

Framing of Water Crisis in Bandung on Pikiran Rakyat Online

Dadang Rahmat Hidayat and Rinda Aunillah Sirait

Abstract--- *Cities in Indonesia have been facing water crisis, particularly water scarcity and poor use of water. The media should play an important role in preserving water resources and encouraging good use of water. Using Robert M. Entman's framing approach, this study seeks to describe how media, particularly Pikiran Rakyat Online of Bandung, construct water crisis. The results showed that water crisis has not been a significant issue due to the low frequency of coverage. And although the media has constructed it perfectly, it is not strong enough to show a positive construct of moral values and recommended solutions for water conservation. The only strong aspect is the way the media delivers the surface condition, i.e. problem identification and the cause of the problems at a glance.*

Keywords--- *Framing, Media Construction, News Coverage, Water Crisis, Pikiran Rakyat Online.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Cities in Indonesia, including Bandung—one of the most populated cities, have been facing water crisis, particularly water scarcity and poor use of water. Every day many Bandung residents are faced with water scarcity, poor quality of water and high cost for quality water. The water crisis in Bandung is portrayed by Zaky Yamani[1], a local journalist, in *Kehausan Di Ladang Air: Pencurian Air di Kota Bandung dan Hak Warga yang Terabaikan* 'Being Thirsty in a Fountain: Water Theft in Bandung and Neglected Citizenship Rights.' The book covers the investigation of the exploitation of water resources in Bandung. This makes water one of trade commodities. As a result, people have to depend on water monopolists to fulfill their daily needs.

There are many reasons why people have to buy water to the monopolists: depletion of usable ground freshwater resources in their hometowns, poor distribution of tap water, and the lack of alternative water access. This leads to monopoly of water sources in upstream and freshwater trading in downstream.[1]

Act No. 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Regulations on Agrarian Principles (UUPA) states that the rights on water are usufructuary, not control nor exploitation. This indicates that this law ensures that water has a social function that it has to be managed communally by considering traditional customs and wisdoms.

Unfortunately, the above law seems to contradict other water regulations. The enactment of the Constitutional Court decision No. 85/PUU-XI/2013 concerning the cancellation of Law No. 7 of 2004 concerning Water Resources as well as the re-enactment of Law No. 11 of 1974 concerning Irrigation has implications for water and water resources management. This will impact the aspects of water governance, water management, water control, water exploitation, water protection/conservation, control of water damage as well as the participation, institution and financing of water resources management. The re-enactment of Law No. 11 of 1974 has provided a wide opportunity for the control and exploitation of water resources by companies and individuals.

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At the local level, currently there is one official regulation, i.e. Bandung City Regulation No. 06 of 2002 concerning Management of Water Supply. This only regulates water distribution for irrigation. However, an article states that a private entity must obtain a license if they want to exploit and sell freshwater. The entity is the housing developer who is building housing in an area without tap water of PDAM. This article is in line with Law No. 11 of 1974 concerning Irrigation which provides an opportunity for the private sector to control water resources.

Water crisis is deteriorated by the increasingly-alarming environmental damage in Bandung. T. Bactiar, a member of Masyarakat Geografi Nasional Indonesia (National Geographic Society of Indonesia) and Kelompok Riset Cekungan Bandung (Bandung Basin Research Group), explained that the water crisis has been being experienced by the community of Bandung Basin, for example, during the dry season. Those who are originally able to fulfill their needs of water from the river cannot rely on it anymore due to the declining quality of water. The only thing that left from water sources is the geographic toponymy, such as Sekeloa, Sekelimus, Sekebirus, etc.[2]

Environmental problems like water crisis are often drowned and unrealized by the public and other stakeholders. Even the media often ignore them. Agustin *et.al.* stated in environment related conflicts, the problems that usually occurred were those related to the perception collision between business and conservation. The communication openness and understanding of environmental conservation are main issues in dealing with the clash [3]. In fact, reporting on environmental cases is still not able to bring closer to the main goal of environmental journalism. Muhammad Solihin, in his thesis that cited by Rizko examining the construction of news about the Kendeng conflict in online media Kompas.com and Suaramerdeka.com found that the media had a tendency to play a neutral role and often as a conflict sharpener, besides emphasizing its human interest in the interest of the market. Muhammad Sholihin's thesis, although it adequately illustrates the tendency of mainstream media, but has not examined the side of environmental journalism that exists in these media. So that the difference with this research apart from the side of the study of journalism is also on the media studied [4]. The study of other environmental journalism stated by Bednarek and Caple [5] that focuses on Five how the publication of The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH), Australia, plays stories of environmental phenomena in the newspaper. In the journal, Bednarek & Caple found that SMH often adapted the titles of films and songs to the titles of stories of environmental phenomena. In addition, they also found a discrepancy between the title, the picture, and the description of the story. As in the story of the story *It's Spray time On The Waterfront*, with the title *Spray time* which according to researchers is a parable of *Playtime* accompanied by a picture of a group of children who are playing with water. Even though in the news, SMH is seriously talking about the storm. Environmental cases, such as water crisis, should be portrayed by mass media in their coverage as it is an important reality to publish. Agustin *et.al.* stated that:

“The presence of mass media will be closely related to the various interests that arise in the society in which the media is located. The mass media and society are two interrelated social substructures that in some ways can dominate each other” [6]. The media should play an important role in preserving water resources and encouraging good use of water. If this crisis is covered in their articles, it is necessary to find out how it is constructed. Using framing approach, this study seeks to describe how media, particularly *Pikiran Rakyat Online* of Bandung, construct water crisis in Bandung.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The basic point of view of this study is environmental journalism. The main case of the study's object is mass media coverage on water crisis as a part of environmental problem, particularly online media. Mass media coverage is a part of mass communication activity. Bitner (1986) in Cangara, identified mass communication as "message communicated through a massa medium to large number of people", The advantage of mass media is that its ability to disseminate information is a message that is conveyed relatively broadly and simultaneously. Cangara states that the characteristics of mass media include institutionalization; one-way nature; widespread and simultaneous; use technical or mechanical equipment, such as radio, television, newspapers, and the like; and is open, meaning that the message can be received by anyone and anywhere without knowing the age, gender and ethnicity[7].

Ana Nadya Abrar defines environmental journalism as journalistic ways that prioritize environmental issues and side with sustainability[8]. An understanding of environmental issues will also increase awareness in the community, so that more people are willing to fight to preserve nature. Of course in this case, the media that have an important role to give understanding to the community about the importance of preserving nature. The role of environmental journalism in Indonesia is very important. Sudiby stated that the main goal of environmental journalism is to convey calls to the public to participate in environmental sustainability. [9]

The framing concept has been used extensively to describe the process of selecting and highlighting specific aspects of reality by the media. Framing analysis were represents of a tradition that forward a multidisciplinary approach for analyzing phenomena or communication activities. This analysis looks at selection strategies, prominence, and links to facts in the news to make it more meaningful, more interesting, more meaningful or more memorable, to lead the interpretation of audiences according to their perspective[10].

The Robert N Entman Framing's model has important implications for political communication. Because framing plays a major role in pushing political power, and frames in news text really are printed power - it shows the identity of the actors or interests who compete to dominate the text. The concept of framing according to Entman, consistently offers a way to uncover the power of a communication text[11]. Framing analysis can explain in an appropriate way the influence of human consciousness which is urged by the transfer of information from a location, such as speech, speech / expression, news report, or novel. Robert N Entman sees Framing in two big dimensions, namely issue selection and emphasis or prominence of aspects of reality. Both of these factors can further sharpen the news framing through a selection process that is worthy of display and emphasize the contents of the news. It is the journalist's perspective that will determine the facts chosen, highlighted, and discarded. Behind all that, decision making regarding which side is highlighted certainly involves the value and ideology of journalists involved in the process of producing a news. Framing, essentially includes selection and protrusion. Making a frame is selecting a number of aspects of an understanding of reality, and making it more prominent in a text that is communicated in such a way that it promotes a specific problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, funding or recommending its handling.[12]

Entman in Eriyanto sees a framing used by the media with two approaches, namely: 1.) Issue Selection: This aspect relates to the selection of facts from complex and diverse realities, which aspects are selected to be displayed

2.) Prominence of Certain Aspects of the Issue: Aspects this is related to fact writing. Certain aspects of an event or issue have been chosen, how these aspects are written. This is very related to the use of words, sentences, images, and certain images to be displayed to the public.[12]

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used framing analysis with constructionist paradigm. This paradigm views that there is no objective reality, because it is created through a process of construction and certain views. Qualitative descriptive format aims to describe and summarize various conditions, situations, or phenomena of social reality as the object of research and attempt to attract reality to the surface as a characteristic, model, sign, or description of certain conditions, situations, or phenomena[13].

This study seeks to describe media construction, particularly by Pikiran Rakyat Online, of water crisis in Bandung through framing analysis. Robert M. Entman's framing is used to describe the selection and the highlight process of certain aspects of reality by the media. Framing can be seen as placing information in a typical context so that a certain issue gets a greater attention than others. Data collection in this study was carried out based on analysis needs. The steps are as follows:

- Reviewing news related to water crisis in Bandung in Pikiran Rakyat Online during 2017-2018
- Conducting library research by studying and reviewing books, offline and online articles to support the authors' assumption as a theoretical basis of problems under study.

Table 1: Robert M. Entman's Framing Devices

Define Problems	How an event/issue is viewed? As what problem?
Diagnose causes	What was the cause of a problem? What is considered the cause of a problem? Who (the actor) is considered the cause of a problem?
Make moral judgement	What moral values are used to explain the problem? What moral values are used to legitimize or de-legitimize an action?
Treatment Recommendation	What are recommended solutions to solve the problem/issue? What steps must be taken to overcome the problem?

Source: Eriyanto (2011: 223)[12]

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The coverage of water crisis in Bandung in Pikiran Rakyat Online was unsystematic. News about water throughout 2017-March 2019 provide information about the crisis of groundwater sources, PDAM tap water pollution and *jaga seke* community. The frequency of coverage during that period is only eight: seven straight news and one feature news. All coverage emphasizes groundwater scarcity. Ironically, the situation does not make water crisis in Bandung one of main issues in Pikiran Rakyat Online.

Table 2: List of news about water crisis in bandung

No	Date	News Title
1	Tuesday, 12 Mar 2019, 20:21	<i>Krisis Sumber Air Tanah, Industri Dilarang Tambah Titik Sumur dangkal</i> 'Crisis of Groundwater Sources, Industry Prohibited from Adding Shallow Wells'
2	Saturday, 2 Mar 2019, 22:16	<i>Masih Ada Warga Manfaatkan Air Sungai Cikapundung untuk Mandi</i> 'Some Residents Use Water of Cikapundung River for Bathing'
3	Saturday, 3 Nov 2018, 09:00	Awal Musim Hujan, Air PDAM Tirtawening Kota Bandung Tercemar Kotoran Sapi 'Rainy Season Starts, Tap Water from PDAM Tirtawening of Bandung Polluted by Cow Dirt'
4	Monday, 27 Agt 2018, 15:20	<i>Hutan di Kawasan Bandung Utara Hanya Tutupi 6,5 Persen Daerah Tangkapan Air</i> 'Forests in North Bandung Only Cover 6.5 Percent of Water Catchment Areas'
5	Wednesday, 15 Agt 2018, 13:57	<i>Kota Cimahi Kritis Air Tanah, Bantuan Sumur dangkal Tak Bisa Sembarangan</i> 'Groundwater Crisis in Cimahi, No Hurry for Shallow Wells'
6	Wednesday, 21 Mar 2018, 12:00	<i>Kualitas Air Kota Bandung Tak Lagi Baik</i> 'No More Quality Water in Bandung'
7	Wednesday, 21 Mar 2018, 11:26	<i>Hari Air Sedunia, Pelestarian Seke Masih Berbasis Komunitas</i> (Feature News) 'World Water Day, Seke Conservation Still Community-Based'
8	Monday, 4 Des 2017, 14:24	<i>Lingkungan Semakin Rusak, Air PDAM Kota Bandung Menurun</i> 'Environment Deteriorating, Tap Water of PDAM Bandung Declining'

Source: Result of the study, 2019

Define Problems

The above news broadly covers groundwater source crisis in Bandung. In defining the problem, Pikiran Rakyat Online views the crisis as a result of damaged environment. This can be seen from the findings of five news about water sources (four discussing groundwater sources), two about environmental damage affecting water quality, and one about the use of river water for daily needs of Bandung residents.

The majority of the titles is descriptive. There is only one provocative title, i.e. *Kota Cimahi Kritis Air Tanah, Bantuan Sumur Dangkal Tak Bisa Sembarangan* 'Groundwater Crisis in Cimahi, No Hurry for Shallow Wells' on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, 13.57 WIB. All news shows a worrying situation of water sources in Bandung, but none of them indicate any encouragement to the government to make water crisis a major issue.

The dominance of the issue of groundwater sources in Pikiran Rakyat Online shows that this media segregates the reported reality. In fact, there are many other water problems in Bandung to cover, among others, the privatization of a number of water sources, the impact of commercial buildings with water facilities draining up community-owned water sources and the change of spatial functions that ignores many aspects of water resources.

In this case, the construction of the reality of water crisis in Bandung by Pikiran Rakyat Online is in accordance with what is stated by Eriyanto (2002) that there are two aspects in reality construction: choosing facts or reality and writing how the selected facts are presented to the public.

Diagnose Causes

Pikiran Rakyat Online limits the causes of water crisis in Bandung. The overall cause of the crisis is the Managing Director of PDAM Tirtawening, a regional state-owned company that manages clean water in Bandung. This makes Pikiran Rakyat Online echo the PDAM in reviewing the causes of the crisis. In fact, the cause is not only the PDAM. Researchers and residents can be a resource in identifying the causes of the crisis. The authors consider this the reconstruction process by Pikiran Rakyat Online. All construction processes (from selecting facts, sources, word choice, images, to editing) contribute to how the reality is presented to the audience (Eriyanto, 2011: 30).

Only two news review the causes of water crisis in Bandung: *Awal Musim Hujan, Air PDAM Tirtawening Kota Bandung Tercemar Kotoran Sapi* 'Rainy Season Starts, Tap Water from PDAM Tirtawening of Bandung Polluted by Cow Dirt' and *Lingkungan Semakin Rusak, Air PDAM Kota Bandung Menurun* 'Environment Deteriorating, Tap Water of PDAM Bandung Declining.' Both of them review the chaotic management of North Bandung Region (KBU) that leads to the damage of its ecological functions, affecting the raw water sources for PDAM Tirtawening. Both are based on the statement of Sonny Salimi, the Managing Director of PDAM Tirtawening, not on the result of field reports to the area referred to as raw water catchment areas. Both show an effort to highlight the PDAM argument in identifying the problems. This salience has a great opportunity to get the attention of the audience and influence them in understanding reality. The word salience is defined as making an information more attentive, meaningful, and memorable[10].

Make Moral Judgement

Moral judgement by Pikiran Rakyat Online in reporting on water crisis in Bandung include three aspects: low public awareness; good use of water is an effort to share access to clean water for other citizens; and the restoration at the catchment points is small but important. The three moral judgments are only based on the statement of Sonny Salimi, the Managing Director of PDAM Tirtawening.

In *Kualitas Air Kota Bandung Tak Lagi Baik* 'No More Quality Water in Bandung', moral judgment appears on the terrace. This placement shows that Pikiran Rakyat consider good use of water important and make it the essence of the news.

‘Along with the momentum of World Water Day every March 22, Bandung residents are invited to aware the importance of water use in the midst of a poor condition of raw water sources. Good use of water is an effort to share access to clean water for other residents.’[14]

In *Awal Musim Hujan, Air PDAM Tirtawening Kota Bandung Tercemar Kotoran Sapi* ‘Rainy Season Starts, Tap Water from PDAM Tirtawening of Bandung Polluted by Cow Dirt’, moral judgment appears from the statement of Sonny Salimi, the Managing Director of PDAM Tirtawening in the news body. This placement shows that a review on the low public awareness is an effort to describe the difficulty of enforcing the law.

‘..How this regulation works and is adhered to by all community stakeholders, (it is) not appropriate to put the blame on leaders if the community’s awareness is low’[15]

Table 2: List of news about water crisis in Bandung

The third moral judgment in *Pikiran Rakyat Online* relates to the consideration of restoration at major water catchment points a small but important matter. This was stated by Sonny Salimi, the Managing Director of PDAM Tirtawening, in a news body entitled *Lingkungan Semakin Rusak, Air PDAM Kota Bandung Menurun* ‘Environment Deteriorating, Tap Water of PDAM Bandung Declining’:

‘... Therefore, he encourages all stakeholders related to environmental problems to more optimally handle this condition and the pollution from now on. With restoration at the main water catchment points, water sources can be protected for an ideal period of time for the needs of Bandung residents. "It looks small, but this is very important and influential for the citizens of Bandung," he said.’ [16]

The moral judgment above uses indirect quotation and then followed by direct quotation. This writing technique serves as an emphasis on key messages from the reporters. This means that even if it is not placed in the lead, this moral judgment is an important message of the news.

Treatment Recommendation

Recommendations for problem solving are found on seven news—only *Hutan di Kawasan Bandung Utara Hanya Tutupi 6,5 Persen Daerah Tangkapan Air* ‘Forests in North Bandung Only Cover 6.5 Percent of Water Catchment Areas’ excludes them. In general, recommendations from *Pikiran Rakyat Online* are strengthening regulations and involving related stakeholders to preserve groundwater sources in Bandung.

In contrast to moral judgment that only comes from one party, treatment recommendation comes from the statement of a number of relevant stakeholders who were questioned by reporters. There is no recommendation that was followed up in the next article. This indicates that the *Pikiran Rakyat* does not make an effort to highlight the existing treatment recommendation.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, this study has come with several conclusions that are water crisis has not been a major issue to *Pikiran Rakyat Online* in their coverage, even though they reported that groundwater sources are in critical condition. This can be inferred from the low frequency of its coverage (only eight from 2017 to March 2019), and

the content of the news is dominated by information about groundwater crisis as a result of damaged environment but not of poor use of water; The description of the causes of the problem is limited to complaints from PDAM Tirtawening; Moral judgement by Pikiran Rakyat Online in reporting water crisis in Bandung include low public awareness; good use of water is an effort to share access to clean water for other citizens; and the restoration at the catchment points is small but important; And the recommendations from Pikiran Rakyat Online include strengthening regulations and involving related stakeholders to preserve groundwater sources in Bandung.

LIMITATION & STUDY FORWARD

This research object is limited to news coverage on particular media in online version. The same topics could develop into several news media in multiplatform version.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge all team members of environmental communication study of Padjadjaran University which opens space to conduct research and discussion related to water crisis as one part of environmental communication study.

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