

## **Nazaruddin's Case: *the Jakarta Post* Reports on a Bribery Attempt Case**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to describe *The Jakarta Post* structure in reporting the case, to investigate how the major participants are reported in the texts, and to uncover meanings constructed from the text. The study focuses on *headline news* reporting Nazaruddin's bribery attempt case which has been published by *The Jakarta Post*. The analyses of these reports comply with the frameworks of Critical Discourse Analysis, especially Van Dijk framework, *Socio Cognitive Approach*(SCA)(2009). First, *macro propositions and news schemata* are examined, described, and interpreted on the level of macrostructure and superstructure. Then, these are followed by an examination of participants based on the representations using *microstructure* analysis. The study finds that the texts are dominated by participants' comment and there is not any *conclusion*. The study also finds that there are two major participants in the texts, namely, Nazaruddin and Mahfud; Nazaruddin is represented negatively, while Mahfud is represented positively.

**Key Words:** *The Jakarta Post*, *discourse*, *macrostructure*, *superstructure*, *microstructure*, and *meaning*.

## INTRODUCTION

People as language users always produce texts in their daily lives. When they use the language in order to communicate something or to convey meaning to others, they have made a text. It indicates that the text represents the meaning and perspective of the people (Barry, 1995). One of the texts that carries the previous knowledge of the world is. Besides, journalists usually know much more about the news event than they write in the newspaper. In order to satisfy the editor and publisher who hire them, the journalist will select what knowledge to include, and what knowledge to exclude from their news reports (Van Dijk, 2004; Hermawan, 2007). Nowadays, there are so many publishers who produce newspapers. Those newspapers are produced in different places, situations, and angles of looking at the topics that carry a lot of information which may or may not be accurate to influence the readers' opinion and perspectives with their selected information.

For those reasons above, this study analyzes how *The Jakarta*

thousands ideas, perspectives, knowledge and ideologies is a newspaper (Van Dijk, 1998).

Newspaper always contains the knowledge (Van Dijk, 2004). The journalists need to understand news events when they want to write and report the news. In order to understand the news events, the journalists have to know what *Post*, a most-read English newspaper reports, hence, presents the news on bribery cases. The present study focuses on news involving Democratic Party Treasurer, Nazaruddin who has allegedly given some money to Constitutional Court Secretary-general Gaffar. By doing this kind of analysis, the study intends to investigate how the case was reported in terms of news structures, to describe the representation of major participants in the text, and to uncover meanings constructed from the text.

The study is largely qualitative. It investigated the phenomenon in the form of how the Nazarudin's bribery case was reported in texts in terms of news structure, how the major participants

were represented in the texts, and what meanings can be constructed from the texts. The study employs textual analysis. The selected news were critically read, and word, phrases and clauses which serve of the data were categorized. Van Dijk's Socio cognitive Approach (2009) has been used as the main frame work to analyze the data. However, descriptive quantification is also employed in this study. It is used to support the quality of descriptions and to make better understanding of the study. Besides, it is also used to increase validity and reliability of the study (Alwasilah, 2011).

The data of the study are in the form of words, phrases or clauses critically selected from five texts which are collected from *The Jakarta Post* headline news from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2011. The subject matter of the data is concerning Nazaruddin's bribery attempt case.

The collected data were analyzed by using Sociocognitive Approach proposed by Van Dijk (2009). The data were mainly categorized into three levels, namely,

*macrostructures*, *superstructures*, and *microstructures*. After being categorized, the data were classified into more specific terms, such as *macro propositions*, *propositions*, *news schemata*, participant, *communicative roles*, *occupational roles*, and positive-negative representation. Next, the classified data were examined and discussed based on its quality and quantity to gain the description and conclusion, and finally the results hopefully can answer the research questions.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

According to Van Dijk (1988; 1998; 2005), every text and talk has its own schema, news reports as one of discourse production also does. As proposed by Van Dijk (1988; 1998), on the level of superstructure, the *news schemata* are examined to gain the meaning. See the result of analysis in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**  
**Occurrences of *news schemata* in all texts**

Text	Frequency (Percent)						Total
	Introduction		Specification				
			Comment		Situation		
	Headline	Lead	Verbal Reaction	Conclusion	Episode	Background	
Text 1	1 (2.04%)	1(2.04%)	26(53.06%)	0 (0.00%)	6 (12.24%)	15 (30.61%)	49 (100%)
Text 2	1 (2.38%)	1(2.38%)	24(57.14%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (19.05%)	8 (19.05%)	42 (100%)
Text 3	1 (2.22%)	1(2.22%)	23 (51.11%)	0 (0.00%)	10(22.22%)	10 (22.22%)	45 (100%)
Text 4	1 (2.56%)	1(2.56%)	15(38.46%)	0 (0.00%)	14 (35.90%)	8 (20.51%)	39 (100%)
Text 5	1(2.94%)	1(2.94%)	16(47.06%)	0 (0.00%)	8(23.53%)	8 (23.53%)	34 (100%)

The table above shows that all texts are dominated by *verbal*. Moreover, on the average, half of every text contains *verbal reaction* and there is not any *conclusion* found in the text. In this respect, it can be understood that *The Jakarta Post* is very careful in reporting such case. It prefers to provide participants' comments or *verbal reaction* than its own comments or *conclusion*. It uses someone comments to fire back at other comments. This phenomenon also can be assumed that *The Jakarta Post* wants to be seen as objective as possible and at such conditions the readers are left to draw the conclusions themselves.

This finding also suggests that, *conclusion* is not something

important to be delivered by such a news report. In line with that, Van Dijk (1988), in his study, also finds that there are only two newspapers that have *conclusion* category from eight newspapers observed. He also states that the good newspaper is the newspaper that inserts more background, in specific *context* and *history*(1980). This study also finds that *The Jakarta Post*, in reporting Nazaruddin's bribery attempt case, provided many *backgrounds* in each news report (see

Table 1 above); *background* appears quite equal to *episode*, moreover, in Text 1, it appears more frequently than *episode*. Leaning on Van Dijk (1980), it can be assumed

that *The Jakarta Post* is a reliable newspaper to read.

On the level of microstructure, the study focuses the analysis on participants, its

communicative roles, occupational roles and its positive-negative representation. See the results in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**  
**Occurrences of major participants in all texts**

No.	Participants	Text					Total
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3	Text 4	Text 5	
1	Amir Syamsuddin				x	x	2
2	Anas Urbaningrum			x			1
3	Constitutional Court		x				1
4	Democratic Party				x		1
5	Democratic Party's Ethics Council				x		1
6	Janedjri M. Gaffar	X				x	2
7	KPK		x			x	2
8	Mahfud MD	X	x	x		x	4
9	Muhammad Nazaruddin	X	x	x	x	x	5
10	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	X		x			2

Table 2 reveals that *The Jakarta Post* puts its focuses on Nazaruddin and Mahfud in this case. *The Jakarta Post* considers that the conflict between them is worthy the attention of the readers. Because of that, the discussion will only focus to two participants, namely, Nazaruddin and Mahfud.

According to Van Dijk (2009), representation of participants in terms of Good and Bad or positive

and negative can be reflected from the local meaning or lexical choice, whether it is shown through actions or attributes, that adhere to the participant. There are many negative meanings adhered to Nazaruddin, such as “try to bribe”, “threaten to wrack havoc”, “caught up in other graft allegations”, “falsified bank guarantee documents”, etc. These lexical selections have affected his

appearances. See the results in Table 3 below.

**Table 3**  
**Representations of Nazaruddin and Mahfud in all texts**

Participants	Representation	Frequency (Percent)				
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3	Text 4	Text 5
Muhammad Nazaruddin	Positive	4(16.00%)	0 (0.00%)	3 (15.00%)	4 (12.50%)	0 (0.00%)
	Negative	18(72.00%)	14 (77.78%)	13 (65.00%)	22 (68.75%)	26 (83.87%)
	Neutral	3 (12.00%)	4 (22.22%)	4 (20.00%)	6 (18.75%)	5 (16.13%)
Mahfud MD	Positive	6 (42.86%)	6 (26.09%)	19 (51.35%)	-	6 (40.00%)
	Negative	2 (14.29%)	4 (17.39%)	8 (21.62%)	-	3 (20.00%)
	Neutral	6 (42.86%)	13 (56.52%)	10 (27.03%)	-	6 (40.00%)

The data above implicates that *The Jakarta Post* wants to convince the readers that Nazaruddin is wrong or a bad person. Nazaruddin appears negatively in all texts, while Mahfud, on the contrary, appears positively in four texts and he never

appears negatively. In addition the result of those representations also affirms the notion that that the language which is used in mass media is never neutral (Hermawan, 2007).

**Table 4**  
**Occurrences of occupational roles in all texts**

Participants	Representation	Frequency (Percent)				
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3	Text 4	Text 5
Democratic Party	Positive	14 (26.92%)	0(0.00%)	3(5.26%)	13(16.67%)	6(12.00%)
	Negative	21 (40.38%)	14(66.67%)	22(38.60%)	42(53.85%)	32(64.00%)
	Neutral	17(32.69%)	7(33.33%)	32(56.14%)	23(24.49%)	12(24.00%)
Constitutional Court	Positive	14(56.00%)	9(23.08%)	21(42.00%)		8(40.00%)
	Negative	2(8.00%)	8(20.51%)	8(16.00%)		1(5.00%)
	Neutral	9(36.00%)	22(56.41%)	21(42.00%)		11(24.00%)

Table 4 above shows that Democratic Party always appears

negatively in each text. Conversely, Constitutional Court always appears

positively in each text. It means that *The Jakarta Post* definitely wants to convey that Democratic Party is a bad political party. In addition, this may be seen that *The Jakarta Post* dislikes what the member of Democratic Party has done, and it sides with Constitutional Court.

Regarding to the results which show that Nazaruddin and Democratic Party are represented negatively, and Mahfud and Constitutional Court are represented positively, it can be inferred that representations of someone in mass media can affect the representations of an institution in which he or she works in or member in, *occupational roles*.

## CONCLUSION

The present study has analyzed five headline news of text taken from *The Jakarta Post*. This study is aimed to investigate the ways of *The Jakarta Post* report the bribery attempt case in terms of *news schemata*, to describe how the participants are reported in the text, and to uncover meanings constructed from texts. This study has applied

Van Dijk (2009) approach, Sociocognitive Approach (SCA); the data has been analyzed on the level of *macrostructures*, *superstructures*, and *microstructures*.

The study concludes that *The Jakarta Post* prefers to use people comments than its own comments. Thus, *The Jakarta Post* lets the readers draw their own conclusions. This can be understood that probably *The Jakarta Post* tries to be objective, in a sense that it does not give its opinion straightly, but it uses people comments. However, in an attempt to be seen as objective as possible, the newspaper inevitably will lean towards something or someone. In addition, that mass media like *The Jakarta Post* lets the readers draw their own conclusions could be interpreted that we as the readers have to be smart. When we consume media such as newspapers, we should not immediately believe in what has been reported, and we have to suspend our adjustment considering that the mass media are never neutral.

A newspaper, in specific *The Jakarta Post*, has full authority to

choose and select specific language to make representations. These representations can create a person's position as good or bad. This can be seen from the differences of representations between Nazaruddin and Mahfud in *The Jakarta Post*; Nazaruddin is represented negatively while Mahfud is represented positively. In this respect, it can be assumed that mass media, in specific newspapers, can reflect and distort reality (Hermawan, 2007).

Moreover, representation of someone can affect the representation of institution in which he or she works in or member in. The present study has shown that Democratic Party and Constitutional Court in which Nazaruddin and Mahfud member in are represented as same in the way as Nazaruddin and Mahfud.

As there would be many dimensions of a particular problem to study, the present study recommends that further studies analyze news reports consisting of different issues. It is beneficial to find the differences of *news schemata*, *representation of the participants*, and meanings in

each issue, for instance the political issue and disaster issue.

Hopefully, the present study will give a contribution for the readers of the newspapers to read critically. It is suggested that the readers not take for granted any information presented in media.

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