

## CHARACTERIZATION AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE IN COVERING GOVERNMENT CRITICISMS ON ONLINE MEDIA

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**Abstract.** It has been two years since the global community has lived side by side with the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 itself has had a significant impact on world life, including restrictions on social activities and the decline in people's purchasing power due to the economic effects caused by the pandemic. In the midst of the crush of the two effects caused by this pandemic, there is anxiety in the community. This growing anxiety is then channeled in various forms, both online and offline. Offline this unrest has turned into murals that are critical of the government. This study aims to analyze the structure of the narrative and its characterization in a news report about the mural criticism of the government. This research is a qualitative research with the method of collecting data from online documentation studies on news published by Kompas, Tribunnews, and Detik within a certain time span. The theory used in this study is Greimas's Narrative Theory where it is stated that in the narrative text there are six actors who can help to see how the structure and characterization in the narrative text. The results of this study indicate that the media places mural artists, law enforcement officers, murals, and people's aspirations in different characterizations and the writing of the narrative text can be easily understood by the readers.

**Keywords:** mural; narrative analysis; characterization; narrative structure; reporting

### I. INTRODUCTION

It has entered the second year that the global community has been living in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic starting in 2019. The nature of the Covid-19 virus which is a virus that is transmitted through micro particles that come out of the nose and mouth of a sick person [1]. Because Covid-19 is a virus that is easily transmitted, a protocol has been issued to minimize the possibility of contracting the Covid-19 virus. Each health agency in different countries has a term for this protocol and has various variations for the protocols published by them, although different, the existing prevention protocols have some points in common. Use of masks that comply with standards of protection against bacteria properly, keep a distance of more than 2 meters from other people, vaccinate, avoid crowds, wash hands with soap or hand sanitizer, cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing though you are wearing a mask, maintain cleanliness themselves and the environment, and maintaining health are the points that are outlined in the prevention protocols in each country [2].

In addition to the implementation of the Covid-19 transmission prevention protocol at the individual level, restrictions on community activities are also implemented in almost all countries. These restrictions are imposed to control the movement of people and avoid the possibility of crowds so that it is expected to reduce the possibility of transmission of the Covid-19 virus. All countries in the world are struggling with their respective abilities in dealing with this Covid-19 pandemic, including Indonesia. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia together

with the Covid-19 Task Force as well as the Indonesian National Police and the Indonesian National Armed Forces along with elements of society from the central level to the smallest unit, namely the individual community, are components that work together to control Covid-19 in Indonesia with adequate resources. there is. It is noted that the government has carried out various policy maneuvers to try to save this country from the grip of Covid-19, starting from testing the implementation of a lockdown at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia, which was later changed to Large-Scale Social Restrictions, then changed back to the Enforcement of Activity Restrictions. In its development, there have been changes in terms several times such as the use of the term micro PPKM, emergency PPKM, and most recently PPKM using levels 1 to 4. This change in policies and regulations also creates confusion in the community.

The Governor of West Java Ridwan Kamil also expressed the same thing about the confusion caused by this PPKM policy, especially related to critical and essential sectors so that PPKM aimed at reducing community mobility with an estimated 30 percent decline was only able to reach 17 percent [3]. The impact of the ambiguous situation that exists in the midst of a pandemic that forces everyone in the world and all countries to adapt to existing conditions also forces the economic sector to adapt. On a macroeconomic scale, Indonesia experienced economic deflation of 0.5 percent in August and September 2020 [4].

In 2020, Indonesia even entered a period of economic recession where there was a negative economic growth rate

for two consecutive quarters [4]. On a micro-economic scale, the things that have been described previously affect people's purchasing power. It was noted that in the fourth quarter of 2020 there was a decline in people's purchasing power in the tourism and manufacturing sectors of IDR 374.4 trillion, which was exacerbated by a 21 percent decline in industrial manufacturing capacity [5], coupled with a decline in income and business turnover during the pandemic as well as many layoffs. (PHK) and companies are reluctant to recruit new workers, thus making people's purchasing power worse [5]. The anxiety felt by the community is then channeled in various ways, one of which is through visual mural works. A mural is a work of art in the form of a painting on a wall [6]. The murals made by this artist represent some of the concerns felt by the public.



Figure 1. Example of Community Voice Mural

The appearance of the mural that represents the anxiety felt by the community is packaged in a charge that is critical of the government, which is a way for the community to get through difficult times such as the Covid-19 pandemic [7]. The emergence of this mural then attracted the attention of the government which was then followed by a reaction in the form of removing the mural and searching for the mural maker, according to a sociologist at Gadjah Mada University as an action to control the anxiety felt by law enforcement officers by showing their performance to their superiors so as not to get a reprimand [7].

The growing unrest among the general public and law enforcement officers is a commonality which is then channeled into actions to control the level of unrest, channel it in the form of murals and eradicate the mural. This phenomenon then attracted the attention of the media which then attracted the attention of the wider Indonesian community. For example, the big media in the country such as Kompas, CNNIndonesia, Tempo, Tribunnews, and many others have raised this issue as a news topic. This can be an object of research for various disciplines.

Previous research has shown that murals are the object of research both to see the meaning and how this mural represents a group. Research conducted by Vika and her colleagues from Pangkal Pinang regarding the use of murals as a media to support social education revealed that the murals made by KKN students in Ranggung Village contained religious values, social values, and cultural values [8]. Research conducted by Fachmi and colleagues regarding murals in Samarinda City shows that murals are able to carry

social messages that are packaged in the form of a work of art in campaigning for awareness about the dangers of smoking in the younger generation [9]. The two studies above are research that tries to look again at the message carried by a mural to be conveyed, there is also a study that tries to see how the representation of a party in an electronic photo work, even though it is not a painting on a wall, but an electronic image that is also available. can be considered as a painting.

Research from Dea Kartika regarding the representation of Police images in satirical photos on the 9gag website shows that the image of the police has not been fully viewed positively by the public as evidenced by a number of satirical photos regarding Police anomalies which are more numerous than the humanist images of the Police [10]. A semiotic study is also carried out on a mural to see how a mural captures its meaning. Yohanes and Monika study the graffiti in Kupang City using semiotic analysis to capture the meaning of the graffiti, where the message in it is not limited to words about positive human characters but also an inculcation of moral values and virtuous characters in teenagers [11], meanwhile Pandu and his colleagues conducted a semiotic study on the mural under the Pasupati Bandung bridge which showed that there was a message indicating the struggle experienced by the mural readers [12]. The purpose of this study is to see how the media in Indonesia place murals and their artists in their reporting, this is also the novelty of this research because previous research has focused more on the mural itself.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study seeks to look more deeply into how a news item labels the characters involved and is reported on so that it indirectly shapes perceptions for the readers, so that in order to fulfill the objectives of this study, a qualitative method was chosen. Qualitative method is a research method that emphasizes the depth of meaning of the object under study and is used to examine objects in a state without engineering which places the researcher as a key instrument and produces further explanations about the meaning that exists in the object under study and not a generalization [13]. In line with what was stated by Sugiyono, Denzin and Lincoln also revealed that qualitative research emphasizes the process of assessing meaning which can change during research [14].

The data collection method used is an online documentation study published on the Kompas, Tribunnews, and Detik web pages. The online documentation study mentioned earlier is a data collection concept that will be carried out by searching for sources of narrative documentation online using the Google search engine by using a limit in the form of the date when the mural issue and government criticism emerged. The results released by the search engine are then selected only from the Kompas, Tribunnews, and Detik web pages which are then carried out with a narrative analysis of the news text. The selection of these three media is based on the consideration of the

amount of visitor traffic, thus the wider the reach of the news to the wider community [15].

The theory used in this research is Greimas's Narrative Theory. Narrative theory talks about how to process the characterization, sequence, and delivery of an event with a certain structure, therefore this theory is suitable to be used as a provision for character analysis in the news of mural criticism of the government. Because the data collected is narrative data, the data analysis method chosen is narrative analysis. Narrative analysis is a study of a narrative, be it fiction (fairy tales, folklore, fables, films, comics, and so on) or non-fiction (news) to dissect more deeply about the series of events and patterns of relationships in them [16]. The analysis was carried out with the aim of being able to see what meaning the narrative was trying to create, to find out the dominant social values, to reveal what was implied, and to show a change in the style of written communication [16].

Narrative theory itself is a very broad theoretical concept that includes various paradigms in it. Genette's Narrative Theory and Fisher's Narrative Paradigm are examples of views that exist within the scope of narrative theory. The narrative theory used in this research is Greimas's Narrative Theory. Greimas's Narrative Theory is a narrative theory according to the views of Algirdas Julien Greimas, an academic from Lithuania. This theory is a modification of Propp's Narrative Morphology which states that a narrative text has 31 components in it that can be used as a tool for character analysis and narrative text structure [17]. Greimas's Narrative Theory reveals that a narrative has a meaning structure where each word in a sentence has a different function and position [16]. By Greimas this position is called actant. There are six actants, namely: subject (character), object (goal to be achieved by the subject), sender (giver of a set of rules), receiver (receiving value from the sender), supporter (party who supports the subject), and barrier (party that blocks the subject) [16].

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the collection of news regarding the mural case that was critical of the government in three online media namely Kompas, Tribunnews, and Detik in the time range set on the Google search engine starting from August 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021, three articles were found, namely:

#### *The Government Satire Mural Begins to Appear in Central Jakarta*

In the news published on the megapolitan.kompas.com website, it is reported that street artist activists in Jakarta have become more active in their work since the authorities took action to remove murals that have a critical tone in a number of areas, while the murals found in Jakarta are in Kebon Kacang Village, Tanah Abang District, Central Jakarta [18]. There are various kinds of murals, one of which is a mural with two televisions with the words "The only thing that can be trusted from TV is the Adhan" and the

other one that says "we are hungry for God". Beside the mural with pictures of two televisions, there is a satire inscription that the authorities need not be afraid of the mural. In this news, there are six actors who are characterizations in a narrative text. The six actants are as follows: (1) Subject: Jakarta street art activist. (2) Object: convey a message through a mural on the wall. (3) Sender: observable unrest in the community. (4) Recipients: the general public. (5) Supporters: local residents, fellow artists, and photographers. (6) Barriers: police officers.

So that this news can be interpreted as an effort by Jakarta street art activists to voice the anxiety that exists in the community as well as the anxiety of street artists whose murals are being prosecuted by the authorities in the midst of a pandemic where all parties are actually facing a common problem, namely the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### *Sandiaga Speaks About Sweeping Murals That Criticize the Government*

The news published on the travel.kompas.com web page on August 31, 2021 contained the response from the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Sandiaga Uno regarding the many sweeps against murals criticizing the government. as a response to the ineffectiveness of the formal aspiration channel owned by the government [19]. People are looking for alternatives to channel their aspirations through online media and directly, one of which is through murals. When delivery through online media is deemed ineffective, people turn to offline delivery methods, namely by making murals. In this report, six actors can be identified, consisting of: (1) Subject: Sandiaga Uno. (2) Object: conveying another point of view regarding the mural with a critical tone. (3) Supporters: the community and street art performers. (4) Sender: awareness of the conditions that develop in the community. (5) Recipients: the government, law enforcement officers, and the wider community. (6) Barriers: actions by law enforcement officers who carry out sweeping.

In this report, Sandiaga Uno as the subject tries to show another point of view regarding the mural which is critical of the government that it is a form of conveying aspirations. The obstacle from the point of view presented by Sandiaga Uno is the actions of law enforcement officers who carry out sweeping of murals that are critical of the government.

#### *There's a mural like Jokowi in Bandung, now it's deleted, the police are looking for the maker*

The news published on the regional.kompas.com page on August 27, 2021 reported about the presence of a grim reaper similar to President Jokowi on the outer wall of the Pasupati Bandung bridge, on Jalan Prabu Dimuntur, Bandung. A two-meter-high mural in black and white with a stature similar to Jokowi's with his eyes covered with a mask attracted the attention of the Bandung City police [20]. After attracting the attention of law enforcement, the mural was removed and overwritten using gray paint, the deletion being Satuan the local civil service police [20]. After the mural was removed, the police then looked for the mural maker to ask for an explanation regarding the mural that was made,

whether it was just a criticism or had it entered the realm of insulting the head of state or the President [20]. In response to this, the Vice Chancellor III of Pasundan University and also Observer of Public Communication Deden Ramdan said that murals are a form of artistic expression whose implementation is protected by the constitution, but to view the mural as an insult to the symbol of the state is a problem of interpretation of the mural [20]. In this report, it can be identified six actors as the characterization of the narrative text as follows: (1) Subject: Police looking for mural maker. (2) Object: looking for a mural maker. (3) Sender: An order from a superior in the form of a top-down hierarchy. (4) Supporters: Satuan the civil service police and the state apparatus concerned. (5) Recipient: a member of the police who carries out the task. (6) Barriers: undiscovered mural creators. In this news it can be summarized that the police are trying to find a mural maker to question the purpose of the mural that was made, this step has been hindered by the fact that the mural maker has not been found when this news was written.

*The Mural of Criticism is the Scream of the People's Conscience, a Warning Alarm for the Government*

The news published on the news.detik.com page on September 5, 2021 contains historians' views on the mural phenomenon and the removal of murals that occurred in August 2021, which according to historians is a warning alarm for the government that there are people's voices that have yet to be heard. and the government is deemed necessary to be more sensitive about the voices of the people [21]. According to historians, the phenomenon of murals as a form of people's voice has occurred since the era of the struggle against the Dutch colonial government, where people made murals of writings with paint on the walls in areas under Dutch rule that voiced the spirit of struggle, these murals were later deleted by the Dutch. [21]. When there was a mural raid in August, historians judged that history had repeated itself and it was a matter of concern because the same pattern occurred again during the independence era [21]. The head of the Bandung City Civil Service Police Unit, Rasdian Setiadi, responded to the phenomenon of mural raids by emphasizing the Regional Regulation on Order, Cleanliness, and Beauty. 9 of 2019 concerning Public Order, Peace, and Community Protection is a violation for polluting walls, walls, shelters, electricity poles and the like and has the potential to be sanctioned either with a maximum fine of one million Rupiah or a maximum imprisonment of three months [21]. In this news text, there are six actors who can be identified as characterizing a narrative text as follows: (1) Subject: mural artist. (2) Object: voice the cry of the people's heart. (3) Sender: people whose aspirations are not channeled. (4) Recipients: the general public. (5) Supporters: historians. (5) Obstacles: law enforcement officers, civil service police units.

So it can be concluded that this news text positions that mural artists are only trying to voice the aspirations of the people with mural media, this is also in line with the expressions of historians who commented on the mural

phenomenon, but were hindered by the existence of a Regional Regulation on Public Order, Peace, and Community Protection. who judged that the mural is an act that violates the local regulation and has the potential to be sanctioned.

*Police Appreciate Millennials for Criticizing Jokowi's Mural, But it should have been made in the right place*

The news published on the tribunews.com page on August 22, 2021 contains the response of the Indonesian National Police which appreciates millennials who channel criticism of President Joko Widodo through murals with an additional note that the painting should not be made in any place, this is the response of the Police from the emergence of murals that are critical of the government on walls in public spaces (Ibrahim, 2021). Porli through the Public Relations Division which was conveyed directly by the Head of the Public Relations Division of the Police Inspector General Pol Argo Yuwono to reporters that his party asked millennials to know the right location to express criticism in the form of the painting, but the Police themselves did not explain in more detail the criteria for a location to be called as the exact location [22]. The police also said that the police did not take repressive action against the mural makers who were handled by the police because according to the police what the mural maker did was an expression of criticism of the government [22]. In this news text, it can be analyzed six characters characterizing a narrative text as follows: (1) Subject: Inspector General of Police Argo Yuwono. (2) Object: give appreciation to mural artists. (3) Sender: Police of the Republic of Indonesia. (4) Recipient: mural artist. (5) Supporter: Police Public Relations Division. (6) Obstacles: law enforcement officers who are considered repressive. This news broadly shows that there is an appreciation given by the Indonesian National Police through the Police Public Relations Division to millennial mural artists who have voiced criticisms of the government through murals, but this would be wiser if it was put into a more appropriate space and location.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This study draws the conclusion that the narrative delivery used in Kompas, Tribunews, and Detik media uses simple language and is easily understood by the reader so that the reader is able to get the core meaning of the news conveyed. Based on the narrative analysis of Algridas Greimas actan model where this narrative analysis seeks to identify six actans consisting of the subject (who is preached), the object (what the subject wants to achieve), the sender (the party who ordered the subject), the supporter (the party who supports the subject). in obtaining the object), the recipient (the party who benefits from the object achieved by the subject), and the inhibitor (the party that prevents the subject from reaching the object) in a narrative text. In the news, the Government Sindir Mural Begins to Appear in Central Jakarta, in general, it tells about the efforts of Jakarta street art activists to voice the anxiety that exists in the community and the anxiety of street artists whose murals are

being prosecuted by the authorities in the midst of a pandemic where all parties are actually facing one common problem, namely the pandemic. Covid-19. In the news, Sandiaga Speaks About Sweeping Murals That Criticize the Government, tells about Sandiaga Uno as a subject trying to show another point of view about murals that are critical of the government that it is a form of conveying aspirations. The obstacle from the point of view presented by Sandiaga Uno is the actions of law enforcement officers who carry out sweeping of murals that are critical of the government. On the news There is a Mural Similar to Jokowi in Bandung, Now Deleted, Police Are Looking for the Maker The red thread that can be drawn is the police trying to find the mural maker to question the purpose of the mural, this step was hindered by the fact that the mural maker had not been found at the time of this news written. News about Murals Criticism Is the Scream of People's Conscience, Warning Alarms for the Government shows another point of view regarding mural artists only trying to voice the aspirations of the people with mural media, this is also in line with the expression of historians who commented on the mural phenomenon, but was hindered by the existence of a regional regulation. regarding Public Order, Peace, and Community Protection who consider that murals are an act that violates the regional regulations and have the potential to be subject to sanctions, and the latest news about the Millennial Police Appreciating Jokowi's Critic of Murals, 'But it should be made in the right place' shows that there is appreciation from Police against mural artists who voice criticism but must be in the right place.

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