RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE IN NEWS REPORTS ON AL ZAYTUN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL

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Abstract: This research discusses the construction of religious discourse in news reports on Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School as an effort to understand contemporary issues. This paper employed the approach of critical discourse analysis based on Teun A. van Dijk's theory. It aimed to explore how religious messages are prepared and delivered in news reports related to Al Zaytun Islamic boarding school. This research method involves analysis of news texts, focusing on structure, language pattern, and the choice of words that can influence readers' understanding of issues contemporary. The findings of this research reveal that the construction of religious discourse in news reports on Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School significantly influences how contemporary issues are presented and understood. The news journalists tend to use distinctive language It contains religious values and provides interpretation of certain latest events. Additionally, the structure of the discourse also creates a promotional narrative to understanding certain contemporary issues as well as reflects the complexity of the religious discourse construction in an effort to understand contemporary issues These findings can contribute to providing an understanding of the role of religious media in forming the public perception to various actual issues.

Keywords: construction religious discourse, Al Zaytun Islamic boarding school, Van Dijk, discourse analysis, contemporary issues

INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization and the rapid advancement of information technologies, mass media has taken on a pivotal role in shaping society's perception of contemporary issues (Ausat, 2023). It filters and presents information in a way that shapes public discourse. Specifically, the influence extends beyond merely reporting events; it involves framing the issues, setting agendas, and influencing public opinion. Through its capacity to reach wide audiences, mass media plays an indispensable role in the formation of an informed, critically thinking society.

Following that, an Islamic institution, like the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School, find themselves in an interface with the media and public agenda. Religious educational institution often finds itself within the focus of mass media, covering the issue of religious teaching, cultural practices, and interaction with current issues because of its strong influence and visibility. In this case, mass media helps in forming public conceptions and discourses about a number of important societal components and issues (Eriyanto, 2015, Insiyah, 2019). Thus, understanding the mechanisms through which mass media operates and its impact on societal perspectives, especially in the case of religious educational institution, is deemed essential.

In this paper, the authors used critical discourse analysis theoretical approach to uncover the discourse of Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School trough media perspective.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an interdisciplinary approach that scrutinizes the interplay between language, power, and ideology in discourse. It focuses on how language serves to maintain or challenge power imbalances. CDA examines both written and spoken texts—ranging from media content to political speeches and everyday conversations—to analyze language use's role in influencing perceptions, propagating ideologies, and reinforcing social norms and power structures. By considering the historical and cultural contexts of discourse, CDA provides insights into the underlying social structures and power relations, advocating for awareness and social change through a critical examination of discursive practices.

One theory of critical discourse analysis that is often used is the language structure theory proposed by Teun van Dijk (1997). He divides language structure into macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure. His approach focuses on exploring social cognition, which functions as a mediator between text and society. Therefore, van Dijk's theoretical approach is better known among academic practitioners as the "Social Cognition" analysis. His theory is the commonly used theory to analyze discourses critically, as the theory is equipped with a more detailed discussion, including parts of the text, social cognition in discourse, and social analysis of the concerning discourse. To get a thorough description, one must also observe how a text is produced (Kintsch & van Dijk, 1978). It is the production process that involves social cognition which is formed in a process of discourse and discourse practice. Social cognition has two meanings, namely: (1) to show that the text is produced by journalists/media, and (2) to describe the values of society that spread and are absorbed by the journalist's cognition to create news texts.

Eriyanto (2009) provides a more detailed discussion of the structure of Van Dijk's analytical theory. The structure of Van Dijk's analytical theory can be explained as follows: 1) Text structure. Text structure analyzes the discourse strategies used to describe a particular person or event. These conditions also include strategies to exclude or marginalize certain groups, ideas, or events. 2) The structure of social cognition. This structure is used to analyze the cognition of text creators in understanding the condition of the person or event they plan to write about. 3) the structure of social analysis. This structure is used to analyze the discourse that develops in society, the production process, and the reproduction of the events depicted.

Furthermore, Van Dijk (1997) also divides text structure into three levels, namely: 1) Macrostructure, which can be identified by understanding the main topic of the text, 2) Superstructure, which can be identified through the structure and discourse elements that make up the text as a whole, and 3) Microstructure, which can be identified through the process of analyzing the words, sentences, prepositions, clauses, and paraphrases used (Umam, 2009).

Van Dijk's analytical theory is superior compared to similar theories because it connects text structure with cognition and social context. Social cognition focuses its discussion on cognitive representation and text producers' strategies in producing a text. Social cognition is a form of awareness, knowledge, as well as prejudice in viewing an event. Meanwhile, social analysis is a form of intertextual analysis used to study how discourse can be produced and constructed in society (Jufanny & Girsang, 2020).

In this study, the authors chose Teun Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis approach because it shows the relationship between language and other aspects surrounding it. These aspects include the realms of politics, race, gender, hegemony, culture, and social class. Approach studies also discuss action, context, history, power, and ideology. All these aspects simultaneously show the importance of language awareness. Good language mastery can enable a person to carry out social identification and control. Every individual must have these two abilities amidst the widespread mass media coverage which is full of rhetoric, manipulation, and misdirection.

The simplicity with which information can be accessed today often leads to a complacency in verifying the credibility of news sources, a trend that stands in stark contrast to the intended role of the mass media. According to McQuail (2000), mass media should serve as a window through which audiences can observe various global phenomena. Similarly, Nur (2021) describes it

as both a mirror reflecting events and a filter determining their significance. To address this discrepancy and delve deeper into how religious news is presented, the authors have adopted Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis methodology in their study of news coverage at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School. This approach aids in dissecting how language is employed to shape narratives, craft arguments, and link religious themes with contemporary issues, offering a nuanced perspective on the intersection of language, media, and religion.

There are some important studies exploring the critical discourse analysis of religious discourse. For instance, there is Firman et al. (2016) discussing the ideology construction in the context of the Liberal Islamic Network (JIL/*Jaringan Islam Liberal*) by means of vocabulary, grammar, and text structure of a linguistic item. The research thus takes these features of the language as core ones in generating the JIL's ideology, namely: classification, lexicalization, meaning relations, metaphor, sentence mode, modality, uses of personal pronouns, passivity, organization, and development of text. The research highlighted the intricate ways in which language can construct ideology and demonstrated language's power in conveying and shaping ideological beliefs within religious discourse.

The second previous research was that conducted by Pangesti (2019) on the construction of religious identity in student organizations with Islamic ideologies. The main findings of this research are that religious identity in the context of Islamic student organizations' ideologies was produced through social interaction, group norms, as well adaptation to religious values promoted by the organization. These ideologies were shown through several mechanisms, such as the use of religious symbols, rites, and religious practices in the organizations' activities. Such actions also become an important aspect of forming a religious identity. Additionally, the research highlighted the role of language in the form of the construction of religious identity, the Choices in vocabulary, the language style, and the religious narratives used to strengthen and communicate religious identity to the organizations' members. Thus, this research provided a deep outlook on how religious

identity is formed and maintained in the context of Islamic student organizations' ideology. This research provides a contribution to understanding the social dynamics and linguistic involvement in that process.

Additionally, Khan et, al. (2019) analyzed muslim representation in Trump's statement using Critical discourse Analysis approach. This study has focused mainly on the emergent ideology of Trump, who has become associated with anti-Islamic and anti-Muslim speech acts since declaring himself a candidate for the U.S. presidency. Basically, the need for the research paper is underlined by the fact that it seeks to pursue and identify self-other representations that are found to be evident in the Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiments in Trump's statements during the American Presidential Elections of 2016. Of essence, the study equally adapted Critical Discourse Studies as the framework of analysis with particular reference to Van Dijk's Ideological Square Model. Results showed that the self-other binary is strictly covered by Trump in his discourse and through this coverage, he had made use of techniques of discourse to negatively represent Islam and Muslims at the same time he represents himself as very patriotic to the country. For those arguments, he used a lot of rhetoric strategies to legitimate his arguments, where he victimized himself, presupposed, used authority, number game, evidentiality, polarization, and populism. Keeping in view the religious and economic context, the research is divulged that Donald Trump has forwarded the representation of Islam and Muslims as a negative phenomenon and represented him as an Islamophobe through negative targeting to Islamic components like Shariah and Jihad.

Based on the previous studies above, the study gap lies in the analytical scope. This study endeavors to meticulously examine the construction of religious discourse within news media, aiming to elucidate the discourse's role in interpreting contemporary issues. Consequently, this investigation endeavors to furnish a novel scholarly contribution by offering a nuanced understanding of religious discourse within the unique milieu of news related to the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School. Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School itself is found problematic. Some people argue that it

becomes problematic because of its deviant religious teaching while some others argue that it is the individuals involved and operated the school that are problematic not the Islamic teaching. Thus, this current study hopefully enriches the academic discourse on media representation of religion.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative descriptive research method based on Teun A. Van Dijk's discourse analysis technique. I Made Winarta explained that the qualitative descriptive method is a method that encompasses the process of analysis; the description and summary of various conditions taken from a collection of information originating from interviews and direct observations in the field of the researched problem. Qualitative research was the key research instrument to objectively produce research results. As stated by Sugiyono, qualitative research is a research method that uses post-positivism philosophy as its basis (Ridwan, AM, Ulum, & Muhammad, 2021).

The data sources for this research were two online news texts from Kompas.com media, entitled "Government Asked to Be Careful in Responding to Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Controversy" and "MUI: Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School is Affiliated with NII." Meanwhile, the research data were obtained from journalists' narratives and quotations from sources' statements presented in these news texts. The data in this research were collected using three steps, namely: 1) Carefully and repeatedly reading the entire news texts; 2) Dividing the news text into three discourse analysis structures of Teun A. Van Dijk (macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure); and 3) Searching and categorizing the parts of the news texts, which include semantics, syntax, language style /stylistics, and rhetoric. These data were then analyzed and discussed based on the relevant theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

News 1 Title: *Pemerintah Diminta Hati-hati Sikapi Kontroversi Ponpes Al Zaytun*

Translation:

Title: Government Asked to be Careful in Responding to Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Controversy

News context: This news discusses calls for the government to be careful in responding to the controversy involving the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School. The title raises the issue of the controversy that occurred at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School and highlights the response expected from the government. The use of the words "be careful" shows that the issues faced by the Islamic boarding school are sensitive or complex, therefore a careful approach is needed in handling them. This news discusses the latest developments regarding the controversy at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School, including its potential impact and how the government should respond to or be involved in resolving the issue. A further context would provide information about the nature of the controversy, opinions or actions that have occurred, and the reasons behind calls for caution on the part of the government.

Macrostructure Analysis

The macrostructure shows the global meaning that can be observed from the themes raised in the news. Macrostructure is derived from the local meaning of discourse with many rules and strategies for reducing complex information (van Dijk, 1997; Eriyanto, 2009). It is the global meaning that can be observed from the subject matter of the text. The subject of the discourse does not only see the news from the perspective of text structure alone but also sees it from aspects of the supporting events. This breadth of viewpoints enables news consumers to identify problems and commentators' actions (Novita & Hudiyono, 2023).

Table 1. The Macrostructure of the First News Report

Publication Date	Analysis Elements	News Quotes
July 21st, 2023 13:14 West Indonesia Time	Thematic	The government has been asked to be careful in responding to the controversy over the existence of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School.
	Sub-Themes	The sub-theme contains the figures' defense t**hat** they do not find any

strangeness at the Al Zaytun Islamic boarding school. They even defend the implemented education system.

Based on the discourse structure analysis of the Kompas.com report with the title "Government Asked to be Careful in Responding to Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Controversy" above can be analyzed as follows. In the news topic, it was stated that the government was asked to be careful in responding to the controversial case that befell the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School. This can be proven by the use of the word 'careful' in the first paragraph of the news text. The word 'careful' indicates a recommendation to the government to refrain from being careless in determining the legal status and continuity of the educational process at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School institution. Not only that, the news also featured a number of statements from figures who praised the education process at Al Zaytun. These figures asked the public to stop linking the problems that befell the leadership of the Islamic Boarding School (Panji Gumilang) with the status of the Boarding School institution. The figures in question are theExecutive Director of the Cahaya Guru Foundation, Muhammad Mukhlisin; the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Muhadjir Effendy; and the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Mahfud MD. The descriptions of the three figures are listed in paragraphs 4, 13, and 15.

Superstructure Analysis

Table 2. The Superstructure Analysis of the First News Report

News Text Structure	News Quotes
Opener (Head of News)	The government has been asked to be careful in responding to the controversy over the existence of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School.
Contents (News Body)	Paragraph 4: "So far we have seen nothing that is contrary to what the government implements. .In

this case, we actually need to appreciate the learning process, the curriculum that was developed," he said in a public discussion with the theme "Al-Zaytun: Amidst Discrimination and Criminalization", Thursday (20/7/2023)

Closing (Ending of the News)	The Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, Mahfud MD said the government will save the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School so that it can be free from deviant teachings.

The text of the above Kompas.com news report with the title "Government Asked to be Careful in Responding to Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Controversy" starts with a journalist's statement which was a repetition of the news title's message. This message asks the government not to act carelessly in making decisions regarding the legal status and sustainability of the educational process at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School institution.

Then, in the content section of the news, a statement from the Executive Director of the Cahaya Guru Foundation, Muhammad Mukhlisin, was mentioned. Mukhlisin said that his party did not see any controversy that had been alleged against the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School. In fact, he believes that the education at Al Zaytun needs to be appreciated. Muhammad Mukhlisin also assessed that Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School shows the values of tolerance and inclusiveness in its educational practices. It teaches human rights values from an early age and supports women as preachers. Such factors reflect their efforts to create an inclusive environment by respecting the human rights of all individuals. The content section of the news also quoted the statement of the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Muhadjir Effendy. Effendy stated that up to the time the news was released, his party had not found any indication of institutional violations in the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School case, so the institution can continue running as usual. Finally, the conclusion of the news quoted a statement from the Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law and Security, Mahfud MD, who

said that the government will save the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School so that it is free from deviant teachings.

Microstructure Analysis

Microstructure is a discourse structure that is influenced by several language elements (such as diction and style) as well as other smaller linguistic elements (Mantra & Widiastuti, 2018). One of the linguistic elements analyzed in microstructure is the semantic element. The semantic analysis used in van Dijk's critical discourse analysis is categorized as a form of local discourse. The semantic analysis is crucial because a single meaning can have multiple meanings when profoundly analyzed. This condition suggests that language can be used as a medium to convey issues, interests, and express opinions (Payuyasa, 2017).

Table 3. The Microstructure of the First News Report

Microstructural Elements		Explanation
Semantics	Background	The background in writing the news was the emergence of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School case in Indramayu, West Java, Indonesia, which was considered controversial by the majority of society.
	Details	Details of the discourse elements in the news text refer to quotations from statements by public officials. These officials try to remind the public to be wise in viewing the situation.
Syntax	Forming sentences	Examples of active sentences are sentences containing the verbs 'say', 'see', 'teach' and 'convey'. Examples of passive sentences are sentences containing the verbs 'requested' and 'applied'.
	Pronouns	The forms of pronouns found are: he, he said, strictly speaking, we, me, and he.
Language style	Lexicon	Examples of the lexicon found are controversy and discrimination. Controversy is another word for debate, while discrimination means difference in treatment.
Rhetoric	Chart	1. News headlines are written in bold and capital letters 2. The display of a photo of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School 3. The usage of quotation marks in every direct quote 4. The use of capital letters for every person's name and position.
	Metaphor	Researchers did not find the use of metaphors in the news text.

The second news report dated June 21st, 2023 is entitled "MUI: *Pondok Pesantren Al Zaytun Terafiliasi NII*"

Translation: "MUI: Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Affiliated with NII".

Context: The news text talks about the statement and conclusion issued by the Indonesian Ulema Council (*Majelis Ulama Indonesia/MUI)* that the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School is affiliated with the Indonesian Islamic State (*Negara Islam Indonesia/NII)* movement. Therefore, the MUI Deputy Secretary General for Law and Human Rights, Ichsan Abdullah appealed to the government to take action against Al Zaytun's deviations. This is so that this institution does not become a time bomb for Indonesia in the future. Apart from that, the news also highlighted Ridwan Kamil's attitude as the Governor of West Java who stated that his party would hand over the occurring affairs to the central government.

Table 4. The Macro Structure of the Second News

Element Analysis	News Quotes
Thematic	Paragraph 1: Deputy Secretary General for Law and Human Rights at the Central Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), Ichsan Abdullah, stated that the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School is affiliated with the Indonesian Islamic State (NII) movement.
Sub-Themes	Paragraph 4: Ichsan said that this affiliation can be seen from the recruitment pattern carried out by Al Zaytun in terms of collecting and withdrawing funds from members and the community. Paragraph 6 Ichsan also believes that the government is obliged to take part in handling the deviations of Al Zaytun's state ideology.

The analysis of the discourse structure of the Kompas.com news report with the title " MUI: Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Affiliated with NII is as follows. The report's topic narrated that the Indonesian Ulema Council had actually conducted an in-depth case study on the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School 11 years since the date of the news release. This was expressed by Ichsan Abdullah,Deputy Secretary General for Law and Human Rights of the Central MUI. The suspicion of the NII affiliation became stronger when the MUI investigated Al Zaytun's funding sources, which turned out to be taken from members and the public. This is confirmed by the results of MUI's research at the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School (Tolhah, 2015; Ministry of Religion, 2002). This is a funding strategy of the NII as it had previously implemented it. After that, the Kompas.com media highlighted Governor Ridwan Kamil's attitude regarding the case that occurred in his government area. Ridwan Kamil firmly and wisely answered that the legal action taken was not within his authority, but rather, it was the authority of the central government.

Table 5. The Superstructure of the Second News

News Text Structure	News Quotes
Opener (Head of the News)	Deputy Secretary General for Law and Human Rights at the Central Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI),

Ichsan Abdullah, stated that the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School is affiliated with the Indonesian Islamic State (NII) movement.

Contents (News Body)	Paragraph 3: "The results of the MUI research are clear, that it (Al Zaytun) is indicated or affiliated with the NII movement. It's very clear," said Ichsan when met at the Ministry of Politics, Law, and Security office, Central Jakarta, Wednesday (21/6/2023). Paragraph 7: "So, the government and MUI are ideal to reform Al Zaytun, so that it is no longer exposed as a radical seed that will become a time bomb for the country in the future," said Ichsan.
Closing (News Tail)	Paragraph 12: "We ask Al Zaytun to cooperate, because several times in its historical records, it has often rejected those who try to undergo *tabayyun* or dialogue to find out," said Ridwan Kamil, Monday (19/6/2023).

The news entitled "MUI: Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Affiliated with NII" is opened with a statement from the Kompas journalist quoting Ichsan Abdullah (Deputy Secretary General for Law and Human Rights MUI). Abdullah stated that the Indonesian Ulema Council had issued a decision that Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School was affiliated with the Indonesian Islamic State (NII) movement. This decision was issued following in-depth research and study for dozens of years since 2002 AD. Abdullah also stated that the danger posed by Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School does not only concern religious issues but also state issues. Then, the content of the news further deepens the material by quoting the words of Ichsan Abdullah and Governor Ridwan Kamil. The news report was closed with the words of Ridwan Kamil who asked Al Zaytun to be cooperative and no longer avoid investigations.

Table 6. The Micro Structure Analysis of the Second News

Microstructural Elements		News Quotes
Semantics	Background	The writing of the news text was motivated by the

		emergence of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School which is famous for its religious practices which are considered unusual. Its teachings are deemed as violating Islamic religious and social norms.
	Details	News details state that since 2002, the Indonesian Ulema Council has carried out an in-depth investigation into Al Zaytun's irregularities. So, it can be confirmed that the Islamic boarding school is affiliated with the Islamic State of Indonesia (NII).
Syntax	Sentence Formation	Examples of active sentences are those containing the verbs "to declare", "say", and "take part". Examples of passive sentences are those containing the verbs "delivered" and "seen"
	Pronouns	The pronouns found are: we, he, and he said
Language style	Lexicon	Examples of lexicons found are the affiliate and fiscal lexicons.
Rhetoric	Chart	1. News headlines are written in bold and capital letters 2. The usage of a photo of Panji Gumilang's arrest 3. The usage of quotation marks in every direct quote 4. The use of capital letters for every person's name and position.
	Metaphor	The metaphor found is the use of the term 'time bomb' which means

negative impacts that will emerge in the future.

Based on the analyzed data, it can be seen that the mass media has a very important role in controlling society's ideology. This statement, as expressed in Zabiri, Ghadiri, and Rasekh (2013), states that the linguistic structures used in the media can carry symbols of ideological structures and mechanisms. Fowler in Fowler, Hodge, Kress, and Trew (1979) explains that certain groups, classes, ethnicities, and genders can be negatively labeled by the media. This negative labeling is carried out through lexicalization which is excessively scrutinized in the media. The labeling related to the assessment system is very much in accordance with the theory developed by Teun A. van Dijk.

Teun A Van Dijk (1997) stated that a text cannot be separated from value. Through his statement, van Dijk believes that a text is a product or manifestation of social attitudes that can represent the author's vision. The manifestation of social values/attitudes in the reporting of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School can be seen in the macrostructure analysis in both news reports from the Kompas.com media. The macrostructure of these two reports states that religious and state issues involving the leadership and institutions of Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School must receive serious attention from the government and society in order to overcome negative impacts in the future. Then, the superstructure in the critical discourse analysis also plays a role as textual structure. Superstructure pays more attention to the number of paragraphs that make up the structure of the news text which is centered on different focus points. Finally, social values/attitudes can also be seen from the microstructure. It is seen from the use of language choices/semiotics and word associations (Dwyarie & Tjahjani, 2019).

It was further stated in Susanti, Deliana, and Pujiono (2023) that an effectively expressed discourse structure will be able to show the rhetoric and persuasion processes carried out in conveying a message. In van Dijk's view, any text can be analyzed using elements such as words, sentences, propositions, and certain communication styles. This is reinforced by Janks' statement regarding the function of language in social life.

Janks in Bilal, Rafaqat, Hassan, Mansoor, and Zahra (2012) states that as a form of social practice, language has a very clear and vital role in social life. Language can also be used as a means to produce or seize power.

Van Dijk (1997) believes that critical discourse analysis is an interesting subject of study because it allows researchers to uncover the practices of government elites, such as how they use their position of power and influence to undermine community planning. It also shows the way they manipulate language to benefit their group (Syed, Naz, Yousaf, Shahid, & Shahid, 2021). This condition was proven in the Kompas.com news entitled "The government is asked to be careful in responding to the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School controversy." In this news, the government elite seemed to be trying to protect the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School institution on the grounds that the legal case only affected individual Islamic Boarding School leaders. However, the news "MUI: Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School Affiliated with NII," shows the opposite. In this news report, the government elite openly stated that the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School institution had been exposed to heresy and had to be watched out for.

Regarding the three structures based on Teun A. van Dijk's theory, the two news reports from the Kompas.Com media have complete structures. Examples of the completeness of this structure can be seen in the following discussion.

In the macrostructure, both news stories raised the theme of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School controversy. Controversy was generated because several practices were considered unusual or contrary to the social and cultural norms that exist in Indonesian society. This theme was raised by news journalists in order to warn the public to be smart in observing their surroundings. They should not just think that just because an institution is an Islamic boarding school, thus all the ideologies taught there are immediately justified. Nowadays, individuals who promote error are increasingly creative in packaging bad things in good containers so that society does not suspect them. However, no matter how well someone hides a carcass, the rotten odor will definitely be smelled.

In the superstructure, the two news stories have been arranged using sentences and text units according to the desired size. Meanwhile, in terms of microstructure, the two news texts also holistically display various types of linguistic elements. However, in the first news report, there was no use of metaphor. In terms of the microstructure, examples of linguistic elements found in both news reports are the use of active and passive sentences, presupposition, coherence, and pronouns. Apart from that, the two news reports also have rhetorical features to support the validity of the information presented. Rhetoric is one way to explore the author's ideology in expressing his thoughts in a text (Novita & Hudiyono, 2023). Rhetorical analysis as explained in Susiawati, Wildan, and Mardani, 2022) consists of several parts, namely: (1) Writing style: description, argumentation, exposition, narrative, or persuasion, and (2) Graphics: the use of italics, bold, underline, and capital letters. This also includes the use of graphic images and tables to support the message.

The coverage of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School has also had an impact on public perception. The impacts include: (1) support or rejection. These news reports can trigger support or rejection of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School, depending on religious values, tolerance, and community views on the issues discussed, and (2) polarization of opinion. The polarization of opinion in this case concerns controversial issues such as gender mixing in worship and views on holy books.

Following the previous studies' results, this study strengthens the assertion that says media has a pivotal role in shaping and constructing the discourse delivered to the society. Such pivotal role is facilitated through the power of mass media. Mass media has the power to select which discourse that will be served to the audience, or in other term, the society.

CONCLUSION

Research results show that language and media play a role in forming the public's perception of religious and contemporary issues. The construction of the religious discourse in the news of the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School was based on Teun A. van

Dijk's critical discourse analysis. Based on his theory, the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure have their own significant impact on the way contemporary issues are presented and understood. Macrostructure gives a comprehensive view of the news organization and structure, while the superstructure discloses pattern narratives and prominence in certain aspects. Microstructure identifies the use of typical languages, such as religious vocabulary, that can strengthen the message and interpretation of certain latest events. Then, concerning the news contents, the discussion of the second news report focuses on the controversy that occurred in the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School institution as well as attitudes shown by the government and society on the related phenomenon.

The findings of this research have significant implications for the public in understanding the religious concepts and the issues presented in news reports about the Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School and other similar institutions. These implications involve a number of important aspects, including the impact of media and language in forming religious perception, increasing awareness of the construction of religious discourse, and its influence on the image of Al Zaytun Islamic Boarding School and similar institutions. It will increase the people's awareness that not enough ethical media provide objective and accurate news. Additionally, an emphasis on the importance of media education and literacy is also becoming an integral part of this finding's implications. In conclusion, it will provide a deeper understanding of the connection between language, media, and religious discourse construction. This will direct news reports to become fairer. Apart from that, it will direct society to become more critical in viewing news reports. It will provide room for a better and more harmonious interreligious dialogue.

This research opens the door to more studies related to language, media, and religious discourse. Further research may undergo a comparison of the discourse construction in various cottage Islamic boarding schools, vertical analysis of language and image linguistics in religious discourse, as well as concerning the influence of media education and literacy. Further studies can provide greater insight into language methods, media, social and context that combine to form the construction of religious discourse. This can help in promoting a better understanding of religious issues, as well as improve journalism ethics, making them more balanced and accurate.

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