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"AFGHANISTAN IN THE GRIP OF THE TALIBAN": THE STRUCTURE OF ARABIC NEWS HEADLINE

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Abstract

News from online media portals has advantages over traditional media in establishing credibility and influencing its readers. This study aims to investigate the structure of Arabic online media discourse in the header: الأمم المتحدة تجمع مليان: الأمم المتحدة تجمع مليان on the news portal www.bbc.arabic.com. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method in conjunction with Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis theory. The findings of this study indicate that the discourse structure of Arabic online media under the heading: الأمم المتحدة تجمع مليان دو لان المساعدات meets the criteria established by Teun A. van Dijk's model of discourse structure analysis, which includes macro structure (overall meaning of the text by fathoming the topic), superstructure (sees the text based on its plot), and microstructure (which examines the word choice, sentence structure, and writing style).

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, online media, Arabic discourse structure

Abstrak

Berita yang dimuat dalam media online memiliki sejumlah keunggulan dibandingkan media tradisional, salah satunya dalam hal membangun kredibilitas dan mempengaruhi pembacanya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap struktur wacana media online berbahasa Arab pada headline berjudul: וلأمم المتحدة تجمع مليار دو لار ولار المساعدات الإنسانية yang dimuat pada portal berita www.bbc.arabic.com. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan memanfaatkan teori analisis wacana kritis model Teun A. van Dijk. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa struktur wacana media online berbahasa Arab dengan judul: أفغانستان تحت حكم طالبان: الأمم المتحدة تجمع memenuhi kriteria yang ditetapkan pada analisis struktur wacana model Teun A. van Dijk. Struktur wacana berita tersebut yaitu meliputi struktur makro (makna keseluruhan teks dengan memahami topik pada berita), suprastruktur (melihat teks berdasarkan alur berita), dan struktur mikro (dengan mengkaji pilihan kata, struktur kalimat, dan gaya penulisan berita).

Kata kunci: analisis wacana kritis, media daring, struktur wacana bahasa Arab

Introduction

Media is a tool used to deliver messages from communicators to the entire public. Furthermore, mass media are facilities used to deliver messages from sources to the wider community through communication media such as news messages, films, radio and television (Cangara, 2010: 123). The media has a big role in explaining the incident as well as how the incident is interpreted and understood by the public. This can be seen from the number of media circulating, especially online media based on the internet network as a means of delivery involved in the development of today's telecommunications (Ghazal, 2015).

Currently, the mass media used by the wider community are increasingly diverse, such as print and electronic media. One type of electronic media is online media. Online media is media based on internet network. Online media is the growth of mass media which is currently very closely related to the lives of the wider community because mass media, both print and electronic, have become a necessity of life today. Online media uses a combination of print media processes by writing data sent electronically, but also relates to personal communication (Mondry, 2008: 12-13). The existence of online media in this millennial era is increasingly widespread and has become one of the fastest choices for readers to get actual information.

News is a representation of the world in language applications. Because language is a semiotic code, language determines the structure of the side or social image, and is cheap for what is presented (al-Badawi & Al-Najjar, 2021). News is basically a constructed reality (Sudibyo, 2001: 65). Several online news media have been existed, for example the national news media www.cnnindonesia.com, www.liputan6.com, www.cnbc indonesia.com. This includes several international news media such as www.bbc.arabic.com.

The online media recently updated and reported on the incident of the Taliban taking control of the Afghanistan government. This incident became the center of world attention, so the largest organization of the United Nations intervened and urged world countries to provide humanitarian assistance. Antonio Guterres as Secretary General of the United Nations said Afghanistan needs a lot of encouragement especially for women and groups of people whose rights are threatened because of the Taliban. Guterres said Afghanistan was currently facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Afghanistan has also experienced severe drought, mass displacement, and has been affected by Covid-19. At this fundraising conference, the United Nations seeks to raise \$606 million that could have saved the lives of millions of Afghans in the last four months of this year (www.bbc.arabic.com).

Pertaining to this issue, news discourse plays a very significant role in the social life of the wider community (Fairclough, 1992; 2013). Discourse is defined as a form of verbal communication (Khodabandeh, 2007). In this regard, discourse is grouped into two based on its form, namely oral discourse and written discourse. Oral discourse is a form of verbal and verbal communication which links the speaker and his interlocutor, on the contrary, written discourse is a form of written communication which links the writer and the reader. Activities of speakers are productive, expressive, creative, on the other hand the activities of the interlocutor (listeners or readers) are receptive (van Dijk, 1997; 1998).

News contains text and context that is relevant to be further explored. Sobur (2004a, 2004b) argues that in language theory, the text is not only a collection of letters that form a word and a sentence assembled with a sign system agreed upon by the community, but the text also has a hidden meaning in it. Teun A. van Dijk (1993) suggests that there are text structures and discourse strategies used for certain themes in the dimensions of the text to be studied. The text is obtained from the analysis of how to use the discourse process to describe a particular person or event (2016). We can find meaning in general by looking at and reading a text.

Context in language has certain goals and practices, including the practice of power (Hassan, 2018; Statham, 2022). Meanwhile, van Dijk is an intellectual figure who develops critical discourse analysis with a social cognition approach (Fayruza et al., 2021). Van Dijk (2001) argues that

discourse analysis has a systematic and descriptive theoretical purpose which can be defined that the structure of discourse and written oral discourse can be seen as textual objects and socio-cultural practices between treatments and bonds. The model used by Teun A. van Dijk can also be defined by social cognition taken from a social psychology approach. According to van Dijk, the study of the text itself cannot be seen through the text alone, because the text is only a result of production practices that must be reviewed. Therefore, the formation of a text can describe the structure and process. Meanwhile, the critical discourse analysis introduced by van Dijk has three aspects, namely text, social cognition, and social context. The incorporation of these three aspects of discourse into a unified analysis is the main goal pursued by van Dijk (Eriyanto, 2001: 224)

A number of studies have been done investigating news in the perspective of critical discourse analysis in various aspect. Rafiee et. al. (2018) for example, conducted a research to reveal the discourse structure of news in Dutch and Iranian news media. They asserted that many studies of structure in present-day Western news texts have shown that the dominant structure is the inverted pyramid. Based on their research findings, news texts from national Iranian and Dutch newspapers were significantly different in their structure. The study suggests that the role, pattern and effects of (journalistic) communication can be culture-specific.

Another study was conducted by Sani et al. (2021). Their study concerns on the discourse structure of cartoon. The study used a qualitative design method with specific cartoon discourses by Nuriarta on social media (Facebook and Instagram) which appeared in January-April 2020. Data were analysed using qualitative descriptive analysis through data reduction procedures, data presentation, and conclusions. Results showed that the discourse consists of cartoon discourse structure at the supra structure stage using a combination of headline, illustration, body copy, and signature line.

Sari & Indarti (2020) investigate the headline of Rohingya. Their study aims to shed light on the Rohingya people's representation in an article published in The Jakarta Post titled "Myanmar troops systematically gang rape Rohingya women: A UN envoy." The data for this study was gathered from The Jakarta Post's official website using a qualitative approach to describe how language is used to portray Rohingya people. The news article's discourse structure is divided into two broad categories: global structures and local structures. Global structures analyze the news report's global theme and outline. The local structure, or microstructure, is the second level.

From the aforementioned studies, no research had been done in investigating specifically the Arabic news using the van Dijk model of Critical Discourse Analysis. The emergence of this actual news makes authors interested in using it as an object of this study. The authors use an approach introduced and developed by van Dijk. Several scholars have introduced and developed different discourse analysis methods, however van Dijk's approach is the most extensively applied (Sahmeni & Afifah, 2019; Hamid et al., 2021). According to van Dijk, critical discourse analysis focuses on more than just the structure of the text because the structure of the discourse reveals a variety of ideologies, meanings, and opinions (Rosliana & Mahardika, 2020). An examination of cognitive and social background is required in order to discover the hidden meaning in the text (Gil-Bonilla, 2020). The cognitive method is founded on the premise that the text has no meaning, but that meaning is provided by the language user, or rather the mental awareness process as mediated by the language user (Al-Saeedi, 2020), who are language learners who benefit from learning the language (Najarzadegan et al., 2018). On this basis, this study aims to analyze the types and varieties of discourse structures that form news on Arabic online media in revealing news about the Taliban's control of Afghanistan.

Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a combination of critical discourse analysis theory introduced by van Dijk. This method was chosen in order to deepen the description of critical analysis on the object of news study (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). The documentation

technique was chosen as the data collection in this study. Through this method, the data contained in the online media discourse taken from www.bbc.arabic.com with the headline title أفغانستان تحت أفغانستان تحت can be used as evidence or information in conducting research.

There are two types of data sources used in this study, namely primary and secondary data. The primary data in this study came from the Arab online media site www.bbc.arabic.com regarding the news on humanitarian aid carried out by the United Nations for Afghanistan. While the secondary data in this study was taken from various sources such as books, articles and references which of course are closely related to the context of the discussion of this research.

Following Darma (2014), the stages that the authors went through in this study were, firstly collecting reference data on online media related to the research discussion. After the data is collected, the data was grouped and then analyzed using critical discourse analysis developed by Teun A. van Dijk. In the critical discourse analysis developed by van Dijk, it is categorized into three structures, namely superstructure, macro structure, and micro structure. In the last stage, the results of data analysis were formed and compiled into a research report.

Results and Discussion

Teun A. van Dijk (1993, 1997, 1998) divides three structures or levels contained in text analysis. Firstly, the macro structure is the overall or general meaning of a text that can be identified by selecting an important theme or topic in the news. In the macro structure, what can be observed is thematic which contains what the object in research says. Second, superstructure is related to the arrangement of the framework of a text into a unified whole. This superstructure is supported by other parts in the form of the main idea, part of the news scheme, in a news story such as in the form of stories and quotes. In the superstructure, there are two elements, namely summary and story. Third, microstructure is the hidden meaning of discourse that can be seen through the smallest parts of a text, such as words, sentences, propositions, clauses, paraphrases, and pictures. There are elements contained in this microstructure, namely semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric. The following is an explanation of each of these elements.

In this section, the authors will present the findings from the data in the form of text elements consisting of several critical discourse structures, namely the macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure of the Arabic news headline studied in the current research.

Macro Structure

The macro structure is the overall or general meaning of a text that can be identified by choosing an important theme or topic in the news. The following is a macro structure analysis covering thematics in the structure of the Arabic online media www.bbc.arabic.com in the news headline أفغانستان تحت حكم طالبان: الأمم المتحدة تجمع مليار دولار للمساعدات الإنسانية

• Themes

The themes depicted in the news regarding UN humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan are as follows:

(United Nations (UN) promised manpower and financial assistance to the Afghan population).

The sentence above is the theme of the written news. The theme explains and delivers what the news conveys to the readers. The supporting sentences for the theme are found in the news paragraph. In this topic, it was emphasized that the UN assistance was structured in collaboration with donors spearheaded by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres.

(UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told ministers participating in the conference that it was "very important" for the international organization to communicate with the Taliban to facilitate the transfer and distribution of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.)

(United Nations warns of humanitarian catastrophe with "terrible" food shortages in Afghanistan. NATO meets to discuss security situation in Afghanistan).

Superstructure

Superstructure is related to the arrangement of the framework of a text into a unified whole. This superstructure is supported by other parts in the form of the main idea, part of the news scheme, in a news story such as in the form of stories and quotes. In the superstructure, there are two elements, namely summary and story. The news superstructure in summary form is grouped into two, namely titles and leads. Here is the description:

• Title

The title depicted in the news regarding UN humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan is as follows:

(Afghanistan under Taliban rule: UN raises \$1 billion in humanitarian aid.)

The title covers the entire content of the news which explains how Afghanistan is assisted by the United Nations by raising 1 billion dollars for humanitarian aid. Here journalists use titles that make readers curious about the contents of the news. In this title, there is the phrase UN collects 1 billion dollars in humanitarian aid, which indicates that journalists deliberately use that sentence to make readers curious about how the UN raised that much money and what kind of humanitarian aid the UN provided to Afghanistan.

Lead

The leads depicted in the news regarding UN humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan are as follows:

(The donors' conference, held Monday in Geneva, pledged about a billion dollars in aid to Afghanistan, following warnings from the United Nations of a "looming catastrophe".)

The lead in this news can also be said as the core of the news. This news terrace is located in the News Headline. This news terrace leads to the news that journalists want to present to readers. This news story illustrates how the humanitarian assistance carried out by the United Nations through a conference of donors convened on Monday in Geneva pledged about one billion dollars in aid to Afghanistan.

The news superstructure in the form of stories is grouped into two, namely situations and comments.

• Situation

The situation described is on the 5th line in this news, namely:

("The country is facing a very dire situation, prolonged conflict and severe drought, in addition to the Corona outbreak. Nearly half of the population already needs assistance," he said in a statement.)

The situation described in line 5 is a dire situation. Not only is the corona outbreak haunting them, but in Afghanistan there is also a prolonged conflict and drought. They are in dire need of aid such as clean water, medicine, and other humanitarian aid.

• Comments

The comments section usually contains the views of related parties such as journalists and sources. The comments in this news are on the 5th and 6th lines, namely:

("Afghans are in dire need of food, medicine, health services, drinking water and sanitation," the UN said. "The country is facing a very dire situation, prolonged conflict and severe drought, in addition to the Corona outbreak. Nearly half of the population already needs assistance. ," he said in a statement.)

From the contents of the news there are comments by the United Nations or the United Nations. The United Nations stated that currently Afghans are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The UN also commented that Afghanistan is in a dire state. Not only the corona virus but the conflict in Afghanistan also makes the country need a lot of help.

(The funds are needed to provide, among other things, food and other basic needs for 11 million people, and basic health services for 3.4 million.)

From the contents of the news, it can be seen that the funds will be collected to provide various needs for 11 million people and health services for 3.4 million people. Here, journalists should explain where the data for 11 million people and 3.4 million people came from.

Micro Structure

Microstructure is the meaning of discourse that can be seen from a small part of a text. This microstructure consists of semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric. Here is the presentation:

Semantic

Semantic can be defined as the meaning that is emphasized in the text which can be seen through several things, including: (1) Setting, is defined as an element of discourse that can be used to prove that the ideas contained in the text are true. Eriyanto (2001) suggests that the setting is also an important element because it can reveal what the journalists mean. (2) Detail, can be defined as a strategy for how journalists express themselves in the discourse developed by the media (Eriyanto, 2001: 238). Details can also be interpreted as control information that can be displayed by a communicator. (3) Intent, defined as an element that shows how journalists use certain language practices to emphasize the truth of their news (Eriyanto, 2001: 240-241).

• Setting

The setting depicted in online news Afghanistan under Taliban rule: UN raises \$1 billion in humanitarian aid is as follows:

(The donors' conference, held Monday in Geneva, pledged about a billion dollars in aid to Afghanistan, following warnings from the United Nations of a "looming catastrophe").

The part of the headline above is the background of this story on the BBC website. The sentence explains that the background of this news is in Geneva. On Monday, a donors' conference was held and took place in Geneva.

• Details

The details described in the 2nd and 3rd lines of this news are:

"وقالت الأمم المتحدة إن "الأفغان بحاجة ماسة إلى الغذاء والدواء والخدمات الصحية ومياه للشرب والصرف الصحي" ("Afghans are in dire need of food, medicine, health services, drinking water and sanitation," the UN said.)

The part of the sentence above is a detail element of this news. The word amount "The conference seeks to raise a total of \$606 million" in line 2 explains that the conference must raise at least \$606 million in donations to save Afghans. Furthermore, the third sentence states that Afghans really need assistance such as food, medicine, health services, drinking water, and sanitation.

Purpose

The meaning described in this news is contained in the 10th line, namely:

(These funds are needed to provide, among other things, food and other basic needs for 11 million people, and basic health services for 3.4 million people, among other things.)

The part of the sentence above contains the element of intent contained in the word 'to'. Funds collected by the United Nations are earmarked for 11 million people who need food, basic necessities, and other things.

• Nominalization

Nominalization depicted on Afghanistan news under Taliban rule: UN raises \$1 billion in humanitarian aid as follows:

(The conference attempted to raise a sum of \$606 million that could have saved the lives of millions of Afghans in the last four months of the year, but ended up raising an even larger sum.)

The above part of the sentence contains a nominalized element of the news about Afghanistan under the Taliban: UN raises \$1 billion in humanitarian aid from the BBC website. It is on the second line "\$606 million" in this nominalization section. The journalist explains that the conference organized by the UN is seeking to raise \$606 million. to help millions of Afghans.

(The funds are needed to, among other things, provide food and other basic necessities for 11 million people, and basic health services for 3.4 million people, among other things.)

The part of the sentence above contains the nominalization element in the 10th line, namely 11 million and 3.4 million. In this section the journalist does not explain where the data for 11 million people and 3.4 million people come from.

Syntax

The elements that are included in the syntax are (1) The form of the sentence, in terms of syntax, the form of the sentence will determine the meaning formed in the arrangement of the sentence. (2) Coherence, can be interpreted as an element that can explain how events are connected or separated from the journalist's point of view (Sobur, 2004:81). Eriyanto (2001) also argues that coherence is an element of discourse that is used to see how someone uses discourse to clarify facts and events that are seen as separate, connected, or cause and effect. (3) Pronouns, in this case pronouns can be defined as tools used by communicators to indicate the position of a person in a discourse (Eriyanto, 2001: 225). According to Sobur (2004), pronouns can express a person's attitude as well as people who use the pronoun I or we in describing something that is the attitude of the communicator. Below are among the syntactic elements found from the data.

• Coherence

This element has a relationship between words or sentences in the text so that it becomes a unified whole.

(These funds are needed, among other things, to provide food and other basic needs for 11 million people, and basic health services for 3.4 million people).

The sentence above contains an additive conjunction in the form of wa (ع) which is used to connect two clauses that have an equal position.

(The conference attempted to raise a sum of \$606 million that could have saved the lives of millions of Afghans in the last four months of the year, but ended up raising a much larger sum).

The sentence above contains an adservative conjunction in the form of اكنه which serves to connect two clauses that are related but opposite.

(UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told ministers participating in the conference that it was "very important" for the international organization to communicate with the Taliban to facilitate the transfer and distribution of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.)

The sentence above is included in the equipment in the form of a conjunction which serves to provide an explanation of the first clause and the previous clause.

• Sentence Form

(Thousands of people have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15).

(United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told ministers participating in the conference)

The two sentences above are active sentences, it is clear that the subject of the sentence is thousands of people and Antonio Guterres is the perpetrator of the work.

Stylistic

Stylistics can be interpreted as the choice of words or diction used in a news text. This element is also called the lexicon. Basically, this lexicon indicates the way a person chooses the right word from the many available word choices.

The lexicon in Afghanistan news under Taliban rule: UN raises \$1 billion in humanitarian aid is on the first line after the headline:

(UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told ministers participating in the conference that it was "very important" for the international organization to communicate with the Taliban to facilitate the transfer and distribution of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.)

Instead of using words, such as fundraising, donations, and so on, journalists choose the diction 'humanitarian aid' because it is considered more effective for readers to understand what is happening and what is needed.

Rhetoric

Rhetoric has a function as a strategy that attracts attention or emphasizes a certain side of the message to be noticed by the reader. Rhetoric consists of several elements, namely the use of letters, pictures, photos, and numbers.

Use of letters, pictures, and photos

The use of letters in the news titles of online media bbc.arabic.com is made bigger and bolder in order to emphasize or highlight important things in the news.



Figure 1 News headlines on BBC. Arabic.com



Figure 2 Example of using photos on BBC. Arabic.com

Figure 1 shows two people are busy moving dozens of bags containing food and staples resulting from humanitarian aid. In Figure 2, there is a photo with a portrait of a child holding his little brother in a shabby and hungry condition as well as a portrait of a resident who seems to have no place to live. By displaying these two photos, it can be shown as supporting facts in a news story. This can be one of the journalistic strategies to influence readers' awareness and understanding of the news.

Numbers

The use of numbers in the news aims to give the effectiveness of truth and accuracy. Here are some example of sentences.

(The conference attempted to raise a sum of \$606 million that could have saved the lives of millions of Afghans in the last four months of the year, but ended up raising a much larger sum).

والأموال ضرورية لتوفير مساعدات غذائية وغيرها من الأساسيات لنحو ١١ مليون شخص وخدمات صحية أساسية نحو ٣,٤ ملايين، إلى جانب أمور أخرى.

(These funds are needed, among other things, to provide food and other basic needs for 11 million people, and basic health services for 3.4 million).

(A call was issued to secure most of this money late last year as part of a call to raise \$1.3 billion in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, much of which was raised).

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the data, it can be concluded that the discourse structure of Arabic online media in the news headlines "lipidity "lipidi

Meanwhile, the superstructure of the story form is also grouped into two, namely the situation in the fifth line of the news and the comments on the fifth and sixth lines of the news. The last part of the microstructure consists of several elements, namely semantics, syntax, stylistics and rhetoric. The semantic elements are divided into several parts, namely (1) the background is on the second line of the news, (2) the details are on the second and third lines of the news, (3) the intent is on the tenth line of the news, and (4) the nominalization is on the second line of the news. The syntactic elements are divided into several parts, namely (1) coherence is found in the second, third, and seventh lines of news, (2) sentence form is found in the second line, and the 21st line of news. The stylistic element is on the second line of the news. In the rhetorical element there is the use of letters, pictures, photos and numbers as a means of emphasizing and highlighting important things in the news. []

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