

Achmad Yurianto in the frame of online journalism pioneer in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Since the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, announced the first positive case of COVID-19 in Indonesia, the government officially created the COVID-19 Handling Task Force on March 4, 2020. The government has appointed Achmad Yurianto as the Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. As a spokesperson, Achmad Yurianto conveyed the development of the status issue through the media. However, information ambiguity still arises, creating discretion and negative images of the government's communication style. This research aims to describe how Kompas.com, Republika.co.id, and Detik.com, pioneers of online journalism in Indonesia, framed the news delivered by Achmad Yurianto. In this constructivist paradigm research, the researchers analyzed 28 news samples using the framing model of Pan and Kosicki, then related them to the theory of Social Reality Construction from Berger and Luckmann. At the syntactic structure, the researcher analyzes the facts on the news scheme in the form of headlines, leads, background information, quotes, sources, statements, closings. At the script level, the researcher analyzes the completeness of the news which includes elements of 5W+1H. Furthermore, at the thematic level, the elements of pre-paragraphs and news prepositions. Finally, the researcher looks at the emphasis on facts through grammar, idioms, pictures, graphics in the news. The results disclosed that Kompas.com, Republika.co.id, and Detik.com actively reports the development of information about COVID-19 in Indonesia, including framing the COVID-19 Task Force Handling Spokesperson, Achmad Yurianto. Kompas.com could direct public opinion to see Achmad Yurianto as an arrogant and authoritarian person. Conversely, Detik.com always framed him as a competent and proportionate person in conveying information.

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1. Introduction

Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first discovered in Wuhan, China, at the end of November 2019 [1]. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the virus causing the disease is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) [2] SARS CoV-2 has a genetic similarity of as much as 89%, compared to the SARS virus found in bats, and 82% compared to the SARS virus infecting humans. Corona in Latin means a crown (coronam) having a kind of thorn surrounding its surface resembling a crown; thus, it is called coronavirus [3]. SARS Cov-2 is a class of betacoronavirus [4].

In early January 2020, COVID-19 has spread to Japan. Furthermore, Taiwan and the United States (US) reported COVID-19 cases, followed by other countries, including Germany. In just two months, the virus spread faster and outside China. The most severe countries were South Korea, Iran, and Italy. Then, more and more countries reported this case [5]. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated COVID-19 a pandemic as it had spread all over the world.

At present, the global pandemic due to COVID-19 infection is spreading rapidly in many countries with a high number of deaths. Health systems around the world are preparing to manage the influx of critical patients. During this phase, care providers, administrators, and policymakers work together to understand and combat this deadly pandemic [6]. The COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country causes public anxiety and uncertainty. In handling this pandemic, each country has different responses and policies [1].

Meanwhile, on March 3, 2020, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, announced two people as the first positive cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia. On March 4, 2020, the government formally formed a specialized agency to handle this case, known as the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. The government has appointed the Head of the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPb), Lt. Gen. Doni Monardo, as the commander. Furthermore, Achmad Yurianto was chosen as the spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force, given his experience as a Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health's Disease Prevention and Control (P2P KEMENKES).

Achmad Yurianto's position as Government Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force has become more proportionate since he was appointed as Director-General of P2P Ministry of Health on March 9, 2020. From the perspective of communication psychology, the prior ethos has been formed [7]. Serving as the Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force, Achmad Yurianto has become a concern of the media due to his increasing intensity in public. Every evening before 04.00 Western Indonesian Time (WIB), he appeared at a press conference to convey various matters related to the government's efforts in handling COVID-19, such as the rates of case development, mortality, and recovery.

Based on the perspective of Public Relations, Achmad Yurianto holds a role oriented toward public satisfaction, including considering and making public satisfaction an indicator of its success. Holding the spokesperson's position, Achmad Yurianto conveys information on the development of the issue status through the media. However, information ambiguity still arises, creating discretion and negative images of the government's communication style. Several times at the end of March 2020, he frequently made a controversial language, causing the initiation of diverse perceptions in society, especially in the virtual world [7].

Turning to several online media in Indonesia, as the pioneers of digital-based news, they play a significant role in COVID-19 coverage in Indonesia. Initially, Republika.co.id developed the first online media platform in 1995. Three years later, in 1998, Kompas.com also established its first digital publication under Kompas.com Cyber Media Company, currently named Kompas.com [8]. These two online media portals moved the printed to an online edition aiming to allow the readers to access information without being constrained by cost and distance [9]. In 1998, Indonesian history recorded the presence of the first online media without a printed edition, Detik.com [8]. As one of the few pioneers of Indonesian online journalism, Detik.com is still consistent with its online platform since 1998 until now [10]. These media became the pioneers of other media in Indonesia to develop digital platforms.

Based on this background, the researchers formulated the problem of this study into how online media pioneers in Indonesia (Republika.co.id, Kompas.com, Detik.com) frame or construct figures of Achmad Yurianto as Government Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force? The news referred to in these three online media was counted from the enactment of Achmad Yurianto as a spokesperson for entering the new normal implementation in Indonesia. The researchers believe that this research can provide benefits as an analysis of how these three online media pioneers developed the image of Achmad Yurianto as the Government's Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force based on their construction results.

2. Literature Review

To answer the proposed research problem, the researchers employed two theories, framing and reality construction. Framing theory reveals how the media put news or product on journalism and give it a specific meaning. Meanwhile, reality theory supports the view that the media are not neutral entities and, therefore, actively shape particular behavioral meanings and concepts.

Human life is currently in the “talking” era characterized by quite different means of communication, causing many traditional boundaries to fade away, such as information, communication, political, and non-political issues. Therefore, “talks” in the public sphere have explicitly been arranged by the political elite to support their interests [11]. Supported by Marshall McLuhan’s perspective on Technology Determinism, the digital era is considered an accelerator to the golden age of journalism, especially from the aspect of democratization [12].

Online media frames news texts in various ways, namely by selecting news sources and citations supporting the statement and background information provided in the text. In general, the media contains news articles with the principle of balance. In online media, the balance principle of news does not appear in one story, but it is fragmented or split in the principle of updating. This news is related to the next news or can be said as complementary news from the previous related news [13]. Research using framing tends to reveal how several parties utilize news for containing information and channels of information dissemination manipulated [14].

From Pan and Kosicki’s perspective, framing theory contains four structural elements in the news text. (1) The syntactic structure focuses on how journalists arrange words. This element can provide clues on how journalists interpret the meaning of events and where the news goes. The units observed in this structure are headlines, leads, background information, quotes, sources, statements, and closing. (2) The script structure concerns how journalists describe facts. This structure can be seen by studying the pattern of 5W+1H in the news and how journalists relate certain events to previous ones. (3) The thematic structure examines the journalists’ perspectives on facts through prepositions, sentences, or relationships between cultures forming the text. (4) The rhetorical structure deals with the way journalists emphasize specific meanings. This aspect can be seen through the selection of lexicon, image, or photo, and others [11], [15].

The media, as reality presenters, have a specific construction on the news presented. Online media tend to emphasize aspects of closeness in reporting information and allow independent (non-linear) news publication [16], [17]. The construction results, including the use of language as a whole, is a discourse that can give rise to meaning. Meanwhile, the reality of the media has a pseudo-reality formed due to social, political, and economic processes, causing the news produced and constructed by a media to have different framing [15], [18]. Moreover, the reality is also considered to be the subjectivity of journalists based on their understanding and interpretation. In a nutshell, the reality formed in the news is not what happened in the real world [19].

Community members communicate using language and produce social reality as a joint construction process. Every culture or social group can develop its understanding of the world, create its meaning about certain abstract behaviors or concepts, and construct ways to understand it. The behaviors or concepts can then turn into a tradition gradually taken for granted. Social construction can lead to reflexivity and question assumptions taken for granted. As an element of reality construction, language is a conceptualization and narrative tool [20].

The mass media and the public widely highlighted the response of the Indonesian government at the beginning of the pandemic. Media and public criticism focused on two things: the government's slow response and transparency of data on the spread of Covid-19 [21].

Public perceptions of the risks and threats of Covid-19 are also influenced by the information they receive [22]. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, information has spread uncontrollably in mainstream mass media such as newspapers, radio, television, and online news sites, as well as social media [23].

Covid-19 has news value that is interesting and has a large magnitude and impact on the public. These news values direct how reality is constructed by the media [24], [25].

As a public institution, the mass media have an important role in disaster situations [26]. The media is a channel of information, a source of information, and a controller of disaster management

policies. Through news written by journalists, the media can influence public perceptions of the risks that threaten them and what actions they should take [27].

As a global event in the modern age, technology and science have developed well so that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact that is worthy of being raised and kept in the news. In disaster reporting, it is not uncommon for the media to be news bias [28]. At the same time, the mass media performs its function as a warning and risk information provider in the pre-disaster phase, activating response during a disaster and being a reliever of post-disaster situations [29].

The frame constructed by the media will significantly determine how the public behaves and what response will be displayed. The Covid-19 discourse built by the media affects the meaning, escalation, impact, response, and strategy for dealing with the crisis caused by the disaster [30].

The social construction of reality can clarify media biases [31]. In the mass media, language can be found in various media, including verbal (spoken and written) and nonverbal (pictures, photos, tables, and others). Therefore, language becomes an essential point in this process because, through it, social reality is built, and meaning is formed [10]. In conclusion, individuals produce the social world through words, actions, and even media products. Thus, studying media texts is an attempt to understand social reality, including concerning framing events by the media [10].

3. Method

This research is a qualitative study using the constructivist paradigm. This study employed framing analysis as the method to examine how the media construct Achmad Yuriyanto as the Government's Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. It was based on the view that media is not objective, but the results of the interpretation packaged in such a way, which can lead the audience to interpret an event or an individual. Therefore, the authors utilized framing analysis to determine journalists' perspectives when selecting issues and writing news. Communication and media studies experts place framing as a process in which events/issues are framed by the media that influence opinion formation in society [32].

This study uses framing analysis to see how the reality formed by three media about Achmad Yuriyanto. Framing itself is a theory in media analysis which has been widely applied to news related to politics [33]–[35], disasters [36], [37], racism and sexism [38], conflict [39], and terrorism [40]. Framing has also been used to analyze news related to the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia [41]. In a variety of existing literature, framing can also be related to media effects [42]. Framing has been called a perspective [43], a paradigm [44], an approach [45], an analytical technique [46], and a multi-paradigmatic research program [47].

The news that was raised in this study was collected from March-June 2020 when Achmad Yuriyanto was appointed as the Government Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. This framing analysis uses the model of Zhongdang Pan and Gerald Kosicki, which defines that framing is a construction strategy in the news process. Cognitive devices used to encode information, interpret events and are associated with news-forming routines and conversions.

The discourse in this research is reviewed through four structures. First, at the syntactic structure, the researcher analyzes the facts on the news scheme in the form of headlines, leads, background information, quotes, sources, statements, and closings. Second, at the script level, the researcher analyzes the completeness of the news which includes elements of 5W+1H. Third, at the thematic level, the researcher observes the elements of preparagraphs and news prepositions. Last, the researcher looks at the emphasis on facts through grammar, idioms, pictures/photos, and graphics in the news.

4. Results and Discussion

The researchers discovered a total of 28 news items, which in general highlighted Achmad Yuriyanto as the Government Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. Therefore, the researchers used these 28 news items for this study. The 28 news was classified into four different divisions. Table 1 presents the first division, entitled Comparative News on Kompas.com, Republika.co.id, and Detik.com. This table consists of nine stories with three different themes from

each of the three online media. The first table classification was made according to the title, aiming to compare each element in the framing approach based on Pan and Kosicki's perspective.

Table 1. Comparison of News at Kompas.com, Republika.co.id, and Detik.com

Kompas.com	Republika.co.id	Detik.com
Yurianto: Chloroquine Is Not a Medicine to Prevent Corona, No Need to Buy and Save It (March 21, 2020)	Spokesperson COVID-19 Affirms Chloroquine Is Not a Medicine to Prevent Corona (March 22, 2020)	Government: Do Not Flock to Buy Chloroquine, It Is A Potent Drug (March 21, 2020)
Government's Spokesperson: Negative Rapid Test Results Do Not Guarantee Not to be Corona Infected (April 22, 2020)	Spokesperson: Negative Results Do Not Mean Free from COVID-19 (March 21, 2020)	Government: Negative Rapid Test Results Do Not Guarantee to be Free of the Coronavirus (March 21, 2020)
Spokesperson: Everyone Returning to Hometown is Highly Possible to Carry COVID-19 (April 22, 2020)	Spokesperson of COVID-19 Asks the Community Not to Return to Hometown (March 27, 2020)	Spokesperson of COVID-19 Handling: No 'Mudik' To Avoid the Increase of Risk of Contracting Corona (April 6, 2020)

Source: Processed by the researchers

The next three tables consist of some news from each online media. Table 2 displays six news from Kompas.com. Table 3 presents ten news from Republika.co.id. Table 4 shows three news from Detik.com. The classification of these three tables was based on the news from each online media. It aimed to clarify further the character of Achmad Yurianto from how these three media constructed the reality.

Table 2. News at Kompas.com

No	News Title	Date
1	Yuri: A Cloth Mask Can Be an Alternative to Prevent Coronavirus	March 26, 2020
2	Government's Spokesperson: According to WHO Recommendation, Starting Today All People Should Use Masks	April 5, 2020
3	Yurianto: If COVID-19 Decreases in July, Do Not Imagine the Condition Will be as Normal as that Before the Pandemic	May 3, 2020
4	Yurianto: PSBB is Not Only Community Needs, But Also Government's	May 7, 2020
5	Achmad Yurianto: There Is No Vaccine, Do Not be Arrogant Toward COVID-19	May 12, 2020
6	Achmad Yurianto: Finding COVID-19 Vaccine Is Not Easy	June 5, 2020

Source: Processed by the researchers

Table 3. News at Republika.co.id

No	News Title	Date
1	Spokesperson of Corona: There are Changes in Symptoms of COVID-19 Virus Infection	March 5, 2020
2	Spokesperson of Corona: No Need for Institutions to Request Free of COVID-19 Letters	March 6, 2020
3	Spokesperson: All Public Health Center (Puskesmas) Are Capable of COVID-19 Early Detection	March 8, 2020
4	Achmad Yurianto: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Corona Handling is in the Province	March 11, 2020
5	Yurianto's Message to the Three COVID-19 Patients Healed	March 12, 2020
6	Spokesperson of COVID-19: Number of Cases Increased due to Widespread Tracing	March 16, 2020

7	Yurianto: COVID-19 Can Be Cured with Immunity-Based	March 20, 2020
8	Yuri: Rapid Test Only Checks the Antibodies Not the COVID-19 Virus	March 24, 2020
9	Government's Spokesperson: Rapid Test Results Do Not Guarantee to Be Free from COVID-19	March 27, 2020
10	Spokesperson of COVID-19: Corona Rapid Test Is Ideally Carried Out Twice	March 28, 2020

Source: Processed by the researchers

Table 4. News at Detik.com

No	News Title	Date
1	Indonesian Spokesperson: Using Soap Is More Effective than Hand Sanitizer in Preventing Corona	March 28, 2020
2	Corona Transmission is Mostly Through Hands; These are the Government's Recommendations	March 28, 2020
3	Government's Spokesperson Explained the Highlighted 'The Rich-The Poor' Statement	March 28, 2020

Source: Processed by the researchers

Table 5. Frame Coverage of Achmad Yurianto's Statement Regarding Chloroquine

Elements	Kompas.com	Republika.co.id	Detik.com
Syntactic Structure			
Headline	Yurianto: Chloroquine Is Not a Medicine to Prevent Corona, No Need to Buy and Save It	Spokesperson of COVID-19 Affirms Chloroquine Is Not a Medicine to Prevent Corona	Government: Do Not Flock to Buy Chloroquine, It Is a Potent Drug
Lead quote	[He stressed, chloroquine is not a drug to prevent coronavirus infection]	[Achmad Yurianto said that the chloroquine is not beneficial for the prevention of COVID-19 infection]	[It is a healing drug, not preventive medicine.]
Quote (Achmad Yurianto)	“ [“Chloroquine is used for healing. Not prevention. So, no need to buy and keep it.”]	“These drugs should not be kept or consumed for ourselves in the context of prevention because, scientifically, there is no preventive effort by consuming certain drugs”]	[The drug that we will bring, that we are familiar with, is called Chloroquine. Once again, Chloroquine is used for healing, not prevention. So, no need to buy and keep it.”] [“We hope there will be no wrong perception that Chloroquine is to prevent infection. People do not need to flock to buy and keep it at home because it is a drug given through a doctor's prescription with the supervision of health workers”]
Script Structure			
5W+1H	The 5W + 1H elements of the news were completely published. However, the element of <i>why</i> had an unsustainable statement between sentences and news themes. Likewise, the <i>how</i> did	The 5W + 1H elements of the news were completely published. The advantage of this news was that it contained elements of <i>how</i> quite strong and explained a lot about chloroquine	The 5W + 1H elements of the news were completely published. This news also contained advantages in the form of <i>how</i> strong enough and very explanatory about chloroquine. Furthermore, this

	not explain the statement in depth.	scientifically.	news also provided supporting information from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo.
Thematic Structure			
Preposition, Sentence, Relationship	The information in this news “confirmed” that chloroquine “is not a drug to prevent coronavirus infection.”	The information in this news revealed that chloroquine “is not beneficial for the prevention of COVID-19 infection.” However, the best way to prevent coronavirus is to keep a safe distance and maintain immunity.	The information in this news explained people’s “misunderstanding” of chloroquine as medicine for corona healing. Besides, this news also taught that chloroquine is a potent drug.
Rhetorical Structure			
Picture	The picture gave meaning regarding the affirmation of the figure of Achmad Yurianto in providing information about chloroquine.	The picture highlighted chloroquine.	The picture reconstructed that chloroquine is not a medicine for the coronavirus. It was an expression representing a government institution, not from Achmad Yurianto personally.
Lexicon	[“... effective in healing COVID-19 patients ...”]	[“... helps the healing process of the coronavirus ...”]	[“... facing the coronavirus”]

Table 6. Frame Coverage of Achmad Yurianto’s Statement Regarding Rapid Test Results

Elements	Kompas.com	Republika.co.id	Detik.com
Syntactic Structure			
Headline	Government’s Spokesperson: Negative Rapid Test Results Do Not Guarantee Not to be Corona Infected	Spokesperson: Negative Results Do Not Mean Free from COVID-19	Government: Negative Rapid Test Results Do Not Guarantee to Be Free of Coronavirus
Lead quote	[Achmad Yurianto said, having a negative result of a rapid test does not mean that one is not infected with the coronavirus]	[Achmad Yurianto said the negative result of a quick examination to identify the possibility of COVID-19 does not guarantee that the person is not infected]	[Achmad Yurianto said that the negative rapid test result does not guarantee that one is free from coronavirus]
Quote (Achmad Yurianto)	[“Negative results do not guarantee that they are not infected”]	[“It needs to be understood that negative results do not guarantee not to be infected by COVID-19”]	[“The negative results of the rapid test do not guarantee that they are not infected”] [“Therefore, they should understand properly that the negative results do guarantee that they are not infected with COVID-19”]

Script Structure

5W+1H	The news contained complete and sufficient elements of 5W + 1H to explain the results of the rapid test and subsequent follow-up.	The news contained complete and sufficient elements of 5W + 1H to explain the results of the rapid test and subsequent follow-up. The news also included scientific explanations using easily understood language.	The news contained complete and sufficient elements of 5W + 1H to explain the results of the rapid test and subsequent follow-up. This news also contained further recommendations to minimize the transmission of the virus.
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Thematic Structure

Preposition, Sentence, Relationship	The news explained that a rapid test with a negative result does not mean a person is not infected with the coronavirus because an immunological response has not yet appeared. Thus, it is necessary to carry out re-examination seven days later. Moreover, PCR has more accurate examination results than rapid tests.	The news explained that the rapid test with a negative result does not mean a person is not infected with the coronavirus because an immunological response has not yet appeared. Thus, it is necessary to carry out re-examination seven days later. Therefore, the community needs to prevent the coronavirus by maintaining a safe distance and immunity.	The news explaining the rapid test with a negative result does not mean a person is not infected with the coronavirus because an immunological response has not yet appeared. Thus, it is necessary to carry out re-examination seven days later. Moreover, PCR has more accurate examination results than rapid tests.
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Rhetorical Structure

Lexicon	[... does not mean that one is not infected with the coronavirus.]	[... does not guarantee that the person is not infected.]	[... does not guarantee that one is free from the coronavirus.]
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Table 7. Frame Coverage of Achmad Yurianto's Statement Regarding Homecoming

Elements	Kompas.com	Republika.co.id	Detik.com
Syntactic Structure			
Headline	Spokesperson: Everyone Returning to Hometown is Highly Possible to Carry COVID-19	Spokesperson of COVID-19 Asks the Community Not to Return to Hometown	Spokesman of COVID-19 Handling: No 'Return to Hometown' to Avoid the Increase of Risk of Contracting Corona
Lead quote	[Achmad Yurianto said, having a negative result of rapid test does not mean that one is not infected with the coronavirus]	[Achmad Yurianto said that the negative result of a quick examination to identify the possibility of COVID-19 does not guarantee that the person is not infected]	[Achmad Yurianto said that the negative rapid test result does not guarantee that one is free from coronavirus]
Statement	[Achmad Yurianto explained the ban on returning to hometown 'mudik' to prevent the spread of the virus ... Because everyone traveling to their hometown is likely to contract COVID-19]	[Achmad Yurianto asked the community not to return to hometown or to delay it... ... was believed to prevent an increase in infection rates]	[Achmad Yurianto asked the community not to return to hometown ... Because it is considered to increase the risk of spreading Corona.]

Script Structure

5W+1H	This news contained elements of 5W+1H completely. This news contained a powerful <i>why</i> element, but rather weak of <i>how</i> element with quite a bit of information content.	This news contained elements of 5W+1H completely and quite clearly. The content of each element in this news contained balanced information.	This news contained elements of 5W + 1H completely and quite clearly. The content of each element in this news contained balanced information.
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Thematic Structure

Preposition, Sentence, Relationship	The information in this news revealed that 'mudik' potentially transmits or carries viruses.	The information in this news suggested to be wise on 'return to hometown' plans and better stay productive at home.	The information in this news stated that 'mudik' is part of the implementation of social restriction
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Rhetorical Structure

Lexicon	["No" return to hometown"]	["Postpone 'return to hometown"]	["No 'return to hometown"]
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The findings revealed that the three online media pioneers in Indonesia framed Achmad Yurianto as the Government's Spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force differently, causing different meanings. Kompas.com used diction and wording, which tended to directly lead to the core and purpose of the information to be conveyed. Moreover, this online media highlighted Achmad Yurianto without mentioning his institution, from a government agency, as seen on the news headlines through the syntactic structure, as follows.

[Yurianto: If COVID-19 Decreases in July, Do Not Imagine that the Condition Will be as Normal as That Before the Pandemic]

Yurianto: PSBB is Not Only Community Needs, But Also Government'

Achmad Yurianto: There Is No Vaccine, Do Not Be Arrogant Toward COVID-19

Achmad Yurianto: Finding COVID-19 Vaccine Is Not Easy]

Kompas.com delivered statements and quotations with diction framing Achmad Yurianto to be arrogant in conveying information. At certain times, it could also lead to perspectives that Achmad Yurianto is an authoritarian person.

Republika.co.id tended to use a little extravagant diction and was sometimes difficult to understand. For example, the use of the words "postpone 'mudik'." It could indicate that the actual 'mudik' could still be done, but regarding when it could be carried out, it was unknown time. When compared with the diction used by Kompas.com "do not 'mudik'" and Detik.com "No 'mudik'," both statements expressly indicated that 'mudik' or returning to hometown was not allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Republika.co.id also sometimes used a quite wordy language such as,

["Achmad Yurianto mentioned that the chloroquine drug is not beneficial for preventing COVID-19 infection."

"It needs to be understood that negative results do not guarantee not to be infected by COVID-19"]

Regarding grammar, the two sentences above are ineffective statements.

However, Republika.co.id presented quite a lot of scientific and rational explanations when linking an event with facts. The strength of Republika.co.id in framing Achmad Yurianto on information on the development of COVID-19 was that this online media provided solutions to a polemic on a news theme. Besides, it had more varied information choices compared to the other

two online media. In delivering COVID-19 daily information by the COVID-19 Handling Task Force team, *Republika.co.id* could produce several different themes, making it to have rich information. For example, in the theme of rapid test examination with negative results, *Republika.co.id* could produce three to four different news stories. In several stories with different themes, the researchers also obtained many appeals about the community requiring to prevent coronavirus by maintaining a safe distance and immunity. Indirectly, the message delivered repeatedly could be embedded in the minds of the public to do so.

Compared with *Kompas.com* and *Republika.co.id*, *Detik.com* always used diction and wording, which was clearer and easier for the public to understand. It can be proven by a comparison of the following rhetorical structure.

[... does not mean one is not infected with the coronavirus (*Kompas.com*)

... does not guarantee that the person is not infected (*Republika.co.id*)

... does not guarantee that one is free from the coronavirus (*Detik.com*)]

Moreover, it can also be seen from the following syntactic structure.

[He stressed, chloroquine is not a drug to prevent coronavirus infection (*Kompas.com*)

Achmad Yurianto mentioned that the chloroquine drug is not beneficial for the prevention of COVID-19 infection (*Republika.co.id*)

The drug is used for healing, not preventing (*Detik.com*)]

Furthermore, the elements of direct quotations and statements were always appropriate and continuous not to cause multi-perspectives.

The next characteristic of *Detik.com* was providing clarification both regarding a polemic and the figure of Achmad Yurianto individually. For example, in reporting the chloroquine drug, *Detik.com* was able to explain it educatively and scientifically. Furthermore, Achmad Yurianto was once the center for public attention because he was considered to cause controversy through the following expressions.

[“The rich protect the poor to make them live properly, and the poor protect the rich from spreading disease. It is an important collaboration.”]

Furthermore, *Detik.com* was the only one clarifying Achmad Yurianto on his statement considered controversial among the three online media. Its news informed it through the headline, “Government’s Spokesperson Explains the Highlighted ‘The Rich-The Poor’ Statement.” Based on the syntactic elements, *Detik.com* carried a statement, “Yuri stressed that he did not intend to demean the poor.” It means that *Detik.com* provided clarification for misunderstandings arising in public regarding the views of Achmad Yurianto.

5. Conclusion

The results disclosed that *Kompas.com*, *Republika.co.id*, and *Detik.com* actively reports the development of information about COVID-19 in Indonesia, including framing the COVID-19 Task Force Handling Spokesperson, Achmad Yurianto. *Kompas.com* could direct public opinion to see Achmad Yurianto as an arrogant and authoritarian person. Meanwhile, *Republika.co.id* represented Achmad Yurianto as a doctor rich in scientific-based information and understanding from a health perspective. However, in certain situations, Achmad Yurianto was impressed as an ambiguous and quite long-winded person. In contrast, *Detik.com* framed Achmad Yurianto as a competent and proportionate person in conveying information. It was proven on the news involving this spokesperson always equipped with clarification and educative information.

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