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## WACANA KEAGAMAAN PADA PEMBERITAAN COVID-19 DI MEDIA MASSA DARING INDONESIA

### *RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE ON THE NEWS OF COVID-19 IN INDONESIAN ONLINE MASS MEDIA*

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#### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji wacana keagamaan pada pemberitaan Covid-19 di [sindonews.com](http://sindonews.com), [Republika.co.id](http://Republika.co.id), dan [tempo.co](http://tempo.co). Pendekatan Analisis Wacana Kritis model Fairclough digunakan dalam penelitian ini untuk mengkaji struktur makro, suprastruktur, dan struktur mikro wacana keagamaan di tiga media massa daring Indonesia. Analisis makrostruktur digunakan untuk mendeskripsikan secara umum narasi keagamaan pada setiap topik berita dan poin-poin penting yang mengacu pada tema-tema besar. Analisis suprastruktur bertujuan untuk menginterpretasikan tema-tema yang ada dalam media dan skema berita yang ditampilkan dalam teks berita. Sedangkan struktur mikro digunakan untuk merepresentasikan aspek kebahasaan dari narasi berita, yaitu aspek semantik, aspek sintaksis, dan aspek stilistika. Hasil kajian menunjukkan wacana keagamaan terkait berita covid-19 di [Republika online](http://Republika.co.id) mengutamakan penggunaan ikhtisar yang bersumber dari Al-Qur'an dan hadits. Dialog ajaran agama dengan isu faktual Covid digunakan untuk membangun wacana keagamaan dalam pemberitaan

covid-19 di Sindonews Online. Sedangkan Tempo online menggunakan bahasa persuasif tentang peran agama selama pandemi COVID-19. Sedangkan struktur mikro digunakan untuk merepresentasikan aspek kebahasaan dari narasi berita, yaitu aspek semantik, aspek sintaksis, dan aspek stilistika.

**Kata Kunci:** Agama; Analisis Wacana; Pandemi; Spiritual

#### ABSTRACT

*This study examines religious discourse on the news of Covid-19 in sindonews.com, Republika.co.id, and tempo.co. The Fairclough Model Critical Discourse Analysis approach is used in this study to examine the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure of religious discourse in three Indonesian online mass media. Macrostructure analysis is used to describe in general the religious narrative on each news topic and the important points that refer to major themes. Superstructure analysis aims to interpret the themes that exist in the media and news schemes that are displayed in the news text. While the microstructure is used to represent the linguistic aspects of the news narrative, namely the semantic aspect, the syntactic aspect, and the stylistic aspect. The results of the study show that religious discourse related to covid-19 news on Republika online prioritizes the use of overviews sourced from the Qur'an and the hadith. The dialogue on religious teachings with the factual issue of Covid is used to build religious discourse in the news of covid-19 on Sindonews Online. Meanwhile, Tempo online uses persuasive language about the role of religion during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the microstructure is used to represent the linguistic aspects of the news narrative, namely the semantic aspect, the syntactic aspect, and the stylistic aspect.*

**Keywords:** Discourse Analysis; Pandemic; Religion; Spritual

## 1. Introduction

Media technology is growing in people's social life. Technological advances have an impact on the flow of information dissemination faster (Prihantoro 2013). News consumption which was originally in the form of print media has now shifted to using online media. In the first few months of 2020, online mass media became one of the media for publishing and disseminating information and reports about the corona disease in various parts of the country quickly (Ahmad and Murad 2020). This is because online mass media is an important element in disaster and health crisis communication (Yu et al. 2021).

On the other hand, if the public cannot filter the information contained in online media related to the pandemic, it will accelerate the epidemic process by influencing and fragmenting social responses (Cinelli et al. 2020). Therefore, it is necessary to monitor information, build online media literacy capacity, improve the quality of fact-checking, and minimize information distortion factors (Eysenbach 2020). These four pillars can not only be used to avoid misinformation related to the pandemic but can also be used to prevent other misinformation, such as religious discourse in online mass media.

Various reports of religious discourse

were published in the mass media during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Religious discourse is an interesting thing to be informed about in the media. This is because information related to beliefs can be easily accepted or rejected by the public. The news emerged due to the adjustment of religious practice to the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies produced by the government or religious authority institutions.

News related to Covid-19 in the mass media as a form of conveying information to the public about the dangers of covid, which is increasing in transmission and prevention of transmission, delivered by health experts or the government. There is also the news of religious discourse during the covid-19 pandemic as psychological healing for the community and the delivery of government policies or religious authorities' fatwas related to the implementation of worship in the Covid-19 outbreak situation. Like the news published on *Republika.co.id* on April 2, 2020, (Nashrullah 2020) informing that there is still a group of Tablighi worshipers at the Kebon Jeruk Mosque, West Jakarta who insists on carrying out congregational prayers at the mosque but must be quarantined because one of the worshipers has been confirmed positive. The same thing was also reported on *national.sindonews.com* on March 23, 2020, (Azwar 2020) with additional information related to two styles of Islamic religious thought because of the covid-19 outbreak. More news was posted on *tempo.co* on March 18, 2020, (DW 2020) Regarding the portrait of

the response of religious leaders to the COVID-19 outbreak in America and Europe, such as the Purim festival for the Jews which was not held festively, the German Muslim Central Council officially announced the cancellation of congregational Friday prayers, and restrictions on access to churches carried out by church administrators.

The reports in the three mass media indicate that Covid-19 and religion in terminology both have sliced and shared values in universal principles and the same substance, namely the survival of mankind together with the universe. (Maliki 2020). The relationship between religion and science requires a dialogical relationship (Abdullah 2020; Toresano 2020). Dialogic relations and the integration of religious reasoning and modern science will have an impact on the formation of a socio-religious culture of thinking in private or public spaces. (Abdullah 2020)

But on the other hand, not all communities and religious groups can accept government regulations, and MUI fatwas related to adopting new habits in the implementation of worship during a pandemic. As reported on *metro.sindonews.com* on March 3, 2021, (Alpino 2021) about worshipers who are prohibited from praying at one of the Harapan Indah Bekasi Housing Mosques because they wear masks. The prohibition was issued by the mosque management because there are differences between the mosque and the market and the theological reason is the Al-Qur'an Ali Imran verse 96. Another method was reported on *Republika.co.id* on January 8,

2021(Saputra 2021) about the law of a Muslim refusing a covid-19 vaccination. Articles in the news inform various views of Islamic law on covid-19 vaccination, ranging from permissible, sunnah, obligatory, and haram. Other news related to the problem of implementing Friday prayers during the Covid-19 outbreak was published on [national.tempo.co](http://national.tempo.co) on June 12, 2020 (Hendartyo 2020). From some of the news published in the three mass media, there has not been a comprehensive dialogue of religious reasoning and modern science in society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Covid, mass media, and religious discourse are interesting things to study. Various studies have been carried out by researchers to examine these topics, such as the relation of religion, science, and covid-19 that have an impact on the socio-religious life of the community, Musa Maliki(Maliki 2020)in the results of his research, explains that there is a synergy and harmony between science and spiritualism that is hereafter-mundane and transcendental-immanent. The synergy between religion and science is formed through a consistent process of religious appreciation and learning from the experts. News of social distancing in the mass media is a medium for socializing government policies in reducing Covid cases in Indonesia. Reports related to social distancing have been studied by Silmi Alfatri (Alfaritsi, Anggraeni, and Fadhil 2020)with the discourse analysis approach of Teun A. Van Dijk who stated that the production of texts on social distancing news

on [detik.com](http://detik.com) has topics that tend to support the implementation of social distancing in the community with the flow and style of reporting made to support the topic. One of the inhibiting factors for handling the COVID-19 outbreak is the dominance of non-moderate religious discourse, as expressed by Louiegi L Gracia(Garcia and Yap 2021)that there is doubt about vaccination in the community influenced by religious beliefs. The news in the mass media can have an effect and shape perceptions for its readers, especially the information that is disseminated related to national policies, such as preventing the transmission of the coronavirus. Henry (Triyaningsih 2020) researched the Pamekasan community related to information on covid that was consumed in the mass media. The results state that the mass media has a strong effect that can shape the perception of the Pamekasan community, so that news and information in the mass media must be valid or not hoaxes.

From some of the studies above, no research focused on reporting religious discourse in online mass media during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. This article will analyze various news stories whose news topics are related to the relationship between COVID-19 and religious discourses that emerged during the pandemic. The news sources that will be studied are news from [sindonews.com](http://sindonews.com), [republica.com](http://republica.com), and [tempo.com](http://tempo.com). The news from the three sources will be analyzed using Fairclough's critical discourse analysis. The analysis of religious discourse coverage in online mass media

during the covid-19 pandemic in this article aims to reveal how discourse is produced so that it can construct the socio-religious pattern of society and see the ideology contained in the discourse.

## 2. Methods

This study aims to analyze how sindonews.com, republica.com, and tempo.com discuss news about religious discourse related to covid-19 during the pandemic. The reason the researcher chooses sindonews.com, republica.com, and tempo.com is because based on the alexa.com site, the three mass media platforms have the highest number of readers and visitors in Indonesia.(Alexa An Amazon com Company 2021). This study uses a qualitative approach to the model of Fairclough's discourse analysis technique. The data sources in this study were news on religious discourses related to covid during the pandemic on sindonews.com, republica.com, and tempo.com. The method used in the search for research data is the see method. Sudaryanto (Sudaryanto 2015) explained that in the listening method, basic techniques were used which included tapping techniques, speaking, free listening to engaging in conversation, recording, and taking notes. The listening technique used in this study is the note-taking technique. This research is divided into three stages, namely the data collection stage, the data classification stage, and the data analysis stage. The data analyzed in this study is news about religious discourse related to covid-19 during the

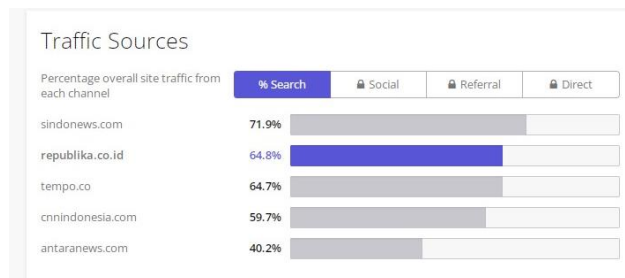
pandemic period which is then analyzed based on the critical discourse of the Fairclough model. using the analysis of three structures, namely the structure of the text, social cognition, and the social context in the news.

The focus of Fairclough's theory study is on the critical assessment of a news text presentation, especially news presented in online media coverage. According to Fairclough (Fairclough 2010) Language has a big role in modern society. Language as a practice of power and how language carries certain ideological values requires comprehensive analysis. This is because language is socially and historically a form of action in a dialectical relationship with a social structure (Prihantoro 2013). So according to Fairclough, the linguistic aspect of mass media reporting needs to be analyzed through three stages of analysis, namely microstructural analysis, mesostructure analysis, and microstructural analysis.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The Indonesian nation is a multicultural nation with various languages, ethnicities, ethnicities, religions, and cultures (Akhmadi 2019). Multicultural life requires a multicultural understanding and awareness that respects differences, pluralism, and the willingness to interact with anyone fairly (Akhmadi 2019). The government's role is needed to socialize religious moderation to the public through the dissemination of valid information in the mass media. This is because the information and communication

technology revolution has made information important and the consumption of information can be carried out by all levels of society easily (Devi Permatasari and Manalu 2021). Thus, it is necessary to strengthen the competence and digital literacy of the community so that they can filter information consumed from various mass media.



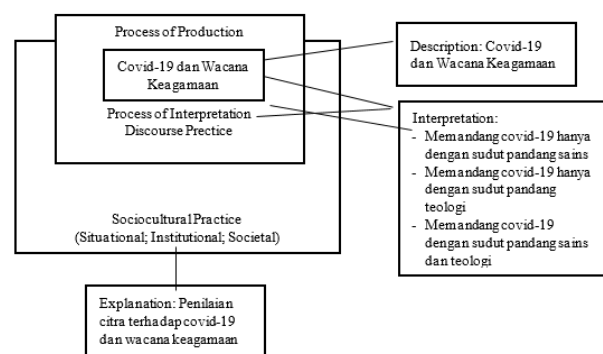
**Figure 1.** Traffic Sources sindonews.com, republica.co.id, and tempo.co from the alexa.com site

The figure above provides information that based on the alexa.com site, the news portals that have the highest number of readers in Indonesia are sindonews.com, republica.co.id, and tempo.com. (Alexa An Amazon com Company 2021). The percentage of sindonews.com traffic sources is 71.7%, republica.co.id is 65.9%, and tempo.co is 65.4%. From this, it shows that the consumption of public information on online news is considered high. Thus, online media providers need to present valid information so that the perceptions that are built in the minds of readers are based on valid information.

**Table 1.** Data on the Title of Covid-19 News and Religious Discourse

Media	Data	News Title	Publication
sindonews.com	1	Corona, Religion and Science (Azwar 2020)	23/03/2020

Media	Data	News Title	Publication
	2	Corona Doesn't Know Religion, Ethnicity, and Political Differences (Pakpahan 2020)	12/04/2020
	3	Science, Corona and Religion (Hamdi 2020)	29/04/2020
	4	Ensure that Sinovac Vaccines are Halal, Minister of Religion: Don't Hesitate to Follow Vaccinations (Mufarida 2021)	12/01/2021
republica.co.id	5	Corona and Our Religion(Nashrullah 2020)	02/04/2020
	6	Corona Virus, Religion Splinter (1) (Azra 2020a)	26/03/2020
	7	Corona Virus, Religion Splinter (2) (Azra 2020b)	15/04/2021
	8	Pandemic and Human Spirituality (Munawar 2021)	27/08/2021
	9	Covid Vaccine: Between Production, Fatwa, and Halal Certification (Nursyamsi, Mukhtar, and Mursid 2020)	06/08/2020
	10	MUI Officially Issues Sinovac Vaccine Halal Fatwa (Raharjo 2021)	12/01/2021
tempo.co	11	About Religion and Corona (DW 2020)	18/03/2021
	12	Religious Leaders Remind Covid-19 Not God's Punishment (Antara and Widiyarti 2020)	10/12/2020
	13	Religion Is Dragged into the Corona Outbreak Disinformation Flow	27/05/2020
	14	Adaptation of Religion in the Corona Era (Makin 2020)	27/04/2020



**Figure.2.** Fairclough's Analysis Framework in Covid-19 News and Religious Discourse

### 3.1 Microstructural Analysis

The dimensions of the text in Fairclough's discourse analysis must be analyzed through a linguistic approach that includes formal forms such as vocabulary, grammar, and textual structure (Munfarida 1970). In the data (1, 2, 3, and 4) there are news sentences with comparative expressions given to certain religious groups about religious phenomena during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data (1, 2, 3, and 4) begins with the phenomenon of the Tablighi Jamaat group which will hold the Asian Zone of the World Ulama Ijtima in Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi. This phenomenon is based on the belief in a valid hadith in Bukhari-Muslim about the disease will not be contagious if God does not will (al-bayan theory). Diction will not be contagious, implicitly giving a negative image of scientists who have conducted research and studies related to COVID-19. The sentence shows two negative sides, namely the loss of dialogue between science and religion and not paying attention to aspects of other people's lives.

However, the data (1,2,3, and 4) are balanced with the counter-narrative diction against the previous news diction, namely the theory of al-Burhan. Common sense diction implicitly satirizes the group of adherents of the al-bayan theory because al-Burhan uses common sense as a guide in finding, studying, assessing, interpreting, and formulating answers based on data and evidence in the field. The form of the news process in the sentence is the event form. Through this news,

sindonews.com shows the reasoning of religious people in Indonesia in dealing with COVID-19 which is marked by the existence of two theories, al-bayan and al-Burhan. However, the emphasis on the news is a form of a dialogue between religion and science. In this case, sindonews.com shows its ideology in responding to life during a pandemic,

In data (5) there are news sentences that are critical of the religious phenomenon of the Indonesian people during a pandemic. Corona diction and the way of religion We implicitly informed the corona pandemic is an extraordinary event and religious activities of people who still don't care about the pandemic. The majority of reports in data (5) contain criticisms of the socio-religious practice of religious adherents who prioritize the benefit of religion rather than maintaining the safety of souls. The data (6 and 7) have a splinter word diction that explicitly shows cases among religious people in responding to the explosion of the spread of the coronavirus. It begins with counter-productive questions about the relationship between Covid-19 and religion, then ends with horse-eye diction. The diction of horse glasses implicitly commented on the splintered views of religious groups who saw the corona outbreak with inadequate knowledge and did not have a good understanding of Islamic teachings. Data (7) contains news with the majority of religious cases occurring in religious communities other than Muslims, such as Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and others. The cases presented are related to the splinter theological attitude of

religious people who understand religious teachings, are short-sighted and do not listen to mainstream religious opinions. In this case, the data (5,6, and 7) available at [Republika.co](http://Republika.co) specify the ideological basis for viewing Corona as an epidemic that needs to be addressed wisely through a scientific and theological approach.

The data (11, 12, 13, and 14) contain euphemistic expressions related to religion and the covid-19 outbreak. The word in data (11) uses diction about religion and corona. The news on the portal highlights the process of religious rituals for religious groups that are starting to adapt to new habits during a pandemic. Implicitly preaching the positive side of religious groups who have conducted a dialogue between science and theology. This is related to data (12) using diction instead of God's punishment, which implicitly religious leaders already have one view of not calling COVID-19 as God's army. Through the news, [tempo.co](http://tempo.co) shows the change in the attitude of religious people from being bayani to burhani, marked by news diction in data (12) not God's punishment and data (14) religious adaptation in the corona era.

### 3.2 Mesostructural Analysis

In the mesostructural dimension, interpretation of discourse processing is carried out which includes aspects of income, distribution, and use of texts (Cenderamata and Darmayanti 2019; Maghvira 2017). Fairclough views mesostructural analysis as referring to institutional routines. This relates to the ways media workers produce texts. Mesostructural

analysis aims not only to find out the content of the news text but the way the message is conveyed (Maghvira 2017). In this article, three news portals are analyzed, namely [sindonews.com](http://sindonews.com), [republika.co.id](http://republika.co.id), and [tempo.com](http://tempo.com).

Online media [sindonews.com](http://sindonews.com) is the online edition of Koran Sindo which was officially established on July 4, 2021, under the management of PT Media Nusantara Dinamis.(Chandrawati 2020). Sindonews provides access to accurate, quality, and fast information to the public. Various information from [sindonews.com](http://sindonews.com), such as national news, politics, technology, business, international, sports, automotive, lifestyle, religion, and others.

[Tempo.com](http://Tempo.com) online media is a transformation from Tempo magazine which was published on March 6, 1971 (Cenderamata and Darmayanti 2019). Tempo's adaptation style by transforming to a digital platform is a quick step to deal with changes in the media industry market that have been affected by digital disruption (Tempo 2021). [Tempo.co](http://Tempo.co) contains a variety of information, including history, lifestyle, politics, culture, opinion, sports, football, international, religion, and health.

[Republika.co.id](http://Republika.co.id) is an online media that cannot be separated from Republika Koran's long journey. Republika Online (ROL) presents a news service on an internet website in 1995 (Republika 2021). [Republika.co.id](http://Republika.co.id) is present in Indonesian society as an integrated and superior online media with the mission of

building moderate, intelligent, and empowered Muslims. The features in *Republika.co.id* contain various information, such as opinions, sports, religion, lifestyle, health, national, international, football, political, social, and historical.

Based on the description of the three media above, it can be seen that as mass media, the portals *sindonews.com*, *republika.co.id*, and *tempo.co* can influence and shape public opinion. The involvement of various elements within the internal institutions in the production of news shows a series of institutional processes. In terms of covid-19 news and religious discourse, the three media can produce news that is independent and free from all pressure.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study aims to determine the form of news related to COVID-19 and religious discourse on online news portals *sindonews.com*, *republika.co.id*, and *tempo.co* by using Fairclough's critical discourse analysis, namely microstructural (text analysis), mesostructural (discourse practice), and macrostructural (sociocultural practice). From this research, it can be concluded that at the microstructural stage the three news portals use diplomatic and accommodating diction. The ideological tendencies of the three media can be seen in the headlines related to COVID-19 and religious discourse. The three prioritize the burhani aspect rather than bayani in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. At the mesostructural stage.

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