



How Will Publication Die? Emerging Issue from Indonesia

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Abstract

This article examines how scientific publications will soon die in Indonesia regarding some issues. This paper uses the legal method to give significant findings for Indonesian scholars. This paper found that some issues that would make scientific publications die were classified as the quality of scholars, government regulation, and publisher trap. This paper suggests that the scientific publication system in Indonesia avoids those issues by strengthening the quality of research for scholars, amending government regulations, and providing a reputable publisher list to choose the best publisher.

Keywords: *publish; scientific article; misconduct; disintegrity; justification*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesian scholars are probably well-known as busy scholars. Why? It depends on an obligation called Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi or three obligations of higher education for Indonesian lecturers. More than that, in Muhammadiyah and Aisiyah higher education (popular as Perguruan Tinggi Muhammadiyah and Aisiyah or PTMA), the Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi then transformed as Catur Dharma Perguruan Tinggi. It moves up from three obligations to four obligations for every lecturer in PTMA. Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi consists of some obligations, such as; teaching, research, and community service, while Catur Dharma Perguruan Tinggi is added with Al-Islam and Kemuhammadiyahan (religious and organization values by Muhammadiyah). That obligation was a subject of daily activity for lecturers, reported by Laporan Kinerja Dosen (LKD) or Lecturer Performance Report submitted every semester to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology. While, at the beginning of the semester, the lecturers should submit their Tri or Catur Dharma Perguruan Tinggi plans, regarding Beban Kinerja Dosen (BKD) or Lecturer Performance Burden.

One of the obligations of Indonesian lecturers is research. As an obligation, lecturers should take part in any research, funded by their home institution, the government, or NGO (both Indonesian or foreign NGO). From this research, an accountability report will usually be requested, which contains financial reports, research activities, and scientific publication output. Scientific publications output may be a serious problem for some lecturers. Why it should happen? Because not all lecturers have the same ability to write scientifically. There will be different positions and skills, like football players. In contrast, some positions exist in football

, such as goalkeeper, defender, centre and wide-back position, defensive midfielder, playmaker, striker, and more. However, lecturers should have the same skills and output as a scientific paper or publication, especially in Indonesia. They do not have another option, such as giving social community engagement and not publishing scientific papers. No, there is no option for Indonesian lecturers.

Several other problems also emerged, such as those written by Made Supriatma with the title Professor Kangkong on the Indoprogress page [1] or a view by Andri Gunawan Wibisana's on the Hukumonline page [2]. Another point of view was explained by Tempo, under the investigation segment. Is this the sole factor in the possible demise of publication in Indonesia? No. Many other factors could still trigger the death of publications in Indonesia. Thus, this article wants to analyze how publicity in Indonesia (will) die. The authors grew in the scope of law and legal studies, so this paper may be the subject of those disciplines. However, it may be a general topic and a general issue for another discipline in Indonesia.

2. METHOD

This article uses legal research methods [3], including regulatory, case, and conceptual approaches [4]. Through descriptive analysis, the author describes the things and factors that can cause publicity to die in Indonesia, especially in the legal discipline. As a disclaimer, this article is a literature review, taking an inventory of several cases of publication in Indonesia, especially within the scope of law or legal science.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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3.1 Legal Framework for Scientific Publication Policy in Indonesia

Indonesia, well known as a country with a higher population in Southeast Asia, has also published many scientific papers in the last decade. As a rule of law, Indonesia has rules arranged in a hierarchy of laws and regulations [5], as is the concept offered by Hans Kelsen and Hasn Nawiasky [6], including regulations regarding scientific publications.

However, before discussing the legal framework for scientific publication policy in Indonesia, it is more important to explain the following structure or hierarchy of statutory regulations briefly below [7];

- a) Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia 1945 - 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia;
- b) Ketetapan Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat/TAP MPR- Decree of the People's Consultative Assembly;
- c) Undang-Undang/Peraturan Pemerintah Pengganti Undang-Undang (Perppu) - Laws/Government Regulations in Lieu of Laws;
- d) Peraturan Pemerintah - Government Regulations;
- e) Peraturan Presiden - Regulation of the President;
- f) Peraturan Daerah Provinsi - Provincial Regulations; and
- g) Peraturan Daerah Kabupaten/Kota - Regency/City Regulation.

Furthermore, let's discuss about Indonesia's legal framework for scientific publication policy. As a result of the author's research, when this article was written, there were several legal frameworks for scientific publication policy in Indonesia that currently became a reference for academics or scholars in Indonesia [8];

- a) Undang-Undang Nomor 14 Tahun 2005 Tentang Guru dan Dosen (UUGD) - Law Number 14 of 2005 about Teacher and Lecturer;
- b) Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2012 Tentang Pendidikan Tinggi (UU Dikti) - Law Number 12 of 2012 about Higher Education;
- c) Peraturan Menteri Pendayagunaan Aparatur Negara dan Reformasi Birokrasi Nomor 6 Tahun 2022 tentang Pengelolaan Kinerja Pegawai Aparatur Sipil Negara - Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform Regulation Number 6 of 2022 concerning Management of State Civil Servant Employee Performance;
- d) Peraturan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 31 Tahun 2022 tentang Satu Data Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi - Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Regulation Number 31 of 2022 concerning One Data on Education, Culture, Research and Technology;
- e) Peraturan Menteri Pendayagunaan Aparatur Negara dan Reformasi Birokrasi Republik Indonesia Nomor 1 Tahun 2023 Tentang Jabatan Fungsional - Regulation of the Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2023 concerning Functional Positions;
- f) Peraturan Badan Kepegawaian Negara Republik Indonesia Nomor 3 Tahun 2023 Tentang Angka Kredit, Kenaikan Pangkat, dan Jenjang Jabatan Fungsional - Regulation of the State Civil Service Agency of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2023 concerning Credit Scores, Promotion and Functional Position Levels;
- g) Keputusan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia Nomor 133/M/2023 Tentang Petunjuk Teknis Data Pendidikan, Data Penelitian, dan Data Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat Pada Pendidikan Tinggi - Decree of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Number 133/M/2023 concerning Technical Instructions for Educational Data, Research Data and Community Service Data in Higher Education;
- h) Keputusan Menteri Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia Nomor 209/P/2024 Tentang Petunjuk Teknis Pelaksanaan Layanan Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Profesi dan Karier Dosen - Decree of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Number 209/P/2024 concerning Technical Instructions for Implementing Coaching and Professional and Career Development Services for Lecturers;

- i) Keputusan Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, Riset, dan Teknologi Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia Nomor 114/E/KPT/2023 Tentang Petunjuk Teknis Pelaksanaan Transisi Angka Kredit Dosen dan Beban Kerja Dosen Pegawai Negeri Sipil - Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Number 114/E/KPT/2023 concerning Technical Instructions for Implementing the Transition of Lecturer Credit Scores and Workloads for Civil Servant Lecturers;
- j) Keputusan Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, Riset, dan Teknologi Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset dan Teknologi Republik Indonesia Nomor 171/E/KPT/2023 Tentang Petunjuk Teknis Pelaksanaan Angka Kredit Integrasi Dosen Pegawai Negeri Sipil - Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Number 171/E/KPT/2023 concerning Technical Instructions for Implementing Civil Servant Lecturer Integration Credit Scores;
- k) Surat Keputusan Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 0502/E.E4/RHS/DT.04.01/2024 tentang Ketentuan Kenaikan Jabatan Akademik Dosen pada Masa Peralihan - Decree of the Directorate General of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Number 0502/E.E4/RHS/DT.04.01/2024 concerning Provisions for Promotion of Lecturer Academic Positions during the Transition Period.

They were so complicated, with many regulations (but most of those are not regulations but decrees). There is a fundamental difference between regulations and decrees because regulations are generally binding externally, while decrees should be interpreted as binding internally only [9]. However, the legal basis regarding the obligation to publish scientific papers for lecturers in Indonesia applies to all and does not differentiate between lecturers with civil servant status or not. Apart from that, there are also similarities regarding scientific publication standards for lecturers, especially lecturers who will apply for the position of Professor, to publish articles in international reputable journals, with the limitation of only being indexed by Scopus and Web of Science.

3.2 The Problems of Scientific Publications in Indonesia

After knowing the legal basis for scientific publications in Indonesia, it is essential to understand the problems of scientific publications in Indonesia. This article was written in a scientific context. Hence, the data presented is investigative data that has been carried out by trusted sources (proven by citations of reference sources) without the need to hide the identity of the name or institution. The following is data collected by the author relating to the case of scientific publications in Indonesia that could bring publicity will die in Indonesia;

- a) On July 7 2024, Tempo Magazine published an investigative report entitled Fake Professor or Guru Besar Abal-Abal. The 11 fake professors come from the Faculty of Law, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Banjarmasin, Indonesia and are suspected of manipulating the professor application requirements by sending articles to predatory journals. When this article was written, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat was forming a Tim Pencari Fakta (TPF) or the investigating team to investigate the case [10]. The Tempo report also stated that fake degrees had existed in Indonesia since 1958, when Djokosutomo, M.A., used the title fake Professor in front of his name. The Attorney General's Office questioned and detained him for his fake degree. With this fake professor title, he, who was the founder of Universitas Madjapahit in Jakarta, succeeded in collecting funds from around 7,000 students at that time [11].
- b) On April 10 2024, Retraction Watch wrote a story about Kumba Digdowiseiso, a young professor and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia, who took the 24 names of an academic from the University of Malaysia Terengganu without permission. Also, from January to April 2024, Kumba published 160 articles, most of which his students wrote [12]. In response to this news, Kumba resigned from his position as dean [13]. Universitas Nasional (UNAS) then responded by forming a Tim Pencari Fakta (TPF) or the investigating team formed by UNAS. Based on the Retraction Watch report, the TPF team recommended his dismissal from his position as dean and barred him from lecturing at UNAS for a maximum of three years [14].
- c) On January 5 2024, Maria de los Ángeles Orfila, in her scientific notes entitled "Peru moves to crack down on fraud in research publishing", cited Nahuel Montebianco, President of the Association of Peruvian Scientists in Cientificos.pe, explained that collaboration papers with authors from Nepal, Afghanistan, Kuwait or Indonesia would be a suspect. What kind of suspect? Those will be suspected of misconduct articles with illegal authorship [15].

- d) On February 7 2021, an academic from the Czech Republic, Vít Macháček and Martin Srholec, published a paper entitled "Predatory publishing in Scopus: Evidence on cross-country differences" in Journal Scientometrics owned by Springer [16], a well-known publisher worldwide. In their article, the two academics stated that Indonesia is ranked second in the world, behind Kazakhstan, in academic dishonesty and disintegrity. However, the Journal said the article was retracted on September 6 2021, because some of the findings were unreliable. The authors were asked to correct their findings but refused. As a result, with the same article, the two authors republished their article in a different journal, specifically in the Quantitative Science Studies journal, which MIT Press Direct published on November 1, 2022 [17].
- e) Apart from these cases, several cases that often occur in scientific publications in Indonesia include; plagiarism, fabrication, falsification and more.

3.3 Alternative Solutions

Various problems with scientific publications in Indonesia have the potential to cause disaster for academics. Global academics' trust in Indonesian academics will decline. So, to prevent the death of scientific publications in Indonesia, the author recommends alternative solutions, including:

- a) **Changing the Policy**
Policy and regulations by the government that require scientific work to be published in reputable international journals need to be evaluated and improved. The government must accept the fact and reality that not all lecturers could write scientific article in international reputable journal. So, there must be work equivalence. For example, intellectual property rights, international visiting lecturers, international research grants and many more. Thus, lecturers write because they are a hobby, not forced to do so. So, the writing produced is based on expertise and intellect, not a fast-track product because it is aiming for a professor academic position.
- b) **Upgrading the Scholars Integrity and Competence**
Apart from changing policies, the government also needs to periodically carry out academic integrity tests for lecturers. Not only in the form of LKD or SKP, but also possibly using tools such as a lie detector. Apart from regular tests, the government also needs to provide coaching for lecturers. Upgrading is given to increase lecturer competence. The competencies provided are also varied, not only limited to skills in writing scientific articles, but also skills in processing and using software or applications to write scientific articles. BNSP can be appointed as a partner for this program. The government (in this case the Ministry of Higher Education, c.q Directorate General of Publication or Journal) also needs to train journal managers (or Editorial Board members), so that many Indonesian journals can have an international reputation. While many Indonesian journals have international reputations, APC turnover or article processing charges will not go abroad, let alone go to predatory journals.
- c) **Punch the Line related to Economic Reason**
If the regulations and policies have been changed with equivalence portfolios, and guidance has been carried out by providing upgrading for lecturers, then the next step is to break the chain of economic factors. Many predatory authors (more commonly called publication services) do so for economic reasons. So, if they are lecturers, what can be done is to increase lecturer salaries and allowances. So, if salaries and allowances increase, they will not be tempted into the vortex of scientific publications that lack integrity and predatory journals.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, this article highlights the potential causes of death of scientific publications in Indonesia. The first is the regulatory factor from the government, the second is the academic integrity factor from academics, and the third is the economic relations factor. If these three factors can be addressed, then scientific publications in Indonesia will return to sound and be far from the potential for die.

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