Framing Analysis of the Jakarta Post.com' COVID-19 Coverage: March 2020

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ABSTRACT

The Jakarta Post.com played a major role in delivering the latest information for Covid-19 virus. The current issue regarding the Covid-19 pandemic is about (1) the role of the government in making policies to deal with Covid-19, especially in Jakarta, (2) The role of the media in conveying information about Covid-19. News is not necessarily present in the community, but is mobilized by the media. Information relating to an issue, framed in such a way as to be presented to the reader. This research wants to see how the Covid-19 issue is framed through the news of The Jakarta Post.com in March 2020. The method used is the R. Entman Framing analysis. This study analyzes the news framing of Covid-19 using four elements of R. Entman: defining the problem, diagnosing the cause, moral judgment, and treatment recommendations. The conclusion of this study states that The Jakarta Post.com puts the news in a balanced manner. Apart from providing support to the government, this media also acts as a control medium for government policies, particularly the Jakarta government.

Keywords: Framing Analysis, Covid-19, The Jakarta Post

1. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that may cause various symptoms such as pneumonia, fever, breathing difficulty, and lung infection. These viruses are common in animals worldwide, but very few cases have been known to affect humans. The World Health Organization (WHO) used the term 2019 novel corona virus to refer to a coronavirus that affected the lower respiratory tract of patients with pneumonia in Wuhan, China on 29 December 2019. The WHO announced that the official name of the 2019 novel corona- virus is coronavirus disease (COVID-19).[1]

Since its first report, despite great efforts made in almost every country worldwide, this disease continues to spread globally, especially in most parts of Europe, Iran, and the United States.[2]

The background of the Corona virus or COVID-19, the case, started with pneumonia or mysterious pneumonia in December 2019. This case is suspected to be related to the Huanan animal market in Wuhan selling various types of animal meat, including those not commonly consumed, e.g. snakes, bats, and various types of mice. Many cases of this mysterious pneumonia infection are indeed found in these animal markets. The Corona virus or COVID-19 is thought to be carried by bats and other animals that are eaten by humans until transmission occurs. Coronavirus is actually not stranger to the world of animal health, but only a few types are capable of infecting humans and causing pneumonia. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the world was excited about SARS and MERS, which are also related to the Corona virus. With this background, the Corona virus is not only this time making citizens of the world panic. Having the same flu-like symptoms, the Corona virus develops rapidly, resulting in more severe infections and organ failure.

A global pandemic or epidemic indicates a COVID-19 infection that is so fast that almost no country or region in the world is absent from the Corona virus. An increase in the number of cases occurred in a short time so that it needed treatment as soon as possible. Unfortunately, until now there has been no specific drug to deal with cases of Corona virus infection or COVID-19.

WHO stated that currently Europe has become the center of the Corona virus pandemic globally. Europe has more cases and deaths from COVID-19 than China. The total number of Corona virus cases, according to WHO, is

now more than 136 thousands in at least 123 countries and regions. Of these, nearly 81 thousand cases were in mainland China. Italy, which is the European country hit most stringently by the Coronavirus, has now recorded more than 15 thousand cases. This study aims to see how the framing of the news about Covid-19 is on The Jakarta Post.com

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Framing is a Social Construction of Reality

It is defined as a social process through action and interaction, in which the individual (or group of individuals) creates continuously a reality that is owned and experienced together subjectively [3].

Peter L Berger argues that humans and social systems are not something static but dialectical and dynamic in a sustainable manner. Constructivism, like Peter L. Berger, positions the media as an entity that cannot reflect social reality or phenomena. Media is an actor who practices reality construction in social systems.

According to Berger, the process of forming reality consists of 3 (three) parts. The first is externalization. This process is a manifestation of human self that is carried out continuously into the real world around it in activities both physically and mentally. The second is objectification. This process is the institutionalization or institutionalization of the interaction of actors in the social system of society. The third is internalization. In this process, humans reabsorb what has been institutionalized to be maintained in the social process in society.

2.2 Mass Media News Construction through Framing

News does not present itself. News is the second reality. He comes through the process of framing media institutions. Within the media institution itself, there is a hierarchy in which the news production process is carried out by journalists in the field. Before being uploaded, news must go through the editor's approval. Talking about media framing is inseparable from the selection or selection process and the emphasis on the reality presented. Through the Framing theory, Entman divides the framing of news into two big dimensions. First, Entman explained the selection of issues. Second, entman explained the emphasis. In the same vein, Entman also calls this emphasis a form of protrusion. Through emphasis or prominence, the media makes information more noticeable to readers. In addition, information is also made easier to remember. As a logical consequence, this information is more easily accepted by the reader. Certain aspects of reality are made to be superior to others.

Another keyword that is also important in paying attention to media framing is neglect. Aspects that are deemed unnecessary to be said to the reader will be eliminated from the discussion regarding an event. This then becomes an important force in the process, namely, the discretion of whatever it is necessary to put aside and not tell the reader. The consequences are quite large, because this aspect will not be understandable to readers.

In viewing news, Entman suggested to pay attention first to what is meant by the problem in a reality. By paying attention to this, we become aware of what journalists define as problems. In an event, what is meant by a problem can vary widely. This depends on how journalists view and frame the events in a story.

Second, Entman suggests paying attention to what is the cause of a problem. The logical consequence of this is that there are parties to blame or to be the cause of the problems that occur. Third, Entman suggested paying attention to the moral justification used by journalists. This moral is what will be used by journalists to legitimize or delegitimize objects in the news. Fourth, Entman offered to pay attention to the solutions offered by journalists in looking at a problem. If the causes of the problem mentioned at the outset lead the reader to look for the cause of the chaos, then at this fourth point the reader is led to determine the "hero" or the answer to the problem. The highlighting and elimination of certain aspects of reality is what then greatly influences the audience in understanding reality. Placing the news in the Headline section will automatically bring the reader's attention to what problems need to be known first with great attention. Headlines have the most coverage space, with the largest headline font, and placement in front of the newspaper (both online and in print. Entman also recommended looking at supporting graphics in the news. Embedding these graphics has consequences related to what needs more attention. .

The use of certain labels will also shape reality. Negative labels will certainly have a big influence on the news because they will place the subject or object in a position of guilt, blame, and or evil (antagonist).

Ideologically, of course, this is not a simple matter. This is a discourse strategy, namely the effort and effort to present the reader with a view. This view will then shape public knowledge of an event.

2.3 Provide a Public Forum for Criticism, Commentary and Citizen Support

The next element that becomes the obligation of journalists is to provide a good forum for criticism, comments and support for the public. According to Kovach and Rosenstiel, for a country adhering to a democratic system, the concept of forums or public spaces is a vital part, where everyone has equal opportunity to

participate in conveying their ideas. The curiosity, according to Kovach, considered humane nature of the public will later make them process the information they get from the media into questions and even conclusions as a form of reaction, and it is at this moment that according to Kovach the public's voice must be heard by the authorities. It is on this basis that a public forum or public space must be built.

The public sphere is a concept that is free from state interference, neither designed nor managed by the state. This means that the state does not have the authority to regulate any issues that must be of public concern. The public has full authority to raise issues which they consider important. In addition, each participant has the right to get the same attention, to listen to and to convey his thoughts without worrying about others' coercion or control.

Meanwhile, the idea of a public sphere was said to be an idea put forward first by a philosopher from Germany, Jurgen Habermas. He introduced the concept of public space through his book entitled "The structural Transformation of the Public sphere: an Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society". The concept of public space (public sphere), according to Jurgen Habermas, includes a place that allows people to express their views relatively freely. This discussion is in the form of an open discussion or exchange of opinions regarding matters relating to general issues, equality and status in this space is sidelined so that it is free from all interests (no interference), and the first task of the public space is to monitor government policies systematically, and critically.72 In line with that, according to the Hutchin Commission, in journalism activities, the forum of exchanging opinions, ideas and comments is the function of the mass media as a vehicle for public expression.

In framing their coverage in the media, journalists often only provide space for bureaucrats or the government. Citizens who should have obtained space are displaced by the domination of the authorities' interests.

3. METHODS

The research method used was the framing analysis by R. Entman. To find out how the framing is carried out by the media, there is a framing device proposed by Entman that can describe how an event is interpreted and signaled by journalists. Entman divides the framing device into four dimensions which can later be used as a reference for conclusions. The four dimensions are as follows: (1) *Define Problems*. The first element of Entman's framing analysis is the main frame that defines and emphasizes on how an event is interpreted by journalists (media institutions). An event that is interpreted differently will form a certain reality and will be different from other realities. (2) *Diagnose Causes*. This framing element is a framing element used to frame the subject or agent that is considered the cause of the problem that has been defined

in the *define problem* element. The cause of the problem can refer to what and can also refer to *who*. In mapping events or problems, journalists will also determine what and who is the cause or source of the problem. The logical consequence of determining a particular problem will refer to a certain cause to refer to the victim. (3) *Moral Judgment*. The next element of Entman's framing is moral values. This moral value will later function as a means of legitimacy or delegitimation of journalists in explaining an event or problem. (4) *Treatment Judgment*. This fourth element is used to assess what the journalists want. That is what path was chosen to solve the problem. The solution, of course, really depends on how the event is viewed and who is seen as causing the problem.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following are the results as well as a discussion of the Jakarta Post.com news containing the Covid-19 issue using the Entman's Framing analysis method.

Article March 18, 2020

COVID-19: Indonesia records highest death toll in Southeast Asia at 19

Define Problems: Indonesia's death toll from the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 jumped to 19, the highest in Southeast Asia, as the government announced that the number of infected people had reached 227.

Diagnose Cause: The number of confirmed cases has dramatically increased because we are just entering the first phase of the contagion.

Make Moral Judgment: urged the public not to panic about the situation since the skyrocketing number of confirmed cases was because more people were aware about the disease and the government had also been active in conducting contact tracing.

Treatment Recommendation: Government hopes that everything will be under control and therefore new confirmed cases per day will gradually subside on April

Article March 20, 2020

Jakarta declares COVID-19 emergency, urges offices to suspend operation for 14 days

Define Problems: Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan has declared a state of emergency for the next two weeks in the

capital city in an effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. *Diagnose Cause*: Indonesia's Covid-19 Cases Rises

Make Moral Judgment: to prevent the spread of disease during an emergency.

Treatment Recommendation: close all tourism spots, close all entertainment venues, urge all corporations to close down their offices and operational facilities and to arrange for their employees to work from home

Article (March 24, 2020)

Greater Jakarta failing as floodgate to nationwide COVID-19 epidemic

Define Problems: Greater Jakarta, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in Indonesia, has remained open to visitors and continued to export the virus across the country. *Diagnose Cause:* [Jakarta's] residents lack discipline in adhering to the [physical] distancing and stay at home policies. If every resident practiced these with discipline, the number of cases spreading outside Greater Jakarta could be reduced, even without a lockdown

Make Moral Judgment: Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan has called on the capital's residents to refrain from traveling outside Jakarta, but the call remains a mere suggestion since the city's borders are still open.

Treatment Recommendation: The government must take stricter action to ensure that all residents [in Greater Jakarta] practice [physical] distancing," he stressed. "They also need to educate more residents about this, because it seems that many people are still unaware of the goal and importance of social distancing."

Article March 27, 2020

Indonesian COVID-19 cases top 1,000

Define Problems: Indonesian health authorities have confirmed 1,046 COVID-19 positive cases as of Friday, an increase of 153 from the previous count a day earlier *Diagnose Cause:* While experts had called on the government to impose a lockdown on regions with a high infection rate to reduce the spread

Make Moral Judgment: citizens should increase their awareness and comply with the government's appeal to stay at home and maintain physical distance in social

interactions.

Treatment Recommendation: The government is also continuing its efforts to trace people that have come into close contact with people who have contracted the disease, as well as launching rapid testing.

Article March 29, 2020

COVID-19: Jakarta prepares local quarantine scenario

Define Problems: The Transportation Ministry is preparing a scenario for a local quarantine in Greater Jakarta to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Diagnose Cause: The government has already issued a warning discouraging people living in Greater Jakarta from leaving the city for their hometowns for the Idul Fitri mudik (exodus).

Make Moral Judgment: We are still implementing physical distancing and social distancing, because there have yet to be any government regulations [requiring quarantine].

5. CONCLUSION

The framing of news about Covid-19 on The Jakarta Post.com on March 2020 raised the situation and increase in Covid-19 sufferers in Jakarta in particular, Indonesia in general. Jakarta is declared to be an area that is the biggest epicenter of the spread of Covid-19. This condition forces the Jakarta government to make various policies as a step to curb the spread of Covid-19. The Jakarta Post.com as one of the mass media plays the role of conveying information both from the government and from parties who are responsible for information from the government.

In its news, The Jakarta Post.com provides information regarding the policy of implementing social distancing, even in his presentation the governor of Jakarta has reviewed the implementation of lockdown several times.

Reporting that supports the government towards the government's viewpoint that is so dominant on news about Covid-19 leads to the first, that The Jakarta Post positions itself as a media that disseminates as well as supports government policies in overcoming Covid-19.

Treatment Recommendation: the central government can impose "regional quarantines" on areas that experience an outbreak of a disease.

Article (March 31, 2020)

Jakarta buries 283 COVID-19 victims, suspected victims in under a month

Define Problems: The government was anticipated for the suspected and confirmed Covid-19 victims. (Anies said that between March 6 and March 29, 283 people in Jakarta had been buried following COVID-19 protocols, with their bodies wrapped in plastic, put inside coffins and interred in less than four hours after they died.)

Diagnose Cause: (Government Worried) some of them have not been tested, so it cannot be said that they were [COVID-19] positive. Or maybe some had been tested but the results have not come back.

Make Moral Judgment: Anies urged the public show more discipline in following physical distancing measures to help prevent further deaths. "Stay at home, be disciplined about maintaining your distance, Protect yourself, protect your family, protect your neighbors, protect everyone.

Treatment Recommendation: The government has yet to announce a quarantine to support regional administrations' handling of the outbreak.

The Jakarta Post plays a role as a balanced information bridge. In its reporting, it does not always display the good side of the government, but also positions a society that has several times questioned government policies and facilities that are considered inadequate in an effort to accelerate recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. The moral standards used by The Jakarta Post are media moral standards holds balanced news principles

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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