affected area.

Submove 4b – Stating factual information

The floodwaters, which reached up to 50 centimetres, swept into the area around 7 p.m. local time, catching residents off guard.

(DN12)

This excerpt exemplifies Submove 4b, presenting factual information related to the disaster

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event. The sentence provides concrete details describing the conditions of the flooding, including the water level and the time the floodwaters entered the residential area. Such factual descriptions help convey the immediate circumstances of the disaster and illustrate how the event affected local residents. By presenting measurable and situational details, the report enables the audience to better understand the scale and immediacy of the disaster.

Submove 4c – Indicating cause and effect

The damage was triggered by a landslide and strong water flow, which eroded the road base and caused both the bridge and road to cave in.

(DN15)

This sentence illustrates Submove 4c by presenting a clear cause and effect relationship associated with the disaster event. The sentence explains that the collapse of the bridge and road was triggered by a landslide and strong water flow, which eroded the road foundation. By identifying the factors that led to the damage, the report provides an explanation of the conditions that contributed to the disruption of access in the affected area and helps the audience understand the underlying causes of the incident.

Submove 4g – Expressing expected outcome

With the evacuation and reorganisation of school furniture, it is hoped pupils of Tangkura Primary can quickly return to lessons in a safer environment.

(DN07)

This excerpt exemplifies Submove 4g, presenting the expected outcome of actions taken in response to the disaster. The sentence expresses a general expectation that the evacuation and reorganisation of school equipment will enable pupils to resume their learning activities in a safer environment. By projecting this anticipated result, the report highlights how post-disaster response measures aim to restore essential community functions, particularly educational activities.

Move 9 – Referencing verbal reactions

Governor Anwar also confirmed that a central BNPB or National Disaster Management Authority team is scheduled to arrive in Poso today to directly assess conditions in the field.

(DN09)

This sentence represents Move 9, presenting a verbal reaction from a government authority regarding the disaster situation. The governor's statement informs the public about the planned arrival of a national disaster management team to assess conditions in the affected area. By incorporating official remarks from government representatives, the report provides authoritative perspectives that reinforce the seriousness of the disaster and highlight the ongoing response efforts.

Move Sequences in Broadcast Disaster News

After illustrating how individual rhetorical moves are realized in the corpus, the analysis proceeded to examine the sequence in which these moves occur across the broadcast disaster news reports. Analyzing move sequences helps reveal how the discourse develops throughout the report and how different rhetorical functions interact to construct the news narrative. By tracing the order in which moves appear in the reports, it becomes possible to identify common structural patterns in the presentation of disaster-related events. The move sequences identified in the 23 news items are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Move Sequence

News	Move Sequence
DN01	M1 → M2 → M3 → M6 → M4b → M4b → M9
DN02	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M4b → M8 → M4b
DN03	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4c → M5 → M9
DN04	M1 → M2 → M4c → M4b → M4a → M4b
DN05	M1 → M2 → M3 → M5 → M4g → M9

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News	Move Sequence
DN06	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M4a → M4b → M4b
DN07	M1 → M2 → M4a → M4a → M4g → M4g → M4b
DN08	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4a → M4a → M4b → M9
DN09	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M4a → M9 → M9 → M9
DN10	M1 → M2 → M5 → M9 → M4a → M4a → M9
DN11	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4c → M4a → M4d → M9 → M4g
DN12	M1 → M2 → M4b → M4b → M4a → M4c
DN13	M1 → M2 → M4c → M4a → M4b → M9
DN14	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4c → M4b → M9 → M4b
DN15	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4c → M4c → M4a → M9
DN16	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M4a → M4b → M4a
DN17	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4a → M9 → M4a → M4g → M9 → M4b
DN18	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M9 → M9
DN19	M1 → M2 → M5 → M4b → M4a
DN20	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M9 → M9 → M9 → M9 → M9
DN21	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M4b → M4c → M4b → M9 → M4b → M4g
DN22	M1 → M2 → M3 → M5 → M4b → M4b → M4b → M4b → M8 → M4b
DN23	M1 → M2 → M3 → M4b → M5 → M4d → M4b → M4a → M9 → M4a → M9

Note. *M = Move; a–g indicate Submoves of Move 4.*

The sequences presented in Table 3 indicate that the rhetorical organization of broadcast disaster news is largely dominated by Move 4 (Elaborating the event) and its Submoves. In particular, Submove 4b (Stating factual information) appears repeatedly across many reports, suggesting that factual descriptions of events, conditions, and impacts constitute the core component of disaster news narratives. This finding reflects the informative function of broadcast disaster news, where the discourse prioritizes concrete details concerning the occurrence, conditions, and impacts of disaster-related incidents.

In addition to factual descriptions, many reports also incorporate Submove 4a (Establishing follow-up action), which informs actions taken by authorities or relevant institutions in response to the disaster. The presence of this Submove indicates that disaster news reports often extend beyond describing the event itself to include institutional responses, such as rescue operations, government coordination, or recovery efforts. Similarly, Submove 4c (Indicating cause–effect) appears in several reports to explain the factors contributing to the disaster or its impacts, thereby helping audiences understand the circumstances surrounding the event.

Other moves appear less frequently but still play supporting roles in structuring the reports. For instance, Move 5 (Providing supporting facts) occasionally introduces statistical information or data that reinforces the description of the event, while Move 6 (Providing historical context) provides background information that situates the current incident within a broader temporal context. In some cases, reports also include Submove 4d (Predicting negative consequences) or Submove 4g (Expressing expected outcomes), which highlight potential risks or anticipated results of actions taken following the disaster.

Another noticeable feature of the sequences is the frequent appearance of Move 9 (Referencing verbal reactions) toward the end of the reports. This move typically presents statements from authorities, officials, or other relevant actors and often functions as a closing element in the news narrative. Such verbal reactions not only reinforce the information presented earlier but also provide official perspectives or warnings to the public. Overall, these sequences suggest that broadcast disaster news reports tend to develop from factual descriptions

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of events, culminating in institutional responses and authoritative statements, reflecting the communicative goal of informing the public while also conveying official viewpoints on disaster-related situations.

Frequency Distribution of Rhetorical Moves in Broadcast Disaster News

Following the identification of rhetorical moves and their sequences across the corpus, the frequency of each move was calculated to determine its prominence within the genre of broadcast disaster news. This analysis allows the identification of moves that are central to the genre as well as those that appear less consistently across reports. The classification proposed by Hajimia et al. (2022) was adopted to determine the status of each move based on its frequency of occurrence in the corpus. Moves occurring in 75–100% of the texts were categorized as most obligatory, those occurring in 50–74% as obligatory, those appearing in 25–49% as optional, and those occurring in 0–24% as not obligatory. The distribution of rhetorical moves identified in the 23 broadcast disaster news reports is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Frequency Distribution of Rhetorical Moves in Broadcast Disaster News (n = 23)

Move	Function	Frequency	Percentage	Status
Move 1	Title / Headline	23	100%	Most obligatory
Move 2	Introducing the news lead	23	100%	Most obligatory
Move 3	Providing secondary information	17	73.9%	Obligatory
Move 4	Elaborating the event	23	100%	Most obligatory
Move 4a	Establishing follow-up action	17	73.9%	Obligatory
Move 4b	Stating factual information	18	78.3%	Most obligatory
Move 4c	Indicating cause–effect	9	39.1%	Optional
Move 4d	Predicting negative consequences	2	8.7%	Not obligatory
Move 4g	Expressing expected outcome	6	26.1%	Optional
Move 5	Providing supporting facts	6	26.1%	Optional
Move 6	Providing historical context	1	4.3%	Not obligatory
Move 7	Narrating unrelated events	0	0%	Not obligatory
Move 8	Pointing out related facts	2	8.7%	Not obligatory
Move 9	Referencing verbal reactions	17	73.9%	Obligatory

The frequency distribution presented in Table 4 reveals that several moves constitute the core rhetorical structure of broadcast disaster news reports. In particular, Move 1 (Title / Headline), Move 2 (Introducing the news lead), and Move 4 (Elaborating the event) occur in all texts, indicating that these moves form the fundamental structural framework of the genre. These moves collectively establish the topic, summarize the main event, and provide detailed elaboration of the disaster-related incident. Within the body of the reports, Submove 4b (Stating factual information) also appears with a high frequency (78.3%), suggesting that factual descriptions of events, impacts, and conditions represent the central communicative function of disaster news reporting. This finding highlights the emphasis on delivering concrete and informative details to the audience, which aligns with the primary objective of broadcast news to inform the public about ongoing events.

Several moves were categorized as obligatory, including Move 3 (Providing secondary information), Submove 4a (Establishing follow-up action), and Move 9 (Referencing verbal reactions), each appearing in 73.9% of the reports. The presence of these moves indicates that broadcast disaster news frequently extends beyond describing the event itself by incorporating additional contextual information, institutional responses, and statements from authorities or relevant actors. Meanwhile, some moves appear less consistently and are therefore categorized as optional, including Submove 4c (Indicating cause–effect), Submove 4g (Expressing expected

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outcome), and Move 5 (Providing supporting facts). These moves provide explanatory or supplementary information that enriches the narrative but are not essential components of every report.

Finally, several moves were identified as not obligatory, including Submove 4d (Predicting negative consequences), Move 6 (Providing historical context), Move 7 (Narrating unrelated events), and Move 8 (Pointing out related facts). Their limited occurrence suggests that these rhetorical functions are used only occasionally depending on the context and communicative needs of the report. In particular, the absence of Move 7 in the corpus indicates that broadcast disaster news tends to maintain a strong focus on the central disaster narrative without introducing unrelated events.

Overall, these findings indicate that broadcast disaster news reports are primarily structured around the presentation of factual information about disaster events, supplemented by institutional responses and verbal reactions from authorities, while other explanatory or contextual moves appear less frequently depending on the specific circumstances of the news story.

Linguistic Features of Disaster News Based on AntConc Analysis

Corpus analysis using the software AntConc reveals several recurring linguistic patterns in the disaster news corpus. The analysis focuses on a corpus consisting of 5,164 tokens. Word frequency and concordance analyses reveal two prominent linguistic features: the frequent use of present perfect constructions and the recurrent appearance of nouns referring to geographical locations, administrative units, and institutional actors. These patterns provide insight into how linguistic resources are used to construct disaster news narratives.

One noticeable grammatical pattern in the corpus is the frequent occurrence of present perfect constructions marked by the auxiliary verbs *has* and *have*. The concordance analysis shows that *has* appears 37 times and *have* occurs 35 times across the corpus. These constructions appear in both active forms, such as *has caused*, *has disrupted*, and *has carried out*, and passive forms, for instance *has been reported*, *have been affected*, and *has been distributed*. Linguistically, the present perfect tense is typically used to describe events that occurred in the recent past but remain relevant to the present situation. In the context of disaster news reporting, this grammatical form allows journalists to present disaster events as recent developments whose impacts continue to affect communities and infrastructure.

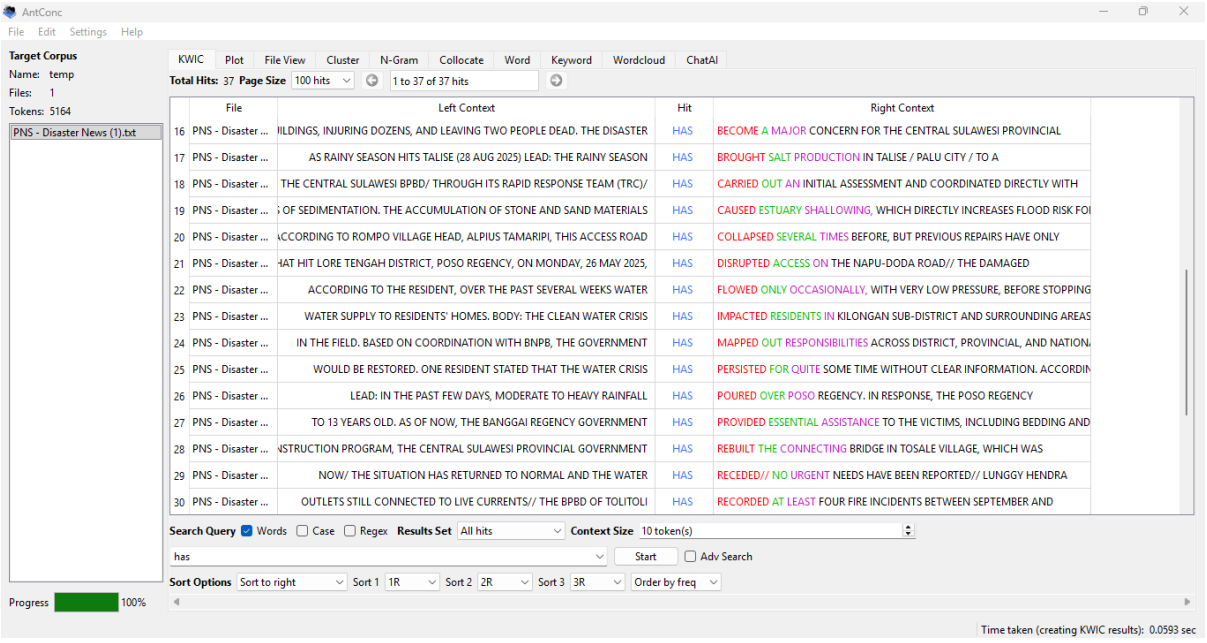


Figure 1. AntConc KWIC Concordance Lines for the Word *has* in the Disaster News Corpus

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In relation to the rhetorical moves identified in the disaster news scripts, present perfect constructions frequently occur in moves describing the occurrence of the disaster and its subsequent consequences. Active forms such as *has caused* or *has disrupted* are commonly used when explaining the causes or processes associated with the disaster event, while passive forms such as *have been affected* or *has been distributed* emphasize the consequences experienced by communities and the response actions undertaken by authorities.

In addition to these grammatical patterns, the corpus analysis conducted using AntConc also reveals a high frequency of lexical items referring to geographical locations, administrative units, and institutional or social actors. Examples include *residents* (34 occurrences), *Palu* (33), *Sulawesi* (30), *government* (28), *regency* (27), *Poso* (25), *village* (23), *city* (21), and *district* (18). These lexical items consistently appear across the disaster news corpus and constitute another noticeable lexical pattern of the texts.

To clarify the semantic pattern of these lexical items, they can be grouped into several categories as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Categories of Frequently Occurring Lexical Items in the Disaster News Corpus

Geographical Locations	Administrative Units	Social Actors / Affected Groups	Institutional Actors
Palu	Regency	Residents	Government
Sulawesi	District	Community	BPBD
Poso	Village		Agency
	City		

The high frequency of these lexical items suggests that disaster news scripts are strongly embedded within specific geographical and administrative contexts. References to place names such as *Palu*, *Sulawesi*, and *Poso* situate the disaster events within identifiable regional locations, while administrative terms such as *regency*, *district*, and *village* further position the events within Indonesia's local governance structure. Meanwhile, references to social groups and institutional actors such as *residents*, *community*, *government*, and *BPBD* highlight the affected populations and the authorities responsible for disaster response.

From a genre perspective, these lexical features also contribute to the realization of several rhetorical moves identified in the disaster news scripts. Geographical references frequently appear in moves introducing the disaster event and providing contextual information, where the location of the incident is established. References to affected groups tend to appear in moves describing the impacts of disaster, highlighting the communities experiencing the consequences of the event. Meanwhile, references to institutional actors such as the government, BPBD, and other agencies typically appear in moves describing response actions, where the news outlines the measures taken by authorities to address the disaster situation.

Collectively, the grammatical and lexical features function to position the audience within a clearly defined situational context. The frequent use of present perfect constructions presents disaster events as recent developments with ongoing consequences, while the dense use of geographical and institutional references quickly situates the news within a specific regional setting. Through these linguistic resources, disaster news scripts enable audiences to immediately identify the location of the event, the communities affected, and the authorities involved in responding to the disaster.

Discussions

The findings of this study indicate that broadcast disaster news exhibits a relatively stable rhetorical structure organized around the introduction of the disaster event and the subsequent elaboration of its impacts and related developments.

More specifically, the move structure identified in this study largely corresponds with the framework proposed by Hajimia et al. (2022). Similar to their findings, the present corpus shows that Move 1 – Establishing a territory and Move 2 – Introducing the news lead function

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to introduce the disaster event and provide a concise summary of the situation. These moves enable audiences to quickly grasp the central topic of the report before additional information is presented. The subsequent elaboration is primarily realized through Move 4 – Elaborating the event, which forms the core of the news narrative by presenting contextual information and describing the impacts of the disaster as well as the responses that follow.

However, the analysis also reveals a notable extension to Hajimia et al.'s framework through the identification of an additional Submove within Move 4, namely Submove 4g, which is Expressing expected outcome. This Submove presents anticipated results of actions taken by authorities or institutions, typically highlighting the expected effectiveness of mitigation or response measures. While Hajimia et al. (2022) identified several informational Submoves within the elaboration stage, expressions emphasizing the projected outcomes of institutional actions were not explicitly categorized as a distinct rhetorical function. The identification of Submove 4g, therefore suggests that broadcast disaster news may gradually incorporate more forward-looking statements that emphasize recovery efforts and expected improvements following disaster response actions.

The rhetorical organization observed in this study also differs in certain respects from findings reported in studies of newspaper editorials (Bonyadi, 2012; Wornyo, 2022). Editorial discourse frequently includes moves related to argumentation and evaluation, reflecting its persuasive communicative purpose, as discussed in genre-based analyses of professional discourse (Bhatia, 1993). In contrast, the disaster news reports analyzed in the present study emphasize factual information and situational updates rather than evaluative commentary. This difference reflects the distinct communicative purposes of the two genres: whereas editorials aim to influence public opinion, disaster news primarily aims to inform audiences about ongoing events and their consequences.

The corpus-assisted analysis further demonstrates how these rhetorical moves are linguistically realized through recurring linguistic patterns. One prominent feature is the frequent use of present perfect constructions such as *has caused*, *has disrupted*, and *have been affected*, which emphasize the ongoing relevance and immediate impact of disaster events. In addition, the high frequency of geographical and institutional nouns, including *Palu*, *Sulawesi*, *government*, *regency*, and *residents*, indicates the importance of situating the disaster within a specific spatial and administrative context. These lexical items allow the news reports to quickly orient audiences by identifying the location of the disaster, the affected communities, and the authorities involved in the response.

Taken together, these findings illustrate how the rhetorical structure and linguistic realization of broadcast disaster news work together to fulfil the communicative purpose of the genre. The move structure provides a clear progression from the occurrence of the disaster to its impacts and responses, while the linguistic features reinforce the continuing relevance of the events and the contextual specificity of the report. By combining genre analysis with corpus-assisted methods, this study contributes to the understanding of how broadcast disaster news is organized and linguistically realized within the landscape of news discourse.

Conclusion

This study examined the rhetorical organization of broadcast disaster news from an Indonesian national television station using a corpus-assisted genre analysis approach. The findings show that these reports follow a stable rhetorical structure, moving from introducing the disaster event to elaborating its impacts and reporting response actions. This structure is linguistically realized through recurring references to locations, affected communities, and institutional actors, which situate events within clear real-world contexts. The analysis also clarifies the communicative purpose of broadcast disaster news. The genre primarily functions to inform audiences about ongoing disaster events and their consequences through the presentation of factual information, supported by coverage of response actions and statements from relevant authorities. In this way, broadcast disaster news delivers structured and contextually grounded information that helps the public understand both the situation and how it is being managed.

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More importantly, this study extends genre research by focusing on broadcast news and disaster reporting, areas that have received relatively little attention compared to print journalism. The findings also suggest pedagogical value in helping learners understand how disaster information is organized and communicated in professional contexts. However, this study is limited to a small, text-based corpus. Future research could expand corpus-assisted investigations by examining larger datasets across news categories, as well as additional linguistic features. To extend this, adopting multi-perspective approaches beyond textual analysis may provide further insights into how broadcast news is constructed and understood.

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