ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTIC LANGUAGE IN BUILDING A BALANCED LEGAL NEWS NARRATIVE

Rokibullah
Universitas Islam Bunga Bangsa Cirebon, Indonesia
Email: rokibullah06@gmail.com

Abstract: Legal news has a crucial role in providing information and understanding to the public about ongoing legal cases. However, often the news can be affected by certain biases or viewpoints, which can affect the objectivity of the news narrative. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the role of journalistic language in building balanced legal news narratives, by considering aspects of objectivity and equality of information. The research method in this study is qualitative. The data collection technique was carried out by literature study obtained from Google Schoolar and legal news articles published in the 2020-2023 period in various trusted mass media. The data that has been collected will be analyzed qualitatively using content analysis techniques. The results showed that a balanced legal news narrative must meet specific criteria, including prioritizing fairness, accuracy, and neutrality in the delivery of information. Democratic journalistic language avoids differences in level or rank in the use of language and prioritizes active sentences to be more easily understood by readers. In addition, journalistic language must also adhere to standard language rules and ethics to reflect honesty, sincerity and respect for individual privacy. By adhering to these criteria, legal news narratives can be considered balanced, able to provide a comprehensive picture, and respect the interests of society as a whole.

Keywords: Language, Journalism, Narrative, Legal News

INTRODUCTION

Journalistic language, known as press language or media language, is one form of creative language used in Indonesian. Journalistic language includes a variety of academic language, literary language, philosophical language, and business language. The language of journalism is halfway between the language of science that is dominated by facts and lacks style, and the language of literature that prioritizes creativity and style. In its application, journalistic language sticks to facts but still has an interesting style. Writing in journalistic language considers space and time limitations, so efficiency and effectiveness are important. Journalists have to face deadlines in writing for the mass media, so the choice of words and writing style must be carefully arranged. In addition, journalistic language also needs to be adjusted to the audience or audience that is the target reader or audience (Hariyanto, 2019).

Journalistic language is the language used in news writing. A journalist must comply with the rules of

journalistic language in writing news so that it is easily understood by the public. News writing must follow standard sentences or language to maintain clarity and fluency in the reader's understanding. Good journalistic language not only makes it easier for readers to understand information, but also strengthens the existence of mass media companies. Proper and correct language can increase media credibility and reputation (Anti et all, 2020).

In news writing, there is the potential for errors in the use of language that can have a fatal impact, such as reducing readers' understanding of the standard language. In addition, writing errors can cause misinterpretation or double meaning of the message conveyed by the author, which in turn can affect readers' perception of the news (Anti et all, 2020). Especially for legal news, legal news has a crucial role in providing information and understanding to the public about ongoing legal cases.

Language errors in legal reporting can threaten the security and honor of individuals or groups involved in a particular legal case. False or inaccurate information may lead to libel, false accusations, or interference with ongoing legal proceedings. Therefore, it is very important that a balanced legal narrative is imposed.

A balanced legal narrative is the reporting or writing of news about legal cases that are carried out fairly, objectively, and accurately. In a balanced legal narrative, there is no partiality or

distortion of facts that can cause the impression of bias against one party or a particular point of view. All information submitted must be based on valid evidence and data, and avoid excessive or sensational use of language to attract the reader's attention.

Previous research conducted by (Hariyanto et all, 2019) examined the application of journalistic language in writing television media news narratives. Another study was also conducted by (Henatisya et all, 2016) who examined the application of journalistic language in writing news scripts in television media. The novelty of this study is that there is no specific research discussing the role of journalistic language in building a balanced legal news narrative on website media. This study aims to analyze the role of journalistic language in building a balanced legal news narrative, taking into account aspects of objectivity and information equity.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method in this study is qualitative. According to (Sugiyono, 2018) qualitative research methods are research methods based on philosophy used to research in scientific conditions (experiments) where researchers as instruments, data collection techniques and qualitative analysis emphasize meaning. The data collection technique was carried out by literature studies obtained from Google Schoolar and legal news articles published in the period 2020-2023 in various trusted mass media. The data

that has been collected will be analyzed qualitatively using content analysis techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The Importance of Journalistic Language

Journalistic language is the scale or variety in Indonesian, just as there is legal language or commercial language. Although journalistic language has a number of specificities, journalistic language is a standard Indonesian, which must pay attention to applicable rules. So Indonesian journalistic language remains Indonesian standard, good, and correct (Aryusmar, 2011). The theory of the press social responsibility is the responsibility of the media or the press that seeks to show a concept of the media's obligation to serve the interests of society (Rati, 2016). Language in journalistic life is no longer a messenger but another impetus in its development influencing press activities to the level of fragmenting the reality of news events. Journalistic language is able to shape the behavior of its readers (Yundri, 2018).

Kunjana Rahardi in his book Asyik Bahasa Journalism provides a summary for language figures in a variety of journalistic language or press language has communicative characteristics, specifications, sparing words, clear meaning, not redundant and cliché. The figure of language in the variety of journalism or language per situ actually refers to the language used to convey the figure of facts, reports, news, writing, which is happening now, namely facts that are happening today, even today (Listari &; Ismandianto, 2021).

The characteristics of journalistic language in his book Kunjana in Supit, Paputungan, and Senduk (2018) are as follows.

a. Simple
   Simple means always prioritizing and choosing words or sentences that are most widely known for their meaning by the reading audience.
b. Brief
   Short means straight to the point, not long-winded, not circling, not boring, very valuable reader time.
c. Dense
   Solid in journalistic language means full of information. Each sentence or paragraph written contains a lot of important and interesting information for the reading audience.
d. Businesslike
   Straightforward means firm, unambiguous, while avoiding euphemisms or smoothing words and sentences that can confuse the reader audience so that there is a appeasement of perception and confusion of conclusions.
e. Clear
   Obviously means easy to catch, not to blend and run away.
f. Clear
   Clear means clear, discerning, honest, sincere, not hiding something else negative such as prejudice or slander.
g. Pull
   Interesting means to arouse the attention of the reading audience.
h. Democratic

One of the most prominent features of journalistic language is democratic. Democratic means that journalistic language does not recognize the rank, rank, caste, or distinction of the greeting party and the accosted party as found in the community in the priyayi keratin environment.

i. Prioritize active voice

Active voice is easier to understand and preferred by the reading audience than fascive sentence. For example, a thief takes jewelry from the wardrobe, rather than taking the jewelry from the wardrobe by the thief. Journalistic language must be clear in wording, and strong in meaning (clear and strong).

j. Avoid technical words or terms

Because it is intended for the public, journalistic language must be simple, easy to understand, light to read, not make the brow wrinkle let alone make the head throb.

k. Comply with standard language rules and ethics

One of the main functions of the press is education, educating (*to educate*). This function is not only reflected in the content of the news, reports, images, and articles, but must also be visible in the language. On the language of the ethical knot. Language not only reflects a person's thoughts but also shows that person's ethics.

Balanced Legal News Narrative

The Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Year 1945 (UUD NRI 1945 (amendment) Article 1 paragraph (3), "the state of Indonesia is a state of law". Law as a system of norms to achieve the desired goal effectively. Therefore, the legal world is synonymous with regulation of behavior. Regulation of behavior cannot be established, applied, and appreciated without logical and argumentative language. It appears that the legal language has its own language rules. This view can be misleading when it ignores the rules of Indonesian usage, especially those related to semantics, word choice, and sentence formulation (Qamar & Djanggih, 2017).

The language of law is the language of rules and regulations aimed at bringing about order and justice, to defend the public interest and private interests within society.

The Role of Journalistic Language in Building a Balanced Legal News Narrative

The types of news known in the world of journalism according to Muin, (2021)., namely:

1. straight news, as it is, written briefly and straightforwardly;
2. depth news or in-depth news, developed by deepening things that are below a surface;
3. investigation news or news developed based on research or investigation from various sources;
4. interpretative news or news developed with the opinion of the author;
5. opinion news or news about someone's opinion

A balanced legal news narrative must meet several key criteria to ensure that the reporting is accurate, objective, and not tendentious. Some of the main criteria that must be met in a balanced legal news narrative include:

1. Objectivity: Legal news narratives should reflect objectivity in the delivery of information. Journalists should avoid personal views or tendentious viewpoints in presenting facts relevant to the reported legal case.

2. Fairness and Openness: Legal news narratives should provide equal opportunities to convey the views and opinions of the various parties involved in the case. This includes providing space for news sources from both sides or more, so readers can understand the various perspectives that exist.

3. Accuracy and Facts: Reporting must be based on facts that can be accounted for and accurate. Journalists should conduct careful research and confirm information from reliable sources before presenting it to readers.

4. Editorial Neutrality: Editors must remain neutral and independent from influence or pressure from external parties. News should not be influenced by political, economic, or other parties that can affect the objectivity of the news.

5. News Balance: News coverage should reflect the balance between various aspects and facts relevant in a legal case. This includes providing proportionate space for each party involved without denigrating or discriminating against either one.

6. Avoiding Sensationalism: Legal news narratives should avoid sensationalism and over-presentation that can affect readers' perception of reported legal cases.

7. Respect for Privacy and Ethics: Reporting should respect individual privacy and maintain the integrity of journalistic ethics, including avoiding slander or personal judgment of those involved.

8. Readability and Comprehension: Legal news narratives should be written in language that is easily understood by readers from various backgrounds, so that information can be conveyed clearly and transparently.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that journalistic language plays a crucial role in shaping a balanced legal news narrative. The importance of journalistic language lies in its ability to present information objectively, accurately, and clearly to the reader. In achieving this goal, journalistic language must prioritize objectivity, avoid sensationalism, and provide a fair space for the various perspectives involved in reported legal cases. The use of simple, straightforward, and concise language will help ensure readability and comprehension by readers from diverse backgrounds.

A balanced legal news narrative must meet specific criteria, including promoting fairness, accuracy, and neutrality in the delivery of information. Democratic journalistic language avoids differences in rank or rank in language use and prioritizes active voice to make it easier for readers to understand. In addition, journalistic language must also be subject to standard language rules and ethics to reflect honesty, sincerity, and respect for individual privacy. By adhering to these criteria, legal news narratives can be considered balanced, able to provide a comprehensive picture, and respect the interests of society as a whole.

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