

A CORPUS STUDY OF FAN COMMENTS: ANALYSIS OF WORD RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ACTION AND THRILLER GENRES USING VOYANT TOOLS

Salma Kamelia¹, Saffana Asfara Danna²

^{1,2} TBIG FTIK UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan

[¹salma.kamelia24006@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id](mailto:salma.kamelia24006@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id)

[²saffana.@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id](mailto:saffana.@mhs.uingusdur.ac.id),

ABSTRACT

Lookism is one of the popular digital comics that includes various genres, such as Action and Psychological Thriller. These genres encourage readers to leave different kinds of responses in the comment section. Fan comments can be analyzed as a language corpus to identify word usage patterns and discourse tendencies. This study aims to identify the dominant words, analyze the relationships between words, and describe the thematic patterns found in fan comments on the Stalker Arc and Workers Affiliate 4 Arc of Lookism. The study uses a corpus linguistics approach with a descriptive qualitative method. The data consist of fan comments collected from the LINE Webtoon platform and analyzed using Voyant Tools through the Terms Frequency and Links features. The results show that the comment corpus in the Stalker Arc is dominated by the words Daniel, Jay, need, and good, while the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc is dominated by Daniel, Gun, Warren, and Eli. The word relationship analysis shows that the Stalker Arc has a word network centered on Daniel, Jay, and need, while the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc is centered on Daniel, Gun, and Warren. In addition, differences in discourse patterns were found between the two corpora. The Stalker Arc tends to contain discourse related to threats, stalking, and psychological tension, which reflects the Psychological Thriller genre. Meanwhile, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc tends to focus on conflict, fights, and character dynamics, which reflect the Action genre. These findings show that genre characteristics can be reflected through the choice of words and the relationships between words found in fan comments.

Keywords: Corpus Linguistics, Voyant Tools, Lookism Webtoon, Fan Comments, Action, Psychological Thriller.

ABSTRAK

Lookism adalah salah satu komik digital populer yang mencakup berbagai genre, seperti Aksi, dan Thriller Psikologis. Genre-genre ini memicu pembaca untuk meninggalkan berbagai jenis tanggapan di kolom komentar. Komentar penggemar dapat dianalisis sebagai korpus bahasa untuk mengidentifikasi pola penggunaan kata dan kecenderungan wacana. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kata-kata yang dominan, menganalisis hubungan antar-kata, serta mendeskripsikan pola tematik yang ditemukan dalam komentar penggemar pada Stalker Arc dan Workers Affiliate 4 Arc dalam Lookism. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan linguistik korpus dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian ini terdiri dari komentar penggemar yang dikumpulkan dari platform LINE Webtoon dan dianalisis menggunakan Voyant Tools melalui fitur Terms Frequency dan Links. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa korpus komentar pada Stalker Arc didominasi

oleh kata Daniel, Jay, need, dan good, sedangkan Workers Affiliate 4 Arc didominasi oleh kata Daniel, Gun, Warren, and Eli. Analisis hubungan kata menunjukkan bahwa Stalker Arc memiliki jaringan kata yang berpusat pada Daniel, Jay, dan need, sementara Workers Affiliate 4 Arc berpusat pada Daniel, Gun, dan Warren. Selain itu, ditemukan adanya perbedaan pola wacana di antara kedua korpus tersebut. Stalker Arc cenderung berisi wacana yang berkaitan dengan ancaman, penguntitan, dan ketegangan psikologis, yang mencerminkan genre Thriller Psikologis. Sementara itu, Workers Affiliate 4 Arc cenderung berfokus pada konflik, pertarungan, dan dinamika antar-karakter, yang mencerminkan genre Aksi. Temuan-temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa karakteristik genre dapat tercermin melalui pilihan kata dan hubungan antar-kata yang ditemukan dalam komentar penggemar.

Kata Kunci: Linguistik Korpus, Voyant Tools, Webtoon Lookism, Komentar Penggemar, Aksi, Thriller Psikologis.

A. INTRODUCTION

Advanced in communication technology have made entertainment enthusiast more active. Now, they can contribute their own interpretation or opinion on a work. In digital world right now, especially in Webtoon Platform, comment columns become a place for reader to showing expression for what their feel after reading the story. This phenomenon makes the relationship between the author and the readers thin, turning the media experience into an active interaction among virtual users. In line with Jenkins's (2022) perspective, the comment section is not only a space for readers to give criticism and suggestions to the author, but also a platform for readers to communicate with one another to discuss the story, answer questions,

and share new insights. This is referred to as fan culture, where a community is formed through interaction and active participation in a work (Ivanaomi & Hendriyani, 2025).

In the world of digital popular culture, Webtoon is not just a comic application but also a new cultural trend. Webtoon uses a scrolling reading format, similar to social media content, which fits well with today's digital lifestyle. This practical format also makes the comment section an active community space. Readers do not only read the stories, but also share theories, create ships between characters, and express their emotions. Stories that receive a lot of attention from readers can become viral trends. Due to the popularity of Webtoon stories in digital culture,

many stories have been adapted into Korean dramas or movies (Kurniawan, 2026).

The success of this platform is supported by the variety of content it offers. One important factor is the popularity of genres such as Action and Psychological Thriller. The appeal of these genres is not only found in intense fight scenes or frightening illustrations, but also in the way the narrative is built through character dialogue and strong emotional interactions. One popular example is Lookism, a webtoon that not only presents action-packed fights but also includes intense psychological story arcs. This can be seen in several story arcs, such as the Stalker Arc and Workers Affiliate 4 Arc.

In the Stalker Arc, readers are presented with tension caused by the obsessive and disturbing behavior of a stalker, creating an uncomfortable and suspenseful atmosphere. Meanwhile, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc presents a darker conflict through violence, exploitation, and psychological pressure experienced by the characters within the organization. The combination of action and psychological thriller elements in these two arcs can evoke emotions

such as anger, anxiety, and curiosity, which encourages very active discussions with tens of thousands of comments on each episode. This high level of interaction shows that the combination of Action and Psychological Thriller genres has a strong ability to create reader engagement and active participation within the fan community.

Based on the literature review, previous corpus studies on fan comments in the Lookism webtoon, especially those related to the Action and Psychological Thriller genres, are still limited. There has been little research examining word relationship patterns (collocations) from thousands of comments to understand how readers' collective psychological responses are formed when reading suspenseful stories. A previous study by Chusna (2017), entitled "The Anxious Effect of Character's Switching Body in Webtoon Comic Lookism," focused on analyzing the anxiety and defense mechanisms of Daniel Park using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic approach, particularly the theories of anxiety and ego defense mechanisms.

Another study on Lookism was conducted by Pilares (2021) entitled

“Be Handsome or Be Bullied in Lookism Webtoon by Taejoon Park.” This study focused on how the appearance of characters who experience bullying is portrayed in the Lookism webtoon and how appearance-based bullying is represented in the story. Unlike the previous studies, this research does not focus on anxiety or bullying. Instead, it focuses on a corpus linguistic analysis of fan comments. This study examines the relationships between words that appear in readers’ comments on Action and Psychological Thriller story arcs using Voyant Tools. Through this analysis, the study aims to describe the language patterns formed in fan interactions. To address this research gap, this study uses Voyant Tools, a web-based software that allows distant reading of a corpus of comment texts (Utami, 2025). Through Voyant Tools, researchers can visualize word frequencies, relationships between terms, and topic trends that dominate comments about Lookism story arcs in the Action and Psychological Thriller genres.

Based on the background described above, this study aims to:

- (1) Identify the most dominant words

- in fan comments on Action and Psychological Thriller webtoons;
- (2) Analyze the relationships between words that appear in the fan comment corpus using Voyant Tools; and
- (3) Describe the thematic patterns or discourse tendencies formed through word relationships in fan comments on the Action and Psychological Thriller genres.

Webtoon and Fan Comments

Webtoon is a digital comic published online and specifically designed to be easily read on smartphone screens. Unlike conventional printed comics, webtoons use a vertical scrolling format, are usually presented in full color, and are released regularly in episodes (Lestari, 2020). Besides being a form of entertainment, webtoons also provide an interactive space through comment sections, where readers can express their opinions, reactions, and discuss the story with other readers. These comments represent fan participation and also provide natural language data that can be analyzed through a corpus linguistics approach.

Action and Psychological Thriller Genres

According to Wirawan, the Action genre is characterized by intense action throughout the storyline and a greater number of fight scenes compared to other comics. Meanwhile, Pasha (2022) explains that the word *thriller* refers to something frightening or an exciting story, while *psychological* relates to the study of mental processes, thoughts, and human behavior. Based on these definitions, Psychological Thriller can be understood as a genre that creates tension and encourages readers to think deeply about what is actually happening, with a strong focus on the characters' mental and psychological conditions.

In the Lookism webtoon, Action and Psychological Thriller elements can be found in several story arcs, such as the Stalker Arc and the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc, which combine psychological conflict and action.

Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies language through collections of authentic texts known as corpora (McEnery, 2019). This approach allows researchers to

identify language patterns objectively through the analysis of word frequency, distribution, and relationships between words. In this study, fan comments on the webtoon are used as the corpus because they represent natural language use in a digital environment.

Word Relationship

In linguistics, according to Chaer (2013), collocation is part of semantic studies. Semantics is the branch of linguistics that studies meaning (Budiawan, 2024). Word relationships in corpus linguistics can be observed through words that frequently appear together or occur close to one another in a text. These relationships indicate connections in meaning and thematic tendencies within a corpus. Analyzing word relationships helps reveal dominant language patterns and explains how a topic is constructed within a discourse.

Voyant Tools

To bridge large amounts of textual data with the need for easy-to-understand visualizations, digital analysis tools such as Voyant Tools are very important. This web-based tool provides various features,

including word frequency analysis and word relationship mapping (Links), which help researchers explore discourse structures within a text corpus. The tool is designed to provide an overview of a corpus without requiring researchers to read every document manually.

One of the main features used in this study is the Links feature, which maps collocations or word relationships through a visual network (semantic network). According to Sinclair and Rockwell (2016), this tool allows researchers to explore word frequencies while also examining how specific keywords are statistically connected within a particular context.

B. METHOD

This study uses a descriptive quantitative approach with a corpus linguistics method. This approach is applied to describe the characteristics of fan responses in the comment section through the calculation of word frequencies (keywords) and the analysis of word relationships or collocations (Baker, 2016). With the help of a web-based text analysis tool, namely Voyant Tools, these associative relationships between words are visualized to identify the

main discussion patterns that emerge among readers.

Through this method, the researcher can objectively identify the dominant emotions, sentiments, and topics in each story arc based on the data collected.

Data Source and Research Corpus

Data Source

The data in this study consist of reader comments collected from the official English version of the LINE Webtoon platform for *Lookism*, a webtoon created by Park Tae Joon. The data collection focused on two specific story arcs, namely the Stalker Arc and the Workers (4th Affiliate) Arc. The LINE Webtoon platform was selected because of its high level of user interaction and the large volume of comments, which provide representative data for capturing readers' responses.

Data Limitation and Sampling Technique

The data were collected using a purposive sampling technique, which involves selecting samples based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. In this study, the selected criterion was the "Top 5 Comments" from each chapter included in the two story arcs. These

top comments were chosen because they received the highest number of likes from other readers and were therefore considered to best represent readers' opinions, language trends, and collective reactions to each chapter.

Corpus Size

After the data collection process was completed, all comment texts were compiled into a single raw file, cleaned by removing non-text elements such as emojis and excessive symbols, and then uploaded to the Voyant Tools text analysis software. Based on the results generated by Voyant Tools, the corpus metrics and size of this study are presented as follows:

Tabel 1 The Corpus Metrics and Size

Parameter Korpus	Keterangan / Jumlah
Total Chapsters Covered	21 chapters (8 chapter <i>Arc Stalker</i> + 13 bab <i>Arc Workers</i>)
Total Comment	105 Comment (21 chapter × 5 Top Comment)
Total Words	2,013 words

Data Analysis Procedure

The data in this study were analyzed using the Voyant Tools website. *First*, the researcher prepared the data source by collecting the "Top 5" comments from the end of each chapter and compiling them into

PDF files for upload. *Second*, the researcher accessed the Voyant Tools website and uploaded two separate documents containing comments from the *Stalker Arc* and the *Workers Affiliate 4 Arc*. *Third*, the text analysis process was conducted. Voyant Tools automatically calculated the most frequently occurring words in each document and provided statistical visualizations of word frequencies. *Fourth*, data visualization was created using the Links feature in Voyant Tools. This feature was used to identify relationships between words that were relevant to the objectives of the study. *Fifth*, the resulting word distributions were analyzed to identify the most frequent words and examine their relationships with other words appearing in the corpus. Based on these relationships, the researcher interpreted the dominant themes and discourse patterns found in readers' comments.

C.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Dominant Corpus Words

The corpus analysis of comments from the *Stalker Arc* and the *Workers Affiliate 4 Arc* shows several words that appear frequently and dominate the corpus. These

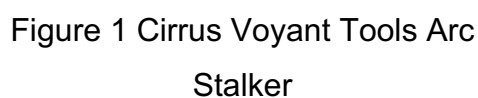


Figure 1 Cirrus Voyant Tools Arc
Stalker

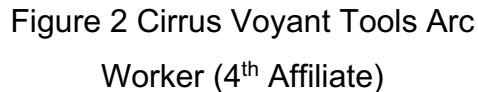


Figure 2 Cirrus Voyant Tools Arc
Worker (4th Affiliate)

Meanwhile, as shown in Figure 2, the dominant words in the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc corpus are *Daniel* (26), *Gun* (12), *Warren* (8), and *Eli* (7). The

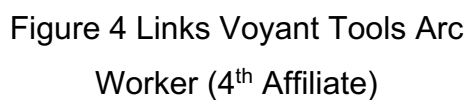
Therefore, both corpora are dominated by character names. However, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc shows a higher level of intensity, particularly through the dominance of the word *Daniel*, which appears almost three times more frequently than in the Stalker Arc.

Collocation



Figure 3 Links Voyant Tools Arc Stalker

Based on Figure 3, the word relationship analysis of the Stalker Arc shows that *Daniel*, *Jay*, and *need* serve as the central nodes in the fan comment corpus. The word *need* is connected to *people*, *stay*, *starting*, and *man*, while *Daniel* is associated with *weight* and *stalker*. In addition, *Jay* is connected to *save* and *touch*.



In the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc, shown in Figure 4, the word relationship analysis reveals that *Daniel*, *Gun*, and *Warren* are the central nodes in the comment corpus. These words are connected to other character names, such as *Zack*, *Goo*, and *Samuel*, as well as words such as *remembering*, *upset*, and *unite*. These relationships suggest that readers' comments mainly focus on the involvement of various characters in the story's conflicts and plot developments, including cooperation, fights, and character dynamics.

A comparison of the two corpora shows clear differences in word relationship patterns. In the Stalker Arc, the word network is

mainly formed around personal interactions and situations related to psychological threats, such as *stalker*, *touch*, and *save*. In contrast, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc is dominated by character names and their involvement in broader conflicts, such as *Gun*, *Warren*, *Zack*, and *Samuel*. These findings suggest that the word relationships in the Stalker Arc tend to reflect the characteristics of the Psychological Thriller genre, whereas the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc more strongly represents the characteristics of the Action genre through the dominance of word networks related to characters and conflict-driven fights.

Based on the dominant corpus words and word relationships, the Stalker Arc shows discourse tendencies that are closely related to the Psychological Thriller genre. This can be seen in the appearance of words such as *stalker*, *need*, *save*, and *touch*, which are connected to the main characters within the word network. These patterns indicate that readers' attention is focused on threats, anxiety, and the relationship between the victim and the stalker.

Therefore, the discourse pattern found in fan comments reflects the psychological tension that is a key characteristic of the Psychological Thriller genre.

Meanwhile, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc shows discourse tendencies that are closely related to the Action genre. The dominance of words such as *Daniel*, *Gun*, *Warren*, *Zack*, and *Samuel* indicates that readers' discussions mainly focus on characters involved in the central conflicts of the story. The word relationships also demonstrate connections between characters within storylines involving fights and confrontations. As a result, the discourse pattern found in the comment corpus mainly represents action, conflict, and resistance, which are typical characteristics of the Action genre.

Overall, the two corpora show different discourse patterns that correspond to the characteristics of their respective genres. The Stalker Arc is dominated by discourse related to threats and psychological tension, whereas the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc is dominated by discourse concerning conflict and character battles. These findings suggest that fan comments

not only reflect the content of the story but also demonstrate how genre characteristics are reproduced through word choices and word relationships found in the comment corpus.

D. Conclusion

Based on the corpus analysis of fan comments on the Stalker Arc and the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc in the *Lookism* webtoon using Voyant Tools, it was found that the dominant words in both corpora are mainly the names of characters who play important roles in the storyline. In the Stalker Arc, the most frequent words are *Daniel*, *Jay*, *need*, and *good*, while the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc is dominated by *Daniel*, *Gun*, *Warren*, and *Eli*. The dominance of these words indicates that readers' attention is focused on the characters and events occurring in each arc.

The word relationship analysis shows that the Stalker Arc has a word network centered on *Daniel*, *Jay*, and *need*, which are connected to words such as *save*, *touch*, and *stalker*. Meanwhile, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc displays a word network centered on *Daniel*, *Gun*, and *Warren*, which are connected to other characters such as *Johan*, *Samuel*, *Zack*, and *Goo*. These

findings indicate that the two arcs have different word relationship patterns that reflect the conflicts developed within the story.

Based on the dominant corpus words and the word relationships identified, two different discourse tendencies were found. The Stalker Arc represents discourse related to threats, stalking, and psychological tension, which are consistent with the characteristics of the Psychological Thriller genre. In contrast, the Workers Affiliate 4 Arc represents discourse focused on conflict, battles, and character dynamics, which reflect the characteristics of the Action genre.

Therefore, the corpus analysis conducted using Voyant Tools demonstrates that fan comments not only reflect the content of the story but also reveal genre characteristics through the choice of words and the relationships between words within the comment corpus.

Bibliography

- Baker, P. (2016). Corpora And Discourse Analysis. *Discourse Studies Reader*, 11-34.
- Budiawan, R. Y. S., Fatin, A. N., & Mualafina, R. F. (2024). Kolokasi Pada Kata Cinta Berbasis Linguistik Korpus. *Sasindo: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 12(1), 186-195.
- Chusna, N., & Khudlori, A. (2017). The Anxious Effect Of Character's Switching Body In Webtoons Comic Lookism. *Jurnal Culture (Culture, Language, And Literature Review)*, 4(1).
- Ivanaomi, R., & Hendriyani, C. T. Analisis Interaksi Penggemar Serial Animasi Dalam Kolom Komentar Youtube. *Jurnal Komunikasi Massa*, 18(2).
- Kurniawan, D., & Rojabi, M. A. (2026). *Webtoon: Revolusi Wajah Hiburan Dunia*. Afdan Rojabi Publisher.
- Lestari, A. F., & Irwansyah. (2020). Line Webtoon Sebagai Industri Komik Digital. *Source: Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*, 6(2), 134–148. Universitas Teuku Umar.
- Mcenery, T. (2019). *Corpus Linguistics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Park, T. J. *Lookism*. Line Webtoon
- Pasha, M. A. N., Mulyana, A. R., & Januarsa, A. (2022). Perancangan Komik Webtoon Mengenai Toxic Behavior Dalam Game Online Kompetitif Untuk Dewasa Awal. *Viswa Design: Journal Of Design*, 2(2), 79-91.
- Pilares, R. I. P. (2021). *Be Handsome Or Be Bullied In Lookism Webtoon By Taejoon Park* (Doctoral Dissertation, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia).
- Sinclair, S., & Rockwell, G. (2016). *Voyant Tools*.
- Utami, D. (2025). Studi Komunikasi Simbolis Berbasis Korpus Tentang Cinta Dalam Lagu Lagu Tulus.
- Wirawan, I. G. N., Wirawan, M. S. I. G. N., Sn, S., Artawan, C. A., & Artawan, M. S. C. A. (2024). Perancangan Komik Latri Dewi Naga Turun Ke Bumi Di Made Blez Studio. *Segara Widya: Jurnal Penelitian Seni*, 12(1), 58-71.