

Journalism as a Killing Machine

(Study of Press Freedom and Information Restraint in Indonesia)

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ABSTRACT

The Purpose of This Study Is to Provide a Straightforward Picture of The Shift in The Primary Meaning of Journalism from An Information Provider to An Information-Killing Machine. Journalism Has Now Reached the Cusp of Its Failure, Without A Clear Purpose and Becoming the Place of The Press for Capitalism. Currently, People Are Forced to Access Inappropriate Information About Fake News and Information That Kills the Personality of The Indonesian Nation. The Results of This Study Show That Most Media In Indonesia Experience Deformation And Shift In Primary Meaning. Journalism Is Called the Information Killing Machine, He Slaughters All the Messages Until It Runs Out So That Communication Loses Its Main Role and Function. This Change in The Form of Journalism Is Somewhat Controversial Indeed Because In Every Publication Information Tends To Display Scary News And Is Not Safe. The Change Is Dominated by Online Media Even Though There Are Several Major Media in Indonesia Also Become Psychopaths in The World of Journalism. Although The Modern Era, The Main Function of Journalism Must Still Stand Under Journalistic Ethics. Freedom Does Not Mean Fomenting Market Forces Limiting Public Ownership and Reducing the Number of Votes in The Territory of Society. Government Censorship Is Long Gone, Therefore, The Government Through the Ministry of Information and The Press Council Must Play a Residual Role in Ensuring Responsible Press Performance. The Recommendations of The Broadcasting Commission and The Press Council Are Important in Their Position So That the Existence of Information In Indonesia Is Suitable For Widespread Public Consumption. The Conclusion Is That Although It Seems Nothing Is Significantly Different the Ontological Status of Journalism Has Undergone Major Changes and It Should Be Well Thought Out. Currently, What Is Happening in Indonesia Is Journalism That Is Full of Logical Mistakes. For Example, The Overarching Criticism of The Recommendation to Restrict Some Corruption and Covid 19 Suspects Was Disguised and Expanded So That Some of The Information Received by The Public Became Biased. Currently, Indonesia Is Looking for The Existence of Independent Journalism, Not Taking Sides Except For The Truth.

Keywords: JOURNALISM, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, CAPITALISM, MASS MEDIA, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

Introduction

Criticism of the Indonesian Press cannot be separated from its relation to government intervention. The intervention in question is paternalistic and treats the viewer helplessly and stubbornly. The intervention assumes that the viewer is not able to choose information wisely. The press and media should treat the audience as perfect to know and choose what they want. Global market incentives lead media producers to provide audiences with what they want. To determine the desires of the audience, the function of the Press must be by the needs and demographics of the Indonesian people. Through the normal mechanism that occurs, the Press experiences perception bias, its position confusing between the savior of the nation or instead become the enemy of the nation and the information killing machine. Currently, the Press is fully deregulated, and the highest bidder will

make the best use of the Press' resources. Nowadays it is true that the media is just a tool, a tool to bring down the country through the message conveyed.

The perspective of deregulation swept the circles of policymaking in Indonesia, this became the accepted wisdom in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches who think about the policy of the Press and the media should behave, at least think about the position of the two should be like what and how. In the last decade, media deregulation has become a global phenomenon. The author's main concern is how journalism changes its primary meaning with press freedom and information restraint. The author can't seem to hold back, the recent pervasive anti-regulation is just as harsh in the context of the country's infrastructure-related context for delivering communication content. That is very clear with the enactment of Press Law number 40 of 1999 which until now still hangs there is no clarity and revision, even though the press world continues to move. Press and mass media issues were adopted as measures to promote competition and reduce regulation. The almost unquestionable market orientation is very striking in the Indonesian media market.

Theoretical Foundation

Since the beginning of mass communication, there have been only two media theories namely authoritarian and libertarian theories centered around the structure of government, the structure of ownership, and the socio-political dimension of the society in which the media operates. It turned out that it was too late, the theories were subdivided into four. The four Theories are a linear combination of two analytical sub-dimensions based on authoritarian and libertarian state systems. The origin of the normative theory of the press is viewed from two opposing points of view. The radical absolutism of the state or ruling party and Classical Liberalism. The main derivatives of the two early normative theories are:

1. Authoritarian media theory
2. Soviet. Communist media theory
3. Libertarian media and
4. Social responsibility media theory

The first theory is the authoritarian media theory. This theory says leadership power is exercised in a hierarchical or top-down approach and the media is used to serve the ruling government. The media existed as a mouthpiece of the government at the time. The above conceptual description supposes that authoritarian media theory can be applied to early pre-democratic forms of society and to the current undemocratic or autocratic military system.

Secondly, Communist Soviet media theory. In this theory, the press is mandated to promote the socialist system and to portray the sovereignty of the working class through the communist party. The press is under direct state control and is treated as an arm of government.

The third is the Libertarian media theory. This theory states complete freedom of public expression and economic operation of the media and rejects government interference in any aspect of the press.

Fourth is Media Theory of social responsibility. The basic assumption of this theory states that the press should be free but with the responsibility to serve the public interest either using state regulation or self-censorship. This theory balances the claim of freedom with the need for responsibility. (Oluwasola, n.d.)

Method

This research uses qualitative methods with an instrumental type case study approach that is a case study that tries to compare several cases to correct the previous theory (John W. Creswel, 2014). The case studies taken are contemporary media and official online media. With this research, the author wants there to be regulation at the management level either from the government through laws and regulations or from the mass media. The cases taken have a span of the last three to five years. With various views that will be discussed, this research will likely explain a lot about how the conditions and situations that are happening in Indonesia. It is hoped that the results of this study contribute scientific knowledge about how to improve Indonesia's condition through press and mass communication

Result and Discussion

The power of the media and the Press is not only the power of free speech but rather the managerial power of the message conveyed. In general, the Press has the power to decide what messages have broad and educational access, but when it comes to managerial concepts, it has already touched the media business area. until here we know that the power of the Press becomes very decisive for its position in a country (Lon Safko, 2012). Using such power is not only an exercise of the right to free speech but requires the full support of the Indonesian government authorities. For example, in the case of the eradication of corruption in Indonesia, there is a kind of partial policy that seems to be given to the Press to manage credible sources of information, but the Press is accused of hoaxes in all kinds of forms. It's not about *hoaxes* or not, it's about conveying straightforward and blatant information. Today, the Press is in a difficult position to decide which ones should be factually packaged and which should be packaged in actual terms, all confusing because the regulatory position of the Press is castrated. The information provided is also impressive as it is, there is a possibility that the press is taking the path of "Crab Journalism" seeking security amid very superior political conditions.

Leader Press union or Press council also tried to run away from responsibility, of course, this data is not necessarily valid, meaning that the regulations provided by the Press council cannot cover all the rules and conditions of the Press in Indonesia. Presswork's should also look at how they write the script and broadcast it as an actual and factual news package, the author further highlights the factual concept of the Press. Is the news aired in Indonesia factual, the question is whether the Press company understands what the word factual means? The author tries to find the definition of a factual word in the Thesaurus dictionary, in which the factual sense is; true, concrete, real, objective, authentic, and reliable must be denied such access (Thesaurus Editorial Team Indonesian Language Center, 2005)

Freedom of the Press does not mean freedom of speech, but rather refers to the power to control the speech of others (Bill Kovach and Tom Roseentiel, 2018). The question we should ask in considering the argument for a free Press is to what extent can the Press control people's speech? It seems that we must look at the conditions and situation of politics in Indonesia because it will greatly determine the concept of freedom to regulate people's ideas and speech.

Not only is it about the freedom to control one's ideas and speech, but the Press must also have editorial power, a force that legitimizes the position of news amid conflicting situations (Bruce E. Drushel And Kathleen German, 2011). Presumably, the concept of news in editorials also needs to be considered for a moment to address some parallel cases about academic freedom and the strength of

academic journals in Indonesia. Then, that legitimizes the power is the process of *peer-reviewing* news every day, context, concepts, situations, and conditions, and noumenal and phenomena must be considered properly, if necessary, the Press in Indonesia form a special force or team that oversees all of it.

a. Journalistic Law

Looking at the current conditions, the media is rarely well organized in the sense of new media and uses a legal approach, because what is fair and unfair is usually debated at a paradigmatic level. The media hides the principles of honesty because of the pressure and tide of capitalism. The question is, which media are currently capable of defining the basic terms of their association. But inevitably, we still need the media as a tool to convey the message widely, but also widely with errors and moral declines due to the media (Morton Deutsch, Peter T. Coleman, 2016)

This is until now not straightened out, a basic understanding that is wrong so that Indonesia and the Press fall into a hole that is too deep at this time. One possible answer is; The press must be moved to give change and a touch of humanism. The Press Change should include the basic human right to obtain and enjoy information. The legitimacy of power to determine special access must be reduced, the Press should not be executed and shot dead at practical political events. Restrictions on freedom that do not have powerful property do not need to be continued, some cases that can be used as examples are the handling of Covid 19 in Indonesia, at that time the media became a terrible monster. The press cannot touch the public well, they only attach importance to the quantity of news without seeing the quality and implementation of laws and ethics (L. J. Shrum, 2004).

Many people assume the situation is precarious, so quality is ignored! This statement certainly caused chaos. Indonesia began to experience information inflation, the media became unable to embrace the public, the media was more frightened with unbalanced information and attached importance to the concept of fast food ignoring the quality of news. Is a case like the media in Indonesia worthy of being called freedom of opinion or a credible press? online media that use the mainstream internet network are not all credible, not all of them are included in the count, and the Press circles useful (Carl Hausman, 2015). The press should be restricted, not its movements but unbalanced information. By leaning on significant boundaries, ethically the cases that occur in the Indonesian Press institutions can make a difference about which media to access and leave behind.

Paths such as the socialization of the importance of the Press need to be run again, there are cultural elements that must be considered to start improving the function of the Press (Stevenson, 2002). The author is of the view that if this is allowed to continue then the world of Journalism will become an information-killing machine, the public does not believe in the fourth pillar of a country. Then who else will be trusted to express an opinion? The function of the Press as a control of the state is completely paralyzed, the information provided is only a kind of past wind, not culturally useful and eventful ((Richard Campbell, R. Martin, 2016). The press is incapable of separating capitalists, business, and responsibility to the wider community (Sharoon Machils, 2019). News that is broadcast or released is only limited to providing information, very rarely that provide education about concrete steps. To the extent that capitalist power is still large, then the media will still be the mouthpiece of the government, dying of rot amid the glitter of humanitarian politics.

Journalism as a killing machine has a message about Indonesia's depravity in managing the Press, and as a sharp criticism of major media such as TV and Online. My 10 years of experience as a journalist provide the education and courage to write this. The author begins to give a theoretical touch starting from the first theory that is; Authoritarian Press Theory provides an explanation that seems to have to be addressed. The position of the Press is not below the state, the Press is not an inanimate object that can be moved, and the Press is a rule that has its system. The position of the Press is outside the government, there must be no intervention. This theory seems to give a view and legalize the position of the Press under the state! The controversial thing is that the author must say that it is all not true! The first mistake was John Lo cake's opinion which gave a clear statement that the fourth pillar was the Press. But trying to provide a middle ground for this theory, the author must include the view of Bakker who argues that the position of the Press cannot be replaced by and with anyone. The press is not an inanimate object, the press is the arrangement of life that is treated like a human being (Baker, 2007).

b. Freedom of the Press

The press has a special era in democracy, especially in Indonesia! The rules in Press law define press freedom in terms of democratic responsibility: the author defines press freedom as freedom from restraint that is essential to allow owners, editors, and journalists to advance the public interest by publishing facts and opinions without which democratic voters cannot make responsible judgments. (Ursula Smartt, 2014).

There are two components to the freedom of the press. *The first* is that the media acts as a guard dog on the government. Even where the Press gained enormous independent power, it acted as the fourth pillar providing pure journalism and ethical media issues. *The second* is; The press as a necessary condition for informed and critical citizenship. It provides information on key issues without which the public would not be able to make smart judgments. And the Press serves as a forum for public debate on such issues, serving to ensure that diversity of opinion is heard. It is clear that there is a necessary relationship between the journalism issues outlined in the last section and the functions assumed to be performed by journalism (Sikkim, 2018)

Since the truth about significant contemporary events is constitutive of journalistic practice, where excellence in journalism is considered to exist, journalism will serve the creation of informed and critical political citizens. For liberals, this happy alliance of journalism and democracy is best served by the free market. It's an era of globalization that shouldn't be controlled by political forces. The press provides the best institutional framework to ensure that the Press meets those needs (Jason Bainbridge, 2015)

c. Information Restraint

Every event is inseparable from whether the subject is race or whatever, begitu also events that occur in society automatically it has become public consumption and is inherent in its tribal and religious races. Slowly but surely the restraint that occurs is in the information conveyed by the media. The case of Jokowi's three periods for example which some time ago became a hot conversation in the media became a clear example that a big event will be associated with ethnicity, race, and religion. In general, the notion of racial and religious ethnicity is related to culture (Stephen W. Littlejohn, 2016). but in this paper what is meant by racial and religious tribes about the issue of Jokowi three periods is in various regions establishing posts of support for Jokowi, it means that the banter between suku A and B occurs indirectly, discrimination that occurs between the divisions of the nation due to

different choices. Tribe A for example humiliates tribe B on social media, religion A makes their teachings a tool to bring down political opponents. So, political issues can't have anything to do with racial and religious tribes. Then where is the information restraint? Certain media in Indonesia deliberately produce or support Jokowi by giving wider access to those who support it. This illustrates that there are other groups such as group B that do not get the same access.

The government, especially the Press Council and Kominfo institutions do not have a framework that is familiar with these kinds of things (Bob Franklin, Martin Hamer, Mark Hanna, 2005). The author tries to compare it to the case in other countries of racial conflict in America during the 1960s. In America such conflicts are immediately resolved also using mass media, meaning that despite politically wrapped tribal and religious conflicts, the role of the Press is not restrained, and information that should be easily accessible is not blocked by the American government. Research by Hai Tran Depaul, Fresno Ying Du, and Andrei Khrapavitski in the *International Journal of Communication* explains that culture plays a role in enabling the democratization of the media so that information restraint should not occur. Subsequently, the use of the *Journalistic Freedom index* showed a significant relationship between the state of the media and the socioeconomic state, as expected of the dominant paradigm. Freedom of the Press better predicts development than development that explains press freedom. Thus, press freedom is more likely to be an antecedent of development than the other way around (Hai Tran Depaul University Reaz Mahmood California State University, 2011).

d. Deformation of Journalism

Libertarian Theory says humans are seen as rational beings capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. Broadly speaking, this theory asserts that the Press should be a friend in the search for the truth, rather than a tool of government control. From this theory, the Press was led to find its identity as a controlled institution under the law. Deformation means a change in shape (Daniel A. Stout, 2006). If clashed with this theory, it will be seen that the change in the basic form of the Press is as a government person and not as a medium that helps many people. This theory describes the 'cultural heritage' of journalism that should be preserved so that perception bias does not occur. To trace the failure and stuttering of the Press is very easy in Indonesia, just follow the pattern of news for one month, it will begin to see what changes occur (Maria T, 2018)

e. Journalism as a Killing Machine

The information expressed to the public sometimes has no legitimate public interest or concern. Some press institutions in Indonesia may publish facts that are personal and very unpleasant to consume, but because the media is now a secret agent of the government, such a thing is considered ordinary. Theresa's response to the newsworthy news became loose. If we dare to tell the truth, then there is no room for the Press to make a defense, because the Press is destined to defend not Defend people's rights from social injustice, helping people to obtain information clearly and not hindered. The function of the Press is to make legal recognition that the public has the full legally guaranteed right to know some information, even at the expense of individual privacy. Big trouble? of course, because of the legal line between what is in the legitimate public interest and what is not necessarily clear and responsible (Andrew Belsey and Ruth Chadwick, 1992)

The biggest threat from journalism is hoaxes that until now reached about 800,000 sites in Indonesia that have been indicated as spreading false information. Source:

<http://nasional.republika.co.id/berita/nasional/umum/17/12/12/p0uuby257-ada-800000-situs-penyebar-hoax-di-indonesia>. This has been a difficult task for the Press and the country because, with the many hoaxes articulated in some media, the function of the Press turned into a murderous monster that still received special protection from the government. One common approach taken is socialization about the dangers of hoaxes, but on the other hand, the media itself has one of the fastest hoax spreads. This phenomenon of defiance is very close to the destruction of the function of the Press, if it has been destroyed then what happens is defiance and hoax (David K. Perry, n.d.)

One thing can be concluded that every type of institution brings strengths and weaknesses to the mission of journalism. Journalism in Indonesia must have weaknesses and advantages, it's just that it depends on how managerial each journalism institution works. A number and prudence should be applied more widely so that there is no social inequality. Journalism in Indonesia is experiencing a shift in primary meaning from information-providing media, and nation-saving media to government mouthpieces and slave capitalism. Deformation that occurs can be corrected by at least the position of journalism back as the initial function. Information restraint tends to be widespread and inevitable if press regulations and laws are not corrected. The focal point of this conclusion is not only on the improvement of the law but on the awareness and firmness of journalists in seeing and positioning themselves as the savior of the world. Press System manages that Journalism in Indonesia is not under the government, but in line with the government, keep in mind that journalism's position as a watchdog and not a coalition group. A small group in the Indonesian Press institution must think about the fate of the Press in the future, Indonesia is already very far behind compared to other countries such as Finland, America, London, and Japan. The Indonesian press must rise and find new ideas and new points of view to catch up with the lagging view of a politically committed world. What is clear to anyone who has worked in journalism is; We need a lot of culture of collective awareness to compete so that our news media is diverse so that in terms of the overall content of news and the composition of information can be trusted. Unsubstantiated journalism cannot last for a long time because the achievement of public trust requires sociological encouragement and a long process. Journalism is not a killing machine, but if this continues to be allowed then it does not rule out journalism will become a terrible monster that at any time tore the Indonesian nation apart.

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