

Framing of COVID-19 in German and Indonesian News

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ABSTRACT

News discourse concerning COVID-19 is currently a trending topic in the world since it has affected world economic sector. Moreover this pandemic that has taken place since March 2020 has become a lively headline for discussion because of the massive transmission of the virus with an increasing number of infected people every day. This outbreak caused. The mass media from each country has a various way of producing news about COVID-19. It will be differently interpreted based on the diverse perspectives. News media plays an active role on framing COVID-19 issues. Since the news production is cultural and political based, it will be interested to compare the news framing of 2 countries with different cultural and political background. Therefore this research aims to compare how the German and Indonesian online media on framing news themed COVID-19. The data are related news from selected by related keywords through search engine. The framing theory from Pan and Kosicki (1993) is adopted to analyse the data. The findings reveal that German media frames COVID-19 as a new health problem that must be solved scientifically. Meanwhile Indonesian media frames this virus as a new financial problem.

Keywords: discourse analysis, news framing, online news, COVID-19

1. INTRODUCTION

In the view of positivism, the mass media as a means of channeling messages. The mass media is considered a neutral entity. However, the constructionists have a different view, namely that the mass media is not only a channel / conveyor of messages, but it is also a subject that constructs reality, along with its views, biases, and alignments [6]. In this case, the mass media is seen as an agent of social construction that interprets reality. How about journalists? positivist, journalist is a news anchor that reflects reality, and a good journalist is someone who is able to transfer reality into the news. Meanwhile, journalist constructionists are a construction agent who does not only reporting but also involved in interpreting facts/events. The media are required to make real news, that is facts which actually happened on the ground. However, there are other interests that ultimately make the reality of the news different from the real reality. Some facts are made in the news, some are not. This can be seen from who the interviewees are, what issues are dominant in an event, or the position of the news in a media. In relation to these matters, the media are considered capable of creating a second reality.

In early 2020, the topic of coronavirus made headlines on several news stories. The virus spreads very fast to become a global problem. Everyone is looking for topics about coronavirus and topics are fast trending on Google. Almost all mainstream media

highlight COVID-19, such as policy decisions to define and prevent the spread of viruses. Negative information also circulates as headlines in several news. In this case, speculation will be overwhelming. The information about COVID-19 can be convoluted because there is increasing information regarding the health issue, that are not thoroughly accessible. Delivery of information regarding risk should be fair. However, in interpersonal terms, differences in perception may hold between the patients and the health professional during health discussions [1], while the real health information is also needed by the society to guide their health behavior during a pandemic. The problem is that the pandemic is not always equally deemed by the media.

News themed COVID-19 in mass media can be seen as a part of health communication. Health communication is a phenomenon that should be analyzed interdisciplinary. As a part of communication, health communication is concerned about how human roles and communication are mediated in health treatment and promotion. Health communication is the process of arranging and delivering health information between individuals, social actors, and social institutions [5]. In this paper mass media can be defined as social institution, which arrange and deliver the information to the society. Health communication is also used to forewarn the public related to dangerous health risks and recommend the method to address the situations [6]. [6] classified health communication into four related parts, namely delivery of healthcare, promotion of health, health and risk communication, and e-health. Health and

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risk communication consider the demands of communication in identifying the potential of the epidemic, preparing the public to face health risks and guiding response during the crisis.

COVID-19 reportage is not only in Indonesia but also in Germany which is also attacked by this virus. The death rate due to COVID-19 in this country is not as high as in Indonesia. This is generally due to the healthy lifestyle of the German people and also the population that is not as much as Indonesia makes it easier for the government to make health arrangements. It would be very interesting to compare the news themed COVID-19 in Germany and in Indonesia. With differences in sociocultural backgrounds, of course, it also makes a difference in point of view. How the German and Indonesian people respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is more or less influenced by the framing of the news that is delivered to their society.

To address gaps in the literature regarding news coverage in the COVID-19 pandemic, this paper seeks to answer, by examining the characteristics of news media framing, following the research question: What is the current dominant framework used in the new coverage of COVID-19 by Indonesian and German online newspapers?

1.1. Related Work

1.1.1. Framing Analysis

Framing has been described as a concept, an approach, a theory, a class of media effects, a perspective, an analytical technique, a paradigm, and a multiparadigmatic research program [2]. As stated by [4] in his oft-cited definition, framing is "the process of culling a few elements of perceived reality and assembling a narrative that highlights the connections among them to promote a particular interpretation". "News is anything but a true reflection of reality." This is the assertion Oosthuizen in [3] makes, and this is the crux of the framing theory. Oosthuizen adds that news, rather, "is a frame or window on reality that seeks to or can only reflect part of this reality.

The terminology of framing has many different definitions. There is almost no agreement among experts to define and conceptualize what framing actually is. However, one thing that is generally agreed upon is that framing is a mass media effect theory that connects how a message is presented by the mass media to the audience and not what is presented to the audience. For [7] framing highlights in certain parts of an issue allowing "the selected elements to become important in influencing individuals' judgments".

1.1.2. News Framing and Linguistics

Linguistic phenomena can also be seen as a significant symptom of framing process. As already stated by [7] framing is essentially an activity of selecting and highlighting, namely starting to select sources, statements, and highlighting parts (which are considered to have news value and hiding those that are considered unimportant). So, facts or reality are constructed in such a way by the journalist. In news production, there are three processes. First, in terms of choice of words/symbols, journalists often determine the diction which is the result of their interpretation; not by simply reporting (what the sources said). Second, in terms of framing, by reason of limited columns, limited time, media workers rarely report events in full. Third, in compiling news there is an agenda setting behind it. Thus, reality (which is contained in the news) is actually constructed.

Every day, we have to deal with numerous news which are the result of media construction. Moreover, nowadays people often think that the news they see or read is the real world. This is the result of framing carried out by the mass media.

Table 1. Framing framework of Pan and Kosicki [7]

Structure	Framing Tools	Aspects
Syntax	News schema	Headline, lead,
How the		background
journalist		information,
arrange the		quotes,
issues		source,
		statement,
		Closing
Script	completeness of the	5W + 1H
How the	news	
journalist		
narrate the		
facts		
Thematic	• Details	Paragraph and
How the	The meaning of	propositions
journalist	the sentence, the	
write the facts	relationship	
	 Nominalization 	
	between	
	sentences	
	Coherence	
	The form of the	



	sentence • Pronouns	
Rhetoric	• Lexicon	Words, idioms,
How the	 Graphics 	pictures /
journalist	 Metaphor 	photos,
emphasize	 Presupposition 	graphics
the facts		

The framing model introduced by [7] is one of the most popular and used models. According to them, framing as a process makes a message more prominent, place more information than others so that audiences are more focused and agreeable on the message.

It is further explained that there are two conceptions of mutual framing. First, the conception of psychology places more emphasis on how a person processes information in himself. Framing deals with cognitive structures and processes. How does a person process some information and it is shown in a certain scheme. Second, the sociological conception. If the psychological view looks more at a person's internal processes, how the individual cognitively interprets an event in a certain way, then the sociological view looks more at how the social construction of reality.

Frame here is understood as the process of how a person classifies, organizes, and interprets his social experience to understand himself and the reality outside himself. The frame here functions to make a reality identifiable, understandable and understandable as an arena that has been labeled with a certain label. From this it appears that there are two somewhat different conceptions of framing. On the one hand framing is understood as an internal structure in one's mind, on the other hand framing is understood as a socially / politically inherent device. Then, Pan and Kosicki created a model that integrated the two. According to him, framing basically involves the two conceptions. Framing is then interpreted as a journalist's strategy or way of constructing and processing events to be presented to the public.

Based on the explanation above it appears that framing analysis can be an alternative to describe linguistic phenomena, especially in discourse analysis. So far, discourse has been analyzed from a linguistic perspective, for example, how a discourse is analyzed based on its cohesion and coherence aspects both lexically and grammatically. Meanwhile, framing analysis offers discourse analysis seen and studied in a broader context. Discourse is not only understood

linguistically, but it can actually be studied as the part of communication process.

2. METHOD

Qualitative method is applied to find out the comparison between Indonesia and German news framing themed COVID-19. Wimmer [8] stated that qualitative methods are valuable when we wish not to count or measure phenomena but to understand the character of experience, particularly how people perceive and make sense of their communication experience. This involves interpreting meanings and other unobservable dimensions of communication.

The data were gathered from Kompas and Der Spiegel from May-July. The data consists of 24 news chosen based on the topics COVID-19. They're then grouped on the news with the same subtopic. After grouping the news will be analyzed using Pan and Kosicki framing analysis model.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The news about COVID-19 that was studied was taken from Indonesian online news portal, namely Kompas. For news texts from German online news portal named Der Spiegel. Based on the data, the researcher classified the news periods into 5 categories, which are based on the month, specifically from May-July 2020. 3 main issues can be divided in these months, which are analyzed below.

3.1. Kompas

3.1.1. Financial uncertainty occurs during COVID-19 pandemic

From the word cloud (visualization of words that are popular and associated with Internet keywords and text data), words and phrases such as virus, pemerintah (government), krisis (crises), kasus positif (positive case), pengangguran (unemployment), penurunan penghasilan (income decrease), and pengurangan pekerja (job cuts) were very dominant in the news at two weeks first. The implementation of the physical distancing caused paralysis in several industries, especially the hospitality and service industries. Even though the new normal order has been implemented, in fact it cannot restore the economic cycle to normal. Reductions in employees continue to occur in the formal industrial sector. In addition, many entrepreneurs have had to close their businesses because of the decline in people's purchasing power so that they are no longer able to pay their employees.



Table 2. News Completeness 1st Issue of Kompas

What is the issue?	Financial problems during
	COVID-19
Who are involved?	Government, society, and
	industry
Where does it occur?	Indonesia
When does it occur?	May 2020
Why does it occur?	Employee reduction in
	several industrial sectors
How does the issue	COVID-19 caused bankrupt
unfold?	in several industrial sectors.
	Some employees must be
	terminated because the
	industry is no longer able to
	pay them. In the other side
	the necessities of life must
	be met. Therefore people's
	purchasing power has
	significantly decreased.

3.1.2. The collaboration between government and pharmaceutical industries to invent COVID-19 medicine

The news schema starts with the action of various government agencies and industries who are trying to invent the medication that will be used to treat COVID-19. It can be seen linguistically from the choice of active sentence form which pointed government and pharmaceutical agencies as the subject to emphasize their role in preventing COVID-19. The completeness of the news can be explained from the table below.

Table 3. News Completeness 2nd Issue of Kompas

What is the issue?	Inventing COVID-19
	medication
Who are involved?	Government, pharmeutical
	industries, and LIPI
Where does it occur?	In Jakarta, Indonesia
When does it occur?	June 2020

Why does it occur?	An increase in the number
	of people infected with
	COVID-19

The absence of a scientific medication has led to several parties claiming to have found a suitable medication to prevent COVID-19, for example, anticorona pendant and anti-corona syrups that have not been scientifically proven. Though the science of AIM Biologicals Expert Groups, Dr Fadhil Ahsan has explained that the manufacture and use of drugs to COVID-19 should not be arbitrary because it has a different category, when the news about this medication issue began to arise, the frames occurred were pencegahan COVID-19, obat COVID-19, industri farmasi, kebijakan pemerintah, LIPI, and vaksin COVID-19. The headlines chosen by the journalist are divided into 2 types, namely active sentences that mention directly the actors involve in the issue, such as (1) LIPI Uji Coba Obat Herbal ke 90 Pasien COVID-19 di Wisma Atlet, (2) Antisipasi COVID-19, LIPI Kembangkan Suplemen Jambu Biji Merah, (3) Kata BPOM dan Kemenkes soal Klaim Obat Bisa Sembuhkan COVID-19, (4) Bulan Depan, Kalbe Farma Bakal Uji Klinis Vaksin COVID-19 di Indonesia ((1) The Trials of Herbal Medicine to 90 COVID-19 Patients at Wisma Athlete, (2) Anticipating Covid-19, LIPI Develops Red Guava Supplements, (3) Said BPOM and Ministry of Health about Claims of Medicines Can Cure COVID-19, (4) Next Month, Kalbe Farma Will Conduct Clinical Trials of COVID-19 Vaccines in Indonesia) nominalization which tend to emphasize more about the process of event than the actors, such as (1) Pengembangan Vaksin Perlu Pertimbangkan Dampak Mutasi Virus Corona, Mengapa?, (2) 3 Upaya Pengembangan Vaksin Virus Corona di Indonesia.

3.1.3. "School from home" as new financial problems due to COVID-19 pandemic

The debate regarding the education and culture minister's policy to continue to carry out distance learning in the new academic year has become the main topic in reporting related to COVID-19. Health and safety reasons are the basis for the minister of education and culture to continue carrying out distance learning for students and university students in Indonesia. The uneven availability of the internet network is a new problem here. In addition, the application of distance learning also seems to have created problems in the form of increased spending on internet quota purchases. On the other hand, it was found that many parents of students had been laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Table 4. News Completeness 3rd Issue of Kompas

ool from Home (SFH)" ernment, school, ersity, students, society onesia 2020 a policy to prevent the
ersity, students, society onesia 2020
onesia 2020
2020
a policy to prevent the
smission of COVID-19
ed on data on the aber of COVID-19 ents which continues to ease, the minister of cation and culture ded to continue to exceed to be able to ent the transmission of VID-19. However there pro and contra towards a Parents think that SFH new financial problem, as they have to pay more their internet bill and as as their children's on fee.

Topicalization is strengthened through the headlines used by Kompas, such as (1) Survei KPAI: 43 Persen Siswa keluhkan Kuota Internet, (2) 88 persen Siswanya Tak Punya Internet, Warga inisiasi Ruang Kembali Belajar, (3) Bantuan Siswa Belajar Online, Warga ini Berikan Akses Internet, (4) Andai Sinyal Bisa Dibeli, Mereka Pun Pasti Beli, dan (5) Lebih Enak Belajar di Sekolah, Kalau Gini Ngabisin Uang Buat Beli Kuota ((1) KPAI Survey: 43 Percent of Students Complaining of Internet Quota, (2) 88 percent of Students Doing Not Have Internet, Residents Initiating the Learning Room Back to Study, (3) Student Assistance for Online Learning, These Residents Provide Internet Access, (4) If Signals Can Be Purchased, They Will Also Buy, and (5) It is Better to Study at School, If This Is To Spend Money To Buy Quota.). In accordance with the function of headlines in news, which is to guide readers to the entire content of the news, it can be seen that the selection of headlines mentioned above aims to show readers that purchasing internet quotas for online learning is a new problem for society. To emphasize the financial issue within SFH journalist enclose direct statements or comments from the students or the parents and form it in active sentences, which put them as the main subject of the issue.

3.2. Der Spiegel

3.2.1. The challenge of education during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic that occurred caused the German government to impose physical and social restrictions that directly changed the school routine of students in Germany. After the lockdown was opened in April, schools in several states were allowed to reopen while complying with health protocols established by WHO. However, there are also schools that are still not open and require students to learn from home. The process of normalizing education in Germany faces several challenges, namely adjusting the metrics for learning from home, the health impact on the use of gadgets for a long period of time, mask requirement policy, the right hygienic concept applied in schools that are opened, and differences in treatment for low and high level classes. The entire issue is presented in the headline in the form of active sentences, such as 1) Schule in Corona-Zeiten bislang "eher mittelmäßig", 2) Der Klassen kampf, 3) Wie läuft's in der Schule, liebe Leserinnen und Leser?, 4) Die Schüchternen werden verschwinden, , 5) Das neue Schuljahr ist da – und alter and 6) Laschet verteidigt umstrittene Maskenpflicht an Schulen in NRW.

Table 5. News Completeness 1st Issue of Der Spiegel

What is the issue?	Pro and contra regarding
	school reopening after
	lockdown
Who are involved?	Government, school,
	university, students,
	parents, society
Where does it occur?	Germany
When does it occur?	June 2020
Why does it occur?	polemic between
	continuing to study from
	home to maintain health
	and returning to normal
	school routines with the
	intention of maintaining the
	quality of learning



How does	the is	ssue	The new school year in
unfold?			Germany has started. Some
			states that have
			experienced a decrease in
			the number of COVID-19
			cases are allowed to reopen
			schools and carry out face-
			to-face learning while still
			meeting WHO health
			standards. The pros and
			cons of opening schools
			continue to roll on the
			grounds of concerns over
			the transmission of Covid to
			students. On the other
			hand, the quality of
			learning for certain subjects
			will be better when it is
			implemented face-to-face.

Reopening school's issue shift lately to mask requirement policy for the students in the classroom. Some teachers argue that it is difficult for the students pronounce clearly, especially in foreign language classroom, mask is kind of obstacle either for the teachers or the students.

3.2.2. Scientific proven towards COVID-19

Scientific research regarding COVID-19 continue to be carried out in Germany. It can be seen through their reportage that tend to educate the public about COVID-19. Headlines are linguistically written using active sentences and interrogative sentences, such as 1) Wann gibt es einen Impfstoff-und wie gut kann er schützen?, 2) Wer bekommt den Impfstoff zuerst?, 3) Bekommen wir Deutschland Coronavirus-frei?, 3) Blutgruppe könnte Krankheitsverlauf von COVID-19 beeinflussen, 4) Was Forscher über die Risikogruppen wissen, 5) Bonner Studie: Wo im Haushalt Coronaviren zu finden sind. The headline in the form of a question sentence aims to make readers focus on the answer to the question so that they will really look for the answer in the news. Der Spiegel wants readers to focus on the process of inventing COVID-19 vaccine and estimating the effectiveness of the vaccine. The whole news content is a description of the following detailed questions which also shows the completeness of the news.

Table 6. News Completeness 2nd Issue of Der Spiegel

What is the issue?	COVID-19 transmission and
	medication
Who are involved?	Government, study centre,
	pharmaceutical industry
Where does it occur?	Germany
When does it occur?	June 2020
Why does it occur?	An increase in the number
	of people infected with
	COVID-19
How does the issue	The vaccine and the right
unfold?	medication for COVID-19
	have not yet found. German
	government efforts to be
	assisted by various agencies
	to find vaccines are
	continuously being carried
	out based on research by
	experts. At the same time,
	the government is also
	mapping community
	groups who are more
	susceptive to COVID-19
	with the aim of facilitating
	initial prevention.

Der Spiegel wants to show that Germany continues to work on COVID-19, not only about vaccines and the right treatment but also about sufferers of COVID-19 and also the spread of the virus in society.

3.2.3. The industry suffered significant material loss

The July coverage focused on the losses incurred by companies in Germany. Journalists explicitly point out the issue in the news headlines, such as 1) Autokrise trifft Chemiekonzern BASF, 2) Volkswagen macht in Coronakrise 1,4 Milliarden Euro Verlust, 3) Airbus verzeichnet Milliardenverlust, 4) Nissan Coronakrise brocken Renault Rekordverlust ein, 5) Deutsche Bahn mit dem größten Verlust ihrer Geschichte. The headlines are mostly presented in active voice with the aim of accentuating the subject, on this issue the subjects are big companies such as Deutsche Bahn, Volkswagen and Airbus. The completeness of the news flow can be seen in the following table.



Table 7. News Completeness 3rd Issue of Der Spiegel

What is the issue?	Material loss
Who are involved?	Deutsche Bahn, Nissan,
	Volkswagen, Airbus, BASF,
	german industries,
Where does it occur?	Germany
When does it occur?	July 2020
Why does it occur?	Penurunan pemasukan
	selama COVID-19
How does the issue	During the pandemic
unfold?	COVID-19 big companies
	in Germany decreased
	revenue. This caused
	material losses for them

The issue then shifted to the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of German people. Not only the impact on the economic sector but also in the realm of education and the psychological impact on society. The news displayed describes the dynamics of the psychological condition of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic which is strengthened by descriptions of direct comments by the public and also figures who have influence in society. Headlines are realized linguistically either in the form of active sentences or nominalizatons by using lexical choices that explicitly refer to is, such as 1) Die Depression danach, 2) von der Unfähigkeit zu trauern, 3) Wir bleiben im Krisenmodus, 4) Hoffnung kann man lernen, 5) Wie Kinder unter der Corona-Belastung leiden, 6) Psychische Gesundheit von Kindern hat sich durch Corona verschlechtert. The long-term impact of a pandemic is presented as part of the problem that must be addressed. The crisis caused by the corona psychologically affects people's behavior. Likewise, the psychological impact on children is also a special discussion by including the results of research that show a decrease in the psychological condition of children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The analysis above shows that the German media frames COVID-19 as a health problem that must be solved scientifically. COVID-19 also frames as a new problem for the industry causing material loss. Meanwhile in Indonesian media COVID-19 frames as a problem caused financial problems in every part of society's life.

4. CONCLUSION

COVID-19 pandemic is an issues of health risk that trigger media reportage. Based on the discussion above, it has been shown that at first, Kompas framed COVID-19 as a regional crises. This virus is framed as the main cause of new financial problems for Indonesian society. The "School from Home" policy rise their outcome. Meanwhile there are still employee termination in some industries. Gradually, the frame was altered to a threat for public financial problem. The types of frames that emerge were health severity, education, uncertain medication. According to Little John and Foss (2009) health and risk communication are useful to prepare the public in dealing with risk and guide response during the health crisis. German newspaper has different way to frame their news regarding COVID-19. The present research is a must. It describes how Der Spiegel as German mass media frames health cases in the context of important information that must be logically and scientifically reported. The news during pandemic that reported March-August are divided into 3 frames. First the challenge for education during COVID-19, the digitization of education, reopening schools, and the fact that the virus still exist become a new polemic. Education's problem has been occurred in Indonesia too, but with different subset problems, namely the high price of internet connection and the connection that hasn't been spread evenly. Second frames focuses on the uncertainty medication of COVID-19. News present research conducted by the government and research institutions. Then the third frames is material loss that's experienced by German big companies. Comparing between German and Indonesian news framing, the most prominent difference is the education problem framing. In Indonesia, the problem of school from home is related to financial problems, while in Germany the problem of education is related to the quality of education and the quality of health.

This research is the first attempt to start deeper and wider research regarding news framing in Indonesia and Germany. Future research is expected to extend the range to not only the coverage in the crisis phase but also to the post-crisis phase. This research, however, has shown how the media constructed health and risk information, which is essential to be sources of information and risk mitigation. In addition, by the increase of access to information through the internet, the analysis can also be conducted on social media such as Twitter or Instagram.



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