

**Title:**

The Use of Composition in Malay  
Language Newspapers' Front Pages

**Field:**

Discourse Analysis- Social Semiotics

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## **Abstract:**

This presentation deals with the use of composition in Malay Language Newspapers' (MLN) front pages. It examines front pages as they are the face of MLN and are commonly seen by readers. Composition concerns the placement of elements in space that consists of framing, salience and information value.

This presentation posits two questions: How is composition used in MLN front pages? How do image and language interact via composition? These questions are answered using front pages from MLN in Malaysia and Indonesia. MLN front pages might seem aesthetic or haphazard to some but composition tries to make sense of them systematically. Composition recognizes that image and language elements placed in different parts of front pages gives them different values and hence different meanings. This also influences the roles of image and language in front pages and their inter-relations. These elements are not simply placed in front pages as designers have to exploit the space they have to create front pages that are cohesive and coherent.

It is ultimately proven that composition helps make sense of MLN front pages besides presenting similarities and differences in its use in different front pages. Its dynamic nature is seen that is also responsive to MLN genre and social practice.