



Analysis of Reality Construction Theory on Social Media Coverage of the Revision of Broadcasting Bill 2024

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Abstract

This article about the analysis of reality construction theory on the news of the revision of the 2024 broadcasting bill aims to explain and provide new thoughts on the suitability between the concept of reality construction and the news of the revision of the broadcasting bill in the digital era. How the function and role of the media in overseeing the process of the bill, so as to achieve goals to a wider public audience. Because social media has been widely used by the public to access all information on social media. The writing method uses a qualitative method that focuses on the theory of reality construction on the news of the broadcasting bill draft. The result of this research is that there is a news construction that is not just an objective report about a fact, but is the result of a social construction process.

Keywords: Social Media, Broadcasting Bill, Digital Era

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia adheres to a democratic system, which means that the supreme sovereignty is in the hands of the people. People's sovereignty can be realized if all policies made by the government must truly accommodate the needs and interests of the people (Wuryandanu and Arifin, 2024). This concept of popular sovereignty is certainly in conflict with the process of the draft broadcasting law that was just submitted by the House of Representatives a few weeks ago. This decision has caused a lot of protests from various groups, especially protests from the press, because a number of points in the revision of the law are considered contrary to press freedom.

One of the points that is considered a contradiction regarding the broadcasting bill is the prohibition of exclusive broadcasts of investigative journalists and dispute resolution related to broadcast journalistic activities carried out by the KPI which seems that the authority of the KPI overlaps with the press council (Octora, 2018). This is what has caused a negative response for the public, causing protests from various groups, especially the press. The ratification of the broadcasting bill is realized, so the space for journalists is limited in expressing opinions. Quoted from the independent journalist alliance, the revision of the broadcasting law clearly limits the work of journalists and freedom of expression. The government seems to exercise excessive control over the movement of its citizens. This certainly has an impact on the violation of the right to freedom of the press but also violates the public's right to obtain information. This violation is considered to betray the spirit of the realization of the broadcasting law No.40 of 1999 concerning the press. The law was created to protect journalistic work and ensure the fulfillment of the public's right to information.



Table 1. Articles considered contradictory

No.	Article	Description
1	50 b paragraph 2	Prohibition of exclusive broadcast of investigative journalism
2	8a letter q	Settlement of disputes between specialized journalists in the field of broadcasting
3	42	Journalistic content in broadcasts must comply with P3, ISI,

Source : Authors, 2024

The draft revision of the broadcasting law is considered to have harmed journalists because it limits the space of journalists on the other hand the broadcasting bill is also rubberized so that it is very vulnerable to ensnaring journalists. This bill is also a new threat to journalists and press people. We also know that the draft broadcasting law did not involve stakeholders and the press council during its discussion stage, even though there are now many communication experts with professorships. In this digital era, online media is a mass communication media that can have the fastest and broadest information dissemination range in disseminating or reporting information to the public (Evanalia, 2022). According to data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII), reported penetration of internet usage in Indonesia was 24.23% in 2012, in 2013 it rose to 28% and in 2014 it increased to 34.9%, while in 2023-2024 there were 210 million Indonesians or 77.2% of the total population already connected to the internet.

Quoted from the national economic survey in 2023/2024 there are 50.7 million Indonesians using social media to read online news about every policy carried out by the government. Especially on the policy of revising the broadcasting law in 2024. With the significant number of news readers on social media. Social media, which often shows news in online form, has a great responsibility and influence in delivering news to the public (Dhinanti et al., 2024), regarding the 2024 broadcasting bill. Because it cannot be denied that online media is influenced by ideology, and certain affiliations M.nailur Rofi (2022).

According to Matthew as quoted by M.nailur Rofi, it is explained that news in the media is not formed from a vacuum but is produced from the dominant ideology in a certain area of competence Burton (2018) quoted by Syaiful Halim (2021 .p-55) explains that the media is a merchant and also produces and distributes products called messages while the audience is the buyer and connoisseur of the product, meaning that the media must be able to provide good information, especially regarding this broadcasting bill.

As a result, the formation of discourse by the media is no longer something independent because every information that will be reported is bound by one ideology, political religion and other ideologies because the press in its journalist activities is directed as a money-making machine, advertising supplier and branch hunter. Thus, the commodification of media content can be interpreted as media management activities in treating messages as commodities that usually please the public so that people who are exposed to information continue to think that the discourse produced by a media is reality, but in reality the media only dares to convey a little reality to the public which is then developed in the form of phrases and sentences.

Therefore, this paper aims to see how the involvement of social media in providing news information regarding the revised draft of the broadcasting law. Reality reconstruction is used as a social process through actions and interactions where individuals continuously create a reality that is shared and experienced subjectively. This view relies on the constructivist paradigm that sees social reality as socially constructed. In a news report, news is essentially a reconstruction of a reality that exists in society which may not be the same and congruent with what is reconstructed, namely a reality. Where the result of the reconstruction depends on the person doing the construction, namely where the media must really be able to convey the news to the public what and how the impact of the revised



broadcasting bill is passed.

In the view of news selectivity, in general this view often gives birth to theories such as gatekeepers. In essence, the news production process is a selection process. This selection consists of journalists in the field who will choose what is important and what is not, which events will be reported and which will not. After the news reaches the editor, it will be selected again and will be edited by emphasizing which parts need to be added. This view presupposes that there is an actual reality that exists outside the journalist. The real reality will later be selected by journalists to be formed into news and delivered to the public.

Based on the background above, the problem formulation in the research is how social media deliver news related to the revision of the 2024 broadcasting bill to the public. The purpose of this research is to analyze how social media deliver news related to the revision of the broadcasting bill to the public.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method that focuses on how to examine the theory of reality construction on the news of the revision of the broadcasting bill through social media with the aim of explaining a problem but to make generalizations and a complex and holistic picture, analyzing words, reporting detailed views of information. Qualitative research method is an approach used to understand phenomena in depth from a complex and contextual perspective (Rifa'i, 2023), by understanding the following steps:

1. Research Problem Formulation Identify a research topic or problem that you want to explore in depth. Research problems must be relevant, clear, and possible to analyze from a qualitative perspective.
2. Research Design Plan a research design that fits the identified research problem. This includes the selection of data collection methods, research locations, participant selection, and data analysis strategies.
3. Data Collection. Data collection is done through various techniques, such as participatory observation, in-depth interviews, case studies, document analysis, or focus group discussions (FGDs). The technique chosen will depend on the purpose of the research and the nature of the phenomenon under study.
4. Data Analysis. Qualitative data analysis involves the process of understanding, interpreting, and making meaning of the collected data. This can be done through approaches such as thematic analysis, narrative analysis, or grounded theory analysis, depending on the research approach used.
5. Verification and Triangulation. Verifying the validity of the findings by triangulating, i.e. using more than one method or data source to ensure the validity of the research results.
6. Interpretation and Presentation of Findings. Interpret the research findings by considering the context, relevant theories, and the researcher's subjective views. Findings can be presented through narratives, quotes from participants, tables, or diagrams that clearly illustrate the results of the research.
7. Reflection and Conclusion. Reflect on the research process, evaluate strengths and weaknesses, and summarize the research findings. Researchers may also recommend practical implications or further research directions based on their findings.

Qualitative research methods allow researchers to explore the complexity and depth of human phenomena, understand the social, cultural, and historical context in which these phenomena occur, and explore the views, perceptions, and experiences of individuals or groups related to these phenomena (Pugu et al., 2024). This qualitative approach is used to get the perspective of the meaning and context inherent in individuals. This article uses the reality construction



analysis method of Zhongdan Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki. This method is used because according to the researcher, it describes in detail the news arrangement regarding the revision of the broadcasting bill. This reality construction analysis method according to Zhongdan Pan is an analysis model that uses to see the reality of discourse from the mass media and an art that can produce different conclusions when the analysis is carried out by different people (Febriyanti and Karina, 2021).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Reality Construction Theory

Methodological paradigms in communication science as well as theoretical paradigms take various forms. According to Denzin, the communication science research paradigms are Positivist, Postpositivist, Constructivist, Critical, and Participatory (Denzin, 2005; Guba 2005; S.L.T., 2010). This paper will discuss the constructivism paradigm. Constructivism has two streams in the history of sociology, namely the sociology of knowledge and the sociology of science (Ronda, 2018). Reality construction theory is a concept that states that reality is not objective or fixed, but a social construction formed by individuals or groups in society. In this theory, reality is understood as a result of the process of interpretation, perception and human interaction with the surrounding environment. This perspective or paradigm of constructivism is one of the important perspectives in seeing a social reality. Peter L. Berger introduced constructivism as a theory together with Thomas Luckman after publishing a work entitled "the social construction of reality", that social reality is made by actors (humans). The essence of the idea of social construction is that knowledge is the result of symbolic interaction among certain groups of people. Reality is constructed by the social environment, a product of the cultural environment and groups. In viewing social reality, Berger's phenomenology is influenced by the tradition of previous phenomenologists, namely Edmund Husserl and Alfred Schtuz. The key to the theory of reality construction lies in Berger's three dialectics, namely Externalization, Objectivation and Internalization which are influenced by Hegel's dialectic which is understood to have similarities that have been determined on the collectivity of Marx's phenomena.

The concept of reality construction theory has broad implications in various fields, namely sociology, anthropology, psychology, and philosophy. As in sociology for example, this theory is used to explain how social institutions such as religion, politics and culture shape the worldview of individuals and society as a whole (Supardan, 2024). In addition, if in psychology this concept is used to understand how individual subjective perceptions and experiences shape understanding of worldviews. Thus, the theory of reality construction emphasizes the importance of considering the social and cultural context in understanding how reality is interpreted and realized by humans.

Revision of Broadcasting Bill

On October 02, the Chairman of the Legislative Body (Baleg) of the House of Representatives (DPR RI) received a harmonization request letter related to the Broadcasting Bill from Commission I DPR RI regarding the process of harmonizing, dressing and stabilizing the conception of the bill. Based on this, Commission I of the House of Representatives conducted a study with the assistance team of the House of Representatives Expertise Agency on the bill, which was found to have many writing techniques that were not in accordance with the provisions based on Law Number 12 of 2011 concerning laws and regulations as amended several times, most recently by Law Number 13 of 2022 concerning the second amendment to Law Number 12 of 2011 concerning the formation of laws and regulations. It is known that in drafting the bill, the House of Representatives has held public hearings, public hearings with media communication experts, mass media practitioners, broadcasting institutions, the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission and other stakeholders. However, to include the drafting, it must also make visits to the regions



and the two countries, namely Turkey and Kuwait. Based on the sociological conditions that serve as a reference for the drafting of the law, the frequency spectrum of radio is public property and is a limited natural resource adapted to the state and used to the greatest extent for the prosperity of the people.

The principles of democracy and regional autonomy, integration and national identity as well as community pluralism are the main references in mapping the national broadcasting system.

The draft Broadcasting Law will be a picture of the future state of the press in Indonesia. As stated in the draft dated March 27, 2024, the revision of broadcasting law seems to limit journalistic works and freedom of expression in general. The articles that have the potential to override the right to press freedom and the public's right to access information are:

1. Article 50B paragraph (2)

- Prohibition of exclusive broadcast of investigative journalism.
- Prohibition of broadcast and broadcast content that presents LGBT behavior.
- Prohibition of broadcast content that contains false news, slander, insult and defamation.

2. Article 8A letter q

Resolving journalistic disputes specifically in the field of broadcasting.

3. Article 42

- Journalistic content in broadcasts must comply with P3, SIS and other laws and regulations.

Broadcasting law will affect many aspects including media content regulation, media ownership, broadcasting license and access to public information. Changes to the broadcasting law will certainly reflect changes in the government policy system related to media and communication and efforts to overcome challenges and opportunities.

Impact on the Labor Market

Reality Construction Theory Analysis of Broadcast Bill 2024 Revision News on Social Media
The practice of journalism is related to the development of technology. Since the era of print media journalism to now the era of new media journalism. Technology has shaped and influenced the world of journalism and certainly affects the work system of journalists. When the presence of the internet, which today is one of the human needs that must be completed, allows journalists today to involve the audience on the news stage not only through photos, videos, audio or just the use of images and have quick access to provide information directly from the place and at the same time as the event takes place. Online journalism publishing is the media used in disseminating information or news that no longer requires the use of newspapers and magazines.

Analyzing the news of the draft broadcasting law on social media using reality construction theory provides an experience of how reality is understood and constructed and conveyed through interaction, including on social media. There is a construction of news that is not just an objective report of a fact, but is the result of a social construction process. News about the Broadcasting Bill on social media will be influenced by several factors such as political views, economic interests and cultural values, which will then be represented and constructed based on a variety of understandings and interpretations by users of social media.

Social media allows for more direct interaction between individuals and allows for a space to



discuss and spread news quickly. The Broadcasting Bill in the context of social media coverage will play an important role in shaping collective perceptions of an issue in a democratic society. Using the framework of reality construction theory, the coverage of the broadcasting bill on social media can provide an understanding of how the news is shaped and interpreted widely. It is also important to note that social and political dynamics play a role in shaping collective perceptions and views on these issues in the digital space.

In reality, news coverage in the media with access to the ban on the above bill will have an impact on press freedom. Criticisms of the Broadcasting Bill including the strict rules that may stifle creativity and innovation and the lack of allowing for technological developments and protection of user data are acceptable. But in addition, such restrictive policies may present an imbalance in the reality of social life with regard to public protection and freedom of expression. In order to strike the right balance between freedom of expression and public protection, the Broadcasting Bill should provide an evaluation that is in line with the reality and development of the times. In addition, the involvement of various relevant parties in every policy formulation process such as community stakeholders and the creative industry will help produce a more inclusive and sustainable Broadcasting Bill.

4. CONCLUSION

The news coverage of the draft broadcasting law on social media using reality construction theory provides an experience of how reality is understood and constructed and conveyed through interactions, including on social media. There is a news construction that is not just an objective report of a fact, but is the result of a social construction process. News about the Broadcasting Bill on social media will be influenced by several factors such as political views, economic interests and cultural values, which will then be represented and constructed based on a diverse understanding and interpretation by users of social media.

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