The Portrayal of Men and Women Politicians in The Jakarta Post’s News Articles about Corruption Cases

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Abstract

The fact that many politicians involved in corruption cases leads the media to publish a lot of news talking about them. This article aims to find out the way the journalists portray men and women politicians in The Jakarta Post’s news articles about corruption cases. Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by van Dijk was applied to analyze four articles related to Muhammad Nazaruddin, Andi Mallarangeng, Angelina Sondakh, and Wa Ode Nurhayati as the politicians involved in corruption cases. Based on the three levels of analysis on van Dijk’s CDA including textual, socio-cognition, and societal analysis, it can be concluded that the journalists portray men and women politicians in The Jakarta Post’s news articles about corruption cases differently. By putting the details of corruption cases in the very end of the news articles and using some terms related to power and high status as politicians, the journalist portrayed men politicians involved in corruption cases as a powerful, respected, and a high status corruptor. On the other hand, by putting the details about corruption cases early in the beginning of the news articles, using particular lexical choice, and providing additional information about personal matters such as the age and lifestyle, the journalist portray women politicians involved in corruption cases as less powerful and less respected corruptors. These portrayals are related to the concept of gender in Indonesia, which dominantly follows the concept of patriarchal culture, in which man stands on the higher position than woman.

Keywords: portrayal, politicians, corruption, critical discourse analysis

Introduction

The involvement of some politicians in corruption cases attracts the media’s attention to produce a lot of news articles reporting each development of the cases. On 8 August 2011, Corruption Eradication Commission arrested Muhammad Nazaruddin, the former treasurer of Partai Demokrat, for taking Rp 4.6 billion in bribes to rig a tender for the construction of an athletes’ village for the 2011 Southeast Asian Games (Anon., 2012). A couple of months later, on 27 April 2012, a lawmaker from Partai Demokrat named Angelina Sondakh was also arrested due to her involvement in accepting bribes on the construction project of the 2011 SEA Games’ athletes’ village (The Jakarta Post, 2013).

In this case, the way the journalists frame the news about men and women politicians involved in corruption cases is not totally uniform. They have their own strategies to construct the portrayal of men and women politicians through the language used in the text. As a consequence, the different ways of framing men and women politicians in the news articles then create different portrayal of them which unfortunately tends to be biased. Thus, the media plays an important role here. The function of the media cannot be separated with the role of journalists. Tuchman (as cited in Louw, 2005) argued that journalists actually construct the news, rather than reflect the news. Therefore, the language used by the journalists to produce news articles may affect the readers’ perspective and impression toward particular issue presented in it.

Concerning the media’s portrayal of men and women politicians, there are several studies that have been conducted. Bystrom, Robertson, and Banwart (2003) found that female candidates continue
to face some stereotypical biases in the news coverage of their campaigns in U.S. This finding is supported by Katembo (2005) who pointed out that women politicians in South Africa are still underrepresented. Similarly, Wasburn and Wasburn (2011), in their case study about media coverage on Sarah Palin, also found that Newsweek and Time discussed Palin’s positions on issues related to triviality and family life more frequently than her positions on other issues such as economic policy and international matters which only involved her rival, Joe Biden.

The results of those previous studies imply that most of media coverage on men and women politicians still follows the principle of patriarchal culture in which man is considered as superordinate while woman is sub-ordinate. While there have been some studies on media’s portrayal of man and woman politicians overseas, little has been written about such those studies in Indonesia. In addition, none of the previous studies provides an analysis of media’s portrayal of men and women politicians involved in committing crime, especially corruption. Since many corruption cases were done by politicians in Indonesia and many news reporting them in the media, it is a matter of concern to discover how the media portrays men and women politicians involved in corruption cases.

Critical Discourse Analysis

Van Dijk’s approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is considered as the mostly used model in many discourse studies (Eriyanto, 2001). Van Dijk (1997, p.2) explained that there are three main dimensions of discourse which are integrated each other: (a) language use, (b) the communication of beliefs (cognition), and (c) interaction in social situations. Among those three dimensions, cognition becomes the focus of van Dijk’s approach to CDA. This approach treats language users as social actors who have personal memories, knowledge and opinions, as well as those shared with members of the group or culture as a whole (van Dijk, 2001, p.354). In this case, a text is not only seen from the surface structure, but also from the idea that lies beyond the production of a text. It is supported by Eriyanto (2001, p. 222), who stated that text is not an empty area, but a small part of big structure of society. Therefore, this study does not only deal with textual analysis, but also socio-cognition and societal analysis.

The first dimension of van Dijk’s approach to CDA is textual analysis. It deals with the surface structure of the text which is divided into three elements including macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The second dimension is socio-cognition analysis dealing with the relationship between the texts and the mental awareness of the journalists themselves. In this case, journalists are considered as part of society where they socially share certain ideology (Eriyanto, 2001). Naturally, the ideology which has been stuck into the journalists’ mind will affect the way they represent someone or something in their writings.

The last dimension of socio-cognitive approach proposed by van Dijk is societal analysis.covering power and access (Eriyanto, 2001). Power and access influence how a discourse is produced and constructed in society. Those who have power, followed by having more access to the media, can easily control the discourse in the society.

Method

Four news articles published by The Jakarta Post which talk about corruption committed by politicians were selected as the source of data. These news articles are entitled “Nazaruddin Nabbed, SBY Concerned about His Safety” (August 9, 2011), “KPK locks up Andi for graft” (October 18, 2013),“In Court, Beauty Queen Stays Quiet” (February 16, 2012) and “Another lawmaker lands in jail” (October 19, 2012).

In this study, firstly, the news articles were choosen by using purposive sampling strategy. Secondly, the writer browsed some information related to the background of the journalists in their social media accounts and browsed the vision and mission of the media in the official website of The Jakarta Post. The last is browsing several texts related to the discourse about men and women politicians involved in corruption cases which is developed among society.
The data was analyzed through several steps based on van Dijk’s theory of CDA. The first step is finding the topic of each news article as part of macrostructure element. The second step is identifying the scheme of the news articles as part of superstructure element. Then, in the third step, the writer classified the microstructure of the text including semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetoric element. The fourth is relating the results in the textual analysis to socio-cognition analysis and societal analysis to reveal the discourse developed among society affecting the production of the news articles.

**Results and Discussion**

**Textual Analysis**

The first dimension of van Dijk’s theory on CDA deals with textual analysis. In this case, the texts were analyzed in terms of macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure level. Macrostructure deals with the thematic element which highlights the summary, gist, upshot, or most important information in a text (van Dijk, 1988). The results of macrostructure analysis can be seen in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texts</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text 1</td>
<td>Nazaruddin’s arrest in Cartagena which caught the attention of President SBY to concern about Nazaruddin’s safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 2</td>
<td>The detention of former youth and sports minister, Andi Mallarangeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 3</td>
<td>Angelina’s denials of all allegations pointed at her during the trial of Muhammad Nazaruddin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 4</td>
<td>Nurhayati’s guilt for accepting bribes and money laundering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1: The Results of Macrostructure Analysis**

Based on the results of macrostructure analysis, it was found that the topics in the news articles discussing men politicians emphasize on their former status in politics that still should be respected. Therefore, the news articles about men politicians paid less attention to the details of the corruption cases. On the other hand, the news articles talking about women politicians were focused on the case itself by providing many details to explain their corruption cases.

In terms of superstructure, the four news articles meet the typical news articles’ schemata as proposed by van Dijk (1988) and they are not much different each other. However, the order in describing the situation regarding the corruption cases is little bit different because the details about men’s corruption cases appear in the end of the news articles while the details about women’s corruption cases appear in the beginning of the news articles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texts</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text 1</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Headline Nazaruddin nabbed, SBY concerned about his safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lead (T1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>Situation (T1-2), (T1-5), (T1-6), (T1-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Verbal Reactions (T1-8), (T1-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 2</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Headline KPK locks up Andi for graft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lead (T2-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>Situation (T2-2), (T2-4), (T2-6), (T2-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Verbal Reaction (T2-3), (T2-21), (T2-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 3</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Headline In court, beauty queen stays quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lead (T3-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>Situation (T3-2), (T3-3), (T3-5), (T3-8), (T3-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Verbal Reaction (T3-17), (T3-22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 4</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Headline Another lawmaker lands in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lead (T4-1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: The Results of Superstructure Analysis

The last part of textual analysis is about microstructure of the texts including semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetoric element. The results of microstructure analysis can be seen in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linguistic Aspects</th>
<th>Texts</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presupposition</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coherence</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexical Choices</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Description &amp; Eyewitness Report</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>(T1-14), (T1-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources &amp; Quotations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: The Result of Microstructure Analysis

The example of microstructure analysis in the four news articles is explained as follow.

Semantic Element

Background

The journalist used background in the news articles, such as:

(T2-2)
ICW political corruption researcher Ade Irawan said the KPK would likely target other Democratic Party politicians after detaining Andi, the first active minister to be named a suspect in a graft case.

The background presented by the journalist in this news article emphasizes the importance of Andi’s detention because formerly he was a minister from a ruling party and it could lead to implicate other alleged politicians involved in the case.

(T3-2)

The former Miss Indonesia appeared calm as she sat in the witness chair, facing a barrage of questions from judges, prosecutors, Nazaruddin’s lawyers and the defendant himself.

Based on the sentence, the journalist provided information regarding Angelina’s appearance during the trial. Although she sat on the witness chair and faced many questions which have tendency
to allege her involvement in the corruption case, she still told calmly that she was innocent in the case.

Details

In the fourth news article, the journalist provided the details as written below.

(T4-2)
A panel of judges at the corruption court found Nurhayati, 31, guilty of accepting Rp 6.25 billion (US$650,000) in bribes from three businessmen to disburse the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (DPID), a temporary budget project that allocates funds to several less-developed regions.

The journalist did not only mention the name of the defendant, but also her age. It is too detailed compared to the information about three businessmen who gave the bribes to Nurhayati. In the second news article, the journalist provided the details about Andi’s corruption case in the end of the news articles.

(T2-18)
The Hambalang facility in Bogor, which has now fallen into disrepair, was designed to be a national multi-sports training center. (T2-19) It was initiated by Andi’s predecessor, Adhyaksa Dault, but the budget ballooned from Rp 300 billion to Rp 2.5 trillion under Andi.

Based on those details, it can be seen that the journalist emphasize more on the details about Andi’s detention rather than the details about Andi’s corruption case.

Presupposition

Some sentences contain presupposition, such as in the following examples.

(T2-9)
Andi appeared to have been aware that he would be detained as when he arrived at the KPK, he was carrying luggage containing spare clothes.

The journalist related Andi’s awareness with his luggage he brought when he arrived at the KPK. The journalist presupposed that Andi has been ready to be detained by KPK.

(T4-21)
Fahd said it was Haris who had introduced him to Nurhayati, a service for which Haris received a fee from Fahd.

Through sentence (T4-21), the readers would presuppose that the situation was not a common meeting between a businessman and a politician. There was probably a specific purpose in the meeting so that Haris received a fee from introducing Nurhayati to Fahd.

Syntactic Element

Sentence structure

The form of the sentences, either passive or active, is also important in portraying those politicians.

(T3-5)
Angelina, who maintains a glamorous lifestyle on a relatively meager lawmaker’s salary of Rp 20 million a month, denied owning a BlackBerry when the conversation allegedly took place.

The sentence structure which put Angelina as the subject in active sentences emphasizes that the topic in this news article is about Angelina’s denials during the trial.

(T1-1)
Muhammad Nazaruddin, the graft fugitive who gripped the nation with corruption allegations against elite members of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s Democratic Party, was arrested in Cartagena, Colombia, officials said on Monday.

By putting Nazaruddin as the subject in the passive sentences regarding his arrest, it implies that the focus of this news article is on Nazaruddin’s arrest after the long travels he did to escape from the
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police. In addition, these sentences stress that the status of Nazaruddin was not a fugitive anymore because he was arrested by the police.

Coherence

The use of coherence appears in some sentences below.

(T1-5)
During his travels as a fugitive, Nazaruddin, who formerly served as the party’s treasurer, frequently spoke with journalists accusing other Democratic Party politicians, including chairman Anas Urbaningrum, of involvement in corruption cases linked to government projects.

Nazaruddin was described as the former party’s treasurer. However, none of both sentences explains Nazaruddin as a guilty politician who has done wrong because of his corruption case.

(T3-8)
Wednesday marked the first time that Angelina testified publicly since the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) started investigating the case in April.

The detail that was added by the journalist in this text is about the time when the KPK firstly investigated this case and the time when Angelina firstly testified in public.

Stylistic Element

The journalist used the term fugitive to call Nazaruddin. Fugitive means a person who is running away or hiding from the police or a dangerous situation. In addition, the journalist also put the term The Running Man beside Nazaruddin’s photograph. The Running Man is a term which is booming because of a Korean variety show entitled “Running Man”. In this game, the participants should run to win the game. However, sometimes they also play the game deceitfully to accomplish the mission. The similar meaning of fugitive and The Running Man made the journalist inserting the term The Running Man as a tool to attract the readers’ attention.

In the third news articles about Angelina, the journalist used the term beauty queen and the former Miss Indonesia referring to Angelina. In this case, the background of Angelina as the winner of Putri Indonesia 2000 was appeared by the use of such terms. The journalist expects that the readers have already known about her background and it would be understandable when the journalist used the terms beauty queen and the former Miss Indonesia referring to Angelina. However, the journalist did not use the term related to her former position in politics like what have been done by other journalists to other politicians involved in corruption.

Rhetoric Element

Direct Description and Eyewitness Report

In the first news article, the journalist gathered information directly from the eyewitness. It can be seen in the sentences below.

(T1-14)
Indonesia’s Ambassador to Colombia, Michael Manufandu, who left Bogota for Cartagena a few hours after the arrest, said that Nazaruddin had “looked ill”.

(T1-15)
“He told me it was because of heart disease and also because he had been fasting for seven days,” he said, adding that Nazaruddin had insisted he was “Safarudin”, and not Nazaruddin.

In this case, Michael Manufandu is considered as an eyewitness reporting Nazaruddin’s condition after his arrest because he directly met and spoke with Nazaruddin at that time. In addition, the report delivered by Michael Manufandu as an Indonesia’s Ambassador to Colombia supports the worthy of this news article. It also supports the probability that Nazaruddin was actually sick after his arrest.

Sources and Quotations

The trusted information about the corruptors obtained from some sources.

(T2-2)
ICW political corruption researcher Ade Irawan said the KPK would likely target other Democratic Party politicians after detaining Andi, the first active minister to be named a suspect in a graft case.

Based on those sentences, it could indicate that the report about Andi’s detention needs much supporting data to make this news article plausible.

(T3-4) According to prosecutors, the pair allegedly used BlackBerry smartphones to negotiate a bribe to be paid to award the Rp 191.7 billion (US$25.5 million) contract to build the athletes’ village for the Southeast Asian Games in Palembang, South Sumatra.

In this case, the journalist inserted an indirect statements delivered by Nazzaruddin’s lawyer which tend to portray Angelina as a liar in giving the statements against his client.

**Numbers**

(T1-6) After fleeing overseas, Nazaruddin said that Anas disbursed about Rp 50 billion (US$5.9 million) he had allegedly received from corrupt transactions…

(T1-10) The President’s press statement was made almost 24 hours after Nazaruddin had reportedly been apprehended by Interpol and local police in Cartagena.

(T1-11) National Police spokesman Insp. Gen. Anton Bachrul Alam said a team of five police and immigration officers nabbed Nazaruddin on Sunday at around 2 a.m. local time..

(T1-16) Nazaruddin fled to Singapore on May 23 for medical treatment…

The numerical data found in this news article are only related to the amount of money disbursed by Anas, the time of The President’s press statement and Nazaruddin’s arrest, and also the exact date and month when Nazaruddin went to Singapore to begin his escape. However, there is no numerical data mentioning the amount of money related to Nazaruddin’s corruption case itself.

(T4-1) The Jakarta Corruption Court sentenced former House of Representatives member Wa Ode Nurhayati of the National Mandate Party (PAN) to six years in prison…

(T4-2) A panel of judges at the corruption court found Nurhayati, 31, guilty of accepting Rp 6.25 billion (US$650,000) …

(T4-4) Prosecutors sought 14 years for Nurhayati, combining bribery and money-laundering charges, an unprecedented move in the prosecution of graft cases in the country.

(T4-6) The court judges ordered her to pay a Rp 500 million fine.

(T4-22) According to the indictment, Fahd learned about the DPID funds on Sept. 10, 2010.

Those numbers indicate the period of Nurhayati’s detention, her age, the amount of bribes, the former charges sought by prosecutors, the fine, and the time Fahd learned about DPID. Generally those numbers were provided to give precise data about Nurhayati’s corruption case and to suggest the direct access of the journalist to the data.

**Socio-cognition Analysis**

Socio-cognition analysis deals with the mental awareness of the journalists in producing the text. It cannot be separated from the media which has spread its vision and mission to the journalists. As has been stated in its official website, *The Jakarta Post* appeared as the new English daily on 25 April
1983 carrying its goal, which is not only to improve the standard of English language media in Indonesia, but also to bring together four competing media publishers into producing a quality newspaper with an Indonesian perspective. More importantly, The Jakarta Post was expected to be able to provide an Indonesian perspective to counter the highly unbalanced Western-dominated global traffic of news and views (thejakartapost.com).

As a result, The Jakarta Post would have to bring together the best Indonesian journalists and editors to be able to produce a quality newspaper of international standards. As the writer observed, the journalist of the first news article is Bagus B.T. Saragih, The Jakarta Post’s journalist who also actively writes his opinion in his blog while the second news article was written by Hans Nicholas Jong. He was graduated from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University majoring Asia Pacific studies. The journalist of the third news article named Ina Parlina is an active reporter of The Jakarta Post. The fourth news article was written by Rabby Pramudatama, who has educational background in international relationship.

Overall, the journalists have successfully delivered the information about corruption cases involving those men and women politicians. However, consciously or not, those journalists also have spread the hidden value about the typical characteristics of man and woman through the way they portrayed men and women politicians involved in corruption cases. Based on the results in textual analysis, the difference in the way the journalists portrayed them could not be separated from the dominant ideology about the concept of gender in Indonesia. This concept is socially shared and absorbed by the journalists to produce the news articles. Therefore, it can be assumed that there is probability that each journalist portray those politicians based on their perceptions about being man and woman.

Regarding the gender, the news articles about Nazaruddin, Andi, and Nurhayati were written by male journalist while the news article about Angelina was written by a female journalist. Based on this pattern, the way male and female journalists portray women politicians can be compared. The male journalist, Rabby Pramudatama, tends to portray Nurhayati as a less respected corruptor. He attempted to emphasize the crime that had been done by Nurhayati, give details about her age, and use an old-fashioned word “jail” in the Headline. The female journalist, Ina Parlina, tends to portray Angelina as a less powerful corruptor. In the news article, she indirectly stated that Angelina is less powerful than other people in that courtroom, such as the prosecutors, Nazaruddin, and his lawyer who attacked Angelina with many allegations pointed at her. In other words, both male and female journalists portray women politicians negatively although in different aspects.

Therefore, it can be assumed that the male journalist use his cognition which consider women politicians having lower status than men politicians. As a man, the journalist portrays the politicians negatively if they are women, but positively if they are men. It can be seen in the way the male journalist, Bagus BT Saragih portrays Nazaruddin as a powerful corruptor. However, it is different in the way the female journalist portrays Angelina, the politician with the same gender as her. She did not attempt to give positive coverage about Angelina. She mentioned her salary, her lifestyle, and implied her weak position toward prosecutors, Nazaruddin, and his lawyer in the court. It seems like there is no attempt of a woman to portray a woman positively. In other words, the female journalist agreed with some stereotypical characteristics of men and women which are developed among society.

As Indonesian, people were familiar about the typical stereotype refers to men and women. Dominantly, men are considered having more power than women. This concept was recognized as patriarchal culture in which men stand on the super-ordinate position while women stand on the sub-ordinate position. These characteristics also appear in the news article, even in the situation when those politicians have done a negative attitude. The journalists still tend to differentiate men and women politicians through their portrayal in the news articles as seen in the following sentences.
Nazaruddin fled to Singapore on May 23 for medical treatment after he was reportedly connected to a bribery case surrounding the construction of the 2011 SEA Games athletes’ village in Palembang, South Sumatra.

From Singapore, Nazaruddin attempted to give the impression that he would next visit Kuala Lumpur by making a hotel reservation, but he actually went to Vietnam and then Cambodia, Anton said.

Societal Analysis

The different portrayal of those men and women politicians in the news articles cannot be separated from the discourse about gender and politics which has been developed among society. In this case, the dominant concept of gender in Indonesia which tends to be related to patriarchal culture played an important role in producing and constructing the discourse.

Initially, women have limited change to gain access to public arena such as politics. The government then gave limitation to the quota provided for women politicians in the legislative. The consideration about women’s credibility in terms of leadership and knowledge about politics becomes the barrier for women to join in the political world. However, everything can be changed along with the development of the culture. Nowadays, women may enjoy the public arena, including politics, and compete against men to gain strategic positions in the government.

In order to increase women participation in politics, the Constitutional Court had reaffirmed legally to meet the 30% quota for women in politics. Besides, one supported reason of this policy is the long-established assumption that women are less corrupt than men due to women’s compassion and tendency to avoid crime (The Jakarta Post, June 18, 2011). In this case, society believes that compassion and tendency to avoid crime are typical characteristics that should exist in women. Thus, increasing the quota for women is expected to reduce the possibility of corruption among politicians.

However, it is not proven now since there are many women involved in corruption cases. In other words, society’s expectation toward women cannot be reached due to the fact that women can also do corruption. Therefore, the news articles about women politicians involved in corruption cases tend to portray them more negatively than those about men politicians involved in the same cases. As a result, the details about corruption cases appear much more in the news article discussing women politicians. Those details highlight and stress that those women were proven guilty in that cases. It could indicate that the involvement of women politicians in corruption cases was considered uncommon because they are not expected to do such bad behavior.

Corruption is closely related to characteristics such as courageous, ambitious and greedy. Those are absolutely far from the idea of femininity in the concept of patriarchy which considered women as the ones who are submissive, compassionate, and nurturing. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Indonesia’s first woman president and chief patron of the Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) claims that men have more of a tendency to engage in corrupt activities than women. She also added that it is human instinct to consider men as the ones who seek money while women as the ones who save it (The Jakarta Post, February 10, 2012). This statement strengthened the assumption that men have tendency more than women to do corruption. This statement also implies that the position of men and women is different. Men tend to be active while women are passive. Therefore, it is more common to hear news reporting men politicians involved in corruption cases rather than women involved in that cases.

Such kind of assumption which considers women do not deserve to do corruption then creates exploitation which places women as the object of the media (Paramastuti, 2013). Many statements in the news articles which stressed that the women politicians were guilty are not balanced compared to limited details about corruption cases done by men politicians. In addition, information provided by the journalist about their personal matter such as lifestyle and the age are not related anymore to the corruption cases. Those details tend to be discriminative because such similar details did not appear in portraying men politicians involved in corruption cases.
In short, The Jakarta Post’s news articles still promote patriarchal culture as the dominant concept of gender in Indonesia through the production of news articles about corruption cases. The texts reflect society’s assumption toward men and women politicians, so that the news about men politicians portrayed them as powerful, respected, and high status corruptors. On the other hand, the texts attempted to portray women politicians as less powerful and less respected corruptors.

Conclusion

Based on the three levels of analysis on van Dijk’s CDA including textual, socio-cognition, and societal analysis, it can be concluded that the journalists portray men and women politicians in The Jakarta Post’s news articles about corruption cases differently. By putting the details of corruption cases in the very end of the news articles and using some terms related to power and high status as politicians, the journalist portrayed men politicians involved in corruption cases as a powerful corruptor, respected and high status corruptors. On the other hand, by putting the details about corruption cases early in the beginning of the news articles, using particular lexical choice, and providing additional information about personal matters such as the age and lifestyle, the journalist portray women politicians involved in corruption cases as less powerful and less respected corruptors.

These portrayals are related to the concept of gender in Indonesia, which dominantly follows the concept of patriarchal culture, in which man stands on the higher position than woman. In addition, there are stereotypically biased characteristics regarding manhood and womanhood that have been absorbed by society. Thus, it creates an assumption among society that women are less corrupt than men because of their womanhood which is considered not suitable with the idea of corruption. As a result, the news articles about women politicians involved in corruption cases were focused on the details of the cases to prove the guilt of those women which challenge society’s assumption about the corruption tendency among men and women. In contrast, the details about men politicians’ corruption cases were not exposed because corruption is considered as a common behavior done by men since the history has noted that the Indonesian corruptors were mostly men.

References


