

## **Discourse Analysis of Eradication of Criminal Acts in the Mass Media**

**By**

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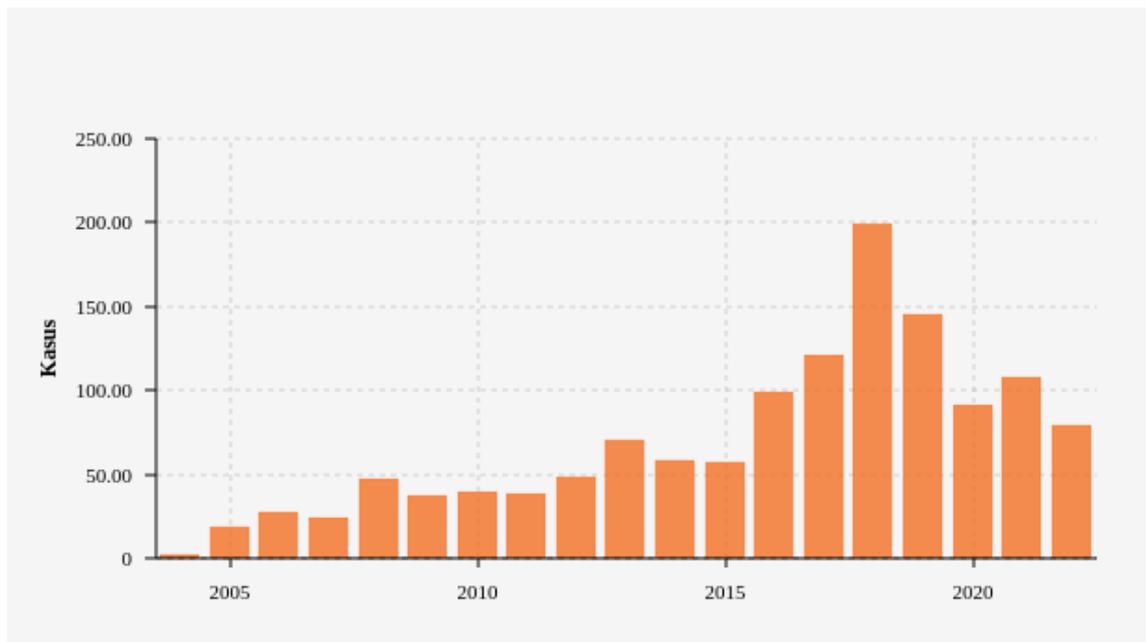
### **Abstract**

Corruption is a problem that worries people in the world, including in Indonesia. The mass media is often a forum for disclosing and discussing corruption cases that have occurred in Indonesia. The role of the mass media in disclosing corruption cases in Indonesia is very important to provide justice and transparency for society. In recent years, we have often seen corruption cases exposed through mass media coverage. This has made the public more aware of the importance of eradicating corruption and demanding transparency from the parties involved in corruption cases. This study aims to analyze the discourse on eradicating corruption in the mass media. In this study, researchers used the literature study method using books and journals as the main data. For secondary data researchers use data and other relevant literature. The results of this study can provide new insights about the role of the mass media in eradicating corruption and provide recommendations for the mass media to continue to improve the quality of their reporting related to corruption cases.

**Keywords:** Corruption Crime, Mass Media, Critical Discourse Analysis.

### **Introduction**

Eradication of criminal acts of corruption is one of the issues that often becomes a concern in Indonesia. Along with the increasing number of corruption cases occurring in the country, the mass media has become one of the most reliable sources of information for the public to get news about criminal acts of corruption that have occurred in various regions (Setiadi, 2018). Corruption is an act that is detrimental to the state and society, and can occur in various sectors and levels in the power structure. Corruption can have a huge impact on the economy, politics and society in a country (Adelina, 2019). Therefore, efforts to eradicate corruption are very important to do. However, eradicating corruption is not an easy thing to do and is often constrained by various factors, such as a lack of public awareness, a weak legal system, and personal interests that hinder eradication efforts. Therefore, an analysis of discourses on eradicating corruption in the mass media can provide a more complete and accurate picture of how efforts to eradicate corruption are carried out in Indonesia and how society responds to these efforts (Natalia, 2019).



Corruption case. source (Annur, 2022)

Based on statistical data, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has handled 1,310 cases of corruption since it was first established in 2004 until October 2022. These cases involve various sectors and levels within the power structure, such as government officials, legislators, businessmen, and so forth. Several major cases that have been handled by the KPK include the e-KTP corruption case, the PT Asuransi Jiwasraya corruption case, and the corruption case involving several former high-ranking officials from the PUPR Ministry. Even though the KPK has succeeded in handling many corruption cases, there are still many challenges and obstacles faced by this institution in carrying out its duties (Fransisco, 2020).. Some of the challenges faced include weak support and coordination from other law enforcement agencies, attempts to weaken the KPK, and high levels of corruption and irregularities within the government itself. Therefore, KPK must continue to innovate and make strategic efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency in eradicating corruption, as well as increasing support from the public and related parties to create a clean and corruption-free environment in Indonesia (Kumorotomo, 2009).

Discourse analysis itself is a research method used to study how language is used to construct meaning and influence people's views on a particular topic. In this case, discourse analysis on eradicating corruption in the mass media will examine how the mass media provides an understanding to the public about efforts to eradicate corruption committed by the government, law enforcement officials, and other parties involved in it (Supriyadi, 2005). In this way, discourse analysis on the eradication of corruption in the mass media can provide a clearer and objective picture of how corruption issues are raised and presented in the mass media, as well as how the public responds and views efforts to eradicate corruption by the government and law enforcement officials (Hamad, 2005)

According to Fairclough (1989), discourse analysis is a systematic procedure for understanding a particular language practice in a social context and for showing its relationship to that social context. Meanwhile, Stubbs (1996) defines discourse analysis as a form of language analysis that focuses on the analysis of written, spoken, or visual texts and their relationship to their social context (Munfarida, 2014).. There are several types of discourse analysis approaches, including critical discourse analysis, social discourse analysis, and

discursive discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis according to Fairclough (1995) is a critical approach to language and its relation to social structure and ideology. Meanwhile, social discourse analysis, according to Van Dijk (1998), refers to the study of language and texts in a wider social context, including issues of power and social injustice. Discursive discourse analysis, according to Wodak and Meyer (2009), is an approach that focuses on studying the meaning and structure of texts in their social and historical context, and looking for ways to understand the construction of meaning behind the text (Masitoh, 2020).

In addition, discourse analysis on eradicating corruption in the mass media can also provide an overview of how the mass media assesses the success or failure of efforts to eradicate corruption by the government and law enforcement officials (Handoyo, 2013). In this context, discourse analysis can show whether the mass media provide positive or negative evaluations of efforts to eradicate corruption carried out by these parties, as well as what factors form the basis of this assessment. Discourse analysis on eradicating corruption in the mass media can also provide an overview of how the mass media provides space and opportunities for various parties to convey views and opinions related to corruption issues (Fauzi, 2013). In this case, discourse analysis can show how the mass media provides an opportunity for the public, activists, academics and other parties to express their views and opinions regarding efforts to eradicate corruption carried out by the government and law enforcement officials. That way, discourse analysis on eradicating corruption in the mass media can provide a more complete and accurate picture of how the mass media perceives, interprets, and provides information related to efforts to eradicate criminal acts of corruption in Indonesia (Syahniah, Nuryanto, & Kamiludin, 2020).

## **Discussion**

### ***Concepts and Theories of Corruption Eradication***

The concept of eradicating criminal acts of corruption is an effort to overcome and combat acts of corruption that occur in society, both from a preventive and repressive perspective. This concept involves cooperation from all parties, including the government, law enforcement officials, the public, and the private sector (Fericco, Aryanti, & Salsabila, 2020). Eradicating corruption also involves efforts to increase transparency, accountability and integrity in government and social life in Indonesia. In addition, the concept of eradicating corruption also implies that corruption must be seen as a serious crime that must be followed up firmly and consequently. The theory of eradicating corruption involves different approaches, including legal approaches, social approaches, and cultural approaches (Halimang, 2020). The legal approach involves the application of strict laws against perpetrators of corruption, including through the process of investigation and prosecution. The social approach involves efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers and effects of corruption, as well as developing an anti-corruption culture in society. Meanwhile, the cultural approach involves efforts to change social norms that promote corruption, such as norms of nepotism, collusion, and dependence on money. By combining these three approaches, it is hoped that the eradication of corruption can be carried out effectively and efficiently, and can create an environment free from corruption in Indonesia (Santoso, 2020).

Concepts and theories for eradicating corruption have been developed by experts in various disciplines, such as law, politics, economics, and sociology. One of the main concepts in eradicating corruption is transparency, namely the disclosure of information that can encourage accountability and oversight of the government and public officials. The concept of transparency is then developed in three main pillars, namely access to information, public

participation, and accountability (Susanti, 2014).. In eradicating corruption, experts also emphasize the importance of community involvement in supporting efforts to eradicate corruption. One way suggested is through education and increasing public awareness about the dangers of corruption and the importance of integrity in social life. In this case, the mass media can also play an important role in providing information and increasing public awareness about the dangers of corruption and providing support for efforts to eradicate corruption carried out by government institutions and the public (Handayani, 2009).

**Table.** *The concept and theory of eradicating corruption*

The Concept of Eradicating Corruption Crimes	The Concept of Eradicating Corruption Crimes
Efforts to tackle and combat acts of corruption	Legal, social, and cultural approaches
Involve cooperation from all parties, including the government, law enforcement officials, the community, and the private sector	The legal approach involves the application of strict laws against corruptors
Increase transparency, accountability and integrity in government and social life in Indonesia	The social approach involves efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers and effects of corruption
Corruption must be seen as a serious crime that must be followed up firmly and consequently	The cultural approach involves efforts to change social norms that promote corruption, such as norms of nepotism, collusion, and dependence on money

By implementing the concepts and theories of eradicating corruption in a holistic and consistent manner, it is hoped that efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia will be successful in minimizing corrupt practices, forming a society that is aware of the dangers of corruption, and creating an environment that is clean and free from corruption. In efforts to eradicate criminal acts of corruption, concrete actions are needed to uncover and prosecute corruptors, as well as recover losses incurred as a result of acts of corruption. In addition, proactive prevention efforts are also needed, such as reforming governance systems and policies, strengthening systems of supervision, reporting and public complaints, as well as increasing the integrity and professionalism of law enforcement officials and the government (Waluyo, 2014).

Eradication of criminal acts of corruption must also be carried out in a non-discriminatory and fair manner, without discriminating against whoever the perpetrators are, including high-ranking officials or the elite. This can be realized by strengthening the independence and capacity of law enforcement agencies, as well as providing protection for whistleblowers and witnesses who provide information related to acts of corruption. In the context of globalization and the digitalization era, efforts to eradicate corruption must also pay attention to new challenges and dynamics, such as data and information leaks, illegal financial transactions that use sophisticated technology, and transnational corruption. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out international cooperation and develop innovative and adaptive corruption monitoring and prevention technologies to the times (Susilowati, 2012).

### ***Critical Discourse Analysis of Mass Media Coverage***

Critical Discourse Analysis (AWK) is an analytical method used to reveal how the language and texts used in the mass media reproduce certain interests, ideologies and values.

In the context of reporting corruption crimes, AWK can be used to examine how the mass media reports corruption cases, who is appointed as the perpetrator or victim, and how the narrative of eradicating corruption is constructed (Yusyama & Khoirunnisa, 2021). Thus, AWK can help analyze the perspectives and agendas of the mass media regarding the eradication of corruption. One of the advantages of AWK is that it can show how language and text in the mass media can reflect social injustice and hidden power structures. AWK can also highlight views or interests that may be overlooked or marginalized in mass media coverage. Thus, AWK can help raise public awareness about the hidden interests behind mass media coverage (Habibie, 2018)

According to Fairclough (1995), critical discourse analysis is an approach used to examine how language and discourse are used to maintain power and create hegemony in society. Meanwhile, according to Van Dijk (1993), critical discourse analysis is a method used to understand how the use of language and discourse can influence people's perceptions and thoughts about social and political issues. Furthermore, Van Dijk (2003) also explains that critical discourse analysis can help reveal social and political injustice that occurs in mass media coverage (Suciati, 2018). In general, critical discourse analysis of mass media reporting aims to identify and analyze the hidden elements of power in the language and discourse used by the mass media. In the context of eradicating corruption, critical discourse analysis can help reveal how the mass media construct narratives about corruption, who is responsible for acts of corruption, and how efforts to eradicate corruption are carried out by related parties. This can help in understanding how the mass media plays a role in influencing public perceptions and thoughts about corruption issues and efforts to eradicate them (Rahayu, 2022).

However, AWK also has limitations, such as the difficulty of making generalizations from AWK's findings, dependence on analyst experience and knowledge, and limitations in identifying specific intentions or goals in making texts or language. Therefore, in conducting AWK, it is necessary to pay attention to these limitations and integrate other analytical methods, such as field observations and interviews with relevant sources. In addition, in carrying out AWK, a good understanding of relevant theories is required, such as critical theory, feminism, postcolonialism, and cultural theory. This is because AWK does not only analyze texts in language, but also looks at the social, political and cultural contexts in which the texts are produced. Understanding these theories will help the analyst to show how the text and language of the mass media can be influenced by power, gender, race, social class, and other factors (Sulvinajayanti, 2019)

In carrying out AWK on mass media reports about eradicating criminal acts of corruption, it should be remembered that the mass media has its own interests and agenda. The mass media is not only a transmitter of information, but also has a role in shaping public opinion and influencing government policies. Therefore, analysts must consider factors such as mass media ownership, media ideology, and power relations related to reporting on eradicating corruption (Abdullah & Permana, 2017). In practice, AWK can be carried out by collecting samples of mass media coverage related to eradicating corruption in a certain period of time. Then, the analyst can carry out an analysis of the text and language used in the news, including the choice of words, narrative structure, and framing used. In addition, analysts can also examine the social, political and cultural context in which the text was produced, and see how the news affects public perception of eradicating corruption (Harmoko, 2016).

In conclusion, critical discourse analysis of mass media reports on eradicating corruption is very important to do. This is because the mass media has a very large role in shaping public perception and public opinion towards eradicating corruption. By conducting

critical discourse analysis, we can understand more deeply how the mass media perceives and reports on corruption crimes, as well as uncovering hidden agendas that might be behind the news. It is hoped that with a critical discourse analysis of mass media coverage on eradicating corruption, we can be more critical and wise in consuming news. In addition, this can also assist the government and anti-corruption agencies in formulating more effective and efficient policies and strategies for eradicating corruption.

### ***Challenges in Eradicating Corruption Through Mass Media***

Eradicating corruption through the mass media is not an easy thing. There are many challenges and obstacles that must be faced in this endeavor. One of the main challenges is the existence of political interests and power that can influence mass media coverage of corruption cases. Many corruption cases involve politicians or public officials who have great influence and power, so that they can manipulate the news and information reported by the mass media. In addition, press freedom in Indonesia is still not fully guaranteed. Sometimes, there is pressure and intimidation by parties who feel disturbed by mass media reports about corruption. Some mass media have even had to face lawsuits or threats of violence due to their reporting (Wahyuningroem, 2021).

Public perception of the challenges in eradicating corruption through the mass media is very important. Some of the problems that may be encountered in efforts to eradicate corruption through the mass media include:

- First, there are obstacles and pressure from parties involved in corrupt practices to block reporting of these corruption cases in the mass media. This can result in a lack of access to information about corruption cases, making it difficult for the mass media to inform the public about these cases. In addition, pressure and intimidation of journalists who try to report corruption cases can also limit press freedom (Soekowati, 2018)
- Second, the issue of integrity and credibility of the mass media is often a problem in eradicating corruption. Sometimes, the mass media can be influenced by political and economic interests, so they cannot provide an objective report on corruption cases. This can lead to public doubts and distrust of the mass media, making it difficult for them to understand and support efforts to eradicate corruption (Juditha, 2013)
- Third, the level of public literacy regarding corruption can also be a challenge in eradicating corruption through the mass media. For most people, corruption is still considered normal and accepted in society's culture. Therefore, it is important for the mass media to provide clear and easy-to-understand information about the dangers of corruption and efforts to eradicate corruption carried out by related institutions (Widiastuti, 2009).

Another challenge is the limited resources and capabilities of journalists in carrying out their duties. Eradicating corruption is not easy and requires careful and in-depth investigation. However, not all mass media have adequate resources and capabilities to carry out such investigations. As a result, news about corruption is limited to information obtained from sources that are easily accessible and not necessarily reliable. Another challenge that needs to be addressed in eradicating corruption through the mass media is the issue of journalistic integrity and ethics. As a transmitter of public information, the mass media has moral and ethical responsibilities that must be upheld. However, it is not uncommon for mass media to get caught up in conflicts of interest and carry out unethical journalistic practices, such as accepting bribes or sensationalism to increase sales (Ulfha, 2013).

In addition, the role of the mass media in eradicating corruption is still limited to the level of information and disclosure of corruption cases. The mass media has not been able to significantly influence the legal and political systems to eradicate corruption. There are still weaknesses in law enforcement and the processing of corruption cases in Indonesia that need to be fixed. To overcome these challenges, cooperation and synergy between the mass media, the government and anti-corruption agencies is needed. The government and anti-corruption agencies need to provide protection and support to journalists who report corruption cases and guarantee true freedom of the press. Meanwhile, the mass media must strengthen journalistic ethics and avoid practices that harm their credibility. Community involvement in eradicating corruption also needs to be intensified, so that the mass media can strengthen oversight and public participation in eradicating corruption (Hadiati, Abdullah, & Udasmoro, 2013).

Overall, the mass media has a very important role in efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia. Through its reporting, the mass media can influence public opinion and increase public awareness of the dangers of corruption. However, there are still many challenges and obstacles faced in the practice of eradicating corruption through the mass media, so joint efforts are needed to overcome these problems. In facing these challenges and obstacles, it is unavoidable that efforts to eradicate corruption through the mass media require quite a long time and patience. However, with proper support and increased awareness from all parties, eradicating corruption can be achieved more effectively through the mass media as one of the most influential sources of information in society.

## **Conclusion**

It can be concluded that discourse analysis on the eradication of criminal acts of corruption in the mass media is very important to do as an effort to understand how the mass media provides information and interpretation related to efforts to eradicate criminal acts of corruption. The mass media as one of the most relied on sources of information for the public needs to pay attention to and educate the public about the importance of eradicating corruption and the role of society in overseeing government policies and actions. The challenges in eradicating corruption through the mass media cannot be considered easy, because in addition to pressure from parties related to corruption cases, the mass media must also ensure that the news presented is based on accurate facts and does not give rise to bias or tendentious impressions. Therefore, cooperation and awareness from all parties are needed to support efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia.

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