

Discourse on News of the Changes in PCR and Antigen Policies as Travel Requirements in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Covid-19 which occurred in 2020 became a health problem that happens 18 years ago in China, in regards to the case of acute respiratory syndrome or SARS. News as an actual source of information has become a benchmark for society in seeking information about Covid-19. In this study, the researchers aim to conduct critical discourse analysis on the news portal tribunnews.com in reporting on changes in PCR test and Antigen policies as travel requirements in Indonesia, published on March 2022. The method used in this study is critical discourse analysis from Teun Van Dijk, through three elements of discourse which are: macro structure, superstructure, and microstructure. The researchers divide this report into three phases; the initial phase, the middle phase, and the final phase which the result shows a picture of the situation starting from confusion and criticality, rejection of the policy, and the phase of acceptance of the new policy. This also has an influence on several sectors, such as education and economy.

Keywords: Covid-19, Discourse Analysis, Tribunnews

INTRODUCTION

Since the emergence of the Covid-19 virus in December 2019, this pandemic has become a hot topic in 2020. Pandemic cases have greatly affected the circle of life in the world. This is similar to what happened 18 years ago in China, regarding a case of a severe acute respiratory syndrome, called SARS [16].

With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic case, both international and local media often discuss and disseminate information about Covid-19. Reporting on situations like this does have more value and also the influence on society increases. One of the functions of news is to provide accurate and realtime education and information. According to [1] that every report in the mass media is a medium for disseminating information to the readers, information needed by the mass media audience concerned with their interests, because society as social beings always needs information delivered directly.

The information that the public needs from the media includes education and correction. Providing information needs is part of one of the functions of the press, namely information, education, correction, recreation, and also mediation. It is similar to the statement conveyed by [21] that is in carrying out the five functions of the press, news becomes a place to gather as much information as possible in real time. Especially in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic which first appeared in Indonesia since March 2nd 2020.

The presence of internet media is part of technological development along with technological developments that can be utilized; these various technologies are increasingly becoming more and more convergent, cited in Warapsari (2020) in [13]. According to experts, convergence means coming together of two or more things. On the other hand, states that convergence according to Jenkins is an ongoing process that should not be seen as a move away from old media, but as an interaction between different forms of media and platform [20].

However in this case, health workers also have an important role in educating the public, health education systems or health promotion can be carried out using conventional media, namely face to face, through broadcasts on television, radio, print media, and so on. Furthermore, counseling regarding to the health is carried out in a non-conventional way by using virtual media (cyberspace). By using the cyberspace method, it is considered suitable because it applies the concept of the industrial revolution of communication and technology 4.0 and one of them can minimize the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus [22].

The media in Indonesia focus on sensation in reporting on disasters by presenting victims related to a phenomenon such as women, children, and the elderly. On the other hand, the media is currently expanding its relationship with the interests of new media which are consistent in discussing on a technological basis [15]. As it is seen from a constructivist point of view, the media, news, and journalists are attached to the facts, and also the reality which is a construction product that contains results from the journalist's point of view. Journalists are agents of reality construction because choices, biases, and ethics influence the drafting of news [6].

On the other hand, it has no definite understanding of the social effects of discourse that is possible without a deeper look at what journalists write or say. Discourse analysis comes as a socialization between the focus on one text and the focus on what is called the "order of discourse" or the sequence of discourse. Discourse analysis focuses on continuity and changes at a more abstract, structured, level, as well as how the text is similar to that presented by [7].

There are several things that affect the content of the original news context, one of which is pack journalism. Pack journalism can affect the content and context of the news that was originally created. It also influences how public opinion digests the news. In journalistic principles, according to [11] news needs to be balanced and objective, but in reality this is not the case. The existing reality cannot be just simply change into the media, since media reality is a product of interaction between journalists and facts.

On March, 7th 2022, news emerged regarding to the changes of PCR and Antigen policies as travel requirements for travelers using domestic public transportation modes. The Ministry of Transportation as the transport regulator, and also Epidemiologist Dicky Budiman responds to

the government's policy of abolishing antigen tests as well as PCR. Carrying out PCR and Antigen test is likened to an 'eye' for the virus, because without these adequate tests, we cannot know which way the virus is moving. In response, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Transportation, Adita Irawati, states that information regarding the deletion emerged because of the results of the Limited Meeting which was held on March 7, 2022. The Ministry of Transportation will make adjustment after the Covid-19 Handling Task Force (Covid-19 task force) made several revisions to the provisions which later will be disseminated to the public [17].

The current regulations still refer to Task Force Circular Letter (CL) No. 22 of 2021, which contains Provisions for Domestic Travel during the 2019 Corona Virus Disease Pandemic. Meanwhile, *Luhut B. Panjaitan* as the Coordinator of the Restriction Enforcement on Community Activities of Java-Bali (known as *PPKM* in Indonesia) states that domestic travelers who are use land, sea or air transportation, for those who already vaccinated at least twice and including complete vaccine no longer necessary to show the results of the Antigen or PCR tests. The policy submitted is in the framework of normal activities and later there will be a Circular Letter issued by the Ministry and also Related Institutions in the near future [17].

Researchers analyze the online news portal of *tribunnews.com* which is one of the most accessed news portal sites according to Alexa which managed by *Indopersada Primamedia LLC* that is also a subsidiary of *Kompas Gramedia*, is to be able to manage all newspapers in the area owned by Kompas Gramedia. It was considered inappropriate to choose the issue of the changing PCR and Antigen policies for travellers because it was still recorded by the Covid-19 Task Force which there was an increase of 21,381 people infected with the corona virus as of March 7th 2022. So, the total number of cases in Indonesia recorded up to 5,770,106. Then there were 48,800 who were declared cured of Covid-19 cases, bringing a total of 5,171,402 people. Meanwhile, the number of people who died as of March 7th 2020 was increased by 258 to a total of 150,430 people. The number of active cases currently up to March 7th 2022 has reached 448,274 cases, a decrease of 27,677 cases. With the increasing number of the cases and the high rate of spread of Covid-19, policy changes are still not effective because a replacement tool is needed to detect the spread of the virus.

On the other hand, also states that economic activities are still fluctuating, making all economic activities unclear, even though the economy must continue to run as it should [17]. However, the government is preparing several new policies related to domestic travel requirements, sports competition activities, and trials for overseas travelers without quarantine.

Meanwhile, in the previous research conducted by [3], regarding the several periods described, there is the first period which shows calm and builds enthusiasm in dealing with the virus the second period which turns into a threat and risk, then the third displays a sense of alertness and fear because of victims, economic decline and various threats other.

Then, a study conducted by [16] shows that between September 2020 and December 2020, the New York Times discussed the emergence and causes of viruses that attacked the world. There are 66.6% readings about the Covid-19 virus.

In the early days of the emergence of Covid-19, there was an assumption that only the suppliers of medical devices and health needs would benefit. In addition, several posts uploaded through the online news portal *tribunnews.com* have created some confusion regarding the policies issued by the government [14].

As it present on the background of study, a question arises as to how *tribunnews.com* can report changes to PCR and Antigen policies as a condition for travel in Indonesia. Furthermore, this study aims to find out how *tribunnews.com* applies the three elements of critical discourse. The online media taken by *tribunnews.com* is because the portal is intense in providing information about PCR and antigens that have been removed. Then based on *similarweb.com*, *Tribunnews* is at the third level in the News & Media Publishers category.

As presented in the explanation before, the researcher sees that *tribunnews.com* has implemented the elements offered by Teun Van Dijk. Present that studying a text is based on a social context and cognition, and this is in line with Teun Van Dijk's discourse analysis model. Researchers use three elements of Van Dijk's discourse which consist of a macrostructure, namely the global meaning of a text, observed from its theme. Second, the superstructure is the framework of the text. The third microstructure is a local meaning of the text that can be observed from the choice of words, sentences, and style used [15].

Macrostructure A global meaning of a text that can be observed from the topic or theme produced by the text.
Superstructure Is the framework of a text such as parts of the text: Introduction, content, closing, and conclusion
Microstructure The local meaning of the text can be observed from the choice of words, sentences, and what style is used in writing a text.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach, according to [12], this approach emphasizes meaning and understanding, his reasoning defines certain situations, and examines more things that have to do with everyday life. This critical research paradigm is used by researchers to see a reality, study phenomena, and how interpret a finding.

The method in this study uses discourse analysis of media texts with the approach offered by Teun Van Dijk. This method was chosen because it is in line with the research objectives that the researchers conduct how PCR and Antigen policies can change amidst the high rate of spread of the virus. This method can also deepen the news text, using 3 structures from Teun Van Dijk.

In Van Dijk sees how social structure, domination, and power groups exist in society and how cognition or thoughts and awareness can also shape certain texts [6]. Van Dijk also explains

several perspectives in analyzing discourse text, individuals-groups, action-processes, context-social structures, and personal-social cognition.

The news that analyzed through Teun Van Dijk's discourse analysis is the news that was uploaded by the online news portal *tribunnews.com* from March 7th 2022 to March 30th 2022. This period election is due to the fact that March was the month that the PCR and Antigen policy changes were initiated for the first time in Indonesia. So through this research hopefully can give contribution that can provide long-term solutions for travelers in Indonesia with public transportation modes.

Total news analyzed is 50 news of the total 60 news which it has been selected beforehand based on the criteria. The reporting criteria used in selecting this sample is by selecting news titles using the keywords "PCR and Antigen" and uploaded at a vulnerable date in March 2022. In this data analysis, researchers read the title to the entire news content, and then researchers classify the news with three elements of Teun's discourse Van Dijk. Moreover, Van Dijk sees a writing in three elements, the researchers analyze the data according to the text structure of Teun Van Dijk's model, they are macrostructure (themes and topics), superstructure (sections of text, text sequence), and microstructure (semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetorical).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Reporting on Covid-19 using a microstructure on the news portal *tribunnews.com* for the period published on March 2022 shows that the resulting pattern become a confusion, in the first phase the *tribunnews.com* portal had the same news angle and explained similar information. In the second phase, there was opposition from various parties, such as epidemiologists and the parliament, because this policy is deemed as not appropriate for conditions in Indonesia. Then the third phase, namely news starts to raise information about the positive impact of removing PCR and Antigen for travellers who have been vaccinated at least twice or completely (booster). This can also be seen in the tourism sector which is starting to recover and many visitors have started.

Table 1. News Titles on the Three Phases

No.	News Date	News Title
1.	March, 7 th 2022	Domestic Travellers Do Not Need PCR And Antigen Tests If They Have Completed A Full Dose Of Vaccination
2.	March, 8 th 2022 10:27	The Rules Haven't Gone Down, Plane And Train Passengers Are Still Required To Test For Antigen And PCR
3.	March, 8 th 2022 12:48	Complete Contents Of The Circular Letter On Domestic Travel Rules: No Need For PCR-Antigen Tests If You Have Been Vaccinated 2 Times
4.	March, 8 th 2022 13:35	KAI Waits For The Latest Rules To Implement Travel Requirements No Need For PCR And Antigen
5.	March, 8 th 2022 16:28	Legitimate! Starting Today Boarding A Plane No Need For Antigen Or PCR Tests, Here Are The Complete Rules
6.	March, 9 th 2022 11:21	Many Domestic Travellers Do Not Know That Antigen/PCR Requirements Have Been Removed
7.	March, 12 th 2022 16:28	Krisdayanti's Reason For Not Agreeing To Abolish PCR And Antigen Requirements For Domestic Travel
8.	March, 14 th 2022 09:57	The Government Says New Indonesia Is In A Transition Process, Not Yet An Endemic Period
9.	March, 15 th 2022 08:17	<i>Unair</i> Epidemiologist: It's Better To Postpone The Elimination Of Covid-19 Test Requirements

From the explanations above, it can be seen that on March 7th 2022 with the title “Domestic Travellers Do Not Need PCR and Antigen Tests If They Have Completed A Full Doze Of Vaccination” contrary to March 8th 2022 “The Rules Haven't Gone Down, Plane And Train Passengers Are Still Required To Test For Antigen And PCR”, then in the news on March 8th 2022 at 12:48 it was published regarding the complete contents of the Circular Letter regarding domestic travel regulations. However, on March 15th 2022, at 08:17 the government even stated that Indonesia was still in a transitional period and had not yet entered the endemic period and it would be better if it was postponed, even though it had been ratified on March 8th 2022.

Definition of Reporting Problems Tribunnews.com March 2022 Edition

In mid-March, the mid-period of the news presented by *tribunnews* showed more on controversial matters regarding the disagreement of some parties to the policy that had just been passed. This is because it also contradicts the data on the level of spread of Covid-19 which was spread during the middle period.

In the late periode, it shows a good impact from eliminating PCR and Antigen policies for travelers, because this has had a good impact on several sectors, especially the tourism sector and also the economy. During this period, people began to compete in making second vaccines and also booster vaccines or third vaccines. This could be an opportunity for the government to distribute vaccines to the Indonesian people. This is a good stage and a good opportunity for many parties.

Even though in recent time, some have objected because the number of Covid-19 has not disappeared or decreased rapidly, on the other hand, Indonesia has not yet entered an endemic period where it is considered safe to change the latest policies.

Estimated Sources of Reporting Problems on the March 2022 Edition of the Tribunnews News Portal

The news issue on March 8th 2022 with the title "The Rules Haven't Gone Down, Plane And Train Passengers Are Still Required To Test For Antigen And PCR" is news that is still confusing, news circulating regarding policies that have been set but in fact the circular letter (SE) has not been disseminated to the public and also has not gone through mature negotiations and still needs to be reviewed. This is in contrast to the news published on March 7th 2022 with the title "New Domestic Travel Rules, PCR or Antigen Test Requirements Removed".

On March 8th 2022, an epidemiologist from Airlangga University gave a response that this policy was not wise to ratify because of a lack of preparation and also a lack of information for people who wish to travel. Even though on the other hand, March 8th 2022 is the day the policy was ratified, and the latest Circular Letter has not yet been issued.

On March 12th 2022, Krisdayanti also spoke about this policy, because she considered that the booster vaccine or third vaccine had not been evenly distributed in several regions. Also considering the low public interest in vaccines, more people choose the type of vaccine that is best for their bodies.

Emphasizing the Completion of Reporting that will be aired by Tribunnews on the Online News Portal for the March 2022 Period

The solution at this time is to bring up information and news related to the distribution of booster vaccines as well as new policies, that it is also informed about the benefits for people who have already done vaccines, whether they are free from PCR and Antigen requirements or the economy is starting to improve.

Reducing the journalism pack carried out by *tribunnews.com* in reporting on Covid-19 or even regarding the PCR and Antigen policies which were abolished by the government amid the increasing number of Covid-19 transmission in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

According to Gumpers in Coulthard (2014, p. 85) that discourse analysis focuses on discussing linguistics (similar to semiotics), used to discuss semiotic relationships. Several parts of language, oral and written, are arranged grammatically. Van Dijk explains his description of three dimensions or buildings, namely text, social cognition, and social context. The essence of this analysis is to combine the three dimensions of discourse in a unified analysis. In the dimension called text, what is examined is how the text structure and discourse strategies are used to reinforce a theme. Next is social cognition, which is studied in the process of news text production which involves individual cognition from journalists. Then, the last is to study the discourse building that develops in society.

The pattern presented in this discourse analysis contains news that is stable and develops at the end. This is following the presentation of the data that the researcher conveyed in three periods. In the early period the discourse was dominated by elements of confusion, in the middle it was dominated by opposition from various parties. Then, finally in the late period give several positive impacts.

The large number of reports that are spread similarly, causes the information that is obtained is not too wide and spread out. Then in the second period, there was opposition from several parties such as epidemiologists and also the parliament, because this policy was considered not appropriate for the situation in Indonesia which had not yet entered an endemic period. Naturally, when entering this period, new policies can be implemented. Also in the last period, namely the third period, the news began to surface information about the positive impact of eliminating PCR and Antigen for travelers who had taken the second or complete dose. Then, many tourism sectors recovered because this coincided with the MotoGP sporting event in Kuta Mandalika Lombok, NTB.

However, unfortunately, this policy was changed again when the international sport was over, travelers are still required to do a PCR or antigen test whether they have done the second vaccine or the complete vaccine (third vaccine). The news written by *tribunnews* journalists it is still very similar and still shows the writing of pack journalism even though it has implemented the three elements of Teun Van Dijk's discourse.

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