

# ANALYSIS OF MACROSTRUCTURE AND SUPERSTRUCTURE OF CORRUPTION NEWS DISCOURSE IN NEWSPAPERS

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**Abstract:** This study aims to determine the construction of news texts in newspapers, especially in the dimensions of macrostructure and superstructure. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach with the analysis of Teun van Dijk's critical discourse, specifically the dimensions of the text. The results showed that in reporting corruption cases in *Suara Merdeka*, *Republika*, *Kompas*, and *Jawa Pos* newspapers, journalists constructed the news cases by focusing on news themes about ongoing corruption. Meanwhile, in the superstructure dimension, a number of news scheme categories are formulated to build a story, which is a summary, which is marked by two elements namely the title and lead and story, namely the overall news content from introduction to the end.

**Keywords:** macrostructure analysis, superstructure, news discourse, critical discourse analysis

At present, in the industrial era 4.0, information has become an economic, social, and political commodity that people continue to hunt for. Then, the premise 'information is power' applies (Subrata, 1997:70). Because of the importance of information, then the newspaper which contains the most information certainly gets the most interest from the reader. This is proved by data presented by Subrata (1997:67) that daily newspapers turn out to be more in demand by readers than other types of newspapers. Daily newspapers contain a lot of information and at the same time emphasize its novelty.

Print newspaper or print media is still needed by the community amid the proliferation of social media and digital media. In the middle of changing trends in media consumption pat-

terns in Indonesia which tend to start shifting to the digital medium, print media are demanded to be more creative in packaging content to be presented to readers so that print media can be an alternative against hoax information.

Mass media (read print media) is a means to convey and receive various information. Print media have a central role in shaping public opinion from what is reported. Now humans live in the midst of information tightness. In fact, every day we are treated to a variety of information provided by print media both discussing political, economic, social and cultural issues of society, to entertainment in accordance with the orientation of the media (Juditha, 2013).

One news that often appears at the pages of newspapers is the news of corruption. Cor-

ruption is one of the biggest problems facing developing countries today, including Indonesia. Although it is said that eradication has increased in the last three years, there are no convincing signs that this problem can be resolved immediately. The topic of corruption always appears in the headlines of news, often even as the main review in the headline (Mardikantoro, 2014: 216). This is because corruption almost always occurs in Indonesia, even it has entrenched. Corruption has become the lifestyle of our officials. Indonesia remains the country with the highest level of corruption throughout the world. Eradicating corruption is not easy because it has become a deeply entrenched culture at all levels of society. However, various eradications continue to be done in stages. If it cannot be completely eliminated, at least reduce it.

The results of monitoring Kompas, Republika, Indopos, Koran Tempo, Media Indonesia, and Seputar Indonesia newspapers in 2011, as many as 429 headlines raised the issue of corruption. In the following year, the number increased to 433 headlines and increased to 491 headlines in 2013. The spotlight on national newspapers is in line with the findings of Indonesia Corruption Watch during January-July 2014. The number of corruption cases that occurred in Indonesia reached 308 cases, an increase of 15 cases compared to semester I-2013. Actually, law enforcement efforts are not lacking especially the Corruption Eradication Commission or KPK which reveals various corruption cases. However, there are still many practices of corruption that occur. The results of the Kompas Research and Development poll on July 23-25, 2014 emphasized that the message of the latent danger of corruption must be resolved immediately (Prasetyo, 2014).

The interesting part of corruption cases was made into the news for newspapers because corruption cases often involved the names of officials both government officials and political parties. The latest news about the problem of corruption in the newspaper is the arrest of the Chairperson of Partai Persatuan Pembangunan, Romahurmuziy. Even the Corruption Eradication Commission has set Romahurmuziy as a suspect related to cases of alleged corruption in the selection of positions in the Ministry of Religion. Romahurmuziy as a member of the DPR was suspected of receiving bribes from HRS, the Head of the Regional Office of the Ministry of

Religion of East Java, and MFQ, the Head of the Gresik Regency Ministry of Religion Office (Kompas.com, 2019).

In this study, the text of corruption reporting in newspapers was analyzed with critical discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis is an attempt or process to provide an explanation of a text (social reality) that is studied by a dominant person or group whose tendency has a specific purpose to get what is desired. This means that in a context, we must be aware that there is an interest (Darma, 2009: 49). In addition, a critical approach places discourse as power (Asher and Simpson, 1994: 940). The Renkema (2004: 282) views the discourse as a reflection of a power relation in society. The critical approach understands discourse as a form of social practice (Fairclough and Wodak in Subagyo 2010: 177). In social practice, a person always has a discourse goal, including the purpose of exercising power. If that happens, the practice of discourse will display an ideological effect, namely producing and reproducing unequal power relations between social classes of men and women or the majority and minority groups (Subagyo 2010: 177). Thus, critical discourse analysis does not merely examine discourse from internal and external aspects but it can be considered as a 'window' to see ideological motives and the importance of power relations that occur in society.

This study portrays the text of corruption news in newspapers with critical discourse analysis. The Teun A. van Dijk critical discourse analysis model is used in this study. This model sees cognition as an important element in the production of discourse. Discourse does not only concern the structure of discourse but also includes how the discourse is produced. The process of producing discourse includes a process called social cognition. The problem revealed in this study is how the construction of corruption is manifested in the dimension of the news text in the newspaper, especially in the dimensions of the macrostructure and superstructure.

## METHODS

The assessment of the problem in this study used two approaches namely empirical sociological approaches and critical approaches. The empirical sociological approach understands dis-

course as a speech event which is bound by the context of the situation (Asher and Simpson 1994:940). In the empirical sociological approach, discourse is examined from an external perspective. From an external perspective, discourse can be studied in terms of its relation to three things, namely the speaker, the thing being discussed, and the speech partner or the relation of the discourse to its context, namely who the speaker is, who it is addressed to, who is spoken in what kind of situation, what it is intended for, and so on. Thus, it can be said that if the discourse is associated with the context it means that the analysis of the discourse is studied pragmatically.

Additionally, this study also used a critical approach. This approach places discourse as power (Asher and Simpson 1994:940) or views discourse as a reflection of relations in society. The critical approach understands discourse as a form of social practice. In social practice, a person always has a discourse goal, including the purpose of run power. If this happens, the practice of discourse will display ideological effects, namely producing and reproducing unequal power relations between social classes, men and women, as well as the majority and minority groups.

The data in this study were captured using the method of listening (Sudaryanto 2015: 203), which was listening to the use of language in reporting corruption in newspapers. The method was followed by the use of recording and noting techniques. The research data were in the form of fragments of corruption news text in the newspaper. Newspapers which are used as physical data sources are *Kompas*, *Republika*, *Suara Merdeka*, and *Jawa Pos*. The selection of the newspaper was based on the consideration that *Kompas* and *Republika* newspapers represented national newspapers published in the centre (Jakarta), while *Suara Merdeka* and *Jawa Pos* represented national newspapers published in the regions (Semarang and Surabaya). Data retrieval is carried out for two months with the consideration that the data are sufficient and varied.

Data analysis in this study used the van Dijk critical discourse analysis model to analyze the construction of corruption news texts in newspapers. Van Dijk divided the discourse analysis into three dimensions, namely the text dimension, the dimension of social cognition, and

the dimension of social context/practice. This study focused on the study of the dimensions of the text that is the structure of the text consisting of vocabulary, sentences, and paragraphs to explain and interpret a text. A text consists of three structures/levels namely macrostructure (general meaning, observed by looking at the topic or theme in the text), superstructure (text structure related to the framework of a text, how parts of the text are arranged into the news as a whole: introduction, content, cover), and microstructure (meaning of the text that can be observed from a small part of a text that is words, sentences, paragraphs).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

Based on the results of data collection from *Suara Merdeka*, *Republika*, *Kompas*, and *Jawa Pos* in June-July 2019, various types of report on corruption cases were found. After mapping out some news, a textual analysis was carried out on the discourse by following the perspective of van Dijk's critical discourse analysis. The textual analysis consists of three aspects of analysis, namely macrostructure analysis, superstructure analysis, and microstructure analysis. This study discusses textual analysis of aspects of the macrostructure and the superstructure of news discourse on corruption in newspapers.

### Macrostructure

The main study in macrostructure is focused on observing thematic elements. In these thematic elements the global meaning of discourse is examined. A theme is an idea that generally describes the opinions or ideas expressed by someone or a journalist. The theme shows the dominant, central, and main ideas that describe what the journalist wants to express in the news he makes. The global theme raised by the author in reporting corruption is about figures of officials who commit corruption cases.

- (1) *Kasus Setnov yang menyita perhatian publik pun membuat pemerintah berencana membuat penjara khusus bagi para koruptor di pulau terpencil. "Sudah ada pemikiran ke sana untuk membuat lembaga pemyarakatan khusus untuk koruptor, narkotika, dan khusus para teroris. Bahkan*

*kami sudah memikirkan menggunakan pulau-pulau terpencil," kata Menko Polhukam Wiranto. Pemerintah menginginkan hukum ditegakkan secara lugas dan tanpa pandang bulu. Dia mengatakan, pelanggar hukum harus dijatuhi sanksi (Napi Korupsi Dipindah ke Nusakambangan, Suara Merdeka, 18 Juni 2019)*

(Setnov's case which caught the public's attention also made the government plan to create a special prison for corruptors on a remote island. "There have been thoughts there to create a special prison for corruptors, narcotics, and specifically terrorists. We have even thought about using remote islands," said Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Wiranto. The government wants the law to be enforced straightforwardly and indiscriminately. He said, lawbreakers, must be sanctioned) (Corruption Inmates Moved to Nusakambangan, Suara Merdeka, 18 June 2019)

- (2) *Menteri Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia (Menkumham) Yasonna Laolly keberatan bila narapidana kasus korupsi dipindahkan ke Lembaga Pemasyarakatan (Lapas) Nusakambangan, Cilacap, Jawa Tengah. Menurut dia, Lapas Nusakambangan bertipe high risk yang tidak cocok untuk napi koruptor. "Nusakambangan adalah lapas yang high risk, lapas supermaksimum security. Narapidana koruptor bukanlah narapidana kategori high risk yang memerlukan supermaksimum sekuriti. Jadi, itu persoalannya," kata Yasonna, Selasa (18/6) (Yasonna Tolak Pindahkan Napi Koruptor, Republika, 19 Juni 2019)*

(Minister of Law and Human Rights Yasonna Laolly was objected if inmates of corruption cases were moved to the Nusakambangan Penitentiary (Prison), Cilacap, Central Java. According to him, Nusakambangan Penitentiary is a high-risk type which is not suitable for corruption prisoners. "Nusakambangan is a high-risk prison, supermaximum security". Corruption inmates are not high-risk inmates who require maximum security. So, that's the problem," said Yasonna, Tuesday (6/18)) (Yasonna Refuses to Move Corruptor Prisoners, Republika, June 19, 2019)

- (3) *Pemindahan bekas Ketua DPR dan Ketua Umum Partai Golkar Setya Novanto ke Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Gunung Sindur dinilai tak akan menyelesaikan masalah pembinaan jika persoalan mendasar pembenahan tata kelola sistem permasya-*

*rakatan tak segera dilakukan. Kementerian Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia diharapkan tak reaktif untuk jangka pendek dan masa datang dalam pembinaan dan pengelolaan sistem pemasyarakatan yang baik. (Pemindahan Novanto ke Gunung Sindur Diragukan, Kompas, 16 Juni 2019)*

(The transference of the former DPR Chairman and Golkar Party Chairperson Setya Novanto to the Gunung Sindur Penitentiary is considered not to solve the development problem if the basic problems in managing the penal system are not immediately carried out. The Ministry of Law and Human Rights is expected to be non-reactive in the short term and in the future in the formation and management of good penal systems). (Novanto's Relocation to Mount Sindur is Doubtful, Kompas, 16 June 2019)

- (4) *Sebelumnya, Ditjenpas berkomitmen menempatkan napi-napi kasus korupsi kelas kakap di lapas super maximum security di Nusakambangan. Penempatan itu menjadi bagian dari penjeraan bagi koruptor. Penempatan itu menjadi bagian dari penjeraan bagi koruptor. Nah, ulah Setnov yang berulang-ulang menyalahgunakan izin keluar lapas dinilai layak menjadi indikator penempatan napi ke Nusakambangan itu. (KPK Ingin Setnov Dikirim ke Nusakambangan, Jawa Pos, 17 Juni 2019)*

(Previously, Ditjenpas was committed to putting inmates high-level corruption cases in super maximum security prisons in Nusakambangan. The placement is part of the deterrence for corruptors. The placement is part of the detention for corruptors. Well, the act of Setnov who repeatedly abused the prison exit permit is considered appropriate as an indicator of the placement of prisoners to Nusakambangan) (KPK Wants Setnov to be Sent to Nusakambangan, Jawa Pos, 17 June 2019)

## Superstructure

In the superstructure dimension, topics are arranged by arranging sentences or news elements in the desired order. For example, news headlines are at the top and are usually printed thicker in certain sizes and types of letters and even in certain colours. From news headlines, people will easily find out the topics (most important) discussed in the news. Look at the data (5) below.

- (5) *KPK-Ditjenpas telah membahas nama-napi korupsi yang akan dipindahkan (Yasonna Tolak Pindahkan Napi Koruptor, Republika, 19 Juni 2019)*

(KPK-Ditjenpas has discussed the names of corruption prisoners who will be transferred) (Yasonna Refuses to Move Corruptor Prisoners, Republika, 19 June 2019)

At the lead, reporters revealed that there were discussions about corruption inmates who would be transferred to the Nusakambangan Prison. This was stated explicitly by the media and followed by explanatory speech or discourse builder by inserting footage from Yasonna Laolly's speech. Viewed schematically, the news shows the work of the KPK and Ditjenpas, as well as support for the KPK in cracking down on corruption cases in Indonesia.

In line with that, the Jawa Pos reporter also constructed news about the corruption case that ensnared M. Tamzil with the news scheme as before. The news, entitled "Geledah Pendapa dan Kantor Dinas (The Explosive and Office Service)" begins with the title and is followed by a lead presentation as follows.

- (6) *Kasus Suap Pengisian Jabatan di Pemkab Kudus (Geledah Pendapa dan Kantor Dinas, Jawa Pos, 29 Juli 2019)*

(Case of Bribery for Filling in Positions in Kudus Regency Government) (Investigating Pendopo and Service Offices, Jawa Pos, 29 July 2019)

Viewed schematically, the presentation of the news shows the use of investigative news patterns. This can be seen by the development of the results of investigations and detailed research accompanied by leads first. After presenting the lead, the reporter chooses to elaborate each section on the results of the investigation he has conducted to clarify the information to the reader.

The news scheme in Kompas newspaper also uses the same scheme, namely the title, lead, and core of the news, as observed in the news of the disclosure of bribery cases related to filling positions in Kudus. In reporting the case, the news was constructed under the title "*KPK Ungkap Suap Jabatan* (KPK Reveals Position Bribery)", by making use of the unique vocabulary of journalism so that the headline looks short, concise and informative. From the headline, the reporter presents the lead at the

beginning of the paragraph, as in the following section.

- (7) *KPK menangkap Bupati Kudus, Jawa Tengah, M Tamzil atas dugaan suap pengisian jabatan. Tamzil merupakan bekas terpidana korupsi yang memenangi pemilihan bupati tahun 2018 (KPK Ungkap Suap Jabatan, Kompas, 27 Juli 2019).*

(KPK arrested the Regent of Kudus, Central Java, M. Tamzil for alleged bribery in filling positions. Tamzil is a former corruption convict who won the 2018 regent election) (KPK Reveals Bribery Position, Kompas, 27 July 2019).

From this piece of text, the public can immediately conclude and understand what and who is being informed. This type of news uses subjects or actors as the main topic. After the lead, the news anchor is immediately treated to the main event or core news about the chronology and examination of the Holy Regent by the KPK with the insertion of a large size photo. Schematically, the news shows general coverage of corruption cases by M. Tamzil. Thus, the news has a detailed scheme and gives rise to strong explanatory data, for example, the speech of a figure related to the case.

## Discussion

The problem of corruption in Indonesia is always interesting to study. The news has always been the headline of various media, both print and television. In Indonesia, corruption is often inseparable with political problems. Even according to Azra (2002: 31), corruption and politics in Indonesia are often referred to as corruption in one breath as KKN or Corruption, Collusion, Nepotism. Corruption has been referring to various "illicit or illegal activities" to get personal or group benefits. This definition then developed so that the notion of corruption emphasizes "abuse of power or public position for personal gain".

Philip (in Azra 2002:31) identified three broad notions that are most often used in various discussions on corruption. First, corruption centred on public offices (public office centred corruption). Philip defines corruption as the behaviour and actions of public officials who deviate from formal public duties. The goal is to get personal benefits or certain people who are closely

related to him like family, relatives and friends. Second, corruption is centred on its impact on the public interest (public interest-centred). In this framework, corruption has occurred when the holder of power or functionaries in the public position, perform certain actions from people in return (whether money or other material). As a result, these actions damage his position and public interest. Third, market-centred corruption which is based on corruption analysis uses public and social choice theory and an economic approach in the framework of political analysis.

In this sense, individuals or groups use corruption as an extra-legal "institution" to influence bureaucratic policies and actions. Only individuals and groups involved in the decision-making process are more likely to commit corruption than other parties. Within this framework, corruption also means the abuse of power by an employee or government official to obtain additional income from the public.

This is in line with the research findings of Zakiyah, et al (2018:163) which states that there is no difference in perceptions of corruption based on the educational background of respondents. The striking gradation of score differences based on the educational background is caused by students and lecturers from the Faculty of Law who understand that in the corridor of law, everyone is considered to know the law. This is known in Legal Fiction Theory which assumes that after legal norms are enforced, everyone is considered to know the law.

In reporting corruption cases in Suara Merdeka, Republika, Kompas, and Jawa Pos newspapers, journalists constructed the news case by focusing on the general news theme. In a report by Suara Merdeka about the Transference of corruption inmates entitled "*Napi Korupsi Dipindah ke Nusakambangan* (Corruption Inmates Moved to Nusakambangan)" (data 1), it appears that journalists are trying to show in detail about the polemic of the transfer of prisoners of corruption.

The effort was shown by journalists by inserting the opinion of legal figures to reinforce the statements that preceded it. The reporter was seen trying to herd public opinion through the description of Wiranto's opinion. Furthermore, Wiranto's statement that the government wants the law to be enforced straightforwardly and indiscriminately seems to reaffirm the govern-

ment's commitment and gain public trust in the field of law.

In contrast to the news from Suara Merdeka, Republika journalists constructed the same news under the title "Yasonna Tolak Pindahkan Napi Koruptor (Yasonna Refuses to Move Corruptor Prisoners)". From this news reporter, the reporters were straightforward in expressing opinions that contradicted Wiranto's statement on the news in Suara Merdeka as in the data excerpt (2).

In the news data excerpt (2), the reporter expressly shows that Yasonna Laolly's opinion is different from the opinion of the wider community. There are several statements regarding the news of the past. In addition to providing information about the results of the research, the journalist also explained that the chronology was used to inform and invite the reading community to witness the results of the trial that were reported as well.

The corruption news fragment of data (3), the news is more focused so it shows the subtle nature of journalists or media. In line with the news from *Kompas* entitled "Yasonna Tolak Pindahkan Napi Koruptor (Yasonna Refuses to Transfer the Corruptor Prisoner)", journalists focused more on the figure Dahlan Iskan as a suspect and the party fully responsible in this case. This can be seen from the way the news was submitted which made Dahlan the subject of the news without the inclusion of other parties who were also responsible for the disclosure of his statement.

In relation to the focus of the study, which is about the news of corruption, the main theme in this study is the report of corruption cases in Indonesia in 2019. The numerous reports of these corruption cases are motivated by the results of research by ICW regarding the increase in corruption cases in the first half of 2019. Then the legalization of Presidential Regulation or Perpres No. 87 Year 2016 concerning the Clean Sweeping Task Force on Illegal Levies by President Joko Widodo in October 2016 also influenced the increasing coverage of corruption cases in June and July 2019. Additionally, the existence of political figures entangled in the case corruption also makes it even more interesting to report, for example, news about corruption cases that ensnared Setya Novanto, M. Tamzil, Taufik Kurniawan, and others.

Meanwhile, in the superstructure dimension in this study, the structure of discourse is analyzed in relation to the scheme or framework of a text and how the parts of the text are arranged into a complete story. The superstructure arranges topics by arranging sentences or news elements in the desired order. For example, news headlines are at the top and are usually printed thicker in certain sizes and types of letters and even in certain colours. From news headlines, the public will easily find out the topic (most important) discussed in the news. Despite having various schemes, van Dijk (1988: 52) formulates a number of categories of news schemes that construct a story, namely (1) summary, which is marked by two elements namely title and lead, and (2) story, which is the overall news content of introduction to the end.

The news scheme compiled by *Suara Merdeka* media was made in such a way that the style of news writing was straight news. The scheme used is sorted according to the events that occurred, namely the corruption case. The news scheme in the corruption news report was constructed under the title "*Yasonna Khawatir Napi Koruptor Pesta Pora di Nusakambangan* (Yasonna is Worried, Corruptor Prisoner Have Parties in Nusakambangan)", consisting of the headline, and then followed by the core of the news about the concern. In the news, journalists do not raise leads that are usually used by readers to find the core of the news they read. The use of leads in the construction of news in *Suara Merdeka* only appears in big headline news.

While in *Republika*, journalists more often construct their coverage in a long and detailed way. Basically, the news scheme used by *Republika* journalists is almost the same as news in general, namely the existence of titles, leads, and news content. However, the construction of news in *Republika* is always followed by leads

after the title; both headline news and regular news. All the news is always constructed by placing leads at the beginning of the news describing the removal of corruption prisoners.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, the main theme in this study is reporting Indonesia's corruption cases in 2019. In reporting corruption cases in the newspaper, *Suara Merdeka*, *Republika*, and *Kompas* discussed related news that focuses on the general news theme. In reporting, *Suara Merdeka*'s reporters ask questions about the polemic about the movement of the prisoner of corruption. This effort was published by inserting people's opinions to reinforce the opinions that preceded it. Meanwhile, *Republika* constructs news that contains opinions that oppose the news statement in *Suara Merdeka*. In line with this matter, *Kompas* focuses more on the subject matter as a suspect and the party who are fully responsible in this case. This can be seen from the way the news is conveyed in which the character becomes the subject of the news without mentioning other parties who are also responsible for revealing their statements.

Meanwhile, in the superstructure dimension, the topics are discussed by arranging sentences or news elements in the desired order. News headlines are placed at the top and are usually printed thicker in certain sizes and types of letters and even in certain colors. From news headlines, the public will easily find out the topic (most important) discussed in the news. Despite having a variety of schemes, a number of categories of news schemes that build a news story are summary marked with elements of title, lead, and story which is the overall news content from introduction to the end.

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