

A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ISRAEL-PALESTINE CRISIS NEWS TEXT ON THE JAKARTA POST

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Abstrak

Tujuan studi ini adalah untuk mengetahui mikro (tekstual), meso (praktik diskursif), dan makro (praktik sosial) serta konteks sosial dan politik di Indonesia meminta dukungan internasional untuk menyelesaikan teks krisis Israel-Palestina yang disediakan oleh The Jakarta Post. Data yang terkumpul akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan tiga dimensi Analisis Wacana Kritis (AWK) yang dikembangkan oleh Norman Fairclough. Penelitian ini dilakukan secara kualitatif dengan menggunakan teknik analisis deskriptif. Hasilnya menunjukkan 20 kutipan dari teks berita yang menunjukkan tiga dimensi AWK (micro, meso, macro), sementara konteks sosial dan politik terwakili dalam teks. Inti utama informasi yang disampaikan dalam berita yang diproduksi The Jakarta Post adalah Indonesia menyatakan fokus untuk mendapatkan dukungan internasional sehingga mereka dapat menekan Israel untuk menghentikan kekerasan. Indonesia dan masyarakat internasional harus memfokuskan kembali upaya untuk mengatasi ketidakadilan yang telah berlangsung lama mengganggu prospek semua warga Palestina untuk hidup aman dan damai.

Kata kunci: Analisis Wacana Kritis (AWK), Analisa Tekstual, Krisis Israel-Palestina, Praktik Wacana, Praktik Sosial.

Abstract

The aim of this study are to find out the micro (textual), meso (discursive practice), and macro (social practice) as well as the social and political context in Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis text provided by The Jakarta Post. The compiled data will be analyzed by using three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) developed by Norman Fairclough. This research was conducted qualitatively by using the descriptive analysis technique. The results show excerpts from the news text that indicate the three-dimensional CDA (micro, meso, macro), while the social and political context represented in the text. The main point of information conveyed in the news produced by The Jakarta Post is that Indonesia declares to focus on gaining international support so they can put huge pressure on Israel to stop the violence. Indonesia and international community must refocus efforts to address the longstanding injustices that have impaired prospects for all Palestinians to live in safety and peace.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Discourse Practice, Israel-Palestine Crisis, Social Practice, Textual Analysis.*

1. Introduction

Disputes in the Middle East occurred as Jews began to migrate to Palestine since the

1920s. The trigger was the emergence of a politically transformed religious movement called Zionism that was established by Theodore Herzl. Up until now, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is always under media and politicians' spotlight. Even news reports guided by values such as truthfulness, accuracy, balance, impartiality and integrity have always been the subject of scrutiny and criticism by both sides. News discourse is always seen as an objective and formal linguistic form of discourse. Ekstrom (2002) stated that news is reliable, neutral and current factual information that is important and valuable for citizens in democracy.

Armed conflict erupted between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip between 10 and May 21, 2021. The incident was a barrage of long histories of Israeli and Palestinian conflicts. The dispute between the two sides has gone on for decades and it was the fifth Israel-Gaza conflict in 15 years (Amnesty International, 2021). As reported by *thejakartapost.com*, Indonesia has reiterated its call for international leaders' support to end violence during and ahead of international forums that seek to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo stated that Indonesia strongly condemns Israel's attacks which has lost hundreds of lives; including women and children. Thus, Israel's aggression must be put to an end. Gaza's Health Ministry has recorded 212 people have been killed, while 1,400 have been reported injured (CNN Newsource, 2021).

The discourse of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been the subject of numerous academic research. Therefore, a critical discourse perspective is used in this research by using Norman Fairclough's three dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). According to Fairclough (2001), the term "discourse" refers to each of three levels of the social world—language or text, practice or interaction and context—and, importantly, the connections between them. Critical discourse analysis has an important role in online media, as this approach provides a tool for analysis and intertextuality analysis.

Based on the above background, this paper aims to analyze the critical discourse of news report entitled "*Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis*". Its purpose is to critically analyze the micro, meso, and macro as the linguistics aspects, the connections between the use of language, and the social and political contexts are used in text news.

2. Methodology

In this research, the writer used the three-dimensional critical discourse analysis approach by Fairclough (2001) specifically the micro, macro, and meso aspects. The writer

chose this approach as it can define systematically the fact and characteristics of the data. A critical discourse analysis approach also has a purpose of understanding the discourse as a form of social practice. A person always has the purpose of writing a discourse in social practice as well as the purpose of exercising power.

2.1 Research Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. According to Ary and Jacob (2010), qualitative research uses a content analysis approach that is presented in written form and provides an interpretation of the results descriptively, while a descriptive study determines and reports the way things are.

2.2 Data Source

The data source was obtained through the news online media, *The Jakarta Post* sites. It is because *The Jakarta Post* is a well-known daily English-language newspaper in Indonesia. The newspaper is targeted at foreigners and educated Indonesians, although the middle-class Indonesian readership has increased. The Jakarta Post is also noted for being a training ground for local and international reporters.

The main data of the research was on *The Jakarta Post* sites including the phrases, sentences, and words. Sentences or phrases that consist of textual strategy as well as the ways the text news is represented, would be analyzed using the theory of Fairclough.

2.3 Data Collecting Techniques

The collecting data technique in this study was done through documentation. Collecting data related to CDA through documentation by collecting, reading and studying various forms of written data (books, news texts, theses, and journals) contained in libraries, the internet or other institutions. The writer uses news text of *The Jakarta Post* entitled Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis, published on May, 16, 2021, written by Nur Janti. This data is used to support and strengthen the research results.

2.4 Data Analyzing Techniques

The writer used several steps in analyzing the data, that are reading extensively the discourse of Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis news in *The Jakarta Post*, taking notes and analyzing the discourse structure, describing the data using the three-dimensional discourse analysis model from Norman Fairclough, and then, finding out the social and political contexts are used in text news.

3. Result and Discussion

This section presents finding on the Norman Fairclough discourse analysis model. The writer analyzes the textual dimension, discursive practice, and social practice, as well as analyzing the social context and political context found on *The Jakarta Post* news text entitled *Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis* based on Norman Fairclough's model. The results are presented in the form of descriptions and are described in the form of discussions.

3.1 The Textual Strategy Analysis

3.1.1 Micro-level Dimensions

Based on the various linguistic tools used by thejakartapost.com in the reporting of *Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis*, the writer found the mark of the representation of the themes and figures which involved in the news of thejakartapost.com. They are the dictions, the usage of causal sentences, and the selection of speakers in the form of direct quotations.

Excerpt 1

(1) *Before the OIC meeting, Retno reached out to several counterparts, such as the foreign ministers of Egypt, Malaysia and Brunei, regarding this issue.*

(2) *Retno also suggested that each country use its influence to encourage a ceasefire and that the OIC has to work harder to restart credible multilateral negotiations.*

(3) *“Together we have to act now. The Palestinian people deserve justice. And I emphasize that Indonesia will continue to support the Palestinian struggle,” she told a press conference on the side lines of the OIC meeting.*

(4) *If the UNSC fails to take action, the UN General Assembly must hold an emergency meeting, Retno said, adding that the OIC would urge it to implement international protection to protect Palestinians and the Al Aqsa Mosque area.*

In data (1) to (4), it can be seen how thejakartapost.com quoting statements as actions from Retno. The Jakarta Post gives personal reference, such as: Retno reached out, Retno also suggested, she told a press conference, Retno said, and Retno told the press. As stated earlier, the media is able to determine aspects that are highlighted or omitted from the news, determine the news structure according to them, and from which side the event will be highlighted.

The variety of language styles used by thejakartapost.com in delivering news to readers makes the news appear more interesting and appealing to the readers. Mrs. Retno Marsudi, the

speaker in this discourse, is a diplomat who has served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Working Cabinet since 2014. The theme of the discussion is the need to unite support for Palestinian independence.

Excerpt 2

(5) *Hamas began its rocket assault on Monday after weeks of tensions over a court case to evict several Palestinian families in East Jerusalem, and in retaliation for Israeli police clashes with Palestinians near the city's Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.*

(6) *Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other militant groups **have fired** more than 2,000 rockets from Gaza since Monday, the Israeli military said on Saturday. Israel has **launched** more than 1,000 air and artillery **strikes** into the densely populated coastal strip, saying they were aimed at Hamas and other militant targets.*

From data (5) to (6), it is clearly described how *thejakartapost.com* took the resource statement by using ways of emphasizing how bad things are, namely: *began its rocket assault*, *have fired*, *launched*, and *strikes*, are as verbs from the actions. Dictions presented from the words *began its rocket assault*, *have fired*, *launched*, and *strikes*, are the result of the actions of Israel's strikes over Hamas sites.

Excerpt 3

(7) *The heaviest fighting since 2014 between Israel and Islamist group Hamas, sparked by unrest in Jerusalem, has claimed 174 lives in the crowded coastal enclave of Gaza and killed 10 people in Israel since last Monday.*

(8) *Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other militant groups have fired more than 2,000 rockets, and more than 1,000 air and artillery strikes.*

Here, The Jakarta Post present number such as in data (7) and (8). The news reports slightly use numbers whether it is correct or not to signal rhetorically their exactness and hence their objective (Dijk: 16). The first data uses *174 lives* to express the lives who have been lost when the 2014 Israel-Palestine crisis occurred. Then, *10 people* indicate the people that died in 2021 in the crowded coastal enclave of Gaza. Second data, states that Hamas or Islamic Jihad, along with other militant groups has launched *2,000 rockets*, and *1,000 air and artillery strikes* into the densely populated coastal strip in Gaza. Here, the journalist uses an adjective *more than* as a quantifier meaning greater in amount.

3.1.2 Meso-level Dimensions

In the meso dimension analysis, the interpretation conducted on the processing of discourse which includes aspects of production, distribution and using of text. This section analyzes how media workers produce text. Therefore, through this analysis, people not only know how the content of the news text is written but also how the message is delivered.

The Jakarta Post is one of the online media in Indonesia which aims to provide services to readers in places that are difficult to reach by the Jakarta Post distribution network. As Indonesia's largest English news publisher, *The Jakarta Post*, understands the needs of the readers and has created products that not only leverage its heritage in print but also satisfies the high demand of digital news consumption from readers, wherever they are. Throughout its 38 years, *The Jakarta Post* has recorded and documented a wide range of headline news and historical moments, and is well recognized for its good journalism, which has continued into the digital age.

The Jakarta Post has informed that Indonesia has reiterated its call for international leaders' support to end violence during and ahead of international forums that seek to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. President of Indonesia made a statement that Indonesia strongly condemns Israel's attacks, which have resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives, including women and children. At the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi, emphasized that if the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) fails to take action, the UN General Assembly must hold an emergency meeting, adding that the OIC would urge it to implement international protection to protect Palestinians and the Al-Aqsa Mosque area from Israel's attack.

The journalist presents how the Indonesia calls for international leaders' support to end violence of the conflict that take place between Israel and Palestine. In the meeting, Indonesia declares to focus on gaining international support so they can put huge pressure on Israel to stop the violence. However, in reality, with the right-wing opposition and the governing coalition in agreement, the message is clear: There will be no negotiations and no two-state solution any time soon, setting Israelis and Palestinians most likely on a disaster-bound trajectory. In spite of that, Indonesia and international community must refocus efforts to address the longstanding injustices that have impaired prospects for all people to live in safety and peace. It includes calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and blockade of Gaza.

3.1.3 Macro-level Dimensions

In macro-level dimensions, socio cultural practices analyze three things, namely economics, politics (especially related to issues of power and ideology) and culture (especially with regard to values and identities) which also influence media institutions, and their discourse. The production and the context of situation on *The Jakarta Post* conveyed in the text news. Israeli police actions against Palestinians protesting home evictions or praying at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, cross-border fighting between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza, marches from Jordan on the West Bank border, and violence in Israel's mixed cities – towns with significant numbers of Jewish and Palestinian citizens.

The conflicting groups often participate in increasingly destructive forms of reciprocating violence, which fuels narratives that lead to further cycles of violence. Hamas began its rocket assault on Monday after weeks of tensions over a court case to evict several Palestinian families in East Jerusalem, and in retaliation for Israeli police clashes with Palestinians near the city's Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. For this reason, this endless conflict is a concern for many media, including thejakartapost.com.

The influence of institutions in the writing of the news text on *Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis* involves two resource persons, namely the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi and Abdul Kadir Jaelani, director general for Asia Pacific and Africa, who accompanied Retno at the OIC meeting. However, the reality of the selection of resource persons and selected resource persons quote points to two characters. So the news delivered will be more well-adjusted, authentic and reliable.

It can be drawn a common thread that the news produced by *thejakartapost.com* is closely related to the existence of the media itself. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) demand the international support to stop the ongoing Israeli settlement colonization of occupied Palestinian land, and reaffirms its position in supporting Palestinian independence. The social, political and cultural situation from the linguistic aspects used in discourse *Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis* which are represented by several choices of words that are reflected in the discourse, so that the Israel's aggression would stop and Indonesia would continue to stand with the people of Palestine. Muslims in Indonesian can also give the supports and contributions for Palestine.

3.2 Social Context Analysis

Critical discourse analysis is also used to describe something, translate, and analyze social and political news presented through text. In addition, critical discourse analysis is not only seen from linguistic aspects, but also from the relationship between language and certain contexts, including the specific objectives of social and political news. Therefore, the writer provided explanation below about how the news text is represented through social and political context in the news.

Excerpt 4

(1) *Before the OIC meeting, Retno reached out to several counterparts, such as the foreign ministers of Egypt, Malaysia and Brunei, regarding this issue.*

(2) *At the OIC meetings, Indonesia proposed three key points to resolve the conflict, including the need to unite support for Palestinian independence.*

(3) *Retno also suggested that each country use its influence to encourage a ceasefire and that the OIC has to work harder to restart credible multilateral negotiations.*

(4) *If the UNSC fails to take action, the UN General Assembly must hold an emergency meeting, Retno said, adding that the OIC would urge it to implement international protection to protect Palestinians and the Al Aqsa Mosque area.*

The confrontations across Israel-Palestine are well on the way to becoming one of the worst spasms of violence there in recent memory. Various parties have sought a ceasefire between Palestine and Israel; including Indonesia. The writer found in data (1) that Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi's attendance at the UN Headquarters was for humanity, for justice to the Palestinian people and to call for an end to violence and a ceasefire to save the lives of innocent people, including women and children. Data (2) mainly discussed about three key points that was proposed to resolve the conflict. While in data (3), have a meaning that all forms of injustice must be stopped immediately. The world must continue to provide support for Palestinian independence and fight injustice.

In addition, the three actions to be taken by the UN, are, first, to put an end to the violence and military action to prevent further victims. As in data (4), she delivered a statement to prevent a recurrence of Israeli brutality in the future, an international presence in Al-Quds is required to monitor and ensure the safety of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This international presence also aims to protect Al-Haram Al-Sharif's status as a holy place for three religions. Second, to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and the protection of

civilians. The UN General Assembly and other UN agencies need to step up their efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to affected Palestinians. Third, to promote credible multilateral negotiations based on internationally agreed parameters to achieve a “two-state solution.” The UN General Assembly has a moral and political obligation to ensure peace negotiations take place.

3.3 Political Context

Excerpt 5

(1) *US President Joe Biden expressed his “grave concern” over violence in Israel and Gaza in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Saturday, while separately telling President Mahmoud Abbas that Hamas must “cease firing rockets.”*

(2) *Speaking on the sixth day of a paroxysm of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has left scores dead or wounded, Biden expressed his “strong support” for Israel’s right to defend itself against rocket attacks by “Hamas and other terrorist groups”, in his call with Netanyahu, while also emphasizing his clear concern over the deadly flare-up and casualties on both sides, as well as for the safety of journalists.*

(3) *In a televised statement late Saturday, Netanyahu thanked Biden for “unequivocal support”. Netanyahu told the US that Israel was doing its utmost to safeguard civilians in its Gaza bombing campaign. “The proof is that towers containing terror sites are cleared of uninvolved people prior to being attacked,” he said.*

From data (5) to (7), it is clearly shows that political relations between the Palestinians and the United States have been complex and strained since a long time ago. In data (5), it is said that Joe Biden, the United States president expressed his concern. In the conversation, Joe Biden emphasized the need for the Palestinian militia, Hamas, to stop attacks on Israel so as not to trigger further escalation. Apart from stressing the need for an immediate de-escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian situation, Joe Biden also reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening American-Palestinian relations.

On the contrary, the United States was the first country to recognize Israel as a state in 1948, and the first to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017. While the U.S. does not recognize the State of Palestine, it recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative entity for the Palestinian people; following the Oslo Accords, it

recognized the Palestinian National Authority as the legitimate Palestinian government of the Palestinian territories.

Due to its non-recognition of Palestine, the United States does not maintain any official diplomatic offices in the Palestinian territories nor does it provide consular services to Palestinians, and the Palestinians have had no diplomatic representation in the United States since the closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) mission in Washington, D.C., in October 2018. The United States has designated a “Palestinian Affairs Unit” within its embassy to Israel in Jerusalem for the purpose of handling relations with the PNA, but Palestine is presently maintaining a public policy of non-cooperation with the office and with the United States in general.

As all the above points have demonstrated, despite the fact that Palestine is not recognized by the United States as an independent state, the news texts from data (5) to (7) are giving the information about the President of the United States, Joe Biden, that emphasized his clear concern over the deadly flare-up and casualties on both sides, as well as for the safety of journalists. It can conclude as a very justified and moral act on humanitarian grounds.

4. Conclusions

After analyzing the data, the writer concludes that critical discourse analysis in the form of news *Indonesia calls for international support to resolve Israel-Palestine crisis* shows the three-dimensional of micro, meso, and macro proposed by Fairclough. First, *thejakartapost.com* used direct quotations or personal reference such as *Retno reached out*, *Retno also suggested*, *she told a press conference*, *Retno said*, and *Retno told the press*. Second, *The Jakarta Post* took the resource statement by using ways of emphasizing how bad things are, namely: *began its rocket assault*, *have fired*, *launched*, and *strikes*, are as verbs from the actions of Israel’s attack over Hamas sites. Third, *The Jakarta Post* present number, such as *174 lives* to express the lives who have been lost when the 2014 Israel-Palestine crisis occurred. Then, *10 people* indicate the people that died in 2021 in the crowded coastal enclave of Gaza. Second data, states that Hamas or Islamic Jihad, along with other militant groups has launched *2,000 rockets*, and *1,000 air and artillery strikes* into the densely populated coastal strip in Gaza.

Finally, the writer finds social and political contexts in the news content, namely three actions that the United Nations will take to end violence and military action to prevent further casualties in Palestine. While in the political context, it was explained that the political

relationship between Palestine and the United States was complex, however, the president of the United States expressed his concern and emphasized the need to strengthen relations between America and Palestine.

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