

Hate Speech Cases in Cyber Media News Coverage

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ABSTRACT

Hate speech is bad communication act. It includes ethnicity, religion, race, intergroup differences. The hate speech case on cyber media news coverage emphasizes an effort to minimize the negative impact in order to maintain pluralism. This research used a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative approach aims to obtain a complete picture of cyberspace news coverage in hate speech cases. The quantitative approach will strengthen the data analysis from the field. The research results are: (1). There are various kinds of news coverage in the hate speech cases. (2). Hate speech cases in cyberspace is interpreted in accordance with the group interests.

Keywords: hate speech, group differences, intergroup communication, cyber media

1. INTRODUCTION

Press freedom in Indonesia has an impact in building a just Information Society. On the other hand, there are various negative aspects in the intergroup relations in the community. In fact diversity in a plural society is the power to maintain the unity of the nation. Therefore, communication freedom should be proposed in a kind of emphasizing the importance of living side by side in the peaceful atmosphere of differences.

Cyber media as a new media has power because it is expected that the speed of news coverage is one of the tools that can be used to build pluralism. [1]. There are various kinds of news coverage on hate speech issues or cases due to group differences. It includes ethnic, religion, race and intergroup differences (SARA). These four points jeopardize the diversity of the Indonesian people. Therefore, cyber media crew needs to be careful in the news coverage of hate speech cases.

In this context, the cyber media in the news coverage of hate speech news puts forward the efforts to minimize the effects of disunity in society. The efforts are carried out by emphasizing the similarity of values of the different group characteristics, respect for other groups, and developing empathy. [2].

However, the news coverage of of hate speech cases puts forward the positive side, and it may not be in line with the expectations of cyber media audiences. In the group spirit, moreover, people put forward stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination. In the intergroup communication perspective, furthermore, stereotypes are an over-generalization of a category of people. In addition, prejudice is a rigid attitude towards a group based on a erroneous beliefs and preconceptions. Finally,

discrimination is an attempt to isolate due to increased emotion orientation. [3].

From the description at above, the research problem is that What the content of cyber media news coverage is when it minimizes negative impacts, and how the public responds to the hate speech. The research involved the Journalists Union for Diversity (SEJUK). The research purpose is to describe the complexity of news coverage of hate speech cases in cyberspace in order to maintain diversity.

Theories to support the research analysis are hate speech, intergroup communication, and cyber media. Hate speech is a communication act carried out by an individual or group in the form of provocation, provoking, or insults to other individuals or groups. [4]. Groups are a group of people living together, and influence and help each other in various activities. [5].

Group diversity closely relates to intercultural communication between diverse communities. [6]. Intergroup communication is communication that occurs between people with different cultural groups. [7]. In this research, what cyber media means is any form of media that uses Internet in the dissemination of information as a form of journalistic activity. [8].

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research method use a mixed qualitative and quantitative approach. The qualitative methods for empirical data collection include interview, observational and visual texts as well as interactional history. [9]. To obtain information, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was carried out, and it involved 37 cyber media crew from West Java and East Java.

Specific information from the FGD participants was presented in a kind of tabulation to facilitate understanding. In the qualitative research, it is sometimes

necessary to calculate or quantify data to avoid bias. [10]. The data analysis was carried out by reducing all field records obtained and presented according to the conditions in the research field.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- ***News Coverage of Hate Speech on Cyber Media***

Hate speech in the society is in line with the easiness of message spread that utilizes social media. [11]. Various cases nuanced differences of ethnicity, religion, race and intergroups, occur at any time and lead to legal cases. Those involved in the hate speech cases generally take cover behind democratic communication.

The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia records that the agency handled 3,325 hate speech cases in 2017. [12] The cyber media reports hate speech cases definitely in efforts to maintain diversity by emphasizing the similarity of social values, mutual respect, and developing empathy. Full details can be shown in the following table:

Table 1 : Efforts of Minimalizing Hate Speech

| No | News Coverage Types of Hate Speech Cases | Efforts to Minimize Hate Speech | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------|------|----------------|------|--------------------|------|-------|-----|
| | | Similarity of Social values | | Mutual Respect | | Developing Empathy | | Total | |
| | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| 1 | Ethnic Differences | 5 | 13,5 | 20 | 54,0 | 12 | 32,5 | 37 | 100 |
| 2 | Religion and Belief Differences | 2 | 5,4 | 25 | 67,5 | 10 | 27,1 | 37 | 100 |
| 3 | Race Differences | 20 | 54,0 | 8 | 21,6 | 9 | 24,4 | 37 | 100 |
| 4 | Intergroup Differences | 5 | 13,5 | 27 | 72,0 | 5 | 14,5 | 37 | 100 |

Source: Processed Data Results

Based on the above table, efforts to minimize hate speech in the cyber media news coverage mostly relate to the content of mutual respect. It is of concern to the cyber media because this action is considered to be the most universal and impartial. One FGD participant from West Java stated: "We prioritize general things in the news coverage of hate speech cases. It is important to maintain the diversity of the society". (The FGD Results, August 2019).

Efforts to minimize the next conflicts that become the content of cyber media news coverage is to develop empathy, as the ability to understand the world as perceived by other groups. [13]. In the news coverage of this sensitive cases, cyber media has a high degree of caution. It is because the society is very critical in responding to the cases. Therefore, the news coverage ethics and various government laws and regulations always become a reference for the news dissemination.

- ***Interpretation of News Coverage In Accordance with Group Interests***

The cyber media has tried to report the hate speech cases carefully. It considers journalistic code of ethics and government laws and regulations. However, the response of the audience is not necessarily always good. The cyber media can see people's attitudes from interactive reader responses.

People read or see hate speech cases in the media associated with negative stereotypes, excessive prejudices, and discrimination. As a result there is no tolerance and empathy for other groups with different values, attitudes and beliefs. The communication behavior that puts forward these interests in the perspective of the media crew has a different frequency. It can be shown further in Table 2.

Table 2 : Interpretation By Individual and Group Interests

| No | News Coverage Types of Hate Speech Cases | Supporting Factors of Group Interests | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|------|------------|------|----------------|------|-------|-----|
| | | Stereotypes | | Prejudices | | Discrimination | | Total | |
| | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| 1 | Ethnic Differences | 12 | 32.4 | 13 | 35.2 | 12 | 32.4 | 37 | 100 |
| 2 | Religion and Belief Differences | 15 | 40.5 | 16 | 43.2 | 6 | 16.3 | 37 | 100 |
| 3 | Race Differences | 14 | 37.8 | 16 | 43.2 | 7 | 19.0 | 37 | 100 |
| 4 | Intergroup Differences | 18 | 48.6 | 10 | 27.0 | 9 | 24.4 | 37 | 100 |

Source : Processed Data Results

Based on the above table, it can be shown that the society puts forward stereotypes when they evaluate the hate speech cases. The stereotypes generally see negative side when assessing other groups. [14]. On the other hand, the groups themselves always have better position and superiority. The second prominent aspect is prejudices when they interpret the hate speech cases on cyberspace. Prejudices are dangerous in a plural society and have the potential to jeopardize the existing relations. The FGD participant from East Java stated:

"The dangerous comments on the news coverage of hate speech cases on cyber media are prejudices. It is because all groups are positioned as dangerous for the group. If the comments are excessive, it can lead to open conflict (The FGD Results, 2019).

Prejudice can occur not always with other groups, but it can appear within the own group ties, such as ethnicity. However, it has different values and beliefs.

In assessing the cyber media news coverage concerning hate speech, the discrimination factor of the readers' comments has the lowest frequency. However, it actually has a high potential to cause divisions in society. [15]. Definitely all three have the potential to perpetuate a disharmony of relations in a plural society in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSION

The news coverage of hate speech cases in cyberspace propose the need to maintain unity and peace in the state plurality. Cyber media in the news coverage of hate speech news has been carrying out the news coverage ethics as well as the existing laws and regulations. However, some people respond differently. They put forward stereotypes,

prejudices and discrimination and these directly endanger national unity.

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