



## Corruption case of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in Indonesia: Framing analysis study of MediaIndonesia.com and Okezone.com

Kuntum Chairum Ummah<sup>1\*</sup>, Achmad Syarifudin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, Indonesia

\* Corresponding author

Email address: [kuntum.ummah@trunojoyo.ac.id](mailto:kuntum.ummah@trunojoyo.ac.id)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61126/dtcs.v1i1.9>

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><i>Keywords:</i> corruption case framing analysis Johny G. Plate Kemkominfo</p>	<p>The BTS (Base Transceiver Station) construction corruption case of the Minister of Communications and Information, Johny G. Plate, who is also a cadre of the Nasdem Party, has caused a lot of debate among netizens. Online news portals with different party owners are also said to have an impact on the framing of reality and influencing readers' perspectives in viewing the BTS corruption issue. Therefore, it is necessary to further examine how the online media MediaIndonesia.com and Okezone.com framed the corruption case involving Johny G. Plate as the Secretary General of Nasdem Party and former Minister of Communication and Information. The method used in this research is the framing analysis proposed by Robert N. Entman. The subjects of this research are the online media news portals MediaIndonesia.com and Okezone.com, while the objects are news articles about the identification of Johny G. Plate (JP) as a suspect in the BTS Kominfo corruption case. The research results revealed that MediaIndonesia.com tends to view corruption cases with a positive frame by prioritizing the principle of presumption of innocence for not firing Johny G. Plate as Secretary General of the Nasdem Party. In contrast, Okezone.com tends to frame the news by supporting legal efforts to thoroughly investigate the case and supporting a number of DPP Perindo Party stances that seem to be framed as the stance of the news portal.</p>

### Citation suggestion:

Kuntum Chairum Ummah, K. C., & Syarifudin, A. (2023). Corruption case of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in Indonesia: Framing analysis study of MediaIndonesia.com and Okezone.com. *Digital Theory, Culture & Society*, 1(1), 53–59. <https://doi.org/10.61126/dtcs.v1i1.9>

Received 4 June 2023; Received in revised form 9 July 2023; Accepted 18 July 2023; Published online 25 July 2023.

## Introduction

The year 2024 will be a political year, as there will be legislative and presidential elections. The 2024 presidential candidates have been aggressively campaigning in the regions to gain support. There are three presidential candidates who are now appearing more frequently on television and online media, including Ganjar Pranowo, who is currently still serving as Governor of Central Java Province, supported by PDI-P Perjuangan, which was officially announced at the Batu Tulis Palace in Bogor, West Java. Prabowo Subianto, chairman of the Gerindra Party, who expressed his readiness to run for the presidency, and Anies Baswedan, former governor of DKI Jakarta, who was endorsed by the National Democratic Party (Nasdem) through a direct statement by Surya Paloh, chairman of the Nasdem Party in coalition with the Democrat and PKS.

News about the nomination of presidential candidates and the party coalition map for 2024 seem to dominate political issues in various print and online media. This refers to the understanding that news is the end result of a complex process of sorting and determining certain events and issues in a particular category (Eriyanto, 2011). It can be said that political events in the form of candidate nominations and coalitions formed by the United Indonesia Coalition, the Great Indonesia Awakening Coalition, and the Coalition for Change for Unity are increasingly becoming hot discussions in various media ahead of the political year.

Meanwhile, in its dissemination, it can be done in various ways and one of them is through online media. Referring to the definition of online media Romli (2012), is media that is presented online on Internet websites. With this understanding, it can be interpreted that online media is news that is

disseminated online through websites on the Internet. With its advantages, online media can disseminate news or information only moments after the event occurs and can be directly accessed by everyone from different sides, especially when the news becomes a trending topic and goes viral in different media.

According to the Press Council (2023), there are 1,711 media companies in Indonesia that have been verified as of January 2023. Of these, digital media dominates as many as 902 companies. Data from the Press Council shows that as of early last month, there were 423 print media companies in the country. Based on the disparity in the number of print and digital media, it shows that people now prefer to get news through online media. In fact, a relatively large number of print media are now also taking advantage of the digital era by uploading print news to the online version, where the public can easily get information at this time without having to spend money. This change has also occurred because of the Internet, which has changed the way people get information. This "new" media is considered easier to access and more real-time. This is happening because of the demands on the media to continue to innovate and compete to meet people's information needs.

The acceleration of the need for information and the pragmatism of media users in this digital era is supported by the emergence of many online media, although there are some online media that sometimes do not fulfill journalistic elements and rules in writing news. This is because the development of social media that now exists in society cannot be separated from the role of capitalism as a global economic system (Aji, 2020). Social media, which is now around people's lives, provides convenience and facilities for the growth of commodities and the interests of capitalists, which are closely

related to political interests, especially in the context of the election of presidential candidates, which can cause various shifts in people's views on presidential candidates.

In the midst of the issue of splitting the ruling coalition, the news of a mega corruption case involving Johny G. Plate as the Minister of Communication and Information emerged. This corruption then shocked the public and netizens, even trending on social media Twitter. The Kominfo 4G BTS (Base Transceiver Station) corruption case began when Muhammad Yusuf Ateh, as head of the Financial and Development Supervisory Agency (BPKP), submitted a number of documents to the Attorney General's Office regarding the findings of state losses resulting from the preparation of legal studies, price markups, and BTS projects at the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kemkominfo).

The AGO named seven suspects in this case, although many netizens felt that the naming of suspects was appropriate and fulfilled the elements of the law. The AGO's move is fully supported by the government and netizens, as Johny G.'s performance and track record as Minister of Communications and Information does not have many achievements, and even tends to be controversial in a number of statements and policies during his tenure, such as the leak of mobile data users' privacy. The public is asked to maintain their own privacy as a solution to Johny G. Plate's policy of blocking Electronic System Providers (PSE) such as PayPal, Steam to Epic Games due to Private Scope PSE registration problems (Jawa Pos, 2022).

The appointment of Minister of Communication and Information, Johny G. Plate, is also suspected by many to be political. After all, it came just days after the National Democratic Party's (Nasdem) nomination of presidential candidate Anies

Baswedan. In fact, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) also expressed his disappointment with the Nasdem party for rushing to endorse Anies Baswedan. Meanwhile, on a number of occasions, President Jokowi was more intimate with Ganjar Pranowo. On another occasion, President Jokowi also supported Prabowo Subianto, who was considered a strong figure.

Political issues are more powerful when they are framed by political news. Online news portals with different party owners were allegedly able to frame the Kominfo corruption issue in a positive or negative way. The context of the same issue, but using different diction and slanting readers' opinions also greatly influences readers' perspectives in seeing the issue of BTS corruption by the Minister of Communication and Information. MediaIndonesia.com is one of the business units of Media Group founded by Surya Paloh, who is also the owner of Metro TV. Surya Paloh is also the chairman of the National Democratic Party (Nasdem). The online news media portal Okezone.com is an online portal owned by PT Media Nusantara Citra (MNC) which is owned by Hary Tanoesoedibjo who is also the chairman of the Indonesian United Party (Perindo), both news portals with different political backgrounds will certainly affect the framing of news.

Based on these problems, the researcher aims to understand, analyze and compare the two media, namely MediaIndonesia.com and Okezone.com, in terms of how the two media reported on the BTS corruption case involving former Kemenkominfo Johny G. Plate as a suspect. This analysis is conducted with the aim of knowing how these media frame reality using the framing analysis method. This analysis is conducted with the aim of knowing how the media frame reality and disseminate information about the corruption case of Johny G. Plate, who is

a minister at the Ministry of Communication and Information as well as a cadre of the Nasdem political party who once served as a member of the DPR-RI for the period 2014-2019.

## Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive research. The method used in this research is framing analysis proposed by Robert N. Entman. Researchers want to analyze the news surrounding the determination of former Minister of Communication and Information, Johny G. Plate as a suspect in the BTS Bimasakti corruption case on May 17, 2023 in the online media *Mediaindonesia.com* and *Okezone.com*.

Data collection in this study was done through literature review, interviews, and online data search. The subjects in this study are the online media news portals *Mediaindonesia.com* and *Okezone.com*, while the objects are news articles about the determination of Johny G. Plate (JP) as a suspect in the Kominfo BTS corruption case on the news portals *Mediaindonesia.com* and *Okezone.com* within the period of May 18-26, 2023. The data collection begins with selecting, connecting, and seeing trends that highlight certain special events so that the significance of the event is easier to touch and remember by the audience who read the news about this corruption case. Data collection in the media on May 18-26, 2023 was carried out through the process of selecting and focusing on certain aspects of a reality by the media and the way in which events are presented by the media as well as presentations made by emphasizing certain parts, accentuating certain aspects and raising certain ways of telling stories from a reality/corruption event committed by Johny G. Plate as part of a behavioral frame that

guides individuals in reading reality (Sobur, 2009).

The data analysis technique used in this research is the qualitative data analysis model of Miles and Huberman (1992), consisting of (1) data reduction from various media reporting on the Johny G Plate corruption case as part of the selection process, (2) presentation of news data provided by online media *Media Indonesia* and *Okezone.com* and the specificity/tendency of the news provided. Then (3) draw conclusions/verify the results of the analysis of *Media Indonesia* and *Okezone.com* regarding the Johny G Plate case. In data validity, researchers use source triangulation as a data validity technique in researching the Johny G Plate corruption case by analyzing the differences contained in the two online media.

## Results and Discussion

The news of Johny G. Plate being named as a suspect became the headline of a number of online media. If the same news is then delivered by different news portals with different headlines, it will certainly have an impact on the differences in readers' views. With this problem, researchers refer to Robert Entman's four elements of framing analysis (Eriyanto, 2012), namely:

- a. Define problem, this element is the most important master frame. It emphasizes how events are understood by journalists. The same event can be understood in different ways and frames.
- b. Diagnose causes, is a framing element to frame who is seen as the actor of an event. Causes here can be what (what) or who (who).
- c. Make moral judgment is a framing element used to justify/argue the problem definition that has been made.
- d. Treatment recommendation (emphasis on problem solving), this element is used

**Table 1. MediaIndonesia.com News findings**

No	Title	Findings
1.	Mahfud MD about Johnny Plate's case: Be careful, there is politics in this (05/18/2023)	Mahfud MD supports the investigation process.
2.	Surya Paloh reveals the reason for not firing Johnny G Plate from the position of Secretary General of Nasdem (05/18/2023)	Surya Paloh still supports Johnny G. Plate
3.	PKS Salutes Surya Paloh in Responding to the Johnny Plate Case (05/20/2023)	PKS salutes Surya Paloh's statesmanship.
4.	Surya Paloh Prioritizes the Presumption of Innocence in the Johnny G. Plate Case (21/05/2023)	Surya Paloh supports Johnny G. Plate
5.	Nasdem Encourages Johnny G Plate to Become a Justice Collaborator (26/05/2023)	Nasdem chairman supports JP as a justice collaborator

to assess what journalists want. What way is chosen to solve the problem. Of course, the solution depends on how the event is seen and who is seen as the cause of the problem.

The news findings published by MediaIndonesia.com about Johnny G. Plate (hereinafter abbreviated as JP) tend to be interpreted as news that are not necessarily true. The principle of presumption of innocence as a legal principle that can be interpreted as the determination of JP's suspect not to rush to judgment before a court decision. Surya Paloh as chairman of Nasdem is portrayed as a statesman responding to the JP issue.

Referring to the define problem that the JP suspect case is interpreted as a case that may not be true, and it is believed that JP is not the main perpetrator, so it is advisable to become a justice collaborator to be able to open the BTS corruption case within the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology thoroughly investigated who is involved. In JP's corruption case, Surya Paloh is also positively framed with his statesmanship and support for the investigation of the case. The news about the determination of the suspect of the Minister

of Communication and Information JP is alleged to contain political elements as the news loading about the impression of Mahfud MD regarding the determination of the suspect case of JP contains a title that defines this case as containing political elements.

Regarding these second aspect of diagnosing causes based on JP news in MediaIndonesia.com, the issue of Menkominfo suspect needs to be thoroughly investigated. This means that this news is still interpreted as something positive and not necessarily the truth as long as there is no court decision. This political nuance is understood as thick in the JP's naming of a suspect in the Ministry of Communication and Information BTS corruption case. Therefore, the JP is not seen as the only perpetrator, and even a number of big names are involved in the case, so it needs to be thoroughly investigated.

The identification of JP as a suspect in the BTS Kominfo corruption case is understood as the principle of presumption of innocence. Referring to Entman's moral judgment, it can be said that this corruption case has been framed by MediaIndonesia.com as a case that needs to be thoroughly investigated, despite Surya Paloh's attitude not to fire JP as Nasdem Secretary General. This can be seen

as an act of support by Nasdem for JP, which seems to be justified by Anies Baswedan's supporting party, the Prosperous Justice Party. In an effort to solve the problem, the Kominfo corruption case involves not only JP, but of course other suspects, both government and private parties.

Based on the selection of news content related to Johnny G. Plate (JP), Okezone.com found the opinion of Anies Baswedan as a vice presidential candidate supported by the Nasdem Party, but the news was not published on the Mediaindonesia.com website. The use of the word "mafia" is also politically significant in terms of defining the corruption issue concerning JP. Meanwhile, the word "mafia" was not used on the news portal Mediaindonesia.com. Opinions about Mahfud MD related to corruption cases with political nuances are displayed by both media portals. Okezone.com described that political rumors were widely spread, although Mahfud MD later ignored them. The AGO's view also in trying to define the corruption issue concerning

this JP in thoroughly investigating the case up to 5 other suspects portrayed this case as a corruption case that caused huge losses to the state. Perindo's DPP Yusuf Lakaseng also defined this corruption case to be investigated immediately as an effort to prevent political gossip because it could not be enjoyed by JP himself.

In the aspect of diagnosing causes, a number of news published by Okezone.com regarding JP, the majority of which believe that in order not to become political gossip, this corruption case must be thoroughly investigated to its roots. In fact, a number of DPP Perindo also have this opinion because this case is considered to involve not only JP but also other suspects. The political stance of DPP Perindo can also be said to be the moral judgment of Okezone.com according to Entman to conduct this thorough investigation. With a thorough investigation step, this is also considered a treatment recommendation by Entman, so that this corruption case also involves other suspects and so that political gossip no longer blows.

**Table 2. Okezone.com News findings**

No	Title	Findings
1.	Anies: Johnny Plate is a government project mafia, investigate thoroughly! (05/22/2023)	Supporting investigation like Surya Paloh
2.	Hearing Political Gossip about Johnny G Plate's Suspect Designation, Here's Mahfud MD's Reaction (22/05/2023)	Mahfud MD supports investigation
3.	Investigating the BTS Kominfo Case, AGO Investigates Johnny G Plate with Five Other Suspects. (22/05/2023)	AGO questioned JP and 5 other suspects
4.	Perindo asks Kominfo BTS case to be investigated thoroughly to prevent political rumors ahead of the 2024 elections (25/05/2023)	DPP Perindo Yusuf Lakaseng for a thorough investigation
5.	Commission III will summon the AGO, Perindo: Investigate the Mega Corruption of Bakti Kominfo to its roots! (26/05/2023)	DPP Perindo Yerry Tawalujan asks to monitor and speak out so that this mega corruption is thoroughly investigated.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of two online media portals, [Mediaindonesia.com](http://mediaindonesia.com) and [Okezone.com](http://okezone.com), the coverage of the BTS Kominfo corruption case involving Johny G. Plate is certainly different. [Mediaindonesia.com](http://mediaindonesia.com) tends to see corruption cases with a positive frame, namely prioritizing the presumption of innocence over Surya Paloh's support for not firing Johny G. Plate as Secretary General of the Nasdem Party. There is a specificity that reveals Nasdem's attitude that it will continue to respect the legal process and prioritize the principles of justice and that this legal process must be free from political intervention and power pressure, which presents a positive attitude of Surya Paloh who emphasizes that he will not fire Johny G. Plate. In contrast to [Okezone.com](http://okezone.com), which tends to frame the news of this corruption case by supporting legal efforts for the AGO to thoroughly investigate the case and supporting a number of DPP Perindo Party attitudes that seem to be framed as the attitude of the news portal.

## Declaration of Ownership

This article is our original work.

## Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to declare in this article.

## Ethical Clearance

This study was approved by the institution.

## References

- Aji, F. B. (2020). Refleksi kritis atas degradasi autentisitas masyarakat media. *Jurnal Komunikasi*, 14(2), 169–182.
- Data Indonesia. (2023). *Media digital semakin mendominasi di Indonesia pada awal 2023*. <https://dataindonesia.id/varia/detail/media-digital-semakin-mendominasi-di-indonesia-pada-awal-2023>. Accessed 25 Mei 2023.
- Dewan Pers. (2023). *Data perusahaan pers*. Accessed from <https://dewanpers.or.id/data/perusahaanpers/>
- Eriyanto. (2011). *Analisis isi: Pengantar metodologi untuk penelitian ilmu komunikasi dan ilmu-ilmu sosial lainnya*. Jakarta: Kencana Prenada Media.
- Eriyanto. (2012). *Analisis framing: Konstruksi, ideologi dan politik media*. Yogyakarta: LKiS Printing Cemerlang.
- Jawa Pos. (2023). *Jadi tersangka korupsi BTS Bakti berikut 5 kontroversi Menkominfo Johnny G Plate*. <https://www.jawapos.com/nasional/01664575/jadi-tersangka-korupsi-bts-bakti-berikut-5-kontroversi-menkominfo-johnny-g-plate>. Accessed 25 Mei 2023.
- Miles, B. M., & Huberman, M. (1992). *Analisis data kualitatif buku sumber tentang metode-metode baru*. Jakarta: Universitas Indonesia.
- Romli, M., & Syamsul, A. (2014). *Jurnalistik online*. Bandung: Nuansa Cendekia.
- Sobur. (2009). *Analisis teks media: Suatu pengantar untuk analisis wacana, analisis semiotik, dan analisis framing*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.

