

## **Framing Analysis of News Article about Clashes between Police and Terrorist Prisoners in Indonesia Publishing by ABC.net.au and SBS.com**

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***Abstract:** In 10 May 2018, six policemen had been killed in clashes between Indonesian police and prisoners in the jail in the Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob) headquarters in Depok, West Java. It was located in outskirts of Jakarta. The incident had attracted people's attention from all around the world. One of the reasons was because it taken place in the headquarters of the police. It can be said as a dramatic tragedy. Another reason that it magnetized public's awareness was because it involved so call terrorist prisoners. Two of online media that distributed news article about it in Australia were ABC and SBS new sites. Both of them are independent media and have difference focus of publication in their media. The aim of this paper is to explore how the two media, ABC and SBS new sites, frame the event in their publication. It is interesting to observe how the media in Australia which has special attention to the issues of Indonesia published the news article related to a hot topic in Indonesia*

***Keywords:** framing analysis, terrorist, prisoners, ABC News, SBS.com*

***Abstrak.** Pada 10 Mei 2018, enam polisi dibunuh dalam pertikaian antara polisi Indonesia dengan tahanan di penjara kantor pusat Brimob Kelapadua Depok, Jawa Barat. Depok berlokasi di pinggiran kota ibukota Jakarta. Peristiwa tersebut mengundang perhatian banyak orang di seluruh dunia. Salah satu alasannya adalah, karena insiden itu terjadi di kantor pusat polisi elit Indonesia. Karena itu, bisa dikatakan, hal tersebut merupakan suatu tragedi yang dramatis. Alasan lain yang menyebabkan peristiwa ini menarik perhatian orang adalah karena peristiwa tersebut melibatkan tahanan teroris. Dua media online Australia yang memberitakan peristiwa ini adalah situs ABC dan SBS. Keduanya adalah media independen dan mempunyai fokus publikasi yang berbeda. Artikel ini bermaksud mengeksplorasi cara kedua media tersebut, memframing peristiwa tersebut dalam pemberitaan mereka. Menarik untuk mencermati cara media di Australia yang mempunyai perhatian khusus terhadap isu-isu tentang Indonesia, memberitakan kejadian yang menjadi topik hangat di Indonesia.*

***Kata Kunci :** analisis framing, teroris, tahanan, ABC News, SBS.com*

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia and Australia has a long relationship since they have a lot of cooperation in many sectors. Therefore, whatever that happens in Indonesia will attract Australia's attention including the issue of bomb and terrorism. In fact, more than a decade ago, in the Bali bombing, several Australian became victims of the tragedy. Since that time, Australia keep on watching Indonesia tightly especially in the issue that relevant to it.

In 10 May 2018, six policemen had been killed in clashes between Indonesian police and prisoners in the jail in the Mobile Prolice Brigade (Brimob) headquarters in Depok, West Java. It located in outskirts of Jakarta. The incident had attracted people's attention from all around the world. One of the reasons is because it taken place in the headquarters of the police. It can be said as a dramatic tragedy. Another reason that it magnetized public's awareness was because it involved so call terrorist prisoners.

National media in Indonesia published the event as a headline in their media. Media in Australia also pays special notice to the incident. Two of media that distributed news article about it were ABC and SBS new sites. They are the media that owned by the Australian government. Both of them are independent media and have difference focus of publication in their media.

These two media give special attention to everything related to Australian daily lives. The coverage of them that almost reach all part of Australia land make them a very important media in the country. In addition, they also have special program about Indonesia. They have special space about Indonesia to be published. For instant, ABC has Indonesian programs both in radio and the website while SBS broadcasts Indonesian movies in their television.

In addition the number of Indonesian that stays in Australia has a trend to increase. Indonesian who live in the island country are divided into three big groups namely Permanent Residences, workers and students. The workers and students from Indonesia are usually living in Australia with their family. According to the data from "The People of Australia", the amount of Indonesians who stay in Australia has increased 24 per cent in 2011 compared to 2006. At the moment, Indonesians who stay in Australia is 63,159 people while in 2006 the number was 50,000 people (*Kompas.com*, 24/7/2014). In addition, the number of Indonesian students who studied in Australia was 9,300 people in 2016 or has enlarged 7.9 per cent compared to 2014 (*pikiran-rakyat.com*, 12/01/2017).

The aim of this paper is to explore how the two media, ABC and SBS new sites, frame the event in their publication. It is interesting to observe how the media in Australia which has special attention to the issues of Indonesia published the news article related to a hot topic in Indonesia.

## THE INCIDENT

The incident in the Brimob headquarters happened in Tuesday, 8 May 2018. It killed six people, five people were policemen and the other were prisoners. The authority of police department said in the press conference that it was caused by the food for the prisoners that has been detained by officers. It triggered the anger of inmates. The policemen need almost 38 hours to secure the situation.

According to Tirta.id, terrorist prisoners rejected the information from the police. One of the prisoners said that the incident was an accumulation from many problems. The food that was detained by the prison warden was only one of the problems. Including the problems was a very strict checking system and inhumane treatment to the

visitors (wives of the prisoners and relatives of prisoners) before they meet the inmates (Tirto.id, 11 May 2018).

Other than the information mentioned above, not much other information the media can get regarding the incident. However, pictures of the victims who killed in the confrontation spread out in the social media. There is no clear information about which party that is responsible for the distribution of the photographs which to some extent caused horror among the people.

## METHOD

This paper implements a descriptive methodology using a framing analysis approach. According to Eriyanto (2002) dan Sobur (2001), framing analysis is used to examine how the way or the ideologies of media when constructing facts. In other words, framing is an approach to explore how a perspective or angle are used by journalists when selecting issues and writing news. Therefore, the news becomes manipulative since it aims to dominate the existence of the subject as something that is legitimate, objective, natural, natural, and inevitable.

Pan and Kosicki (1993) said that framing analysis is an approach in analyzing news discourse especially dealing with creation and bargain of the public discourse related to public policy issues. According to Eriyanto (2002), framing is an approach to see how the reality is shaped and constructed by the media. It is a way to help audience in understanding and remembering a certain aspect that is prominently served by the media (Eriyanto, 2002). While D'Angelo & Kuypers (2010) in Linström and Marais (2012) said that framing has been described as a concept, an approach, a theory, a class of media effects, a perspective, an analytical technique, a paradigm, and a multiparadigmatic research programme.

“Framing is an approach to know how the perspective that is used by the journalists when selecting issues and writing news articles. This perspective determines what facts are taken, which part is highlighted or removed, and where this news article will be taken” (Eriyanto, 2002, p. 68). Therefore, according to Pan and Kosicki (), framing analysis give a close awareness to the systemic study of political language . “Framing ought to sensitize researchers to examine political language as used at various stages of the political communication process : statement from policymakers, media content, and representation in audiences’ mind as well as the operation of the political system” (Pan dan Kosicki,1993 p. 70).

Frame analysis serves four main purposes within the context of media research, namely to define problems, to diagnose a course, to make value judgments, and to suggest remedies (Entman, 1993 in Linström and Marais (2012)). In addition, Pan and Kosicki (1993) explained that framing is scrutinized as consigning information in a distinctive framework with the intention that certain aspects of the issue obtain a bigger portion of an individual’s cognitive resources. As a result, certain factors turn out to be imperative in persuading people’s perception or conclusion (Kahneman & Tversky, 1984 in Pan and Kosicki, 1993).

In the idea of Pan and Kosicki (1993), framing devices in news discourse can be categorized into four types which symbolizing four structural dimensions of news discourse. They are syntactical structure, script structure, thematic structure and rhetorical structure.

Firstly, syntactical structures. According to Pan dan Kosicki (1993), it refers constant outlines of arrangement of words or phrases into sentences which influence by inverted pyramid structure. In the idea of Craig (2005),

inverted pyramid structure is the best way to organize the facts and information from the event since it started from the most imperative information to the least necessary. In accordance with Eriyanto (2005, p.102), news is the final result from the complex process by selecting and determining the event and certain themes in one specific category.

Inverted pyramid is a type of writing news article that started by a resume of the event or it initiating a pinnacle of the story while the next paragraphs are explanation of the peak (Kusumaningrat and Kusumaningrat, 2012). The two most important parts of news article are headline and lead. Pan and Kosicki (1993) suggest that headline is the most "powerful framing device of the syntactical structure" and lead is the second one. "A good lead will give a story newsworthy angle, suggesting a particular perspective to view the event reported" (Pan and Kosicki, 1993, p.60).

The second is script structure that refers "to an established and stable sequence of activities and components of an event that have been internalized as a structured mental representation of the event" (Pan and Kosicki, 1993, p. 60). According to Eriyanto (2005), a script structure related to how a journalist telling an event in the news article. In addition, Eriyanto (2005) said that script structure looks at a telling strategy that is used by the journalist in packaging an occasion into a news article.

The third is thematic structure which in the idea of Eriyanto (2005) it related to how a journalist explain the event in the aspect of preposition, sentence or connection inter-sentence that creating text as a whole. Pan and Kosicki (1993) suggest that thematic structure associated to a summary and a main body. "The main body is where evidence supporting a hypothesis is introduced that contains episodes, background information, and

quotes" (Pan and Kosicki, 1993, p. 61). Therefore, Pan and Kosicki (1993) believe that thematic structure is an essential point that bond many subthemes in the news article.

The last is rhetorical structure describes the "stylistic choices made by journalists in relation to their intended effects" (Pan and Kosicki, 1993 p. 61). In several news article, rhetorical structure is influence by the newsmaker or resources but in others, a journalist in purpose raise the attention of the readers to the news article by focusing on the certain spot of the event (Pan and Kosicki, 1993).

## RESULT

This paper is compare two news articles from two different new sites, ABC news and SBS.com which both of them publish in Australia. The title of the news article from ABC is *Six Killed in Clashes between Police and Islamist at Indonesia Jail*. According to the syntactical structural, the news is focused on the number of victims, the clash between police and Islamist in the jail. The place of the incident is important since it happened in the jail. It also focused on the rival of the police which is Islamist a tendentious word that connecting the actor with a religion, Islam.

The lead of this news article is strengthening the title by adding the place which is explained as the high-security jail on the outskirts of the capital of Jakarta. It gives details about the jail which located in Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob) headquarters in Depok, West Java. It houses high-terrorism convicts and Jakarta's former governor, Ahok. Looking at the resources of the news, it quoted from national police spokesman, M. Iqbal. He is the representative of the authority who can give the formal statement regarding the incident. It also quoted reports from two sites to support the information about the event, namely,

Detik.com – a reputable news sites in Indonesia, and Amaq news agency that related to the Islamic State (IS). It is imperative to mention IS since the organization is said that it became a part of the action.

Regarding the script structure, Eriyanto (2005) said that script is a strategy of the journalist in constructing news. In this news article, it started with an explanation of the victims and the place of the incident. This script shows that ABC news want to remind the readers that this confrontation is occurred in the place that should be safe. The flow of the story then continued by enlightening who was killed in the incident, and how the situation when the news article was published. Since it is a news article that was published on the online media, it can be understood that the explanation was about current situation. We can see from the statement of M. Iqbal who saying that, “We are securing the situation, containing inmates so this doesn’t spread. We are still negotiating so that we don’t have to go to the last resort.”

The information about what is the background of the incident was not clear in the news article. It started the story about six sufferers who was killed. At the beginning it did not mention noticeably who are the victims. In the fourth paragraphs, the readers will find that all the victims were policemen. Furthermore, there was no information about the exact time, when was the incident occurred. As a result, the readers cannot imagine the real situation. However, the authority denied the relationship between the attack and the IS. He also said that it had not been planned.

The news article more focuses on the current situation – when the article was published. It can be seen in the paragraph 12 which also the end of the story about the incident. The next four paragraphs are the background information related to

bombing action in which happened two weeks before and in January 2016.

In this news article, there were two parties who involved in the incident, police and prisoner. However, the article did not provide quotes from the second party. The resources of the article came from the police. Therefore, it quotes from IS news agency. The name of “Islamist” to describe a group of prisoners who clashed with the police is referred to a group of inmates who related to the bombing action. They usually identify themselves with the symbol of Islam such as beard, or robe. Even though they did something wrong and break the rule of Islam but they called as “Islamist” suggested by their outer shell.

On the subject of the theme, there are 16 paragraphs. Every paragraph includes one sentence to three sentences. Mostly, the paragraphs focus on the victims, incident and parties that is claimed that they responsible to the occurrence. The article combines statements from the authority and the news sites. The story, as a whole, focused on the victims even though it also said several things about Islamist group. The coherence in the news article is consistence by showing the chronology of the incidents. The chronology, however, was incomplete since it did not tell the readers when the incident exactly happened. It mentions about the motive of the incident which according to the national police spokesman was triggered by the prisoners who objected to authorities in checking the food that be brought for them.

The news frames the incident as criminal news independently which does not connect to other events or parties. Moreover, the resource of the news that is the authority was not interviewed in detail. It can be seen that there was several ‘blank points’ in the story.

The title of news article from SBS.com is *Islamic Militants Claim Deadly*

*Indonesian Prison Riot.* The lead of the article is about the officers who have been killed in a riot at a police detention centre. The title accentuates Islamic militants that claim deadly Indonesian prison riot. It means that the journalist targets the Islamic militants and riot. The lead of the news points the officers who have been killed in a police detention centre. It contradicts the facts that show that police officer killed in their own office which also elite detention centre. The next sentences in the story mention about Islamic militants and the number of the victims from both parties who involved in the incident.

The article based on its resources firstly from Amaq news agency – a group of Islamic State (IS) grup's news agency. It is because the site is the only “voice” from the fighters. This quote is used to support its goal to focus on the Islamic militants. The third paragraph mentioned about three Islamic militants who were arrested by the police because they planned to attack headquarters and other police stations in Jakarta. On the other hand, the authority was quoted in paragraph 7. The national police spokesman, M. Iqbal, said about several people from both parties were injured but he did not give an exact figure.

Regarding the script of the article, it can be seen that the story started by telling the victim of the incident and the place where it occurred. While the cause of the confrontation is given in paragraph four and nine, in paragraph five and six talk about how it happened in detail. The article focuses on the perpetrator and chronology of it. There is no detail information from authority regarding the riot. The police spokesman, according to sbs.com, only said that the riot was generated by a trivial thing which about food from families.

In regards to the theme, since the beginning, the article wants to point up the

perpetrator which be connected to Islam. The journalist was using hard words to explain the chronology, the resources and the situation when it happened. The story strung together into a thriller story to strengthen the message of the media. It also attached the incident with Islamic State (IS) without confirmation from the police. The journalist describes about Indonesia as the most populous Muslim country and the action of Islamic militants in the country. It also reminds the reader about a bombing action that killed 88 Australians in 2002. The story of the incident strung together with explanatory coherence. Different facts are combined to create a new perspective about the incident.

Related to the rhetoric structure the article quotes from a website since it was believed as an important part of the story. It focuses on the actor of the story not the explanation and confirmation from the police. The word that are used in the text tend to negative, for instance word “riot”, “the fighters” and “counterterrorism squad”.

## DISCUSSION

Comparing the two news articles from abc.net.au and sbs.com above, it can be said that each of the articles highlights a different angle. One thing that should be counted is the medium where the two news articles are published which is on the online media. According to Craig (2005), the way journalist write a news article for online media, such as abc.net.au and sbs.com, is different from print media. The lead of news article on the online media is lighter than the conventional media as well as getting to the subject quickly than to the previous media (Craig, 20005).

In addition, Craig (2005) suggests that the online media has a similar target in writing news article as other medium. Yet, “in the online world writers must be even more concise and clever to engage

readers and make them forget about surfing somewhere for a while” (Craig, 2005, p. 110). Therefore both of abc.net.au and sbs.com published its news article with the title that tried to hold their readers.

It can be seen that the news article from abc.com.au is more neutral in the theme than the news article from sbs.com. From the title, it can be seen that abc.com.au focuses on the victims who were killed while the article from sbs.com is more interested in the doer of the incident that was a group that is called “Islamic militants”. The term of “Islamic militants” is not used only by the sbs.com since abc.net.au also used the word “Islamists” to explain about the rival of the police in the incident. It based on the facts that they are the terrorist convicts according to the court decision.

The word “Islamist” or “Islamic militant” have negative meaning for the readers. In the media, it usually is connected to a perpetrator who is also a Muslim. However, it can be understood since both of the media has a head office in Australia. In Australia and other western countries, Islam is looked as others which mean it is not part of their society. On the other hand, the angle of the media in publishing news article will consider the readers. In this case, by assuming that the readers are Australians, the angle of the news article will send the perspective from them.

The lead of each article supports its title. There is no contradiction between title and first paragraph. It means that each media consciously choose the position that distribute to the readers. They segmented their publication in accordance with their audience’s interest.

The selection about an angle of the news article, then, influences on the story as a whole. For instance, abc.net.au prefers to focus on the victims from the police while sbs.com is more interested in

subjects that involved in the incident. As a result, the resources that is quoted by abc.net.au is different from the resources that is used by sbs.com. Both of them quoted the national police spokesman, M. Iqbal, but they are sending different messages in the publication. In the news article that is created by abc.net.au, the police spokesman talks about the victims, securing the situation and denying that the attack related to IS. While in the sbs.com, the police spokesman speaks about the victims and the motive of the action. It can be seen that the second media is more interested in the conflict action and the subject of the incident which associated with Islam.

## CONCLUSION

Frame of the news articles can be seen from many angles. In this paper, it can be observed that the media will distribute messages in their publication based on the audience they target. In addition, the type of medium also influences the way the media delivering their news articles to the readers. In this case, both abc.com.au and sbs.com are online media, and then they reported the event in the-current-situation’s report. It also influences the way they convey the messages, word choices and a plot of the story.

Since abc.net.au is a media that directly owned by the government of Australia, it can be understood that their news articles are more neutral in many publications including in this issue. While sbs.com even though it also owned by the Australian government but it targeted different audiences which makes it more open in delivering its opinion about everything. In this case, sbs.com is more freely in sending their views as it part of their strategy in keeping their audience. The implication of choice can be seen in their publication, from the title, lead, resource and how they contrive the story in order to reassure their readers that the

story is true and can be trusted.

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