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Communicative Interactional Discourses in Tourism Development: Language, Participation, and Power in the Context of Mandalika

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ABSTRACT

Tourism development is often framed in terms of economic growth and infrastructure expansion, yet it is also shaped by communication and discourse among development actors. However, empirical research examining how communicative interactional discourses influence community participation in tourism development remains limited. This study addresses this gap by investigating how language use, communicative interactional discourses, and discourse patterns relate to community participation and tourism development outcomes in the Mandalika Tourism Special Economic Zone, Indonesia. A quantitative research design was employed involving 219 community respondents from four villages surrounding the tourism area. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (SEM-PLS). The findings indicate that communicative interactional discourses do not significantly influence community participation. The relationship between discourse patterns and participation is weak and not significant. In contrast, community participation shows a significant but negative relationship with perceived tourism development outcomes. The structural model also demonstrates low explanatory power, with linguistic and discourse patterns explaining about 2 percent of the variation in community participation and the overall model explaining about 5 percent of tourism development outcomes. These results reveal a communication participation gap in which institutional communication remains largely top down and technocratic, limiting meaningful dialogue and collaborative learning. By framing language and discourse as measurable elements of development communication, this study demonstrates how communicative structures shape participation and power relations. The findings highlight the importance of more dialogic and culturally grounded communication strategies to support inclusive and sustainable tourism development.

1. Introduction

Tourism development is frequently portrayed as a catalyst for economic growth, infrastructure expansion, and regional transformation. Yet beyond its material and economic dimensions, tourism development is fundamentally a communicative process through which meanings, expectations, and power relations are negotiated among stakeholders. Development initiatives rely not only on financial investment and institutional coordination but also on communicative practices that enable actors to construct shared understandings of development goals and outcomes. In this regard, language functions as a central mechanism through which development narratives are articulated, contested, and legitimized. Communication in development contexts therefore extends beyond the transmission of information and becomes a socially embedded practice that shapes participation, identity formation, and collective action. Scholars in development communication have long emphasized that development outcomes are deeply influenced by the discursive interactions between institutional actors and local communities, where language practices mediate the negotiation of interests, values, and social relations (Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021; Melkote & Steeves, 2015).

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Within tourism development specifically, communication often occurs in complex environments characterized by multiple stakeholders who possess different linguistic, cultural, and institutional frameworks. Governments, private corporations, development agencies, and local communities interact through institutional discourse that may not always align with local communicative practices. As a result, tourism development becomes a site where discourse, language choice, and communicative structures shape how participation and inclusion are realized. Rather than functioning as neutral tools, linguistic practices structure how development knowledge is produced, circulated, and interpreted among stakeholders. Consequently, understanding tourism development requires attention not only to policy and economic structures but also to the communicative interactional discourses through which development processes are negotiated and experienced.

Previous studies on tourism development have largely concentrated on economic impacts, infrastructure expansion, investment flows, and destination branding. In the context of Mandalika Tourism Special Economic Zone in Central Lombok, research has predominantly examined issues such as economic development, tourism competitiveness, and regional policy implementation (Aprilani & Cahayani, 2022; Irwan et al., 2022; Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025). These studies provide valuable insights into the structural and economic dimensions of tourism development but tend to overlook the communicative processes that shape stakeholder engagement and community participation. At the same time, development communication literature has highlighted the importance of participatory approaches that emphasize dialogue, local knowledge, and community engagement in development processes (Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021). Participatory communication frameworks stress that meaningful participation emerges through communicative interaction where communities actively engage in dialogue and decision making rather than merely receiving development information.

However, empirical research often reveals a gap between participatory ideals and actual communication practices in development settings. In many tourism development projects, communication remains largely top down and institutional in nature, prioritizing information dissemination rather than dialogic engagement. Studies examining communication practices in Mandalika have reported that interactions between institutional actors and local communities are frequently characterized by bureaucratic and technocratic discourse that restricts genuine participation (Chotijah, 2021; Putra et al., 2023; Widiani et al., 2024; Rahman & Fajri, 2023; Wulung et al., 2020; Satrio, 2021; Astuti, 2021; Haromain et al., 2021; Ringo & Wirawan, 2020). Such communicative structures often marginalize local voices and reduce community involvement to symbolic participation rather than substantive engagement. Furthermore, communication surrounding Mandalika tourism development increasingly occurs through institutional digital platforms that emphasize branding and promotional narratives while offering limited opportunities for participatory interaction with local communities (Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025).

Despite these insights, the role of language and discourse in shaping participation within tourism development remains underexplored. While several studies acknowledge the cultural and social contexts of tourism development, language is frequently treated as a secondary element rather than a central analytical focus. Yet language practices influence how development ideas are communicated, interpreted, and negotiated among stakeholders. In communities with strong customary institutions such as the Sasak community in Lombok, communicative practices are deeply embedded within local cultural traditions, deliberative forums, and social hierarchies (Ardana et al., 2020; Fibrianti, 2022). When institutional communication employs standardized bureaucratic discourse that diverges from local linguistic norms, communicative asymmetries may emerge, potentially weakening trust, dialogue, and participation (Rahman & Fajri, 2023; Satrio, 2021; Widiani et al., 2024). This situation reveals the need for research that positions language and communicative interactional discourses as central elements in understanding tourism development processes.

Responding to these gaps, the present study situates itself at the intersection of sociolinguistics, development communication, and tourism studies. The research introduces a language-oriented approach to tourism development by examining communicative interactional discourses among institutional actors, government agencies, local communities, and customary leaders in Mandalika. By integrating participatory communication theory with discourse-based analysis, the study offers a novel perspective that conceptualizes tourism development as a communicative process shaped by linguistic practices and discursive relations. This approach highlights how language functions not only as a medium of communication but also as a mechanism through which participation, legitimacy, and power relations are constructed in development contexts.

The significance of this study lies in its attempt to empirically examine the relationship between communicative interactional discourses and community participation in tourism development. Specifically, the study aims to analyze how patterns of language use, discourse structures, and communicative interactions influence community participation and perceptions of tourism development outcomes in Mandalika. By employing quantitative analysis, the research seeks to provide measurable evidence on how communicative practices shape participatory processes

within a large-scale tourism development project. Through this analysis, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the communicative dimensions of tourism development that have often been overlooked in existing literature.

More broadly, this research contributes to English linguistics and discourse studies by demonstrating how communicative interactional discourses operate within real world development contexts. The findings illustrate how language practices influence social participation, institutional legitimacy, and power relations in tourism governance. By foregrounding discourse as an observable and measurable phenomenon, the study expands the application of linguistic analysis beyond traditional language contexts and into the domain of development communication. This perspective reinforces the importance of examining language as a social practice that shapes broader socio economic and political processes.

Finally, the study highlights the implications of communicative interactional discourses for sustainable tourism governance. Effective tourism development requires communication frameworks that promote dialogue, mutual understanding, and recognition of local linguistic practices. When communication is dominated by technocratic or institutional discourse, opportunities for participatory learning and inclusive decision making become limited. Therefore, linguistically sensitive and culturally grounded communication strategies are essential to strengthen community engagement and support more equitable tourism development.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Language, Discourse, and Communication in Development Contexts

Development is increasingly recognized not only as an economic transformation but also as a communicative and discursive process through which meanings, identities, and power relations are constructed among stakeholders. In tourism development contexts, communication occurs through complex interactions among governments, private sectors, and local communities whose linguistic repertoires and institutional perspectives often differ. Consequently, communication extends beyond the transmission of information and becomes a socially embedded process through which development narratives are framed, negotiated, and legitimized (Melkote & Steeves, 2015. Scholars in development communication argue that language functions as a key mechanism that shapes how development agendas are interpreted and contested, influencing how communities understand and engage with development initiatives (Melkote & Steeves, 2015; Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021).

Participatory communication perspectives further emphasize that language should be viewed as a socially embedded practice rather than a neutral tool. Communication practices influence how knowledge circulates, how authority is negotiated, and how participation is enacted within development processes (Servaes, 1999 in Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021; Melkote & Steeves, 2015). Melkote and Steeves (2015) highlight that development initiatives that overlook linguistic diversity often reproduce social inequalities rather than enabling inclusive participation. Likewise, Sarvaes and Sarvaes (2021) emphasize that effective development communication requires alignment between institutional discourse and local communicative practices. However, empirical studies rarely examine communicative interactional discourses as measurable components of development communication, as research frequently focuses on structural or economic outcomes rather than on linguistic practices within development processes (Servaes, 1999 in Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021; Melkote & Steeves, 2015; Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021).

2.2. Participatory Communication and Community Participation in Tourism Development

Participation is widely regarded as a core principle of sustainable development and tourism governance. Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation conceptualizes participation as a continuum ranging from manipulation and tokenism to genuine citizen control (Arnstein, 1969). Within development communication scholarship, participation emerges through communicative interaction and dialogue among stakeholders. Participatory communication emphasizes horizontal communication structures that encourage collaboration, knowledge exchange, and collective decision making (Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021; Melkote & Steeves, 2015; Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021). Through such communicative engagement, communities are able to interpret development information, articulate their interests, and participate in shaping development initiatives, thereby transforming communication from a one way dissemination process into a mechanism of social learning and collective knowledge construction (Melkote & Steeves, 2015; Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021).

Nevertheless, empirical research often reveals a gap between participatory ideals and communication practices in development settings. Studies examining tourism development in Indonesia show that communication between institutional actors and local communities frequently remains hierarchical and bureaucratic, limiting opportunities for meaningful dialogue (Chotijah, 2021; Putra et al., 2023; Widiani et al., 2024; Rahman & Fajri, 2023; Wulung et al., 2020; Satrio, 2021; Astuti, 2021; Haromain et al., 2021; Ringo & Wirawan, 2020). In such situations, participation often occurs only during consultation

stages while key decisions remain dominated by institutional actors. Tourism development also involves diverse stakeholders with different communicative repertoires and institutional interests, which can create asymmetrical communication structures where institutional discourse dominates narrative framing and information flows (Limani et al., 2024; Lund et al., 2018; Pikkemaat et al., 2025).

2.3. Linguistic and Discursive Practices in Tourism Development

Tourism development can also be viewed as a process of social learning in which communicative interaction enables stakeholders to interpret development policies, negotiate interests, and construct shared understandings. Social learning theory suggests that repeated communication exchanges allow individuals and groups to develop collective knowledge, norms, and collaborative practices (Bandura, 1977; Melkote, 2018). In tourism contexts, communication networks facilitate the circulation and reinterpretation of development ideas within local sociocultural environments, strengthening community engagement and collective responsibility for development initiatives (Cannas, 2018; Radjabov & Terruel Serrano, 2024; Melkote, 2018). Language therefore plays an essential role in shaping how development narratives are understood, debated, and adapted within community contexts.

In communities characterized by strong customary traditions, linguistic practices are closely linked to cultural identity and local governance. Among the Sasak community in Lombok, deliberative forums such as musyawarah and customary assemblies provide communicative spaces where development issues are discussed through culturally embedded linguistic norms (Ardana et al., 2020; Fibrianti, 2022). Customary leaders often mediate between institutional discourse and local communities by translating development messages into locally meaningful forms (Rahman & Fajri, 2023; Satrio, 2021; Widiani et al., 2024). However, when institutional communication relies primarily on technocratic or bureaucratic language, these mediating mechanisms may weaken, thereby reducing trust and participation. At the same time, digital communication technologies have introduced new forms of tourism discourse in which individuals function simultaneously as producers and consumers of information (Amelia & Balqis, 2023). Although digital platforms expand communication opportunities, tourism discourse in Mandalika remains largely dominated by institutional narratives that emphasize destination branding rather than participatory dialogue with local communities (Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025).

Taken together, existing studies on Mandalika tourism development have primarily examined economic growth, governance structures, and policy implementation while giving limited attention to the linguistic and discursive dimensions of stakeholder interaction (Aprilani & Cahayani, 2022; Irwan et al., 2022; Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025).

Moreover, although participatory communication theory highlights the importance of dialogue and community engagement, empirical research examining communicative interactional discourses within tourism development contexts remains limited. Addressing this gap, the present study integrates participatory communication theory with a language-oriented perspective to investigate how communicative interactional discourses influence participation and power relations in the tourism development of Mandalika. By positioning language and discourse as observable elements within development communication, this study contributes to sociolinguistics and tourism governance research while offering insights for more dialogic and culturally responsive communication strategies in sustainable tourism development..

3. Method

This study employed a quantitative research design to examine the relationship between communicative interactional discourses, community participation, and tourism development outcomes in Mandalika, Indonesia. The quantitative approach was selected to allow systematic measurement of linguistic and communicative variables and to test the relationships among constructs using statistical modeling.

In development communication research, quantitative methods are frequently used to evaluate patterns of participation and communication processes among stakeholders, particularly when the objective is to identify measurable relationships between communication variables and development outcomes (Melkote & Steeves, 2015; Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021). By applying a survey based quantitative design, the present study aims to provide empirical evidence on how communicative interactional discourses influence participation dynamics within a tourism development context.

The research focuses on communities located around the Mandalika Tourism Special Economic Zone in Central Lombok, Indonesia. Mandalika has become one of Indonesia's strategic tourism development areas and is frequently discussed in studies related to regional development, tourism governance, and community engagement (Aprilani & Cahayani, 2022; Irwan et al., 2022; Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025). Given its rapid transformation and the presence of multiple development stakeholders, Mandalika provides a relevant context for examining how communicative interactional discourses operate within tourism development processes.

3.1 Data Collection and Participants

Data were collected through a structured questionnaire distributed to local community members residing in villages surrounding the Mandalika tourism area. The survey targeted residents who are directly or indirectly affected by tourism development activities, including individuals involved in tourism related economic activities as well as community members participating in local governance or customary forums. A total of 219 valid responses were obtained and included in the analysis. The respondents were selected to represent community perspectives on communication practices and participation in tourism development processes.

The questionnaire consisted of several measurement constructs related to communicative interactional discourses, community participation, and perceived tourism development outcomes. The items measuring communicative interactional discourses captured aspects such as communication openness, direction of information flow, access to communication channels, and the use of digital communication platforms. Community participation was measured through indicators related to involvement in discussions, decision making, and local tourism activities. Perceived tourism development outcomes were assessed through respondents' evaluations of the social and economic impacts of tourism development within their communities. The survey instrument was designed using Likert scale measurements to capture respondents' perceptions and experiences in a consistent and quantifiable manner.

3.2 Data Analysis Procedures

The collected data were analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS SEM). This analytical approach was selected because it allows the examination of complex relationships between latent constructs and is particularly suitable for exploratory studies involving social and communication variables. PLS SEM is widely used in development communication and tourism research because it enables researchers to assess both measurement validity and structural relationships within a single analytical framework (Hair et al., 2019).

The analysis was conducted in two stages. The first stage evaluated the measurement model to assess the reliability and validity of the study constructs, including indicator reliability, internal consistency reliability, convergent validity, and discriminant validity. The second stage examined the structural model to evaluate the relationships among communicative interactional discourses, community participation, and tourism development outcomes. Structural path coefficients, significance levels, and explanatory power indicators such as R^2 values were analyzed to determine the strength and direction of the relationships among variables.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

All ethical norms were followed throughout the research. All respondents were informed of the purpose of the research, and all respondents participated of their own free will. In order to protect the respondents and their answers, their identities were kept anonymous, and their answers were kept confidential. The data were used for academic purposes only, as described in the standards for ethical research in the proposal.

4. Result

4.1 Measurement Model Evaluation

Before examining the structural relationships among communicative interactional discourses, community participation, and tourism development outcomes, the measurement model was evaluated to ensure that the constructs used in the study meet the required standards of reliability and validity. This step is essential because structural equation modeling relies on the assumption that the measurement indicators accurately represent the theoretical constructs they are intended to capture. If the measurement model is weak, the structural relationships may be misleading. Therefore, the evaluation focuses on four key aspects including internal consistency reliability, convergent validity, discriminant validity, and collinearity diagnostics.

The results reveal that the measurement framework used in this study is statistically robust and conceptually stable. The indicators consistently represent their respective constructs, the constructs remain empirically distinguishable from one another, and the predictor variables do not exhibit problematic overlap. These findings indicate that the empirical structure of the model is reliable and that the subsequent structural analysis can be interpreted with confidence. More importantly, the data suggest that the communicative environment examined in this study can be operationalized into measurable dimensions without losing conceptual clarity.

Internal Consistency Reliability and Convergent Validity

The first stage of the measurement model evaluation assessed internal consistency reliability and convergent validity. Internal consistency reliability determines whether the items within each construct consistently measure the same conceptual dimension, ensuring that the indicators operate coherently in capturing the intended concept. Convergent validity evaluates whether the indicators associated with a construct share sufficient variance, indicating that they collectively represent the same theoretical construct. Establishing both reliability and validity confirms that the measurement model accurately represents the constructs under investigation. The results are presented in the following sTable 4.1 and Table 4.2.

Table 4.1 Construct Validity and Reliability (Stage 1)

	Cronbach's alpha	(rho_a)	(rho_c)	AVE
M1.	0.893	0.894	0.926	0.757
M2.	0.910	0.910	0.933	0.736
M3.	0.837	0.838	0.902	0.754
X1.	0.881	0.882	0.927	0.808
X10.	0.877	0.878	0.924	0.803
X2.	0.879	0.879	0.925	0.805
X3.	0.883	0.883	0.928	0.810
X4.	0.875	0.878	0.923	0.800
X5.	0.879	0.879	0.925	0.805
X6.	0.861	0.863	0.915	0.782
X7.	0.882	0.883	0.927	0.809
X8.	0.863	0.864	0.917	0.786
X9.	0.867	0.869	0.918	0.790
Y1.	0.877	0.878	0.924	0.803
Y2.	0.849	0.850	0.908	0.767
Y3.	0.846	0.847	0.907	0.765
Y4.	0.831	0.831	0.899	0.748
Y5.	0.834	0.835	0.901	0.751
Y6.	0.861	0.864	0.915	0.783
Y7.	0.869	0.869	0.920	0.793

The data in Table 4.1 demonstrate strong reliability across all first order constructs. Cronbach's alpha values range from 0.831 to 0.910, indicating that the items within each construct are internally consistent. Similarly, composite reliability values range from 0.899 to 0.933, which confirms that the indicators consistently capture the conceptual structure of each dimension. The Average Variance Extracted values further reinforce this pattern. AVE values range from 0.736 to 0.810, meaning that each construct explains more than seventy percent of the variance in its indicators. The strongest convergent validity appears in constructs such as X3 (AVE = 0.810) and X1 (AVE = 0.808), suggesting that these dimensions are measured with particularly high precision.

These results indicate that the items used to measure communicative interactional discourses operate coherently as a unified measurement system. Respondents appear to perceive the communication indicators as consistent features of their interactional environment rather than as fragmented or unrelated experiences.

This pattern suggests that communication practices in the Mandalika context may follow recognizable and repeated patterns that respondents can clearly identify. The second stage results presented in Table 4.2 confirm this pattern at the higher order construct level.

Table 4.2 Construct Validity and Reliability (Stage 2)

	Cronbach's alpha	(rho_a)	(rho_c)	AVE
Tourism success	0.920	0.952	0.935	0.672
Participation	0.844	0.845	0.906	0.762
Linguistic and discourse patterns	0.960	0.692	0.953	0.670

Tourism success records Cronbach's alpha of 0.920, composite reliability of 0.935, and AVE of 0.672, indicating a highly stable construct. Participation demonstrates Cronbach's alpha of 0.844, composite reliability of 0.906, and AVE of 0.762, showing strong convergent validity. Meanwhile, linguistic and discourse patterns display the highest internal consistency with Cronbach's alpha of 0.960 and composite reliability of 0.953.

The data reveal an important empirical insight. Among the three main constructs, communicative interactional discourses demonstrate the highest internal consistency. This suggests that respondents perceive communication practices as a highly coherent phenomenon. In practical terms, this indicates that elements such as information flow, interaction patterns, and communication channels may be experienced as part of a unified communicative environment. This consistency strengthens the measurement model and confirms that communication patterns can be reliably quantified within the study context.

Discriminant Validity Assessment

After establishing reliability and convergent validity, the next step evaluated discriminant validity to determine whether the constructs are empirically distinct from one another. Discriminant validity ensures that each construct represents a unique conceptual domain rather than overlapping excessively with other constructs in the model. The results of the Fornell–Larcker criterion and HTMT analysis are presented in Table 2, Table 3, Table 6, and Table 7.

Table 4.3 Fornell–Larcker Criterion (Stage 1)

	M1.	M2.	M3.	X1.	X10.	X2.	X3.	X4.	X5.	X6.	X7.	X8.	X9.	Y1.	Y2.	Y3.	Y4.	Y5.	Y6.	Y7.
M1.	0.870																			
M2.	0.659	0.858																		
M3.	0.346	0.635	0.868																	
X1.	0.043	0.054	0.029	0.899																
X10.	0.091	0.099	0.038	0.028	0.896															
X2.	-0.021	-0.029	-0.035	0.691	0.707	0.897														
X3.	0.036	0.045	-0.022	0.625	0.613	0.606	0.900													
X4.	0.118	0.032	0.0517	0.745	0.655	0.705	0.619	0.894												
X5.	0.070	0.032	0.098	0.741	0.715	0.721	0.661	0.707	0.897											
X6.	0.070	0.060	0.074	0.716	0.716	0.739	0.676	0.711	0.740	0.884										
X7.	0.009	0.060	-0.013	0.749	0.677	0.718	0.676	0.712	0.763	0.767	0.900									
X8.	-0.033	-0.065	-0.053	0.728	0.677	0.759	0.653	0.713	0.767	0.734	0.733	0.886								
X9.	0.036	0.041	0.021	0.683	0.687	0.048	0.581	0.685	0.721	0.685	0.713	0.733	0.889							
Y1.	-0.136	-0.132	-0.132	0.065	0.058	0.014	-0.011	-0.074	0.022	0.048	0.053	0.026	0.005	0.896						
Y2.	-0.090	-0.133	-0.138	0.065	0.051	0.073	0.018	-0.045	0.022	0.081	0.067	0.026	0.019	0.635	0.876					
Y3.	-0.068	-0.076	-0.213	0.172	0.105	0.087	-0.046	-0.015	0.022	0.061	0.176	0.106	0.019	0.629	0.646	0.875				
Y4.	-0.115	-0.111	-0.074	0.062	0.055	0.053	0.046	-0.048	0.077	0.078	0.103	0.107	0.038	0.610	0.642	0.603	0.867			
Y5.	-0.155	-0.149	-0.177	0.062	0.053	0.025	-0.046	-0.073	0.066	0.078	0.033	0.033	0.034	0.610	0.648	0.604	0.635	0.867		
Y6.	-0.155	-0.149	-0.159	0.089	0.057	0.025	-0.084	-0.033	-0.060	0.039	0.040	0.043	0.031	0.638	0.631	0.697	0.594	0.677	0.885	
Y7.	-0.155	-0.130	-0.130	0.056	0.054	0.049	-0.013	-0.013	0.022	0.048	0.044	0.051	0.047	0.638	0.631	0.665	0.682	0.678	0.613	0.890

The values shown in Table 4.3 indicate that the square root of the AVE for each construct is consistently higher than its correlations with other constructs. For example, the square root AVE for M1 is 0.870, which exceeds its correlations with M2 (0.659) and M3 (0.636). Similarly, X1 records 0.899, which is higher than its correlations with related constructs such as X10 (0.720) and X7 (0.749).

This pattern indicates that each construct shares more variance with its own indicators than with other constructs. In practical terms, this means that communicative interactional discourses, participation, and tourism outcomes represent empirically separate dimensions rather than overlapping constructs. This distinction is essential because it allows the structural relationships between communication, participation, and tourism outcomes to be examined without conceptual ambiguity. The HTMT results provide further confirmation of discriminant validity.

Table 4.4 HTMT Score (Stage 1)

	M1.	M2.	M3.	X1.	X10.	X2.	X3.	X4.	X5.	X6.	X7.	X8.	X9.	Y1.	Y2.	Y3.	Y4.	Y5.	Y6.	Y7.
M1.																				
M2.	0.730																			
M3.	0.735	0.727																		
X1.	0.057	0.064	0.045																	
X10.	0.109	0.099	0.044	0.818																
X2.	0.028	0.054	0.062	0.784	0.805															
X3.	0.064	0.059	0.039	0.708	0.697	0.687														
X4.	0.058	0.077	0.049	0.825	0.781	0.802	0.705													
X5.	0.133	0.060	0.086	0.842	0.826	0.820	0.751	0.805												
X6.	0.087	0.106	0.089	0.820	0.846	0.848	0.727	0.817	0.850											
X7.	0.049	0.075	0.052	0.849	0.792	0.815	0.765	0.820	0.866	0.879										
X8.	0.057	0.084	0.080	0.833	0.779	0.871	0.747	0.819	0.880	0.849	0.861									
X9.	0.051	0.074	0.040	0.781	0.798	0.852	0.664	0.785	0.825	0.791	0.814	0.846								
Y1.	0.153	0.150	0.223	0.031	0.035	0.040	0.035	0.086	0.039	0.060	0.060	0.056	0.039							
Y2.	0.110	0.151	0.111	0.104	0.060	0.090	0.043	0.061	0.058	0.061	0.080	0.055	0.058	0.736						
Y3.	0.079	0.086	0.159	0.088	0.122	0.070	0.052	0.061	0.037	0.095	0.088	0.054	0.043	0.694	0.713					
Y4.	0.247	0.242	0.256	0.122	0.146	0.098	0.048	0.056	0.080	0.111	0.126	0.126	0.103	0.733	0.762	0.719				
Y5.	0.137	0.130	0.092	0.082	0.062	0.089	0.054	0.088	0.045	0.094	0.032	0.069	0.059	0.713	0.769	0.718	0.763			
Y6.	0.176	0.168	0.188	0.046	0.057	0.036	0.095	0.041	0.072	0.062	0.052	0.060	0.052	0.608	0.700	0.697	0.701	0.715		
Y7.	0.176	0.146	0.247	0.068	0.080	0.073	0.054	0.074	0.052	0.072	0.061	0.069	0.065	0.730	0.733	0.775	0.802	0.796	0.708	

The HTMT values remain below the acceptable threshold, even where conceptual proximity between constructs is relatively strong. For example, the HTMT value between X7 and X6 is 0.879, and between X8 and X5 is 0.880, indicating moderate associations but still within acceptable limits. These values suggest that although several communication dimensions are closely related, they do not collapse into a single construct. Instead, they function as interconnected yet distinguishable elements of the broader communicative system. This pattern reflects the multidimensional nature of communicative interactional discourses, where different communication practices coexist within a broader interactional framework. The discriminant validity results at the higher order level are presented in Table 6 and Table 7.

Table 4.5 Fornell–Larcker Criterion (Stage 2)

	Tourism success	**Participation**	**Linguistic and discourse patterns**
Tourism success	0.820		
Participation	-0.211	0.873	
Linguistic and discourse patterns	0.056	0.111	0.818

The values in Table 4.5 show that Tourism Success (0.820), Participation (0.873), and Linguistic and Discourse Patterns (0.818) all exceed the correlations between constructs. This confirms that the three major variables are empirically distinct from each other.

Table 4.6 HTMT Score (Stage 2)

	HTMT
Participation <-> Tourism success	0.222
Linguistic and discourse patterns <-> Tourism success	0.071
Linguistic and discourse patterns <-> Participation	0.065

The HTMT results further reinforce this separation. The HTMT value between Participation and Tourism Success is 0.222, while the values between Linguistic and Discourse Patterns and Participation (0.065) and Linguistic and Discourse Patterns and Tourism Success (0.071) remain very low.

These values reveal a clear conceptual boundary among the constructs. Communication practices, community participation, and perceived tourism outcomes represent different experiential dimensions in the Mandalika development context. This empirical separation strengthens the conceptual framework of the study because it demonstrates that communication does not automatically translate into participation, and participation does not necessarily guarantee development success.

Collinearity Diagnostics

The final step of the measurement model evaluation involved assessing potential multicollinearity among predictor variables. High levels of collinearity can distort structural estimates by inflating standard errors and reducing the stability of regression coefficients. To evaluate this issue, Variance Inflation Factor values were calculated for all predictor constructs. The results are presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Collinearity Score (VIF)

	VIF
M1	2.065
M2	2.048
M3	1.936
X1	3.161
X10	2.719
X2	3.310
X3	2.084
X4	2.685
X5	3.609
X6	3.069
X7	3.579
X8	3.190
X9	2.561
Y1	2.192
Y2	2.361
Y3	2.150
Y4	2.423
Y5	2.353
Y6	1.976
Y7	2.712

The VIF values range from 1.936 to 3.609, all of which remain below the critical threshold. The lowest value appears for M3 (1.936), while the highest value appears for X5 (3.609). These values indicate that although some indicators are moderately correlated, the correlations are not strong enough to create multicollinearity problems. In other words, each predictor variable contributes unique explanatory information to the model rather than duplicating the effects of other variables. A closer examination of the table reveals an interesting pattern. Several communication related indicators such as X5, X7, and X2 display relatively higher VIF values compared with others. This suggests that these dimensions represent closely connected aspects of the communication environment. Elements such as message openness, responsiveness, and interaction frequency may naturally occur together within everyday communication processes.

However, the values remain sufficiently controlled, which indicates that these communication dimensions still function as distinct components rather than redundant variables. This finding reinforces the validity of the measurement model and supports the interpretation that communicative interactional discourses operate as a multidimensional system composed of interconnected yet distinguishable practices. Overall, the measurement model evaluation confirms that the constructs used in this study are reliable, valid, and statistically stable. The results demonstrate that communicative interactional discourses, participation, and tourism development outcomes can be empirically distinguished and measured without methodological distortion. This provides a strong foundation for examining the structural relationships among the variables in the subsequent analysis.

4.2 Communicative Interactional Discourses and Community Participation

This subsection addresses the first research objective of the study, which investigates whether communicative interactional discourses influence community participation in tourism development. The structural analysis evaluates whether patterns of linguistic interaction, information exchange, and communication openness contribute to greater involvement of local communities in tourism related decision making and development activities. By examining the structural path between communicative interactional discourses and community participation, this analysis aims to determine whether communication practices function as an enabling mechanism for participatory engagement in the Mandalika tourism context.

At a general level, the results reveal a weak empirical relationship between communicative interactional discourses and community participation. Although communication structures are present within the tourism development process, the statistical evidence indicates that these communicative patterns do not significantly translate into participatory outcomes. This finding suggests that the presence of communication mechanisms alone may not be sufficient to stimulate meaningful community engagement.

Path Relationship Between Communicative Interactional Discourses and Participation

The significance of the relationship between communicative interactional discourses and community participation was assessed using structural path analysis. The results are presented in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Path Coefficient Significance

	Original sample (O)	**Sample mean (M)**	**Standard deviation (STDEV)**	**T statistics (|O/ STDEV|)**	**P values**
Community participation > Mandalika Tourism success	-0.226	-0.243	0.046	4.907	0.000
Linguistic and discourse patterns > Community participation	0.140	0.075	0.197	0.711	0.477

The data reveal that the path coefficient between communicative interactional discourses and community participation is $\beta = 0.140$, with a t value of 0.711 and $p = 0.477$. The positive coefficient indicates that the relationship between communication patterns and participation moves in the expected direction. In other words, increased communicative interaction theoretically corresponds with higher levels of participation. However, the relationship is statistically insignificant, meaning that variations in communication practices do not produce measurable differences in participation levels.

This result indicates that the communicative environment within the Mandalika tourism development context does not operate as a strong driver of participatory engagement. Even though communication occurs between institutional actors and local communities, the interaction does not appear to significantly influence the extent to which communities participate in development activities. In practical terms, this suggests that communication mechanisms may exist primarily as informational channels rather than as interactive platforms that facilitate shared decision making.

Explanatory Power of the Model

The explanatory strength of communicative interactional discourses in predicting community participation was further examined using the coefficient of determination. The results are presented in Table 4.9

Table 4.9 Coefficient of Determination

	R-square	**R-square adjusted**
Community participation	0.020	0.015
Mandalika Tourism Success	0.051	0.047

The data show that the coefficient of determination for community participation is $R^2 = 0.015$. This value indicates that communicative interactional discourses explain only 1.5 percent of the variance in community participation. Such a low explanatory value suggests that communication patterns alone have very limited capacity to account for differences in participation levels among respondents.

This result reveals an important empirical insight. While communication structures may be present within the tourism development process, they do not appear to function as the primary mechanism through which participation is generated. Instead, community participation may be influenced more strongly by other factors such as economic incentives, institutional authority, social trust, or local governance dynamics. The extremely low explanatory power therefore highlights a gap between the existence of communication channels and their effectiveness in fostering participatory engagement.

Effect Size Analysis

To further examine the magnitude of the relationship between communicative interactional discourses and community participation, effect size analysis was conducted. The results are presented in Table 4.10

Table 4.10 Effect Size

	Community Participation	**Mandalika tourism success**
Linguistic and discourse patterns	0.020	
Community participation		0.054

The effect size value is $f^2 = 0.020$, which falls within the category of a very small effect. This result indicates that even if communicative interactional discourses were included or excluded from the model, the overall explanatory power of the model would change only marginally.

This finding reinforces the conclusion that communication practices exert minimal influence on participation outcomes within the studied context. The small effect size suggests that communication may play a supporting or contextual role rather than a decisive one. In other words, communicative interactional discourses may shape how information circulates within the tourism development process, but they do not appear to substantially alter the level of community involvement. From an interpretive perspective, this pattern may reflect a situation in which communication is largely procedural rather than dialogic. Communities may receive information about tourism development initiatives, yet the communication process may not provide sufficient opportunities for communities to actively shape or influence development decisions.

Predictive Relevance of the Model

The predictive relevance of communicative interactional discourses for community participation was assessed using the Q^2 statistic. The results are presented in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Predictive Relevance

	SSO	**SSE**	**Q^2 (=1-SSE/SSO)**
Linguistic and discourse patterns	2190.000	2190.000	0.000
Community participation	657.000	648.344	0.013
Mandalika Tourism success	1533.000	1487.906	0.029

The Q^2 value for community participation is 0.013, indicating extremely weak predictive relevance. This result suggests that the model has only minimal ability to predict participation outcomes based on communication patterns.

The low predictive value reinforces the earlier findings that communication structures do not strongly determine participation dynamics in the Mandalika tourism development context. Even when communicative interactional discourses are considered as explanatory variables, their ability to forecast participation behavior remains very limited.

Taken together, the statistical evidence across path coefficients, explanatory power, effect size, and predictive relevance reveals a consistent pattern. Communication exists within the development process but does not function as a significant driver of participation. Instead, communication appears to operate primarily as a mechanism for information dissemination rather than as a platform for collaborative engagement.

This pattern suggests that the communicative environment surrounding tourism development may still be characterized by institutional or top down communication structures. In such contexts, communication flows from institutions to communities without necessarily enabling reciprocal dialogue or participatory influence. Consequently, while communication channels are present, they may not provide the interactive conditions necessary to stimulate active community participation.

4.3 Community Participation and Tourism Development Outcomes

This subsection addresses the second research objective of the study, which examines whether community participation contributes to tourism development outcomes in the Mandalika tourism area. The analysis focuses on determining whether higher levels of community involvement in tourism related discussions, activities, and decision-making processes correspond with stronger perceptions of tourism development success. The structural relationship between participation and development outcomes provides important insights into whether participatory engagement functions as an effective mechanism for improving tourism governance and development performance.

At a general level, the results reveal an unexpected pattern. While community participation shows a statistically significant relationship with tourism development outcomes, the direction of the relationship is negative. This finding indicates that higher levels of participation are associated with lower perceived tourism development outcomes. Such a pattern suggests that participation within the Mandalika context may not function as a collaborative driver of development success. Instead, participation may occur as a response to dissatisfaction, concern, or conflict related to tourism development processes.

Path Relationship Between Community Participation and Tourism Development Outcomes

The structural relationship between community participation and tourism development outcomes was assessed using path coefficient analysis. The results are presented in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Path Coefficient Significance

	Original sample (O)	**Sample mean (M)**	**Standard deviation (STDEV)**	**T statistics (|O/ STDEV|)**	**P values**
Community participation > Mandalika Tourism success	-0.226	-0.243	0.046	4.907	0.000
Linguistic and discourse patterns > Community participation	0.140	0.075	0.197	0.711	0.477

The data reveal that the path coefficient between community participation and tourism development outcomes is $\beta = -0.226$, with a t value of 4.907 and $p < 0.001$. The high t value and very small probability value indicate that the relationship is statistically significant. However, the negative coefficient indicates that the direction of the relationship moves opposite to the expected pattern.

This result reveals that increases in reported community participation are associated with decreases in perceived tourism development success. In practical terms, communities that report higher levels of involvement in tourism discussions or activities tend to express lower levels of satisfaction with tourism development outcomes. This finding challenges the common assumption that participation automatically enhances development performance.

A deeper interpretation suggests that participation in the Mandalika tourism context may occur primarily in response to emerging development tensions. Communities may become more active in meetings, discussions, or consultations when they perceive challenges, inequalities, or dissatisfaction with development policies. In such situations, participation becomes a reactive mechanism rather than a proactive platform for collaborative development planning.

Explanatory Power of Community Participation

The explanatory strength of community participation in predicting tourism development outcomes was further evaluated using the coefficient of determination. The results are presented in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13. Coefficient of Determination

	R-square	**R-square adjusted**
Community participation	0.020	0.015
Mandalika Tourism Success	0.051	0.047

The data show that community participation explains 4.13 percent of the variance in tourism development outcomes ($R^2 = 0.047$). This value indicates that participation has only a limited ability to account for differences in respondents' perceptions of tourism development success.

Although the relationship is statistically significant, the relatively low R^2 value suggests that many other factors influence how communities evaluate tourism development outcomes. These factors may include economic opportunities, employment benefits, environmental impacts, access to tourism resources, and institutional governance structures. The limited explanatory power therefore indicates that community participation alone does not provide a comprehensive explanation for tourism development performance in Mandalika. Instead, participation appears to represent only one component within a much broader system of social, economic, and institutional dynamics shaping tourism development.

Effect Size of Participation

To further evaluate the magnitude of the relationship between participation and tourism development outcomes, effect size analysis was conducted. The results are presented in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14 Effect Size

	Community Participation	**Mandalika Tourism Success**
Linguistic and discourse patterns	0.020	
Community participation		0.054

The effect size value for this relationship is $f^2 = 0.054$, which falls within the small effect category. This result indicates that community participation contributes only modestly to the overall explanatory power of the model.

In practical terms, the small effect size suggests that even though participation has a statistically detectable relationship with tourism outcomes, its practical influence remains limited. If the participation variable were removed from the model, the overall explanatory power of the model would change only slightly.

This pattern reinforces the interpretation that participation alone cannot substantially shape tourism development outcomes. While participation may reflect community engagement, it does not appear to function as the primary mechanism driving perceptions of tourism success within the Mandalika context.

Predictive Relevance of the Model

The predictive relevance of community participation for tourism development outcomes was assessed using the Q^2 statistic. The results are presented in Table 10.

Table 4.15 Predictive Relevance

	SSO	**SSE**	**Q^2 (=1-SSE/SSO)**
Linguistic and discourse patterns	2190.000	2190.000	0.000
Community participation	657.000	648.344	0.013
Mandalika Tourism success	1533.000	1487.906	0.029

The Q^2 value for tourism development outcomes is 0.029, indicating weak predictive relevance. This result suggests that the model has limited ability to predict tourism development outcomes based solely on community participation. The low predictive value further confirms the limited role of participation in determining development outcomes within the model. While participation is statistically connected to development outcomes, its predictive strength remains weak. This indicates that participation does not strongly determine how communities evaluate tourism development success.

Taken together, the statistical evidence reveals a consistent pattern. Community participation does not function as a strong driver of tourism development outcomes in the Mandalika tourism context. Instead, the negative relationship suggests that participation may emerge when communities express concerns, dissatisfaction, or resistance toward development processes. From an interpretive perspective, this pattern implies that participation may be occurring within a reactive communication environment rather than within a collaborative governance framework. Communities may become more active when development decisions create tensions or when their expectations are not fully met. Consequently, participation becomes a response to perceived challenges rather than a mechanism for shaping development strategies.

4.4 Structural Model Interpretation

After examining the reliability of the measurement model and the individual structural relationships among variables, the final stage of the analysis focuses on interpreting the overall structural model.

This step integrates the relationships between communicative interactional discourses, community participation, and tourism development outcomes in order to understand the broader pattern revealed by the empirical data. The structural model provides a comprehensive view of how communication practices and participation interact within the tourism development context of Mandalika. The structural relationships among the variables are illustrated in Figure 1.

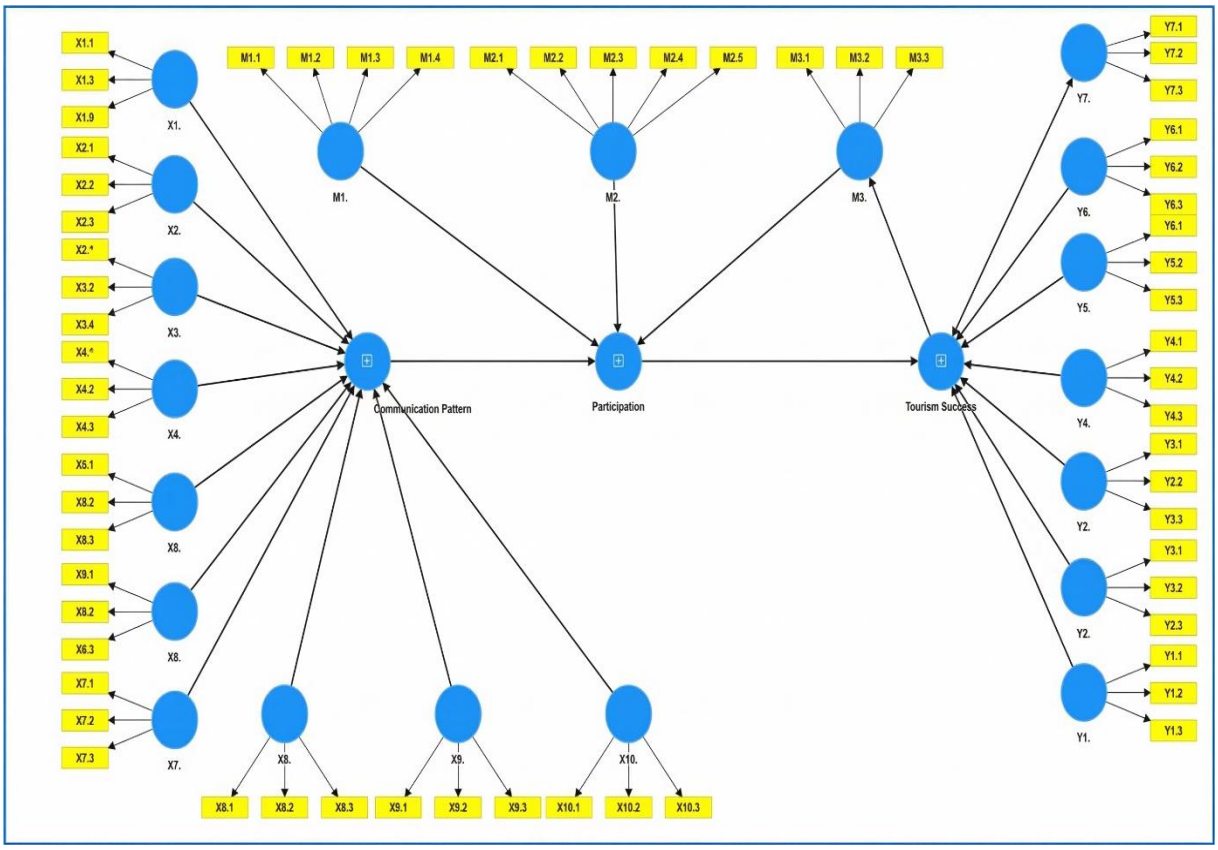

Figure 1. SEM PLS Structural Model

Figure 1 visualizes the causal pathways examined in the study. The model consists of two main structural relationships. The first path examines the influence of communicative interactional discourses on community participation, while the second path evaluates the relationship between community participation and tourism development outcomes. The model also reflects the statistical strength of each relationship through the magnitude and direction of the path coefficients.

The data reveal two major patterns within the structural model. First, communicative interactional discourses do not exert a significant influence on community participation. Although communication patterns display a positive directional relationship with participation, the effect remains statistically insignificant. This finding indicates that variations in communication practices do not produce measurable differences in participation levels among the surveyed communities.

Second, community participation demonstrates a statistically significant but negative relationship with tourism development outcomes. This pattern suggests that higher levels of reported participation are associated with lower perceived success of tourism development. Rather than reflecting collaborative engagement, participation may instead represent community responses to dissatisfaction, concern, or perceived inequality within the development process.

A closer examination of the structural model also reveals that the overall explanatory power of the model remains relatively limited. Communication patterns explain only a very small portion of the variance in community participation, while participation explains only a modest portion of the variance in tourism development outcomes. This low explanatory strength indicates that communication practices and participation alone cannot fully account for the dynamics shaping tourism development in Mandalika.

From an analytical perspective, this pattern suggests that the tourism development process is influenced by a broader set of structural and contextual factors beyond communication and participation. These factors may include governance structures, economic benefits distribution, institutional decision making processes, access to tourism resources, and local perceptions of fairness in development outcomes. In such contexts, communication may function primarily as an informational mechanism rather than as a participatory governance tool.

The structural model therefore reveals the presence of a communication participation gap within the tourism development framework. Although communication channels and participation mechanisms formally exist, they do not appear to function as effective platforms for collaborative engagement between institutional actors and local communities. Communication may occur through

meetings, consultations, or information dissemination activities, yet these interactions do not necessarily translate into meaningful community influence over development decisions.

This gap highlights a key structural characteristic of the Mandalika tourism development process. Communication and participation mechanisms appear to operate more as procedural elements of governance rather than as substantive mechanisms for shared decision making. As a result, the communicative environment may remain largely institutional in orientation, with limited opportunities for reciprocal dialogue and collaborative development planning.

Overall, the structural model suggests that the presence of communication structures alone does not guarantee effective participation or positive development outcomes. Instead, the effectiveness of communication in development contexts depends on how communication processes are embedded within governance structures and decision making practices. In the Mandalika tourism context, the empirical findings indicate that communication and participation mechanisms exist but have not yet evolved into fully functional platforms for collaborative development governance.

5. Discussion

This study examines the role of communicative interactional discourses in shaping community participation and tourism development outcomes in Mandalika, Indonesia. By foregrounding language, discourse structures, and communicative practices as central analytical elements, the research extends tourism development discussions beyond economic and institutional perspectives toward a linguistic and interactional understanding of development processes. The findings reveal a complex relationship among communication, participation, and perceived tourism outcomes. In particular, the results highlight a communication–participation gap in which communication practices exist but do not translate into meaningful community engagement. This section discusses the key findings in relation to existing theoretical perspectives, outlines the conceptual contributions of the study, and identifies implications for tourism governance and future research.

One of the main findings is that communicative interactional discourses do not significantly influence community participation in tourism development. The structural analysis indicates that linguistic and discourse patterns demonstrate a positive but statistically insignificant relationship with participation. This finding challenges the central assumption of participatory communication theory that communication processes naturally stimulate community engagement. Participatory communication perspectives suggest that communication should function as a dialogic process that promotes mutual understanding, collective learning, and community empowerment (Rogers, 1976 in Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021; Melkote & Steeves, 2015). Through such interaction, stakeholders negotiate meaning, exchange knowledge, and co construct development strategies (Servaes & Malikhao, 2010 in Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021). However, the empirical findings indicate that the communicative environment in Mandalika does not fully reflect this dialogic ideal.

The absence of a significant relationship between communicative interactional discourses and participation suggests that communication practices within tourism development remain largely informational rather than participatory. Institutional actors appear to employ communication mainly to disseminate policies, explain development plans, and promote tourism initiatives rather than to facilitate collaborative dialogue with local communities. As a result, communication operates primarily within a linear transmission model instead of a dialogic communication framework. This pattern is consistent with the classical communication model described by Rogers (1976 in Sarvaes & Sarvaes, 2021), in which information flows from institutions to communities without necessarily enabling reciprocal interaction or participatory decision making.

These findings therefore reveal a communication–participation gap within the Mandalika tourism development context. Although communication channels such as public meetings, information campaigns, and digital platforms exist, they do not function effectively as mechanisms for participatory engagement. Communication processes appear to prioritize policy dissemination rather than dialogue, limiting opportunities for communities to influence development decisions or articulate their perspectives within governance processes.

A second important finding is the negative relationship between community participation and tourism development outcomes. The statistical results indicate that higher levels of reported participation correspond with lower perceived tourism development success. This pattern appears counterintuitive because participation is generally associated with improved development outcomes, stronger community ownership, and greater policy legitimacy. However, the negative relationship observed in this study suggests that participation in the Mandalika context may reflect reactions to development tensions rather than collaborative engagement.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, this pattern may reflect discursive asymmetry between institutional actors and local communities, where policy outcomes are shaped by institutional authority, power relations, and inclusion rather than purely technical considerations (Döring, 2025). When development discourse is dominated by bureaucratic or technocratic registers that diverge from local communicative norms,

communities may encounter barriers to participating as legitimate interlocutors and to having their knowledge recognized as relevant expertise (Walwema, 2021). These barriers extend beyond vocabulary and concern who defines interpretive frameworks and what forms of reasoning are considered legitimate. Similar patterns have been observed in contexts where professionalized discourses legitimize institutional perspectives while limiting critical engagement from less authorized participants (Svensson et al., 2021). Conversely, collaborative meaning making approaches such as translaboration conceptualize translation as a shared communicative practice that enables negotiation across diverse linguistic and semiotic resources (Alfer, 2021).

In the Mandalika context, communication practices appear to rely heavily on formal institutional discourse that does not fully align with local linguistic traditions and community deliberative practices. In communities with strong customary institutions, communicative interaction is typically embedded within culturally grounded discourse frameworks and local decision-making forums (Ardana et al., 2020; Fibrianti, 2022). When development communication fails to incorporate these local communicative practices, discursive imbalances may emerge.

Discursive asymmetries in tourism governance, manifested through unequal power relations, narrative control, and limited procedural justice, can weaken trust and undermine participatory processes (Khan et al., 2025; Rahman & Baddam, 2021; Amoako et al., 2024). When engagement is perceived as symbolic rather than influential, participation may shift from collaborative involvement toward negotiation and contestation as communities attempt to address perceived inequalities in benefit distribution and decision authority (Rahman & Baddam, 2021; Khan et al., 2025; Amoako et al., 2024). Research also demonstrates that trust in public institutions strongly shapes willingness to participate constructively. When trust declines and perceived risks increase, participation intentions and perceptions of tourism benefits may weaken (Xia, 2022; Khan et al., 2025). Consequently, higher participation may coincide with lower perceived tourism outcomes because participation reflects dissatisfaction with cultural pressures, environmental concerns, or unequal economic benefits (Sangchumnong & Kozak, 2021; Rahman & Baddam, 2021). Strengthening empowerment and integrated communication is therefore essential for rebuilding consensus and development legitimacy (Tripathi & Shahri, 2024; Amoako et al., 2024).

The findings also show that communication and participation explain only a modest proportion of the variation in tourism development outcomes. This suggests that broader institutional and structural conditions shape how participation translates into development benefits (Suherlan & Cheer, 2024; Tong et al., 2024). Previous research highlights that governance quality and justice related to decision making and benefit distribution strongly influence community evaluations of tourism development (Dangi & Petrick, 2021; Zhu et al., 2021). Access to tourism opportunities and spatial policy inequalities may also shape perceptions of fairness, as proximity and accessibility influence procedural and distributive equity perceptions (Li et al., 2023). Furthermore, institutional arrangements related to property rights, benefit distribution, and regulatory oversight can either enable or constrain meaningful participation (Tong et al., 2024). When institutional incentives diverge from community interests, participation risks becoming symbolic rather than substantive. Therefore, communication and participation should be understood within a broader socio institutional system that includes governance quality, equity, and access to resources (Dangi & Petrick, 2021; Zhu et al., 2021; Li et al., 2023; Tong et al., 2024).

Despite these limitations, this study offers several theoretical contributions. First, it introduces communicative interactional discourses as a measurable analytical concept within tourism development research. Previous studies on Mandalika tourism have largely focused on economic performance, infrastructure development, and governance structures, with limited attention to language and discourse (Aprilani & Cahayani, 2022; Irwan et al., 2022; Islami et al., 2023; Roihan et al., 2025). By integrating sociolinguistic perspectives with participatory communication theory, the study demonstrates that linguistic practices and discourse patterns are crucial for understanding how participation and power relations emerge in development processes.

Second, the study contributes to language and development scholarship by empirically demonstrating how discourse structures shape participation dynamics in large scale tourism projects. Language is often treated as a neutral medium in development communication, yet the findings show that language functions as a social practice through which legitimacy, authority, and participation are negotiated. Conceptualizing communicative interactional discourses as observable linguistic practices therefore expands linguistic analysis into the domains of development communication and tourism governance.

The study also has practical implications for tourism policy. The findings suggest that communication strategies should move beyond one way information dissemination toward more dialogic and culturally grounded communication frameworks. Effective participatory communication requires recognition of local linguistic practices, community deliberative traditions, and culturally embedded discourse norms. Integrating local communicative structures into development dialogues can create more inclusive spaces for discussion, strengthen mutual understanding, and foster collaborative decision making.

Finally, the study opens several directions for future research. Further research could explore the qualitative dimensions of communicative interactional discourses in tourism development, particularly how language choice, narrative framing, and discourse negotiation influence stakeholder relationships. Ethnographic and discourse analytic approaches could provide deeper insight into how institutional and community discourses interact within participatory forums. Comparative studies across tourism destinations may also reveal how cultural communication patterns shape participation in development contexts. In addition, future research may examine the role of digital communication platforms in participatory tourism governance, particularly in contexts where digital media increasingly mediates interactions between institutions and local communities. Through such investigations, a more comprehensive understanding of the linguistic foundations of tourism development can be achieved.

6. Conclusions

This study examined the role of communicative interactional discourses in shaping community participation and tourism development outcomes in the Mandalika Tourism Special Economic Zone, Indonesia. The findings reveal three key insights. First, communicative interactional discourses do not significantly influence community participation, suggesting that existing communication practices function primarily as channels for information dissemination rather than as dialogic platforms that enable meaningful community engagement. Second, community participation demonstrates a statistically significant but negative relationship with perceived tourism development outcomes, indicating that participation may emerge as a response to tensions, dissatisfaction, or unequal benefit distribution rather than as a collaborative mechanism for shaping tourism policies. Third, the overall explanatory power of the structural model remains limited, which implies that communication and participation alone cannot fully explain tourism development outcomes and must be understood within a broader socio institutional context that includes governance structures, resource distribution, and perceptions of fairness.

The novelty of this study lies in integrating sociolinguistic perspectives with participatory communication theory to conceptualize communicative interactional discourses as linguistic practices in tourism development. By positioning language as a social practice through which participation and legitimacy are negotiated, the study expands discourse-oriented approaches in tourism governance research. Practically, the findings suggest tourism development policies should move beyond top down communication models and adopt dialogic, culturally grounded strategies that recognize local linguistic practices and deliberative traditions.

Future research may further explore qualitative dimensions of development communication, particularly how discourse negotiation, narrative framing, and linguistic power relations shape participatory processes. Comparative studies across tourism destinations and investigations into the role of digital communication platforms in mediating stakeholder interactions may also offer deeper insights into the communicative foundations of inclusive and sustainable tourism development.

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