

INVESTIGATING MACROSTRUCTURE, SUPERSTRUCTURE, AND MICROSTRUCTURE TOWARDS AN INDONESIAN POLITICIAN'S BRIBERY CASE

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ABSTRACT

Reports on corruption cases can cover up the actions of corruptors through the mass media that favor towards them. This research's objective is to analyze three articles that focus on Azis Syamsuddin's bribery case in Tempo English online magazine in 2020. Discourse analysis is conducted in pursuance of knowing how Tempo reports the bribery case and presents Azis Syamsuddin as the corruptor in the article. This research utilizes discourse analysis theory from Teun A. van Dijk by analyzing the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure elements within the three articles. The data are analyzed and written in the descriptive method with the qualitative research type. The result of the macrostructure analysis shows that Tempo, in reporting the news, stays objective with the information without any intention of siding with a particular side. All articles regarding Azis Syamsuddin inform about the case progress and the order of the events. In superstructure analysis, Tempo displays the main information in the story part of the article as it is the important part of the article. In microstructure analysis, the depiction of the actions carried out by him is shown through the use of active voices that point to the subject and do not hide him in the object position. The lexical choices of the three articles also support Tempo's neutrality in reporting the news as the words do not exaggerate reality.

Keywords: Bribery Case; Discourse Analysis; Discourse Structure

ABSTRAK

Pemberitaan mengenai kasus korupsi dapat menutupi tindakan yang dilakukan oleh para koruptor melalui media massa. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tiga wacana yang berfokus pada kasus suap dilakukan oleh Azis Syamsuddin di majalah daring Tempo bahasa Inggris tahun 2020. Analisis wacana ini dilakukan dalam rangka mengetahui bagaimana Tempo melaporkan kasus suap dan menampilkan Azis Syamsuddin sebagai koruptor dalam artikel tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori analisis wacana milik Teun A. van Dijk dengan menganalisis unsur-unsur makrostruktur, superstruktur, dan mikrostruktur dalam ketiga artikel tersebut. Data dianalisis dan ditulis dengan metode deskriptif dengan jenis penelitian kualitatif. Hasil analisis makrostruktur menunjukkan bahwa Tempo, dalam pemberitaannya, tetap objektif dengan informasinya tanpa ada niat

memihak pada pihak tertentu. Artikel-artikel tentang Azis Syamsuddin semuanya menginformasikan perkembangan kasus dan urutan kejadiannya. Dalam analisis superstruktur, Tempo menampilkan informasi utama di bagian cerita tubuh artikel karena hal itu merupakan poin utama dari artikel yang disampaikan. Dalam analisis mikrostruktur, penggambaran tindakan yang dilakukan oleh Azis Syamsuddin ditunjukkan melalui penggunaan kalimat aktif yang berfokus ke subjek dan tidak menyembunyikan Azis pada posisi objek. Pilihan leksikal yang dipilih di tiga berita yang diteliti juga mendukung netralitas Tempo dalam memberitakan berita korupsi ini karena diksi tersebut tidak memiliki unsur melebih-lebihkan kenyataan sesungguhnya.

Kata Kunci: Kasus Suap; Analisis Wacana; Struktur Wacana

INTRODUCTION

Mass media is an effective tool for providing information capable of reaching several readers at all social stages. Thus, they are expected to convey neutral and balanced information to society (Agustina & Inawati, 2022). As a result of that, in mass media reporting, the use of language impacts the news delivered. Language as a communication tool utilized by the media gives an impact on the meaning of the news conveyed by the journalist (Maghvira, 2017). Also, information produced by the press will affect the perception and social circumstances in public communication (Choiriyati, 2015).

Based on the website antikorupsi.org in 2021, Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) found as many as 533 corruption cases. One of the recent corruption cases comes from Azis Syamsuddin, the House of Representatives (DPR) member. He was suspected of bribing Stepanus Robin Pattuju up to Rp 3 billion regarding the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) of the APBN-P Central Lampung as reported by tempo.co in 2022. This social phenomenon in the medium of texts can be scrutinized further using a discourse analysis on how the information written in media is presented.

Meanwhile, some scholars come up with several thoughts regarding the relationship between language and discourse. Van Dijk (1988) contends that discourse analysis is a language use and goal analysis in gaining a description that is more explicit and systematic of what is delivered. Van Dijk (Wang, 2017) added that discourse is a social practice and interaction. Van Dijk (cited in (Renkema & Schubert, 2018) argues that the aim of discourse studies is to demonstrate relations

between forms of discourse elements and their functions in communication. Within the same realm, Fairclough contends that discourse is similar to a building block that constructs social identities, knowledge systems, and beliefs of individuals. Wodak also sees discourse as a system of knowledge and memory representing obvious oral utterances or written texts. Moreover, Van Dijk believes that discourse is a complex communicative event representing a social condition and containing participants and their belongings. Also, Fairclough emphasizes a strong connection between discourse and society that is discourse is constructed by the social structure at all levels of society such as by class and other social relations, by systems of taxonomy, by various standards and conventions of both a discursive and a non-discursive nature, and so forth. He finally draws a conclusion that discourse is not merely representing the world, however, it constructs the world through social practice (Gowhary et al., 2015).

Furthermore, Van Dijk (1980) introduced the concept of discourse analysis framework encompassing three elements, they are macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Macrostructure, as cited in Renkema & Schubert (2018), is the global meaning of discourse that can be attributed to text. It is used to reveal a topic or theme as discourse does not only focus on connections built between sentences but also the general meaning. The object of macrostructure is thematic, which is the general topic of the discourse. The theme shows the dominant, central, and main concept of the content of the news story. The text also consists of subtopics that strengthen or become the foundation of the main topic (Payuyasa, 2017).

The second element, superstructure, deals with form. It is the framework that aims to present the structured content. The term superstructure can be illustrated by the example of a newspaper article in which headline, lead, the news article itself, etc. are presented (Renkema & Schubert, 2018). The flow represents how every part of the text is arranged to form a unified meaning (Huda et al., 2020).

Unlike macrostructure which demonstrates the global meaning, microstructure deals with the relations between sentences, such as words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Van Dijk added that microstructure encompasses semantic and syntactic structures (Renkema & Schubert, 2018). Microstructure organizes interrelated phrases, clauses, and sentences of the text (Louwerse & Graesser in

Merrita, 2020). Each sentence has a deep structure interpreted by the semantic component of the grammar. Meanwhile, syntactic transformations relate that deep structure to the surface structure of a sentence. Van Dijk added that text grammars have these deep and surface structures. Also, the most prominent thing of discourse is that the sentences are connected together which is so-called cohesion (Renkema & Schubert, 2018).

Some previous research also investigated a similar scope in terms of discourse structure within texts. Ridha (2013) depicted *The Jakarta Post*'s news structure in reporting the case involving Nazarudin, an Indonesian politician, examining how the dominant participants were described in the articles and exposing meanings assembled from the text. She analyzed five data with a similar dimension as the focus. It was summed up that the Jakarta Post stayed objective on reporting bribery cases by using their readers' opinions but still leading to one or a thing. It was noticed in the macrostructure part—news schemata. Also, the use of language in *The Jakarta Post* revealed how good or bad someone was, which was also affected by their institutions. Another similar research in discourse structure was also conducted by Aminudin (2020) with one analysis unit focused on knowing the structure of corruption news regarding Setya Novanto in *Tempo* magazine. He figured out from the macrostructure that *Tempo* highlighted Setya Novanto's perpetrating actions by providing various sub-topics and facts, saying Setya Novanto was a great politician who often slipped away from corruption cases. Also, it was concluded that *Tempo* focused on the sentence's subject.

Regarding what has been conducted in previous research, this study focuses on the discourse structure towards Aziz Syamsuddin's bribery case in *Tempo* online magazine. Based on the background of the problem, the research questions of this research are: (1) how is the macrostructure of the news?; (2) how is the superstructure of the news?; (3) how is the microstructure of the news?

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach. Based on Creswell (2018), the qualitative approach is a type of research for studying social problems related, and the research does not come out in numbers. The data of this research are in the

form of sentences in three articles regarding the bribery case perpetrated by Azis Syamsuddin, an Indonesian politician, in *Tempo* online magazine published on the 13th September 2021 edition. The data analysis techniques are conducted as the following: (1) analyzing the macrostructure of the news; it is conducted by investigating elements that made up the topic of the news; (2) analyzing the superstructure; at this stage, the analysis is aimed at uncovering how the information is conveyed through the examination of the news structure, such as lead, body, and the closing of the articles; (3) analyzing the microstructure involving semantic, syntax, lexicon, and stylistic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Macrostructures

The topic is some cases with the involvement of Azis Syamsuddin. It is supported by statements written in the article presented as follows.

Table 1. Macrostructure

Number of Article	Statements
1	Since he became a House member, Azis has been mentioned several times in connection to several corruption scandals . In 2013, for example, Azis, who was deputy chairman of the Law Commission, was mentioned in the investigation into the driving simulator corruption case .
1	Five years later, Azis' name was mentioned in the electronic identity card (e-KTP) mega corruption scandal , which implicated former Golkar Party general chairman, Setya Novanto.
2	Internally, Golkar was abuzz with talk on the various corruption cases allegedly involving Azis because several politicians are currently gearing up to replace him in the DPR, or in the party ranks.
2	Currently, three big names eyeing Azis Syamsuddin's position in the DPR are Melchias Marcus Mekeng, Ahmad Doli Kurnia Tandjung, and Adies Kadir. The three are high-ranking officials in Golkar's central executive board.

Number of Article	Statements
3	Although it has strong evidence of the involvement of the House of Representatives (DPR) deputy speaker, the KPK leadership is still playing for time.
3	Armed with Robin's confession and the evidence of bank transfers, the KPK should have had no problems bringing Azis to court . However, this is not what happened.

Superstructures

The headline of the first article is “Case Implicating The Rose Member.” The word ‘The Rose Member’ refers to Azis Syamsuddin as he was one of the Rose Team members, it is explained in the article about the Rose Team. The title explains briefly what the readers will find out in the article. There is also a subheadline in which Azis Syamsuddin’s name is mentioned in various corruption cases, he is Setya Novanto’s close friend. This subheading explains more about the title that Azis Syamsuddin was mentioned in more than one corruption case and many types of lawsuits. Meanwhile, the headline of the second article is “Case Implicating The Rose Member.” The word ‘The Rose Member’ refers to Azis Syamsuddin as he was one of the Rose Team members, it is explained in the article about the Rose Team. The title explains briefly what the readers will find out in the article. There is also a subheadline in which Azis Syamsuddin’s name is mentioned in various corruption cases, as a friend of Setya Novanto. This subheading explains more about the title that Azis Syamsuddin was mentioned in more than one corruption case and many types of lawsuits. Furthermore, the headline “Questions around The Azis Syamsuddin Case” is in the third article. It could attract readers as the title has a meaning that tells there was something with Azis Syamsuddin’s case at that time. The journalist tries to convey a message regarding the unclear status of the case of Azis.

Meanwhile, one of the leads written in the article is as follows which contains 4W+1H (what, who, when, where, and how). The ‘what’ is information given by Rudy Mas’ud to Tempo. The ‘who’ is Rudy Mas’ud and Azis Syamsuddin. The ‘where’ is the House of Representatives plenary session. The ‘when’ is late

August. Meanwhile, the 'How' is the response from Azis Syamsuddin when Rudy Mas'ud asked about the case that implicated Azis. The article is opened with the fact that Azis gave a brief comment on what he faced at that time, and he just had to get through it. Rudy Mas'ud, Azis' colleague at the Golkar Party, stated the information. The headline and the lead are connected to each other. The lead supports the article's headline by informing Azis' reaction to the case implicating himself. The lead also informs Azis that he was close with Setya Novanto. He is well-known for his corruption case of e-KTP.

When he met with Azis Syamsuddin after a House of Representatives (DPR) plenary session in late August, Rudy Mas'ud mentioned the case in which Azis is implicated at the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). But the House deputy speaker did not comment at length. "He only said that whatever happened was a trial to face," Rudy told Tempo on Friday, September 10. Rudy then urged his colleague at the Golkar Party to stay patient and to fight.

Moreover, the story holds the main information of the article. The story part of the article starts from the 10th paragraph up to the 20th paragraph. Connected to the lead, the story contains explanations about various types of lawsuits that mentioned Azis since he joined as a House of Representatives member. The first corruption case was stated from the 10th up to the 11th paragraph. It is regarding the driving simulator corruption case as he received a box of money from Djoko Susilo, the former National Police Traffic Corps chief, but Azis denied the event. The data are as the following.

10th paragraph

... In 2013, for example, Azis, who was deputy chairman of the Law Commission, was mentioned in the investigation into the driving simulator corruption case. The scandal implicated former National Police Traffic Corps chief, Insp. Gen. Djoko Susilo.

11th paragraph

... ordered by Djoko Susilo to deliver a box of money to several DPR members, including Azis. The KPK then questioned Azis, and he denied receiving the money.

Microstructure

The background influences the sentence meaning of the article. It showed a description of Azis Syamsuddin who was involved in several corruption cases since he served as a member of the House of Representatives until he was declared a suspect by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in the bribery case at the end of 2021.

There were also some details explaining itemized about Azis Syamsuddin's mention of bribery cases in every paragraph. Meanwhile, there were also some details regarding Azis himself such as in the ninth paragraph which talks about another fact about him as follows.

... Azis was a member of the so-called Mawar (rose) Team. The Rose Team is made up of Law Commission members who were attempting to revise the KPK Law.

In addition to that, there are two types of sentence structures, active voice and passive voice. Passive sentences are used to focus on what action the subject receives. On the other hand, active sentences are used to focus on what the subject does. The following data is the 5th sentence in which Azis Syamsuddin restricted himself in politics after he was entangled in Stepanus Robin Pattuju's corruption case.

According to the DPR Law Commission member, Azis has been restricting his activities since his name was mentioned in connection to the bribery of KPK investigator, Stepanus Robin Pattuju.

Meanwhile, the information provided in the discourse should connect throughout the paragraphs. The 3rd until the 4th paragraph sequentially discusses more the case of Azis. Also, in the 3rd paragraph, it is stated that Azis introduced Robin to Syahrial, which was the reason why he was implicated in the case of Stepanus Robin.

The 3rd paragraph

In April, KPK Chief Firli Bahuri said Azis was suspected of having introduced Stepanus Robin Pattuju to Muhammad Syahrial, mayor of Tanjung Balai, North Sumatra, at Azis' official residence in South Jakarta in October 2020. At the time, Syahrial asked for the KPK investigation into the trading of the alleged positions in Tanjungbalai to be terminated.

The 4th Paragraph

Azis has been restricting his activities since his name was mentioned in connection to the bribery of KPK investigator.

Some pronouns are also written to refer to some subjects. The journalist uses 'he' to refer to Azis Syamsuddin in the events that do not become the main center of the article and mention the name 'Azis' in the important event. For instance, in the tenth paragraph below:

10th paragraph

Since he became a House member, Azis has been mentioned several times to several corruption scandals.

13th paragraph

When the KPK questioned him as a witness, Azis denied receiving the money, although he admitted to knowing Irvanto.

Also, the journalist used the phrase "The Rose Team Member" in the title to refer to Azis Syamsuddin. The Rose Team is defined as law commission

members attempting to revise the KPK Law, and Azis was known to become one of them. Also, the word ‘scandal’ in the tenth paragraph is chosen to refer to Azis’ bribery cases meaning an action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing the general public. Another diction used is the word ‘blessing’ written in the fifteenth paragraph reporting Aburizal Bakrie’s acceptance of Azis’ appointment to become DPR leader. That word is defined as a person's sanction or support. Some of the data are presented as follows.

Table 2. Pronoun

Number of Paragraph	Statements
1st Paragraph	The owner of the house received his two colleagues from the Golkar Party at his poolside.
2nd Paragraph	... the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) had declared Azis suspect in an act of corruption related to the special allocation funds earmarked for the Central Lampung Regency administration in 2017.
7th Paragraph	The KPK became suspicious when Azis introduced Robin to the former regent of Kutai Kartanegara, Rita Widyasari, who was in prison

Moreover, in the title *Positions Up for Grab*, the word ‘grab’ is written meaning to have or take something quickly. In this context, what is to be grabbed is Azis’ position as he was declared by the KPK to be the suspect in a bribery case. Also, the word ‘slap’ in the sentence *Robin was suspected of taking care investigation into Rita's case so she could get off the hook from being **slapped** with the law on money laundering has the meaning to receive legal punishment* means displeasing actions.

Meanwhile, in composing the article, *Tempo* provided some pictures to support the article. There are five pictures representing every figure in the articles, some of them are as follows.



Figure 1. General Chairman of the Party

The first picture is the article's cover displaying two figures that are being talked about in the article. They are Airlangga Hartarto and Azis Syamsuddin. Airlangga was the General Chairman of the Party, and Azis was the Deputy General Chairman of the Party. Meanwhile, the second picture depicted another figure, he is Azis Syamsuddin. He pointed at something and was sitting inside the parliament complex. As the article talks about Azis Syamsuddin's implication in the bribery case, the journalist added Azis's picture as the emphasis of the information. The figure is as follows.



Figure 2. Azis Syamsuddin as Deputy General Chairman of the Party

The analysis of the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure initiated by Van Dijk in three articles related to the corruption case of Azis Syamsuddin disassembles the discourse structure that contains how the figure of someone who commits a criminal act of corruption is shown in news articles to the

public through the Tempo online magazine. This is in line with what was expressed by Van Dijk (in Ridha, 2013) that the discourse analysis could see how the participants in the discourse are represented in the article written publicly. There are three parts analysis in the discourse analysis to see how is the representation of the corruptor in the article of this research. The first one is macrostructure analysis. It shows the general meaning or the theme of the article. This can be revealed by analyzing the conversation in each paragraph and uniting each sub-talk to see the main point of the article's theme. In the three articles studied, each article has a related subtopic and they all form the foundation of the main topic of the news that is presented. This result is in accordance with Van Dijk's statement expressed by Fitri (2022), the subtopics in the text support the main topic of the discourse written.

In seeing how journalists organize the information in the three articles above, a superstructure is used for this method. The order of information displayed in the discourse shows what is shown first and what is displayed behind. As aligned to (Yana, 2015) the superstructure looks at how the text in the news is compiled by journalists. Tempo magazine reporting the news has the same pattern in the three articles that are analyzed in this research.

The third element examined in these three articles is the microstructure. In this section, research is conducted to analyze the elements in more detail. Microstructure helps to see what you want to convey through the discourse by looking at the text. This is also supporting Aminudin's (2020) and Ridha's (2013) research that the production of news through words and style of language chosen by the news assesses the researchers to reveal the meaning behind the news.

CONCLUSION

The discourse analysis with Teun A. van Dijk's method in the three articles about Azis Syamsuddin's bribery cases in Tempo online magazine comes with the results on how the macrostructure, the superstructure, and the microstructure of the articles are. The first one is the macrostructure analysis, which figures out the theme of the articles. The topic of the first article is Azis Syamsuddin as the corruptor. The second topic of the article is Azis Syamsuddin's position grabbed by the officials.

The third topic is the slow progress of Azis Syamsuddin's case by the KPK. The three topics are related to the situation at that time.

The second category is superstructure analysis. It is to find out how the information in the article is arranged. From the analysis, the information is arranged in sequent order based on the real event and the topic of each article. With the appropriate order of facts, making the information provided shows the accuracy of the news itself.

The last category is microstructure analysis. The language assistance in information conveyance for the article proves the neutrality of *Tempo* in reporting Azis Syamsuddin's case through the three articles analyzed. The information is directly delivered to the readers with active voices and proper diction to avoid creating uncertainty about the meaning. Related images also assist in supporting transparency in the writing of the articles.

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