

# The Construction of Terrorism Ideology in Online News Kompas media

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**Abstract**—This study mainly conducted to describe the formation and function of the ideological structure of terrorism discourse in the Kompas media news. The research method chosen was qualitative content analysis and the source of the data was taken from the discourse of terrorism in Kompas media (online) news. Documentation techniques assist in the data collection process. Data analysis was carried out through reading-note techniques with the ideological structure of the discourse Teun A. van Dijk. There are two results of the study. First, the ideological structure of terrorism discourse reported in kompas.com news articles are topic, local meaning, style, rhetoric, action and interaction. Second, the function of the ideological structure of terrorism discourse in kompas.com includes description of identity, activity, aims, norms, and position-relations.

**Keywords**—*construction, terrorism, online news*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ideology has presumably seen as basic belief as a group trust system and its members [1-2], thus it is an ideal view of life as well as a basic value in everyday life situation. However, each social group has a different ideological system in the class of society; each social group of course has a different morality, knowledge, identity and history. The difference is then undeniably create a social hierarchy between one and other groups that will then lead to the ideological polarization and make one group more powerful than the other (resistance to domination by other groups) [3]. Therefore, the ideology is closely related to social practices that has a pivotal role in human life; language [4].

Owing to that explanation, it can be said that language is a manifestation of social group ideology that covered knowledge, views, and morality that are textually manifested through linguistic elements. One of the ideological manifestations include in these linguistic elements can be found in the mass media, in the modern day the mass media has an ideological reproductive function [5-6]. Ideological reproduction indicates that there is a possibility of mass media not creating reality, yet they make it bias and distorted with ideological imagery. Here, the mass media has a control function, cultural transmission, and can also be used to mobilize national and local efforts in various affairs, such as politics, emergencies, economics and the military [7].

In the relation to that, the mass media plays a pivotal role as the mind control of the community, influences the community through news, reporting from the certain

viewpoint so that it can shape ideological legitimacy towards the community. This then enable the media to create norms, both in positive and negative way; then it is shown through the discourse. Discourse is the use of language which is seen as a form of social practice and discourse analysis is an analysis of how the text works in sociocultural practices. Discourse analysis requires attention to textual forms, structures and organizations at all levels; phonological, grammatical, lexical (vocabulary) and a higher level of textual arrangement in terms of reciprocal systems (distribution of speech list), argumentation structure, and derivative structure (type of activity) [4]. One of the discourses that are frequently reported by the mass media is the discourse of terrorism.

The term of terrorist in some of media tend to be described as tribal; Arabic and Muslim identities for example in the media of the United States, while Britain and Australia, each reporting terrorism issues from a local perspective, binaries between western and eastern ideology or between Muslims and non-Muslims [8-12].

Therefore, it is very crucial for conducting the research which focuses on the construction of terrorism ideology discourse in the kompas media news, and not to mention, this intend to describe the ideological structures of terrorism discourse as well as it function in the kompas media news.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II describes proposed research method. Section III presents obtained result and following by discussion. Finally, section IV concludes this work.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research use qualitative content analysis method which focuses on language characteristic as a tool of communication, more specific on contextual meaning of the text [13]. The source of data is mainly collected from 54 bombing articles in Surabaya, reported by kompas.com media and published since 13 of May 2018 until 19 of July 2018. The data collected by the researcher using documentation technique.

The data was analyzed through reading and note-taking technique. The process started from reading comprehensively the data in several times to obtain saturated data. The data then analyzed carefully categorized in a code. The code is then sorted into categories based on the connected code. These emerging categories are used to organize and classify codes to be more meaningful. The process of organizing and categorizing data uses the

ideological structure of Teun A. van Dijk's discourse which focuses on topics, local meaning, style and rhetoric, action and interaction [1-3].

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study discusses two main issues, namely the form and the function of ideological structure of terrorism discourse in the of Kompas media news. Based on the results of data analysis taken from Kompas.com, it is found several results relating to the two main issues above.

#### A. Result

##### 1) The form of ideological structure on terrorism discourse

The structure of the discourse of terrorism in the Kompas.com is organized by topic, local meaning, style, and rhetoric, action and interaction.

##### 2) The function of ideological structure of terrorism discourse

The function of ideological structure of terrorism discourse in Kompas.com media news is as description of identity, activity, aims, norms, and description of position-relation.

#### B. Discussion

##### 1) The form of ideological structure in terrorism discourse

The following topics are reported in the online news Kompas media related to the issue of terrorism (see Table I).

TABLE I. VARIOUS TOPICS IN KOMPAS.COM NEWS

Topics	frequency of occurrence
Condemnation of the acts of terrorism	12
Indonesian Muslim groups condemn acts of terror	4
Indonesian terrorism groups are affiliated with ISIS	4
Support for the government to against the terrorists	5
The terrorists are enemies of the state and nation	6
Terrorist identity and terrorist attack	15
The police arresting terrorists	5
Victims of terrorism tragedies	4

Generally, the topics are reported negatively in the viewpoint of a in-group. That all refers to a global theme "radicalism". The terrorism is constructed as a radical groups, while social ones are dominantly presented by antiradicalism themes, such as humanism, nationalism, moderat religiousism, national religiousism, and feminism. This case is raised in 13 news articles which has a global theme about "terrorism = radicalism". The following news article is presented that has global radicalism topic.

#### (1) Example 1

**Code : T/B10-130518**

##### **The Societies are expected to strenghten their resistance againts Terrorism and Radicalism**

JAKARTA, KOMPAS.com – The Chairman of SETARA Institute Hendaradi said that the terroris attack towards three churches in Surabaya, East of Java, Sunday morning(13/5/2018) is categorized as inhumane

action and cannot be justified for any reasons. (Kompas.com, 13/05/2018)

Global "terrorism = radicalism" theme can be found in the abstract noun terrorism and radicalism in the title, both of these words are double proposition which is marked it use as ideological synonyms to align between the suspected terrorism and radicalism groups by expressing one mean that is categorized equally but has different word expressions [1]. Furthermore, global "radicalism" theme is clarified as description level in the part of news porch by displaying it as an inhumane action, that news explicitly tries to instruct the suspected terrorist as improper groups.

The identity of these terrorist groups, then, is reduced by Kompas.com as the out-group, this out-groups are located in the outside of opposite social dominant groups (in-group) with a tendency that is described as a negative thing. The following example is presented the out-group and in-group categories.

#### (2) Example 2

**Code : S-B48-140518**

We might not be affraid toward terrorism. Hasto said, in his official statement, Sunday (13/5/2018) ... They, he said, do not have any rights to get a place in Indonesia as well-known by the country of peace. (Kompas.com, 14/05/2018).

Binary opposition can be found by the use style of person plural pronouns "We" as representations of the in-group and "They" person plural pronouns as out-group representations. The out-group can be presented by Kompas.com negatively in the structure of ideological discourse local meaning that is as radical group, intolerant and inhumane, it is known by insertion of illustrative stories, events, actions, facts, actors, and unbalanced arguments between in-groups and out-groups. The following is presented the example of suspected terrorist groups which is constructed as out-groups through local meaning structure.

#### (3) Example 3

**Code : L-B153-150518**

##### **Yenny Wahid: Non-Independent Women are Vulnerable to be Exposed to Radicalism**

JAKARTA, KOMPAS.com – Director of Wahid Foundation Yenny Wahid highlights the role of women in the radicalism and terrorism activities.

....

She give an example to Puji Kuswati, The wife from Dita Oepriarto ... (Kompas.com, 15/05/2018).

Explicitly, the title above highlights that non-independent women tend to be exposed by radicalism, the intended women are in the last paragraph, she is Puji Kuswati, "the actor" Puji Kuswati is displayed negatively through insertion of proposition "authority" it is Director of Wahid Foundation who have a duty to provide negative

arguments to “the actor” Puji Kuswati”. The negative side of Puji Kuswati is broadened by giving an arranging facts and negative incident in displaying Puji Kuswati as a radical woman conducting suicide bombing in three churches in Surabaya.

On the other hand, in a news article entitled “Puji Kaswati Rarely Communicates with His Family in Banyuwangi”, Puji Kaswati and her husband are displayed as the silent actors, closed and do not close to the family. It is absolutely put women positions (suicide bombing actor) as the improper women because it looks contrary with the in-group ideological values, automatically, women (suicide bombing actor) are set aside from in-group. This is inversely proportional to the news about an “ideal” woman who is displayed by *kompas.com* in the news article entitled “Tutik, Bom Victim of Pantekosta Surabaya Church, a Generous Hard Worker”, Tutik actor is placed as a tough, hardworking and generous woman. Nevertheless, this is *kompas.com* way to give a value standard about something that is considered good and bad.

Out-group position in the news article *kompas.com* is also produced negatively through the usage of negative rhetorical forms like sarcasm language usage. The following exemplifies the rhetoric sarcastic form in *kompas.com*.

(4) Example 4

**Code : R-B17-130518**

**Jokowi: Terror Actions in Surabaya Barbarous...**

SURABAYA, KOMPAS.com - President Jokowi mentioned the bombing terror action in 3 churches in Surabaya, as a barbarous action and beyond the humanity.. (*kompas.com*, 13/05/2018)

Sarkasm in the example news 4 uses an equivalent word “barbarous” to highlight the characterization of terrorist groups as the social groups who do not have a moral. Likewise, the position of suspected terrorist groups is increasingly negative when it is in the form of action and interaction structure cornered by accusation statements, The following are example forms of action and interaction with the use of accusation statements.

(5) Example 5

**Code : AI-35-130518**

"Churche blasting in Surabaya is *suspected* led by Dita Supriyanto, Chief of JAD Surabaya, who detonated a bomb in Pantekosta Central Church Surabaya at Arjuna Street ...

*Tito Said*, JAT and JAD are sympathizer group of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) movement. (*kompas.com*, 13/05/2018).

The word of “suspected” and “Tito said” are compilation of *kompas.com* attempting to suspect and legitimize that Dita Supriyanto is the leader of the terror action in Surabaya, as the leader also he connected to the national and international terrorism network. The meaning of *kompas.com* utilizes actor argument “Tito” as the

instrument to legitimize out-group as the groups who have radical values, and have the equal comparison with other radical groups, such as Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) and Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

3.2.2. *The Function of Ideological Structure Terrorism Discourse:*

The Function of Ideological Structure Terrorism Discourse in the media news of *kompas.com*, it has a function as identity, activity, aims, value-norm and position-relation description:

- *Identity description:* Kompas.com construct the identity of terrorist groups as the out-group (see example 2) through the use of person plural pronouns “They” with all good identities drawn as radical, intolerant, anti-humanism, anti-nationalism, anti-nationalism-religious, anti-religious-moderat groups (see example 1), beside that all, it is also described as people are closed, radical and patriarchy (see example 3).
- *Activity description:* Kompas.com describes the activity of terrorism in the news as terrorists by detonating a bomb in the churches in Surabaya, those are The Catholic Church of Santa Maria Tak Bercela, The Church of GKI, The Church of Pantekosta, and also detonating a bomb in the flats of Wonocolo, Sidoarjo and in front of Mapolrestabes Headquarters Surabaya. Terror activity descriptions are produced through the usage of local meaning ideological discourse structure by insertion of incidents, facts, and story illustrations.
- *Aims description:* Kompas.com describes the aims of terrorism groups by insertions of ideological discourse structure in the form of local meaning by inserting authority arguments such Polri and terrorism watchers. The suspected terrorism groups are constructed as radical class who conducts terror actions to get revenge, that can be discovered in the news articles entitled by “*Surabaya Bomb, Between ISIS Revenge and Proof ...*” and the news articles entitled “*National Police Chief Republic of Indonesia: Riot in Mako Brimob Triggers Surabaya Bomb Attack*”.
- *Norm and value description:* It is important in the ideological discourse that engages norm and value, about standardizing good and bad values, right and false. In this case, *kompas.com* highlights terrorism groups as subordinate groups (out-group) which is contradictory with dominant groups (in-group) (see example 1) so that the values which are embraced by terrorism groups, always get the contrary with the values that are embraced by dominant groups, therefore, through ideological discourse structure, *kompas.com* is suppressing the suspected terrorist groups out from the authority relations of the nationalist social structure.
- *Description of position and relation:* Through the insertion of state authority arguments, *kompas.com* defines their identity (out-group), the most activity and aim is also engaged with other groups such as Jamaah

Ansharut Daulah (JAD), Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT) dan Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) so that making out-group becomes equated with radical groups which have national and international access affiliated with terror actions in Arab countries.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

According to research result description and discussion which are presented above, study findings on the form and function of ideological structures of terrorism discourse by title “*The Construction of Terrorism Ideology in Online News Kompas Media*” in brief can be conclude as following summaries.

Firstly, The form of ideological structures of terrorism discourse contained in news article kompas.com those are: (1) having a negative topic which can be seen from the use of synonymy words that describe the suspected terrorist group as a radical group, (2) using rhetoric and language style in the form of metaphor, hyperbole, person plural pronouns, generalization, negativity, sarcasm, and contrast, (3) the form of local meaning includes the insertion of propositions in the form of illustrations of stories, events, facts, actors, and authority arguments, (4) the action and interaction using sentence of accusation and threat as a symbol of dominant group power over the out-group (suspected terrorist group).

Secondly, the function of ideological structures of terrorism discourse in kompas.com includes the description of identity, activity, aims, value-norm and position-relation. Overall, ideological structure mentioned has a function as consensus political strategy, this is an effort to raise ideological supremacy toward terrorism by giving stereotype as the contrary groups to the humanity values, tolerances and nationalism. Thus, by the existing of negative ideological constructions so the final purposes are the decisions for making the approval (consensus). Finally, kompas.com has a government control function used to mobilize local and national effort.

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