An Investigation of Agnez Mo's Controversial Statement on Online News Text

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Abstract

Along with the growth of social media, information is increasingly easy to be obtained and accessed. When receiving information, social media users tend to take information for granted without realizing false arguments. This descriptive qualitative study with critical discourse analysis design is aimed to provoke the readers of the online news to analyze the discourse redaction used by the media. Thus, they might understand the real point inside the news. This study centers on analyzing the news reduction of Liputan6.com about Agnez Mo controversial statement entitled *"Agnez Mo dan 6 Reaksinya Soal Kontroversi Tak Punya Darah Indonesia"*.Further, van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework centered on text structure like macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure was employed. The results of this study indicated that liputan6.com took a side on Agnez Mo. It can be seen from the news' redaction in which the writer attempts to attract people empathy and believe on Agnez that she is the victim on this issue.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Digital Media, Linguistics*

INTRODUCTION

In this millennial era, news and information can be accessed easily through digital media. Digital media allow people to search and find varied information simply by using a smartphone. Digital media facilitates people to get facts and news without the limitation of time and place. With this in mind, many people prefer to use digital media rather than electronic media to find news and information(Capretz & Gidion, 2017). This phenomenon triggered an evolution of printed and electronic media to digital online media. Kompas, CNN Indonesia, and Liputan6.com are some online media derived from electronic and printed ones.

Moreover, one of the online media is Liputan6.com. Liputan6.com is an online news site that presents various choices of information for its users. This site was formed in 2000 by PT Kreatif Media Karya. Liputan6.com provides various interesting topics such as political, culinary, business, sports, and lifestyle issues. Additionally, Liputan6.com is one of the most popular online news media in Indonesia. It has been stated in the IT journal that Liputan6.com

ranks as thesecond most popular with more than 1 million visiting times in a day. It seems to indicate that online media like Liputan6.com is very much in demand by the public for finding news and information (Burhan, 2017).

One of the viral news that recently bring pros and cons is a controversial statement from an Indonesian artist, Agnez Mo, who stated that she did not have Indonesian blood. AgnezMonica Muljoto, commonly known as Agnes Mo, is an Indonesian artist and singer who started her career since she was a child. Agnez Mo was born in Jakarta on the 1st July, 1986. She is a multi-talented artist with various achievements and rewards at both national and international levels.

In line with that,Agnez Mo was invited to various international media to discuss her career and promote her new single project. Additionally, she was invited by a Build Series music program and interviewed by a presenter named Kevin. Agnez's interview videowas uploaded on 22nd November, 2019. This video then became viral.Agnez Mo explained the journey of her career until she can go international and become a top artist. However, the highlight of this video was not about Agnez Mo's career. It centers on her background or nationality. It is due to Agnez was asked by the interviewer why she looked different from the other Indonesian people. Agnez replied spontaneously that she did not have Indonesian blood whatsoever. This video brings some pros and cons even theChief of Indonesia'sPresidential Staff, Moeldoko, comments on this issue. He stated that Agnez Mo's statement does not represent her nationality.

However, many people disagree with Agnez Mo's statement; they thought that Agnez should not describe her background in that way. It is due to Agnez born and grew up in Indonesia,as it has been mentioned by Hotman Paris Hutapea, a well-known lawyer in Indonesia. Knowing this issue is booming and viral, Agnez Mo clarifies her social media that it is not her main point and intention.

Moreover, mass media reported this issue massively, and it becomes viral and first trending on Youtube Indonesia. Mass media has a role as a source of information. According to Graber and Dunaway (2017), mass media is a source of information and a subject within social instruction. Mass media has its own view about an object. Mass media could create social reality by taking an event to be published to society.McCombs (2018)asserted that mass media has the power to define a piece of news and event based on their views and their

alignments. The alignments and the view of the media could be analyzed through the discourse analysis.

Furthermore, the discourse used by mass media is interesting to observe, as revealed by Rogers (2004) and Johnstone and Marcellino (2010), that discourse analysis is one way to express the subject's implicit meaning. Discourse can be analyzed in varied ways, for example, by using critical discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis is a type of discourse analytical studies that primarily examine howsocial power abuse, and dominance are enacted and resisted by text and talk in social and political context. Khasanah and Faris (2018)applied the critical discourse analysis research on Novel Baswedan news when he was harmed by unknown people posted on online media Liputan6.com. The researchers employed a qualitative descriptive study with the news text as the main data. Then, the result revealed that there are many implicit meanings within the text, such as the writer wants to build the reader's empathy that Novel Baswedan is the poor victim. On the other hand, the writer indirectly leads people's opinion that it is the national police fault. It is due to the national police cannot find the suspect.

Based on the previous study, it seems to indicate that news text can be analyzed through critical discourse analysis, and there are implicit meanings within the text. However, the previous study discussed Novel Baswedan, and it has a different context from this current study. It could be dissimilar if this critical discourse analysis were employed to analyze Agnez Mo's controversial statement. Therefore, this recent study centers on the critical discourse analysis on Agnez Mo's controversial statement posted on the Liputan6.com website with three research questions as mentioned below: (1) What is the macro-structure of Agnez Mo's controversial statement within the online news?(2)What is the superstructure of Agnez Mo's controversial statement within the online news?(3)What is the micro-structure of Agnez Mo's controversial statement within the online news?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Mass media is a means to deliver the messages from various sources to the publicity. The messages are presented through media such as TV, newspaper, film, radio, website, etc. (Baum & Potter, 2008). Mass media could help people to know updated information about the happening issue. In this era, mass media has the evolution form as well as technological development. Many people prefer to use digital media since it can be accessed easily anytime

and anywhere. It becomes one of the benefits of digital media asBuckingham (2015)asserted that digital media has no limit. As long as people have an internet connection, they could access the information anytime. The content displayed in various mass media is divided into three: news, views, and features(Golding & Murdock, 1979)**.**

Van Dijk's discourse analysis modelis the most widely used (Van Dijk, 2011; 2008)**.** This critical discourse analysis has 3 elements that discuss the text's structure and its meaning, such as macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Anggoro and Amin (2018)explain the meaning of these 3 elements. First, the macrostructure is an element that centers on the global meaning of the text that can be identified from the topic or theme raised within the text. Second, the superstructure is an element that discusses the framework of a text how the text is organized in terms of its introduction, content, and conclusion. Third, the microstructure centers on how the writer chooses the words and sentence-style used within the text. To clarify,the three structures could be analyzed within a text, for example, macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure(Huda et al., 2020; Sari et al., 2018).

Regarding this topic, some previous studies discussed critical discourse analysis as mentioned by Khasanah and Faris (2018), who examined the critical discourse analysis within the online news text about Novel Baswedan. In this regard, the study was carried out among ten online news text about Novel Baswedan posted at Liputan6.com. This study employed descriptive qualitative to describe macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure within the online news texts. It is aimed to know the implicit meaning of news reduction. Hence, it could bring a different perspective for the readers about the issues, and the writer might analyze the massage that the writer wants to deliver clearly.

In the other study,(Wahab, 2019) also identified the online news about Khalid Basalamah posted by Kumparan.com and ArrahmahNews.com. The study attempted to analyze the rejection through Khalid Basalamah propaganda at Sidoarjo. The study employed library research since the primary data were gathered through books, articles, and other written sources. Moreover, Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis is applied in terms of data analyzing. Thus, three important elementsare structure, social cognition, and social context (Afkhami, A., Abedini, S., & Mahmoodi, 2018). The result revealed differences between Kumparan.com and ArrahmahNews.com in terms of title selection in the text structure. Then, the social cognition between Kumparan.com and ArrahmahNews.com is also different. Kumparan.com applied the scheme of events; meanwhile, ArrahmahNews.com conducted the

scheme of event and person scheme. The last social context is divided into two parts: the practice of power and access, which can influence the discourse.

Different from the previous study, this study centers on the current issue about Agnes Mo having no Indonesian blood. Moreover, this recent study focuses on three parts in breaking down the discourse within the reduction published by Liputan6.com, such as microstructure, superstructure, and macrostructure.

METHOD

The writers conducted a descriptive qualitative study since this study centers on critically describing structures within online news discourse. This study applied Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework to identify the discourse within the online news text. It focused on text structure as one of the discourse units analyzed (Van Dijk, 2011; 2008). Three aspects are discussed within the text structure such as macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

Moreover, this study seats on online news text, specifically the news about controversial statements from Agnez Mo, which claim that she does not have Indonesian blood. The text was taken from online media Liputan6.com posted on 3rd December 2019 under the title " *Agnez Mo dan 6 Reaksinya Soal Kontroversi Tak Punya Darah Indonesia"*. The writers are interested in further research about this issue since this issue became viral in almost every social media due to Agnez Mo is a famous singer in Indonesia.

Furthermore, four steps were conducted in this study. First, the writers read the online news text about Agnez Mo's statement on the Liputan6.com website. Second, the writers attempted to organize the data. Third, the writers did the coding and categorizing the data. Fourth, the writers interpreted the data. These steps were adopted fromGibson (2017).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

In this part, the writers attempted to answer the research questions stated at the beginning of this paper.

1. Macrostructure

Macrostructure consists of thematic and topic which are put forward in a discourse. In this case, the text entitled *"Agnez Mo dan 6 ReaksinyaSoalKontroversiTak Punya Darah Indoesia"* consists of 28 short paragraphs. The writers classified the thematic and topics in the table below:

Discourse structure	News Quotation
Structure macro (thematic)	*Agnez Mo serta tanggapannya tentang Kontroversi Tak Punya Darah Indonesia* (Agnez Mo and her response to the Controversy of Having No Indonesian Blood)
Sub-topic	*Paragraf 1 to 7:Agnez Mo di undang dalam acara Build Series dan ditanya tentang perbedaan Agnez dengan orang Indonesia Lainnya. Sehingga munculpernyataan Agnez Mo bahwa dirinya tidak memiliki darah Indonesia dalam wawancara Build Series di New York* (Agnez Mo was invited to the Build Series event and asked about the differences between Agnez and other Indonesians. Hence, Agnez Mo's statement emerged that she did not have Indonesian blood in the Build Series interview in New York) *-Agnez Mo menyampaikan klarifikasi terhadap komentar-komentar yang bermunculan.* (Agnez Mo clarified the comments that had sprung up.)
	Paragraf 8: Agnez memberi tanggapan terhadap polemic yang beredar (Agnez responded to the current polemic)
	Paragraf 9 to 11: Agnez Mo merasa mewakili Indoensia. Dia menyatakan "Aku tumbuh besar dalam kebudayaan yang beragamInklusivitas budaya adalah apa yang kuperjuangkan" (Agnez Mo felt she represented Indonesia. Shestated, "I grew up in diverse cultures. Cultural inclusiveness is what I stand for)
	Paragraf 12 to 14: Agnez Mo merasa sedih dengan banyaknya pro kontra dengan pernyataan tersebut. Dia menyatakan (Agnez Mo was saddened by the many pros and cons of this statement. She declared)"Everyone who watches that show knows more about Indonesia, and the reason why is because I ALWAYS bring up that I'm Indonesian (citizen).
	Paragraf 15 to 18:Agnez Mo heran mengapa orang yang menyebar kutipan wawancaranya tidak menyertakan pernyataannya ini dan justru memelintirnya (Agnez Mo wondered why the person who spread the interview excerpt did not include this

	statement and twisted it instead)
	Paragraf 19 to 21: Agnez Mo merasa sudah membela negara. "Aku tidak bisa memilih darah atau DNA-ku, tapi aku akan selalu MEMBELA negaraku, (Agnez Mo feels that she has defended the country. "I can't choose my blood or DNA, but I will always defend my country)
	Paragraf 22 to 24: Agnez Mo tidakmerasadendam *Di keterangan videonya ia menyatakan, "Percayalah, aku tidak punya kemarahan atau dendam kepada kalian," tutur Agnez Mo* (Agnez Mo doesnot feel any resentment In the video caption,she states, "Trust me. I have no anger or grudge against you")
	Paragraf 25 to 28: Agnez Mo merasa tidak perlu minta maaf. (Agnez Mo felt no need to apologize.)

Referred to the data above,it can be interpreted that Liputan6.com created Agnez Mo and her response on the controversy of not having Indonesian blood as the theme of the news. At the beginning of the news, it explains the background of the controversial statement of Agnez Mo. The first paragraph explained that this issue appeared when Agnezwas invited as the Build Series program guest in New York City.Moreover, Agnez Mo's response about the issue has also become the theme in this news. Thus, Liputan6.com provides several sub-topics which are sequentially support the main idea in this news.In paragraph 8,Agnez gives a response about her controversial issue. The responses are described in paragraphs 9 to 28. All responses stated that Agnez Mo can represent the country and was very sad about the news. Furthermore, Agnez Mo also felt that she had defended the country and did not want to apologize.She did not understand why she needs to say sorry for something that she did not even do. It has been mentioned on DeddyCorbuzier's Youtube channel that "Sorry for being honest?, sorry for not having a line of descent, or sorry for promoting Indonesia culture? What do I need to apologize for?"

2. Superstructure

The writers attempted to describe how news sections and sequences have schemed within the full text in this part.

Discourse Structure	Observed Element
Superstructure	**Schematic** -it begins with the background of the news - it is followed by the controversial statements as the conflict of the news -it ends with some clarification by Agnez Mo.

Based on the superstructure analysis above, this news is presented orderly since it explains why this issue is controversial. Then, the writer adds the controversial statement by Agnez Mo. In the last part, the writer stated the sixth reaction of Agnez Mo and her clarification about the problematical issue. In this case, Agnez Mo attempts to show people that she has represented Indonesia since she always infuses Indonesian culture on her music video and song.

3. Microstructure

In this part, the writers presented the microstructure within the online news text about Agnez Mo posted by the Liputan6.com website. There are 4 elements observed in the microstructure. However, this study centers on the semantic part since this study aimed to know the explicit meaning within the news text about Agnez Mo's controversial statement. Three elements had been identified as a part of semantic such as background, detail, and meaning.

In the background, it presented how the issue appears and catch other's attention. Firstly, Agnez Mo was invited as a guest and interviewed at the Build Series event in New York. In detail, it explains that the interviewer gave Agnez Mo several questions. One of the questions is that "Why do you look different from other Indonesians?". Then Agnez replied, "Yeah, I am German, Japanese, Chinese, and I was only born in Indonesia". This expression then reaps the pros and cons. Thus,Agnez gives clarification and responses in various social media. 6 Agnez reactions are explained in this news.First, Agnez feels like she has represented Indonesia because she has stated that Indonesia has a diverse culture. Second, Agnez felt sad because she had promoted Indonesian culture in each of her works, but the public did not appreciate that. Third, Agnez was surprised by the people who cut and edited the video and tried to manipulate the meaning of her words, while in the previous sections,she had talked about Indonesian culture. Fourth, Agnez Mo felt she had defended the country by stating, " I cannot choose my blood or my DNA, but I always STAND for my country, I

ALWAYS HAVE, and NOBODY could take that away from me". Fifth, Agnez does not feel revenge. Even though she was disappointed, she was not angry and resentful towards the people who bullied her. Sixth, Agnez felt she did not need to apologize and thought she had been telling the truth and did not know what to apologize for.

The last part is meaning. Based on Agnez Mo's news published by Liputan6.com, it seems to indicate that Liputan6.com has a pro perspective about AgnezMo. It can be seen through the sentences used, like subjective identification that appear in the news redaction. The redaction seems to have the power to make the reader feel sorry for Agnez. It also tries to state that Agnez is innocent.It is due to the writer hides the redaction about the controversial statement of Agnez Mo. Moreover, the writer did not state the word "I don't have Indonesian blood whatsoever," which is mentioned by Agnez as stated on detik.com (2019). Moreover, the negative side of the citizen who has the hate comments for Agnez Mo displayed in this news. It seems to indicate that Liputan6.com take a side on Agnez Mo and attempt to defend Agnez by her clarification and hiding her controversial words.

DISCUSSION

This study revealed that the direction about Agnez Mo on the news was positive and aimed to support Agnez Mo. In other words, Liputan6.com, as the online news media pro and takes a side on Agnez Mo in this issue.The previous statement supports it byAbdullah (2014) and Singh and Pandey (2017),who asserted that media convey personal views and alignment about an issue, and it can be analyzed both written and spoken discourse. Critical discourse analysis is one of the alternative ways for breaking down a discourse. In light of the study conducted byWahab (2019), it has some similarities with this recent study in terms of the design and object of the study.Wahab (2019) conducted the critical discourse analysis study on the online news text about Khalid Basalamah rejection at Sidoarjo and that media also has pro argument for Khalid Basalamah.

This study's result is divided into three main parts: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. First, in the macrostructure, it indicated that this text's theme is about Agnez Mo's reaction to her statement that triggers pros and cons. Agnez's clarification supports it in various social media. Second, in superstructure, it indicated that the text begins with the issue's background or story. The main topic is Agnez's statement, and it ends with Agnez Mo's reaction and clarification. Third, the microstructure indicated that the writer attempts to create people's empathy and belief on Agnez that she is the victim on this issue. Additionally, the

writer shows that Agnez had already represented Indonesia to the world by adding many positive statements about Agnez. On the other side, the writer shows that people who edited and cut Agnez interview videos are responsible for this issue. Then, that people were wrong, and Agnez was on the true side. Specifically, the redaction of the online news about Agnez Mo published by Liputan6.com was positive and supported Agnez Mo in this current issue.

This recent study also support the previous study conducted by Khasanah and Faris (2018) who asserted that Liputan6.com also take a side on Novel Baswedan issue when un-kwon people harmed him. On the other hand, Khasanah and Faris (2018) describe the four element in macro, such as semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetorical, while this recent study only discussed the semantic part of the text. Moreover, this recent study opposed the previous study conducted by Wahab (2019) since the study found the media (Kumparan.com) has a negative view of Khalid Bassalamah. Meanwhile, the present study found Liputan6.com has a positive view on the issue.

Moreover, this study's results are expected to gain people understanding while reading a piece of online news about the critical discourse analysis toward the news text.It implies that online media put their own opinion or personal judgment about an issue. Thus, the reader needs to be wise in taking a piece of information from the media. They need to consider discourse reduction used by the editor and writers.

Furthermore, this study is limited in terms of the equipment since the writers used only one news text as the main data. It might be dissimilar if the data can be gathered through some additional equipment or data. Thus, the result can be varied specifically within the area of online news text discourse analysis. That is to say, further research is expected with some additional data or equipment in the same research area. Therefore, it might result in varied information about the online news text critical discourse analysis using the van Dijk framework.

CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that Liputan6.com takes a side on Agnez Mo. It is due to the writer created a positive direction about Agnez Mo Clarification. On the other hand, the controversial statement of Agnez Mo was not mentioned clearly. It implied that the Liputan6.com pro on Agnez and showed Agnez's positive side. Additionally, the writer creates the news by having the background of the issue at the beginning part. This

news' general theme was then supported clearly by having some facts through Agnez Mo's clarification on various social media.

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