

The Alteration of Journalism Practice in Digital Era Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract—The Covid-19 pandemic has changed every sector of human lives and that also happens in journalism practice. In theoretical level, the definition of journalism still the same. It is a process to report events with the aim of exposing the truth to the audience. However, the practice of journalism has altered. Nowadays, every broadcasting media has their own YouTube channel. The channel broadcasts a range of journalism products, for instance breaking news. The term of breaking news is well-known as an information that broadcast to the public with a depth news value and serve in concise matter. Nevertheless, the definition has been altered. The most distinct characteristic between breaking news on TV and on YouTube is the duration. Longer duration of breaking news can be seen on YouTube. Going to the street for demonstration still happens in Jakarta, Indonesia despite the fact of the pandemic is still on-going. On October 2020, there were several demonstrations and broadcasting media did a different approach to report it. Kompas TV, one of major broadcasting media in Indonesia, broadcasted the event live on their YouTube channel without any reporter telling the situation and broadcasted it for hours. Thus, the journalism practice has altered with broadcasting media isn't delivering breaking news but becoming no more than a CCTV.

Keywords— *Alteration of Journalism, Breaking News, Youtube, Mediamorfosis, Covid-19*

I. INTRODUCTION

Journalism undergoes developments and shifts from time to time with significant changes on how to present it. Technology is the main cause of changes in journalist style in producing news. Early development was through the style of the paper trail, than move to people trail, electronic trail, and most recently the internet trail.

In the light of recent event in October 2020, it is becoming extremely difficult to ignore the existence of several demonstrations amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. One of national broadcasting media in Indonesia, Kompas TV delivered Breaking News live on YouTube, on October 8, 13 and 20 with a bombastic duration, which reached more than 3 hours.

The alteration on journalism practice occurs when breaking news broadcasts no longer presented news briefly and densely and even tended to be just lead. The long duration, no reporter report the event, and non-moving camera, those indicators has made it clear that breaking news nowadays becomes no more than a CCTV.

Television shows pursue rating & share as the main reason to get advertisers which will lead to income. This is also in line with Kompas TV's Youtube Channel, where the term monetization is being promoted so fast with the aim of filling up the coffers of money.

The new normal that is happening now (not only because of the pandemic problem) is a big data term that emerged as a result of information technology 4.0, where the overflow of information haunts the world community due to the existence of the internet. Information can be obtained and comes on its own, without being accessed, searched for or expected. Slowly but surely, data appears on the device and makes the owner feel connected and tries to dig deeper and deeper until he loses time. Finally, it should be questioned whether it is true that journalism still exists and is needed in existence in the era of big data.

It is undeniable the Covid-19 pandemic that has attacked since the beginning of 2020, is changing our lifestyle slowly but surely. Intrigued by the question, are those who cover the demonstration immune to the virus? Not without reason, this question arises, but because of the fact that social distancing is a powerful weapon that can help reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, while intentionally or not, journalists are thrust into the crowd wearing masks. We are taught to reject publicity, not to enter or join in it [1].

II. METHOD

The results of case study research cannot be used for generalizing purposes, but rather have transferability properties. This is understood as a similar finding in terms of events (characteristics / conditions). It is undeniable that another thing that must be considered is that activities in obtaining data must take place naturally and information acquisition must be carried out in depth.

In this paper, I applied in-depth interviews as a data collection technique. Interviews are unstructured conversations between informants to obtain in-depth qualitative data. This type of interview is repeated and is supported by a sense of intimacy, in order for the information to be flowed.

Until the informant is open and provides the real facts, without being embarrassed and considering the information is not important. Another data source of concern to researchers is secondary data, namely from books, journals,

the internet and everything related to the problem under study.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Media is a place to express oneself. Media is a place to show existence. The media is the perfect place to instill hegemony. The internet era is growing so fast that sometimes people can't keep up with it.

It is important to remember that technological innovation has a tendency to complement rather than replace existing technology. The previous technology was not being destroyed but was slowly being destroyed so as to bring out the characteristics of the latest technology.

Video contents on Kompas TV YouTube destroys the essence of TV broadcasts which actually have a real hour division with audiences who have special preferences. Digital technology destroys it because it can be watched anytime and anywhere without the limitations of time and space [2].

With the existence of online media and social media, it seems as if the demonstrators, especially the oration leaders, think it is a free stage to show off. Digitalization is a generator of innovation in journalistic standards and ethics. It is also possible that the growth of media surveillance blogs and various laws on cyberspace, as well as media criticism, continues to increase as transparency continues to be fought for.

Journalists in the author's mind are still heroes. Not like heroes who fight against the invaders, but more terrible because the enemy to be faced is an invisible plague. In fact, many people apply Work from Home (WFH), they have to fight inner struggles. On the one hand, the instinct for journalism to convey news is certainly there, but on the other hand, the instinct for survival for the sake of the family also shakes [1].

Moreover, the Digital Manager of Kompas TV assured that the provision of health protocols for journalists who had to cover the field in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic was maximal. Reporters and cameramen every day who will be in charge of checking their health condition and even serological tests if needed.

They are equipped with medical masks, face shields, and hand sanitizers. The equipment that was brought was already

disinfected first. For visual purposes, it takes a variety of image types, both wide and close up. The sophistication of today's cameras provides the opportunity for cameramen to play zoom in zoom out so that journalists don't have to approach the crowd. Most importantly, journalists' work shifts are strictly 9 hours and when the atmosphere is not conducive, they will be withdrawn.

Is it true that the withdrawal happened? What about the well-known journalistic jargon that bad news is good news? Is it then that this is no longer used as a reference for the journalist world?

It's hypocritical if what you think about is the safety of your soul which is more important than the content of the news itself. Because after all, the desire of the owners of the mass media is that the broadcast reaches its peak so that it can be enjoyed and liked even by the owners of the capital.

IV. CONCLUSION

Journalism faces challenges from the inside and outside, namely the editorial side and the audience. Even with the presence of online media, the comment column becomes a calculation. Seeing the alteration of journalism practice in the digital era, what should be considered is not only from the producer or media side, but also from the audience side. Those who are undetected may even be non-living beings (just robots or artificial intelligence) taking part in determining the information that will be received in the real world. The audience should have a larger portion than the existence of journalists themselves.

It is proper for us from the academic field to question, then what is the essence of media? Are they really a platform for presenting information and facts? Is it true that they are social controls? Or is it nothing more than a coincidence that they have powers? Or maybe it is even more sinister when the media in all its forms and eras are licensed provocateurs who have business licenses but do nothing more than expose excessive attacks of information to make it believe to be true.

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