

Critical Discourse Analysis (AWK) of Teun A. van Dijk's Model on Online News, Conflict between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD

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Siti Suwadah Rimang, *Ananda Aulya Natasya, Sakinah Azzahra, Marniat^{abcd} 

¹²³⁴Muhammadiyah Makassar University, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: aulyaananda5@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Mass media plays a crucial role in constructing political conflict discourse through discursive strategies that can influence public perception. The tension between West Java Governor and Regional Representative Council (DPRD) reflects complex local political dynamics where media construction becomes significant in shaping public opinion. Objective: This study aims to analyze how online media constructs the conflict between West Java Governor Dedi Mulyadi and West Java DPRD through Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis approach, focusing on macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure in news texts. Method: This research employs qualitative descriptive method with critical discourse analysis. Population and Sample: The population consists of all online news texts discussing the conflict, with one representative news text selected through purposive sampling. Instrument and Data Analysis: The researcher serves as human instrument with Van Dijk analysis table covering three structural levels. Data analysis follows Van Dijk's model encompassing macro structure (topics and subtopics), superstructure (schematic), and micro structure (semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical). Results: The analysis reveals that online media is not neutral in constructing political conflict discourse, using pro-executive framing strategies, "us versus them" dichotomization, and active-passive sentence construction to strengthen executive dominance. Conclusion: Critical awareness of media discourse construction is essential for healthy democratic processes and balanced journalism practices.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Media Construction, Online News, Political Conflict, Van Dijk Model*

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INTRODUCTION

Language has the advantage that it allows humans to communicate effectively and achieve various goals in social interaction. Pateda (2011:6) explains that language serves as a very effective tool to connect one's internal world with the external world, including the social environment, the environment, and a relationship with God. In the context of mass communication, language not only plays a role as a means of communication, but also as a medium that can shape public perception and opinion through the construction of strategic discourse (Purwanti, 2025). Mass media, especially online media, has developed into a very influential space in shaping political and social narratives in society (Simanjuntak, 2025).

Discourse as the most complete unit of language cannot be separated from the social context and the power behind it. Kridalaksana (2008:259) emphasized that discourse is the most comprehensive unit of language in the grammatical structure, which is able to convey ideas and concepts in its entirety to the reader or listener. In today's digital era, the texts produced by mass media are the result of a discourse process influenced by certain values, ideologies, and interests of media institutions (Gumilar & Hamdani, 2025). This phenomenon shows that the media is not completely objective in presenting social reality, but has a tendency to show social life through a perspective that can influence the way people think (Luhulima, 2025).

Political conflicts between the executive and legislative institutions at the regional level are a phenomenon that has attracted the attention of the mass media in recent years. The tense relationship between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD reflects the complex dynamics of local politics, where disharmony can have an impact on the effectiveness of local government and the development process (Rinjani, 2025). Mass media plays an important role in constructing the narrative of the conflict through word selection, framing, and discursive strategies that can influence public perception of political events (Damayanti, 2025). This phenomenon is in line with the research of Arya et al. (2025) which shows that each media has different ideologies and perspectives in framing political conflicts, so that it can produce diverse interpretations among the public.

The reporting of political conflicts in online media cannot be seen as a neutral representation of reality, but rather as a social construct loaded with specific interests and ideologies. Darma (2009:49) emphasized that Critical Discourse Analysis (AWK) is a set of steps to decipher and explain texts as representations of social realities formed by dominant groups in order to achieve certain goals. In the context of reporting on the conflict between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD, the media tends to use discourse strategies that can position one party as the protagonist or antagonist, thereby creating polarization in public perception (Nur, 2024). The research of Sitorus et al. (2024) also shows that the use of macrostructures, superstructures, and microstructures in media texts can reveal how the media constructs narratives for specific ideological interests. Meanwhile, Raihan (2025) explained that discourse coalitions in the political media often use a safe play strategy to avoid direct confrontation, but still maintain influence on public opinion.

Critical Discourse Analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk's model is a relevant approach to dismantle hidden structures in media texts, because it is able to reveal the relationships of power, ideology, and interests contained in each layer of the text. Van Dijk (1997) stated that ideologies built through discourse are often considered reasonable and even true by groups with less power, so it is important to conduct a critical analysis of the construction of the media (Sari et al., 2024). Van Dijk's model, which includes macro, superstructure, and microstructure, has been shown to be effective in analyzing political news texts and uncovering the discursive strategies used by the media in shaping public opinion (Umam, 2025).

This study aims to analyze how online media construct the conflict between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD through the Critical Discourse Analysis approach of the Teun A. Van Dijk model, with a focus on the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure contained in news texts. The urgency of this research lies in the importance of understanding how mass media plays a role in shaping public perception of local political conflicts, as well as uncovering the power relations hidden behind the construction of media discourse. The novelty of this research lies in a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of executive-legislative conflicts at the provincial level through the lens of critical discourse analysis, which can contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of the media in Indonesian local politics and its implications for the democratic process in the regions.

METHOD

Types and Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive type of research. According to Sugiyono (2022), the qualitative research method is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism which is used to research the condition of natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument. The qualitative approach was chosen because the researcher intends to understand in depth the phenomenon of discourse construction in online news texts that are complex and meaningful (Creswell, 2021). Qualitative research methods are suitable for use, especially when the problem still requires in-depth exploration and the researcher intends to understand complex social situations through language and discourse analysis (Sugiyono, 2022).

The method used in this study is a critical discourse analysis method with a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Arikunto (2013:278), the qualitative descriptive method aims to interpret and describe a research object through a description in the form of words or sentences that are systematic. Emzir (2012) explained that descriptive qualitative research allows researchers to analyze data in depth and comprehensively by providing a description that is rich in meaning. The use of the Teun A. Van Dijk model critical discourse analysis method in this study is in line with the opinion of Pakpahan et al. (2024) who stated that the qualitative descriptive research method is used with a focus on analyzing the structure of news texts to reveal hidden dimensions in discourse. This research also adopts a critical paradigm that focuses on dismantling the hidden aspects behind reality that seem to be criticized and transformed into social structures (Hakim, 2023).

Data Analysis Instruments and Techniques

The research instrument used in this study is the researcher himself as a human instrument, considering that in qualitative research the researcher is a key instrument that collects, analyzes, and interprets data. According to Sugiyono (2022), in qualitative research, the researcher is the main instrument that is fully responsible for the entire research process from planning to reporting results. The supporting instrument used is a table of critical discourse analysis of the Van Dijk model which includes macro structures, superstructures, and microstructures in accordance with the theoretical framework developed by Teun A. Van Dijk (Sari et al., 2024). The validity of the data in this study is maintained through data triangulation techniques and semantic validity as recommended in the critical discourse analysis research (Juply, 2022).

The data analysis techniques used follow the qualitative data analysis procedure proposed by Bogdan and Biklen in Moleong (2013:248), which includes the process of working with data, organizing, classifying, synthesizing, finding patterns, determining important aspects, and drawing conclusions that can be presented to others. Creswell (2021) added that data analysis in qualitative research takes place simultaneously with data collection and finding writing, which involves the steps of processing and preparing data, reading the overall data, and conducting reflective analysis. The data analysis technique applied uses Teun A. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis model which includes three levels of analysis, namely macro structures (topics and subtopics), superstructures (schematics), and microstructures which include semantics, syntax, stylistic, and rhetorical (Nur, 2023). The analysis process was carried out with the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing in accordance with the procedure proposed by Miles and Huberman (Emzir, 2012).

Population and Sample

The population in this study is all online news texts that discuss the conflict between the Governor of West Java Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD published on various online news portals. According to Arikunto (2013:173), population is a whole research subject that has certain characteristics that are set by researchers to study and draw conclusions. In the context of qualitative research, Spradley (in qualitative research) uses the term "social situation" or a social situation consisting of places, actors, and activities that interact synergistically. The population of this study includes all online news related to the dynamics of executive-legislative relations in West Java published in a certain time span.

The sample of this study was selected using the purposive sampling technique, which is a sample determination technique with certain considerations that are relevant to the research objectives. Sugiyono (2022) explained that purposive sampling is a sample determination technique with certain considerations that are adjusted to the characteristics of the research. The sample selection criteria include: (1) news texts that explicitly discuss the conflict between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD, (2) news published during the period of conflict, (3) news that has a complete discourse structure in accordance with Van Dijk's analysis framework, and (4) news that is representative in describing the dynamics of the executive-legislative conflict. Creswell (2021) emphasizes that in qualitative research, sample selection should consider the depth of information and relevance to the

research question. Based on these criteria, a news story with the title "Conflict between West Java Governor Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD related to the disharmony of executive-legislative relations in regional development planning" was selected which is considered the most representative in describing the construction of media discourse on the political conflict.

Research Procedure

The research procedure is carried out through systematic stages that follow the principles of qualitative research. The first stage is identification, which is collecting data related to critical discourse analysis theory so that it can be determined and classified according to Van Dijk's theoretical framework (Arikunto, 2013:278). The identification process includes searching various online news texts relevant to the research topic and determining sample selection criteria based on suitability with the analysis model used. Emzir (2012) emphasized the importance of a mature preparation stage in qualitative research to ensure the quality of the data to be analyzed.

The second stage is classification, which is the classification and grouping of data based on the structure of Van Dijk's discourse. Once the data is identified, the next step is to classify and classify the data to allow for a more in-depth interpretation regarding the elements of critical discourse (Arikunto, 2013:278). The classification process is carried out by sorting out news texts based on macro structure (topics and subtopics), superstructure (schematic), and microstructure (semantics, syntactics, stylistic, and rhetorical). Creswell (2021) explained that the data classification stage is an important part of building a general understanding of the information obtained and reflecting on its overall meaning.

The third stage is interpretation, which is the stage to discuss each data in each classification by referring to the concepts provided by experts. In this case, interpretation is given directly after the data citation and the analysis of each element using Van Dijk's theoretical framework (Arikunto, 2013:278). The interpretive process involves an in-depth analysis of the discursive strategies used in news texts, the identification of hidden ideologies, and the disclosure of power relations reflected in the construction of discourse. According to Winingsih (2022), the interpretation stage in the analysis of Van Dijk's critical discourse must be carried out comprehensively by considering the social, political, and cultural context behind the production of the text. All of these research procedures are carried out by paying attention to the principles of research ethics and maintaining objectivity in the analysis process in accordance with good qualitative research standards.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Structure Macro

Macro Structure Data of Critical Discourse

Discourse Elements	News Quotes
Topics	The conflict between the Governor of West Java Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD is related to the disharmony of executive-legislative relations in regional development planning.
Subtopik	<p>Paragraph 1, sentence 2: "One of the triggers is the absence of all DPRD members at the Development Plan Deliberation (Musrenbang) event in Cirebon Regency on May 7, 2025."</p> <p>Paragraph 2, Sentences 2-3: "Dedi expressed his disappointment. He assessed that the legislators did not show mutual respect as fellow policy makers."</p> <p>Paragraph 3, sentence 1: "Not only about attendance, Dedi also alluded to the attitude of the West Java DPRD which according to him often contradicts the executive's efforts in developing the region."</p> <p>Paragraph 4, Sentences 1-2:</p>

"He regrets that some programs that are considered pro-people are actually accused of violating the constitution. ' Claiming to be on the side of the people... is considered to be a violation of the constitution,' he continued."

Paragraph 5, Sentence 2:

"Doni Maradona Hutabarat, a member of the DPRD from the PDIP faction, stated that Dedi's speech at the Musrenbang has discredited the legislative institution."

Paragraph 6, Sentence 3:

"He conveyed and I think he discredits the West Java DPRD."

Analysis of the macro structure data of critical discourse

Based on the analysis of the structure above, the online news Kompas.com "Dedi Mulyadi Criticizes the Attitude of the West Java DPRD, Sentil Legislator Who Defaults Musrenbang", the main topic of this news describes the dynamics of the power relationship between two state institutions that are very vital at the regional level: the executive (in this case the Governor of West Java, Dedi Mulyadi) and the legislature (West Java DPRD). This conflict has not only become a common incident in governance, but has developed into a crisis of political communication that is open and has captured the public's attention.

The first subtopic concerns the absence of all members of the DPRD in the Musrenbang—a formal forum for regional development planning. This became the main trigger for the conflict, which was interpreted by the Governor as a form of disrespect for important government forums. Dedi's statement on his YouTube channel reflects frustration as well as an effort to form public opinion that the legislature does not respect an inclusive planning process. This is important because Musrenbang is a space that represents the spirit of participation and collaboration between the executive, the legislature, and the community.

The second subtopic illustrates how the Governor builds a narrative that the DPRD is not only physically absent, but also antagonistic to pro-people policies. In this case, Dedi used very rhetorical and emotional language, such as saying that the DPRD does not want to be involved but wants to be involved, or wants to be appreciated but does not appreciate. This shows that the conflict is not only procedural, but has also touched on relational aspects and institutional values, such as mutual respect, cooperation ethics, and loyalty to the public mission.

The third subtopic shows how the DPRD retaliated against the narrative by accusing the Governor of discrediting the legislative institution. Represented by members of the DPRD from the PDIP faction, the DPRD considered the Governor's speech to violate the norms of inter-institutional communication in the democratic system. The DPRD presents a normative argument by citing the principle of trias politica as the basis that no institution can run alone. Here there is a discourse battle between the dominant populist leadership style and the legalistic discourse that prioritizes democratic ethics and procedures.

The last subtopic is a more real manifestation of the conflict—the action of walking out in the plenary session. This action shows that the DPRD is not only responding verbally, but also symbolically. Walk out is a political strategy to show strong disagreement and create political pressure against the Governor. This emphasizes that conflicts have gone beyond ordinary differences of opinion and have become institutional conflicts that affect the effectiveness of local government.

Through this macro structure, it can be concluded that the news text does not simply report the facts, but also displays the battle of narratives and ideologies involved in local power structures. By dissecting the topics and subtopics, readers can see how the media organizes information to frame power relations and highlight ongoing political tensions.

Structure Superstructure

Superstructure Data

Discourse Elements	News Quotes
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Structure (schematic)	
a. Summary	The conflict between the Governor of West Java Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD is related to the disharmony of executive-legislative relations in regional development planning.
1. Title	
b. Introduction	Paragraphs 1 – 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introducing the conflict between Governor Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD. 2) Mentioned the initial trigger for the conflict, namely the absence of the DPRD in the Musrenbang. 3) Featuring the Governor's emotional reaction as an introduction to the narrative.
c. Conflict	Paragraphs 3 – 4 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Governor conveyed his deep criticism of the DPRD's attitude. 2) Dedi conveyed a narrative of self-defense and counter-accusations. 3) There are efforts to build a self-image as a pro-people leader and display the DPRD as an obstacle.
d. Response	Paragraphs 5 – 6 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The DPRD, represented by the PDIP faction, replied to the Governor's accusations. 2) Assessing Dedi's statement as harassment of the legislative institution. 3) Emphasizing the principle of trias politica and the importance of inter-institutional ethics.
e. Climax	Paragraph 5 (initial sentence) and paragraph 7 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The PDIP Faction's walkout action was the climax of tension. 2) The DPRD refused to continue cooperation until there was an official clarification. 3) There is no resolution, only the affirmation of conflict and potential government stagnation.

Data analysis of the superstructure of critical discourse

Based on the superstructure data above, the news that discusses the conflict between the Governor of West Java Dedi Mulyadi and the West Java DPRD is systematically arranged in a classic narrative pattern: introduction of problems, development of conflicts, opponents' responses, and closures without resolution. This pattern not only shows the chronology of events, but also reflects the power dynamics and communication strategies of the political actors involved.

In the introduction, namely the first and second paragraphs, the news opens by saying that the conflict between the Governor and the DPRD is getting hotter. The main trigger, namely the absence of DPRD members in the Musrenbang, was immediately mentioned specifically, showing that this event was considered important in understanding the conflict as a whole. In this part, the Governor's emotional and disappointed reaction was also immediately raised. This is a media framing strategy that puts readers in an empathetic position towards the Governor first, before hearing the version from the DPRD.

Furthermore, in the development of the problem, which can be seen in the third and fourth paragraphs, the Governor not only commented on the absence of the DPRD, but also made a strong criticism of the legislative attitude which according to him hindered development. In this section, Dedi builds a narrative that he is a party that works for the interests of the people, while the DPRD is positioned as uncooperative. It is a central part of the discourse that shows how a political actor tries to dominate the public space by constructing a moral and populist narrative. The mention of the "pro-people" program and the

accusation that the DPRD rejected the budget for the sake of the people became a powerful rhetorical tool.

The response or counter-confrontation section appears in paragraphs five and six. The DPRD, represented by the PDIP faction, replied to the Governor's accusation by stating that Dedi's speech discredited the legislative institution. Here there is a shift in the center of discourse: from the Governor's version of the pro-people narrative to the DPRD's version of law and institutional ethics. The PDIP faction brings the discourse of "trias politica" to emphasize the importance of balance of power and institutional cooperation. This shows that this conflict is not only a technical matter of attendance, but has entered the realm of ideologies and principles of governance.

The last part of the superstructure structure is the climax and the temporary closing, which appears at the end of paragraph five and the entire paragraph seven. Here it was reported that the PDIP faction carried out a walk out of the plenary session and stated that it would not cooperate with the governor until there was a clarification. This conclusion does not offer a resolution, but rather affirms the peak of inter-institutional tensions. In van Dijk's perspective, this reflects the structure of crisis discourse: a narrative that ends with open tension, encourages the reader to see the continuation of the conflict and potentially steers public opinion in a certain direction.

Structure Micro

Superstructure Data

Discourse Elements	News Quotes
Structure micro	1. Implications and Presuppositions
a. Semantics	"Musrenbang is a sacred forum, invited not to come.
1. Background	I want to be appreciated, but never appreciated."
	2. Emphasis on Meaning
	"I want to be appreciated, but never appreciated. I
	want to be involved, but I never want to be involved."
	3. Polarity and Dichotomization
	"The governor and his policies are positioned as pro-
	people."
b. Syntax	c. Active Construction vs. Passive
	Active construction:
	"Claiming to be on the side of the people... is
	considered to be a violation of the Constitution."
	Passive construction:
	"... In my opinion, we need to address this. He
	conveyed and I think he is discrediting the West Java DPRD."
	d. Compound Sentences
	"I want to be appreciated, but never appreciated. I
	want to be involved, but I never want to be involved."
	e. Persuasive sentences
	"He also invites all parties to reconsider their main
	purpose as public servants."

Data analysis of the superstructure of critical discourse

Based on the above data, the semantic and syntactic microstructures in this text are used to construct a narrative of opposition and dominance. Semantically, the text establishes a strong ideological position by dichotomizing actors as "pro-people" and "pro-people." Syntactically, the Governor's active style reflects an offensive attitude, while the DPRD's sentence style is more defensive. These strategies are not linguistically neutral – they are used to shape the flow of conflict, influence public opinion, and reproduce power relations between institutions within the framework of media discourse.

The Use of Implicit Meanings and Presumptions Strengthens the Governor's Position. In the text, Governor Dedi Mulyadi uses sentences full of implications and presuppositions to build his image as a pro-people and responsible leader. For example, when he stated that the DPRD "wants to be appreciated, but never appreciated," there is a strong presupposition that

the DPRD is indeed often uncooperative and violates accepted norms. This puts the DPRD in a negative position without having to explain in detail.

Repetition and Contrast Strategies Strengthen Negative Messages against the DPRD

The repetition of phrases such as "want to be appreciated, but never appreciated" and "want to be involved, but never want to be involved" serves rhetorically to reinforce the impression that the DPRD is hypocritical or inconsistent. This repetition and pattern of parallel sentences makes the Governor's accusations feel more emotional and persuasive, reinforcing the dominance of pro-executive discourse.

Dichotomization of "Us vs. Them" Forms a Narrative Pattern The text displays a clear division between "we" (the Governor and executive who fight for the people) and "them" (the DPRD that is considered to hinder development and is not really on the side of the people). This pattern is effective in shaping the perception of readers that the Governor is a hero of the people, while the DPRD is the party that hinders progress.

The form of active sentences emphasizes the Governor's dominant attitude. The Governor used active sentences and direct statements, such as accusations that the DPRD obstructed the budget for the benefit of the people. This style of sentence reflects an offensive, dominant, and confident attitude, strengthening the Governor's position as the main driver in development and as the right party.

DPRD Sentence Style That Is More Defensive and Reactive. On the other hand, DPRD statements through members of the PDIP faction tend to be more cautious and use passive sentences or indirect statements. This shows the DPRD's more defensive position and tries to avoid direct confrontation explicitly, but still emphasizes the importance of ethics and the principle of *trias politica*. This strategy describes the DPRD as a party that feels cornered and tries to maintain the legitimacy of its institution.

The Use of Persuasive Sentences to Improve the Governor's Image. The Governor's invitation for all parties to reflect on their main goals as public servants shows efforts to build a high moral image. This sentence serves to convey that the Governor not only blame, but also invites dialogue and reflection, even though in the end the conflict still peaks.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of the critical discourse of Teun A. Van Dijk's model on the news of the conflict between the Governor of West Java and the West Java DPRD, this study reveals the main finding that online media is not neutral in constructing political conflict discourse. On the macro structure, the media frames conflict as a fight between pro-people executives and legislators who hinder development. The structure of the superstructure shows a systematic narrative pattern without offering resolution, instead reinforcing the polarization by placing the reader in an empathetic position towards the Governor first. The microstructure uses a dichotomized strategy of "us versus them" through phrase repetition, meaning contrasts, and the selection of active-passive sentence constructions that reinforce the dominance of pro-executive discourse. The limitation of this study lies in the analysis that uses only one news text so that it does not provide a comprehensive picture of the construction pattern of media discourse in general in local political conflicts. The practical implications of this study show the need for critical public awareness of the construction of media discourse that can influence public political perception. The mass media needs to apply the principles of journalism that are more balanced in presenting political conflicts to support a healthy democracy. Further research is suggested to analyze more news texts from various media with a longer period of time in order to obtain a more representative discourse construction pattern. In addition, it is necessary to conduct comparative research between mainstream and alternative media to see the variation of discourse strategies in framing political conflicts. Follow-up research can also explore the impact of media discourse construction on public opinion through audience reception studies, as well as develop analytical models that can integrate multimodal aspects in contemporary digital media.

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