

# INDONESIAN JURASSIC PARK'S KOMODO NATIONAL PARK PROJECT CONTROVERSY (A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF TEMPO.CO'S ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS)

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## Abstract

*This paper explains (1) macrostructure, (2) microstructure, (3) social cognition, and (4) social context in the news discourse on the rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo. His presentation is expected to be a means of education about the media's partiality towards reporting on environmental issues, especially about Komodo dragons and their supporting ecosystems. Research data in the form of news discourse were studied based on the critical discourse analysis procedure of Teun A. Van Dijk's model. Macrostructure analysis shows that Tempo.co tend to dare to raise popular issues that are sensitive to the government, especially about the rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo as a topic of discourse. Analysis of the superstructure shows that in delivering news about the rejection of citizens, Tempo.co so straightforwardly highlight the negative side of the news. Tempo.co also displays the comments of the characters or sources as a whole. Microstructure analysis yields several conclusions regarding meaning, word selection, sentence usage, and rhetoric displayed in the Tempo.co. The language used by journalists in voicing their views on the rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo is straightforward and wordless. Journalists conveyed their intentions and details explicitly, and even journalists deliberately quoted and used the word "illegitimate" to indicate that exploitation and extraction were forbidden acts. This further confirms the position of Tempo.co in favor of environmental issues even though the risks must be contrary to government policies. Analysis of social cognition shows that this news text does not support government discourse. Analysis of the social context shows that residents' rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo is based on community anxiety about the threat of extinction of Komodo dragons endemic animals on Flores Island.*

**Keywords:** *controversy; critical discourse analysis; Komodo dragons; rejection; van Dijk*

## 1. Introduction

Forest destruction is a major environmental problem in Indonesia that needs more attention. It can happen due to logging or wildfires. As released by (Kompas.com, 2020), Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) recorded an average forest cover loss rate for the 2013-2017 period

reached an average of 1.47 million hectares per year. The impact of this incident is also threatening the life of the animal in it, one of which is the Komodo dragon. (JPNN.com, 2020) reported that the results of monitoring the Komodo dragon population by the Komodo National Park Office and the Komodo Survival Program (KSP) over the past five

years fluctuated with a relatively stable trend of between 2,400 and 3,000 heads. This means that Komodo dragons are endangered animals.

To overcome the above problems, real action is needed in protecting Komodo dragons and their supporting ecosystems through a number of pro-environment programs and policies. One of them can be done through awareness and education campaigns so that the public cares about the sustainability of Komodo dragons and their ecosystems. In today's digital era, awareness and education campaigns can be carried out effectively through news discourse in cyberspace so that it can be used as an instrument to measure audience partiality towards environmental issues. From an academic perspective, there have been a number of previous studies that have uncovered this topic.

Research on media partiality on environmental conservation issues was conducted by Zulmi (2017) using the critical discourse analysis of van Dijk's model. The results of his research show that The Jakarta Post shows its partiality towards the issue of environmental conservation by positioning itself as a supportive party. In general, The Jakarta Post shows a progressive or inclined attitude towards change by intensely reviewing environmental conservation issues that implicitly suggest the need for improvement in environmental conservation efforts.

Using van Dijk's model critical discourse analysis, Rusyda (2017) concludes that the structure of

writing (word selection (diction), speech in sentences, and determination of titles), packaging (detailed and comprehensive), and the main points of sentences that are highlighted indicate that Mongabay.co.id construct the discourse of environmentalism in its reporting. Mongabay.co.id also wants to be a media that provides a different perspective on the reclamation of Jakarta Bay. Mongabay.co.id further construct its content against environmental interests. Mongabay.co.id expect people to increase their awareness about environmental conservation because this is an important issue that must be highlighted through their reporting.

Based on previous researches above, the environmental issues are sensitive so it is interesting to study using critical discourse analysis. The current issue is the construction of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park in Labuan Bajo. Therefore, researchers are interested in researching the discourse of reporting in the Tempo.co about the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park development project in Labuan Bajo using van Dijk's model critical discourse analysis.

This study aims to describe (1) macrostructure, (2) microstructure, (3) social cognition, and (4) social context. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of critical discourse analysis in Indonesia about the partiality of the media to reporting on environmental issues, especially

about Komodo dragons and their supporting ecosystems.

### 1.1 Critical Discourse Analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk's Model

According to van Dijk (1998), discourse has three dimensions, namely text, social cognition, and social context. van Dijk (1998) combines the three dimensions of discourse into a single unified analysis. In the dimensional aspect of the text, the structure of the text and the discourse strategy used to emphasize a certain theme are revealed. In the aspect of social cognition, the process of producing news texts involving the individual cognition of journalists is studied. In the aspect of the social context, it is studied the building of discourse that develops in society about a problem. Van Dijk's analysis model is described as follows.

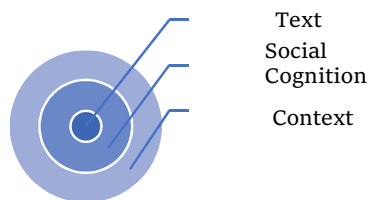


Figure 1 Van Dijk's Analysis Model

Van Dijk (1998) sees a text as consisting of several structures in which each section supports each other. He divided it into three structures. First, a macrostructure that can be observed by looking at the topic or theme put forward in a news story. Second, the superstructure that deals with the

outline of a text. The outline includes parts of the text arranged into the news as a whole. Thirdly, microstructure is the observable meaning of the smallest part of a text, that is, words, sentences, propositions, child sentences, paraphrases, and images.

According to van Dijk (1998), the use of certain words, sentences, propositions and rhetoric by the media is understood as part of a journalist's strategy. The use of certain words, sentences, certain styles is not merely seen as a way of communicating, but is seen as a political way of communicating—a way to influence public opinion, create support, strengthen legitimacy, and get rid of opponents or opponents. The structure of discourse is an effective way to see the process of rhetoric and persuasion that is carried out when one conveys a message. Certain words may be chosen to reinforce choices and attitudes, shape political consciousness and so on.

## 2. Research Method

The method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method, which is a method used by analysing and deciphering data. The procedures used in this study include, namely (1) the planning stage: determination of the research subject, planning the implementation of the research; (2) research implementation: collection of research materials including data

and references, discussions, and conclusions; and (3) preparation of research results.

The data collected in this study is qualitative data in the form of a description of the results of text structure analysis based on the theory of critical discourse analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk's model. Data collection is carried out through two stages. First, an assessment was carried out based on the structure of its formation using the critical discourse analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk's model. Second, an assessment or interpretation of the findings of the research results from the results of the analysis of the text structure of the Teun A. Van Dijk model was carried out.

### 3. Discussion and Result

#### 3.1 Tempo.Co Media's News Macrostructure

In the macro structure there are theme/topic elements, subthemes, and facts. The three elements are related to strengthen each other. If traced, the sections in the macrostructure will show a single point of general ideas that support each other.

Topic elements describe the general theme of a text. The news entitled "The Twists and Turns of Residents' Journey to Reject the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo" which was contained in the Tempo.co media explained the theme of residents' rejection of the TNK Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo which was

based on community anxiety about the threat of extinction of Komodo dragons endemic animals on Flores Island. The selection of this main topic looks at the conditions or events that are happening and become unrest in Indonesia. The main topic was taken to inform that the TNK Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo, which will later be used as a super-premium destination, was rejected by the Indonesian people because people were afraid that Komodo dragons on Flores Island would become extinct. This can be seen from the writings of journalists who several times alluded to efforts to reject from the public regarding the TNK Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo.

Elements at this level of macrostructure are interconnected. The main topic informs the problem at hand, the subtheme shows the details and supports the main topic. Eriyanto (2001) argues that macrostructures show an overview of a text.

#### 3.2 Tempo.Co Media's News Microstructure

The first element at the microstructure level is the setting. Eriyanto (2001) explained that the background element in a text is an element that indicates the background of the event being reported. The chosen setting determines which way the audience's views are to be taken. In this data, the background displayed is to reveal the background why the community rejects the development of the

Komodo National Park (Komodo National Park) area in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT).

The second element at the microstructure level is detail. Eriyanto (2001) explains that a detailed element is an element that aims to control the information displayed by the communicator. The communicator will over-display information that benefits itself or a good image. On the contrary, the communicator will display a small amount of information if it harms it. The detailed elements in this data explain the development of the Komodo National Park (Komodo National Park) area in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). This caused community groups belonging to Formapp to protest to the government.

The third element of the microstructure is the element of intent. Eriyanto (2001) explains that the intent element is the element that sees information in terms of its advantages. If it benefits the communicator, the intent of the question will be outlined explicitly and clearly. And vice versa. If it is detrimental, the information will be outlined implicitly. The intent element in this data informs the reason why the community has taken action against the development of the Komodo National Park (Komodo National Park) area in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). The information was clearly disclosed by reporters.

The fourth element is the element of coherence. According to Eriyanto (2001), coherence is the

connection or interweaving between words or between words in the text. Two unrelated sentences will become related if someone connects them. This can be interpreted to mean that coherence is an element that describes how events are connected or viewed as mutually separate by journalists. In coherence there is conditional coherence and differentiating coherence. Conditional coherence is characterized by the use of sentence children as explanatory, the second sentence has an explanatory function for the previous sentence so that the presence or absence of this explanatory sentence will not reduce the meaning of the sentence.

The metaphorical element is the last element. Metaphorical elements are elements that use figurative language, expressions, proverbs, proverbs, ancestral admonitions, ancient words, and expressions taken from scriptures to support a text by reinforcing the main message. The metaphorical elements contained in this news story are illegitimate and super-premium expressions. Haram comes from Arabic which means 'forbidden'. Super-premium is a foreign language which means 'made better/better than before'.

### 3.3 Social Cognition in Tempo.Co's Media News

Based on the observation of the news entitled "*Lika-liku Perjalanan Warga Menolak Proyek Jurassic Park TN Komodo di Labuan Bajo*" ("The Twists and Turns of the

Journey of Residents Rejecting the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo") in Tempo.co, it can be revealed that the text narrative on the news was built to construct the social behavior of the community to reject the government's plan regarding the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park development project in Labuan Bajo due to community concerns about the extinction of komodo dragons endemic animals on Flores Island. This is due to the background of the owner of Tempo.co media portal, namely PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk., which is owned by Toriq Hadad. In this case, researchers observed that the figure of Toriq Hadad has no affinity with President Joko Widodo or people in the government. Thus, the researcher judged that the news text on this Tempo.co did not support the government's discourse. On the contrary, Tempo.co is known as a mass media that is highly critical of government discourse.

Based on the analysis of the production of news texts, the ideology of journalists in packaging this news is that it tends to be a tool or media for the public in conveying people's voices. The flexible attitude towards the central and local governments can be seen from the content of the news which shows that the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park development project in Labuan Bajo is not the right step. All of these things can be seen from the structure of text production made in the news.

### 3.4 Social Context in Tempo.Co's Media News

This news contains residents' rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo which is based on public anxiety about the threat of extinction of komodo dragon endemic animals on Flores Island. This is supported by a quote of fact that the West Manggarai civil society group has repeatedly rejected the construction of the Komodo National Park (Komodo National Park) area in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) and the rejection efforts were voiced long ago by community groups belonging to Formapp to the government. The cons of implementing the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bojo by local residents occurred as follows.

#### 1. Cons of rejecting the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project

The Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project, which is considered the right step in an effort to save the environment for Komodo dragon endemic animals in Labuan Bojo, has actually reaped many cons from various local communities. Each person has a different opinion accompanied by reasonable reasons. For some people, they consider that the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project will actually damage the original environment for komodo dragon endemic animals

which will later be used as tourist attractions.

According to the government, the construction of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project is considered the right step because it has the intention to renew the habitat of endemic animals that are almost extinct. However, the local community did not respond well to the wishes of government projects. This may be due to different perspectives on the environment. This difference of views originated from an attitude of objection based on public anxiety about the threat of extinction of komodo dragons endemic animals on the island of Flores.

The Governor of NTT, Viktor Laiskodat, revealed his plan to close Pulau Komodo for one year which aims to revamp the tourist area. This is based on the local natural potential that is suitable for the construction of rest area tourism such as restaurants, ranger inns, and other facilities. However, if implemented, the project does not rule out the possibility of causing damage to local nature and triggering extinction for endemic Komodo dragons. In the end, anxiety arose in various minds of people who judged that it could damage the environment.

## 2. Impact of rejection from the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project

The mass media so quickly succeeded in constructing people's understanding. It starts from the socialization strategy to how to produce text that is packaged in such a way that it makes the reader no longer have any doubts about the discourse, as in the text used paragraphs that support each other, active sentences from a group of people, and reliable sources. The onslaught of news has an impact on changing people's views of the environment quickly and on a large scale. Changes in people's views on the environment are supported by the existence of information and communication technology. The change occurred in the way of communicating with each other, the way of thinking, and the way of behaving.

The following is a statement from the Chairman of Formapp, Aloysius Suhartim when asked about his approval in the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park development project: Development that is exploitative and extraction is illegitimate. According to him, the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project is an exploitative and extraction development that is considered incorrect. Even in

this context, the Chairman of Formapp, Aloysius Suhartim did not hesitate to say that this matter is illegitimate. Exploitation itself is an individual or group interest that leads to excessive economic activities without considering the sense of propriety, justice, and compensation of welfare. Meanwhile, extraction is a separation, revocation, and withdrawal outward that is carried out from as it should be. Because this activity can result in environmental destruction that even has an impact on the loss of komodo dragon endemics, this is what makes the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project rejected by the local community.

3. Economic impact of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project

The desire to carry out the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project in an effort to revitalize TNK in the Labuan Bojo Area has made part of the area closed. This has an impact on people who work in the trade sector around tourist attractions. They have to experience higher competition with large financiers. They are also marginalized so that the lower middle class will certainly experience difficulties. The reason is that this

revitalization project is not only a form of environmental renewal for komodo dragon endemics, but also as a large development project that includes rest areas, restaurants, ranger inns, and other facilities carried out by the government and large entrepreneurs.

*SKL memperoleh izin konsesi seluas 22,1 hektare untuk pembangunan rest area seperti restoran, penginapan ranger, serta fasilitas lainnya.*

Based on the above statement, there is a sense of unease tucked away in the hearts of small people working in the trade sector because they feel left behind. In addition, they are also concerned about evictions and land leveling for the construction of rest areas such as rest areas, ranger lodgings, and other facilities.

4. Impact of formal education from the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project

Komodo National Park is a natural habitat for *Varanus komodoensis* and other endemic animals and vegetation both on land and in the sea. It is this fundamental thing that is fear and anxiety for the local people who categorically reject this



government project. This is counterproductive to educational efforts about environmental conservation, even though the government should facilitate educational activities on how to continue to maintain the balance of the local ecosystem. However, the government actually implements development projects that can actually damage the existing ecosystem only for the benefit of some parties.

5. Impact of religious ritual activities from the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project

Ritual activities and customs are activities that involve many individuals with God and the surrounding nature. The large number of indigenous peoples in the Labuan Bajo Area is certain that there are also many rituals and customs that they carry out for the sustainability of each individual in it. However, the construction of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project can indirectly hinder and interfere with their ritual activities and customs in fulfilling their habits. This is not without reason because Labuan Bajo is predicted to become a tourist area so that later it will bring in many tourists from outside. Finally, there is a cultural contact that has the potential

to shift religious values as well as local wisdom. Not only dangerous for the sustainability of the natural ecosystem of Komodo endemic animals, the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project also has great potential to bring social disasters to the surrounding community, starting from disrupting the existence of a common livelihood space between tourist actors and the local community.

**4. Conclusion**

Based macrostructure analysis result, it can be concluded that Tempo.co tend to dare to raise popular issues that are sensitive to the government, especially about the rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo as a topic of discourse. In this context, journalists seek to present straightforward facts and subtopics that support the formation of a global topic about the environment. The facts and subtopics are conveyed explicitly by journalists.

The results of the analysis of the superstructure elements show that in conveying news about the rejection of residents, Tempo.co so straightforwardly highlight the negative side of the news. In addition, Tempo.co also displays the comments of the characters or sources as a whole. Journalists rarely make a statement based on the comments of a figure or source.

Microstructure analysis yields several conclusions regarding meaning, word selection, sentence usage, and rhetoric displayed in the Tempo.co. The language used by journalists in voicing their views on the rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park Project in Labuan Bajo is straightforward and wordless. Journalists conveyed their intentions and details explicitly, and even journalists deliberately quoted and used the word "illegitimate" to indicate that exploitation and extraction were forbidden acts. This further confirms the position of Tempo.co in favor of environmental issues even though the risks must be contrary to government policies.

Based on the analysis of social cognition, the news text on this tempo.co does not support government discourse. On the contrary, tempo.co is known as a mass media that is highly critical of government discourse. The results of the analysis of the production of news texts show that the ideology of journalists in packaging this news is that it tends to be a tool or media for the public in conveying people's voices.

Based on the analysis of the social context, this news contains residents' rejection of the Komodo National Park Jurassic Park project in Labuan Bajo which is based on public anxiety about the threat of extinction of komodo dragon endemic animals on Flores Island. This is supported by a quote of fact that the West Manggarai civil society group has

repeatedly rejected the development of the Komodo National Park (TN Komodo) area in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) and the rejection efforts were voiced long ago by community groups belonging to Formapp to the government.

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