

Positioning of Covid-19 Patients in West Sumatra in News on *Online Media*

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ABSTRACT

Since the beginning of 2020, the world has been shocked by the presence of a new virus named *Coronavirus Disease 2019* which is shortened to Covid-19. Covid-19 is a disease caused by the *severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2* (SARS-CoV-2). The development of Covid-19 cases, which can be seen in various ways, has attracted the attention of the mass media. Problems Covid-19 is the wild- i h almost all countries in the world, Indonesia is no exception. As of August 2020, more than one hundred thousand Indonesian citizens who have tested positive for Covid-19 have been confirmed. The way the news of Covid-19 affects the mental anxiety of Covid-19 sufferers and news readers. In this regard, the method of reporting on Covid-19, especially the positioning of Covid-19 sufferers in the news, needs to be investigated. The objectives of this study are (1) to produce an explanation of the positioning of Covid-19 sufferers in West Sumatra in news texts in online media ; (2) Produce an explanation about the depiction of Covid-19 sufferers in West Sumatra in the news in online media as the wrong people or as people who are given four i. The results of this study provide a significant contribution to the development of the theory of Critical Discourse Analysis. This research uses descriptive method . The data for this study are sentences containing positioning information for Covid-19 sufferers in news texts in online media in West Sumatra. The data sources for this research are news texts regarding the development of Covid-19 in West Sumatra from October to November 2020. The online news sites that are the source of this research data are Langgam.id and Padang Kita . The result of this research is t erdapat 3 data showing patients se like the subject in the report text and 47 data indicating the patient as an object in the text .

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Sara Mills Critical Discourse Analysis , Positioning, Covid-19.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of 2020, the world has been shocked by the presence of a new virus named *Coronavirus Disease 2019* which is shortened to Covid-19. Covid-19 spreads between humans very quickly and has spread to dozens of countries, including Indonesia. The development of Covid-19 cases can be seen in various ways, this has attracted the attention of the mass media. The mass media have published various stories about this virus. Mass media plays an important role in delivering various information to the public. One of the emotions that arises when reading the news of Covid-19 is anxiety. In this regard, the method of reporting on Covid-19, especially the positioning of Covid-19 sufferers in the news, needs to be investigated. Research discussing this positioning has been carried out by several researchers with the object of violent news, including Setiawan [1], Annas and Rana Akbari Fitriawan [2], Tenriawali [3], Abdullah

[4], Maheasy [5], and Suprihatin and Lestari [6]. There are several studies that discuss *Covid-19*, namely research conducted by Yuliana [7], Abudi, Mokodompis, Magulili [8], Astrid [9], Agustino [10] and Syafrida and Hartati [11].

Yuliana [7] conducted research on the diagnosis of Covid-19 and how the steps were taken to establish the diagnosis. The results of the research carried out by Yuliana were conducting throat and respiratory swab tests and conducting isolation to prevent the spread of Covid-19 on an ongoing basis. Abudi, Mokodompis, Magulili [8] conducted research on the stigma of people who were positive for Covid-19, the result of which was support from all parties such as the role of the government, health practitioners and community leaders in providing education related to Covid-19, which would greatly help the community. Astrid [9] conducted research on information about Covid-19 based on the Republika news portal, the result of which was that the presence

of a good news hashtag with the issue of covid-19 on *Republika.co.id* gave audiences different choices in accessing information. Agustino [10] conducted research on government policies in handling Covid-19, the result of which was that there were several efforts that had not been made by the government. Syafrida and Hartati [11] conducted research on efforts to fight Covid-19, the result of which was the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak causing social problems, weakening the economy of society and the state.

Research on patient positioning has been studied by several researchers with the object of research from *online* media. These studies include Setiawan [1], Annas and Fitriawan [2], Tenriawali [3], Abdullah [4], Maheasy [5], and Suprihatin and Lestari [6]. The patient was only told by reporters. There was no direct statement from the patient in the existing news text. The conclusion is that the patient is only an object and not a subject in the news.

Based on this explanation, previous research discussed the positioning of sufferers in cases of violence and research on Covid-19 only relied on efforts to handle, prevent and play the role of the media. Therefore, the positioning of Covid-19 sufferers in the news needs to be investigated. The analysis of the Covid-19 news text can be done using the critical discourse analysis of the Sara Mills model, which is carried out to find out who the mass media is on the side of reporting Covid-19 news in West Sumatra.

The aims of this study are (1) to produce an explanation of the positioning of Covid-19 sufferers in West Sumatra in news texts in *online* media; (2) Produce an explanation about the depiction of Covid-19 sufferers in West Sumatra in the news in *online* media as the wrong people or as people who are given four i. The results of this study provide a significant contribution to the development of the theory of Critical Discourse Analysis.

1.1 Theory

The theory used in this study does not rely on a particular theory, but adheres to several theories that are considered suitable for research. This research problem falls under the field of critical discourse analysis. The theory of critical discourse analysis described in this research is the theory of

critical discourse analysis of the Sara Mills model with the object of research from the mass media.

1.1.1 Critical Discourse Analysis

Dewi and Nugroho [12] explains, critical discourse analysis (AWK) or *Critical Discaourse Analysis* (CDA) is one of the methods of social discussion related to society. Critical discourse analysis is used to examine the language contained in the text that is informed by the mass media to the public. Language in a critical view is also understood as a representation and a role to form a particular subject. A nalysis critical discourse is not focused on the real and unreal structure of the use of language but stressed constellation of forces that occur in the process of production and reproduction of meaning in the text [13].

Santoso [14] states that the purpose of critical discourse analysis can provide a solid foundation in analyzing the use of language contained in the mass media. Rangkema [15] explains the purpose of critical discourse analysis is to be able to detect social problems such as discrimination problems, while according to Haryatmoko [16], the purpose of critical discourse analysis is used to open a broad perspective. Analyzing events on the object under study can explain whether the event maintains the social structure, changes it, or improves it.

1.1.2 Sara Mills Model Critical Discourse Analysis

According to Mills in Sobur [17], discourse analysis is a reaction to traditional forms of formal linguistics. The focus of the study on traditional linguistics is on the choice of sentence structure that does not pay attention to language analysis in its use. Meanwhile, in discourse analysis, matters relating to sentence structure and grammar are more concerned. Annistri and Sugandi [18], Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis is to explain the position of the parties involved in the text. The structure of the text written by journalists can explain who the storyteller is and who is the party being told. Sobari and Faridah [19] state that the idea developed by Sara Mills does not only explain the use of language structure and its influence on the meaning received by the reader. This analytical model explains how the female side is represented in the text.

Position of Subject and Object

Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis emphasizes more on how the positions of the parties

are displayed in the text. Melihat how the positions of the parties appear in text and see how the ideologies and beliefs work in the text. The positions of various social actors, ideas, or events are placed in the text. These positions determine all the building elements of the text which ultimately determine the form of the text that is present in the community [13]. The main part of the Sara Mills model is trying to see the position of the subject and object of the story that appears in the text which affects the structure of the text [20]. The position of the subject and object in the framework of critical discourse analysis of Sara Mills' model can determine the party who is the subject of the narrator and the object narrated in the text. The parties displayed in the news text can determine how the structure of the text or discourse as a whole [21].

Reader Position

The critical discourse analysis introduced by Sara Mills looks at how the position of the reader is displayed in the text. Sara Mills views, in a text the position of the reader is very important and must be taken into account in the text. The position of the reader is not only placed as a consumer who does not affect the making of a text [13].

According to Mills, the greeting or mention is generally not direct but through indirect greeting or indirect mention to place the reader. Indirect greeting works in two ways, namely based on mediating factors and cultural code factors. These two factors have pointed k's their strategy reports addressed to the reader to put himself to one of the parties depicted in the text [13].

1.1.3 Mass media

According to Susanto [22], the mass media is part of mass communication that serves to provide information to the public. The process of disseminating information using all types of media. Sobur explains that mass media is a communication process in disseminating information. Sudibyo [23], explains that mass media is considered not just an empty communication tool, but filled with certain messages by communicators, namely journalists as news text writers. Vivian [24] states that mass media is divided into three types. *First*, print media consisting of newspapers, magazines, tabloids, and others that are *printed media*. *Second*, electronic media from television, radio, film and video. *Third*, the

media *online* consisting of *websites*, *blogs* and internet media or media *cyber* others. Yunus [25] dividing the mass media in three categories, namely print, electronic, and *online*.

1.1.4 Online Media

As for the type of media is divided into three, namely the print media, electronic media, and the media *online*. The three types of mass media can be distinguished by the process of presenting the information. The rapid advances in technology, such as the Internet makes media *online* as an option to obtain information that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. *Online* itself is the language of the internet which means that information can be accessed anywhere and anytime as long as there is an internet network [26].

1.1.5 News

Doug Newson and James A. Wollert in Media Writing: News for the Mass Media [27] stated that in a simple definition, news is anything that people want and need to know or more broadly the public. By reporting the news, the mass media provide information to the public about what they need.

1.1.6 Covid-19

Covid 19/Corona Virus first appeared in the city of Wuhan in China. The spread is very fast and deadly. It is spread by direct physical contact with humans and is transmitted through the mouth, nose and eyes. Efforts to break the chain of spread of Covid-19 were carried out by the government and religious institutions by issuing several regulations to be obeyed by the people of Syafrida and Ralang Hartati, [11]. The number of Covid-19 cases in West Sumatra (West Sumatra) has reached 21,425 people as of Thursday (10/12/2020) night.

2. METHOD

The type of research conducted is qualitative research using descriptive methods. Moeleong explains that the type of qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words. In accordance with this study, the data used to conduct the analysis are sentences from the writings contained in the text of *online* news media.

The data for this study are sentences containing positioning information for Covid-19 sufferers in news texts in online media in West Sumatra. The data that has been identified and classified by the parties in the subject and object positions and the readers are positioned in the news text. The data sources for this research are news texts about the development of Covid-19 in West Sumatra from October to November 2020. The online news sites that are the source of this research data are *Langgam.id*, *Kompas.com*, *Padang Kita* and *Detik.com*.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Position of Subjects with Covid-19 in West Sumatra in *Online News Text*

The first position contained in the critical discourse analysis theory of Sara Mills model is the position of the subject. This position can be determined from who is the party that tells the events in the text. Thus, the party who tells the event is the subject in the text. Subjects in the text can tell events based on their own perspective and can also present other parties in the story.

There is an online news text that displays the party as the subject, namely the Covid-19 patient is a doctor who serves as a Covid-19 volunteer team. This news was published in the online media *Langgam.id*. The text of this news was published on November 30, 2020 with the title "Doctor Farhan Abdullah's Struggle, Take 6,000 Swabs Until Exposure to Covid-19". The subject of the text can be explained in the findings below;

- (1) "Sehari saya bisa menangani 70-75 pasien positif. Saya mulai melakukan tes swab sendiri dan sudah melakukan 6.000 tes swab dalam kurun waktu 8 bulan pandemi ini," tutur dr. Farhan dalam siaran podcast bersama *Langgam.id*, Selasa(24/11/2020)."

Based on the findings above, journalists quoted directly the sentences spoken by the Covid sufferer himself. The Covid-19 patient, who is a doctor, shared his argument directly with reporters about his experience in the field in fighting Covid-19. Quote "A day I can handle 70-75 positive patients. I started doing swab tests myself and have done 6,000 swab tests within 8 months of this pandemic", marked to explain the position of the subject in the text. The word "I" in the quote means that the source is telling about himself.

3.2 Position of Objects with Covid-19 Patients in West Sumatra in *Online News Text*

The second position contained in the critical discourse analysis theory of Sara Mills model is the object position. Position that explains who the party is told and defined in the text. The party who becomes the object in the text, its presence only appears in the storytelling of the other party who is the subject in the text. Thus, the party who becomes the object in the text, its presence and definition are only determined by the story of the subject in the text.

- (2) ASN yang dilaporkan positif Covid-19 tersebut, yaitu seorang laki-laki berinisial FN, 39 tahun dan seorang perempuan berinisial WR, 35 tahun.
- (3) Bertambahnya dua kasus positif Covid-19 itu, maka total kasus positif Covid-19 yang tercatat di Solok Selatan telah mencapai 33, 21 orang di antaranya sudah dinyatakan sembuh.

Based on some of the findings above, the patient is positioned as an object in the eyes of journalists. Journalists tell about Covid-19 sufferers based on the data they find in the field. This can be proven by the absence of direct quotes expressed by others.

- (4) "Ada dua kasus positif Covid-19 yang ditemukan hari ini, keduanya ASN. Satu ASN di BKPSDM dan satu lagi ASN di Puskesmas Pakan Salasa," ujarnya dikutip melalui rilis yang diterima *Padangkita.com*, Rabu (7/10/2020).

Based on the findings of the data above, Covid-19 sufferers are positioned as objects through the views of the Covid-19 Response Team. The Covid-19 Response Team includes; Spokesperson for the West Sumatra Covid-19 Handling Task Force, Spokesperson for the Pasbar Covid-19 Task Force and the Medical Team. This can be proven by a direct quote from the Spokesperson for the Covid-19 Handling Task Force who directly stated the data and the current Covid-19 situation.

- (5) Kepala Dinas Kesehatan (Kadinkes) Kabupaten Solok Selatan, Novirman menyebutkan, kedua ASN yang positif Covid-19 itu sama-sama beralamat di Pakan Salasa, Nagari Alam Pauh Duo, Solok Selatan.

Based on these data findings, Covid-19 sufferers are positioned as objects from the official's point of view. The officials that the writer finds in this data are; Head of the Health Service (Kadinkes) of

South Solok Regency, Head of Padang City Health Office, Head of Public Health and Disease Control Prevention Office, Head of Disease Control and Eradication (P2P) Division of Tanah Datar Health Service and Public Relations of RSAM Bukittinggi. This can be proven by the direct quotation which is a statement from the official. For example, "Yes, the counts are all positive, not positive at the same time. There are 31 people at the Transportation Agency," said the Head of the Padang City Health Service, Feri Mulyani, to reporters. The word "Head of the Padang City Health Service Feri Mulyani told reporters" explaining the official directly conveyed it to reporters.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research that the author did, 50 data were found showing the position of Covid-19 sufferers in West Sumatra in news in online media. There are 3 data that shows the patient as the subject in the news text and 47 data that shows the patient as the object in the text. The data was obtained from the online media Langgam.id. and PadangKita.com.

CONTRIBUTION

All authors are part of the Covid-19 Positioning consortium in West Sumatra in News in Online Media, and contributed equally to this manuscript.

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