

RELATIONSHIP OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE WITH LGBT NEWS IN REPUBLIKA, KORAN SINDO, AND SUARA PEMBARUAN NEWSPAPERS

Dudi Iskandar ¹

Muhamad Isnaini²

Faculty of Communication Science, Budi Luhur University,

South Jakarta, Indonesia

Abstract

This research focuses on the relationship of religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) in Republika, Koran Sindo, and Suara Pembaruan. This research departs from the reality of LGBT which is increasingly prevalent in everyday life and later raised as news by the mass media, including by those three media. This study uses the survey method to the editor of Republika, KoranSindo, and Suara Pembaruan by distributing questionnaires. Editors are those who process and are authorized to release a story, including about LGBT. Based on the research that has been done, the conclusion can be drawn as follows; first, there is a connection between religious backgrounds, namely the religious education of respondents with respondents' religious knowledge, but merely notconnected with the respondents' religious activities. Second, respondents have high knowledge regarding aspects of religious knowledge. This is evident from the average score of 15 items that are able to pass the standard of 75 point. Third, respondents also have a fairly objective attitude towards reporting on LGBT, which is evidenced by the high score of news completeness, which is 77.8, even though the score for writing placement is on average. Fourth, there is no influence between the religious knowledge of the respondents and reporting on LGBT. This is evidenced by hypothesis testing which statistically accepts as H0 and rejects as Ha.

Keywords: Journalism, LGBT, Religious Knowledge, News

¹ Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Dudi Iskandar at email: dudisabiliskandar@yahoo.com.

² Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed also to Muhamad Isnaini at email: m.isnaini@yahoo.com.

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is the process of looking, finding, processing, and broadcasting information through mass media. Journalism departs from events. In the event there are many facts. Preparation of facts in journalistic rules is constructed with the affirmative rules of 5W + 1H. After that it was disseminated to the community. This is called the news process, where it goes through three stages, namely, production, distribution, and consumption of information from events to public consumption. However, a story in one media is not just a series of facts arranged into a sentence and paragraph. It is also the mind and attitude of the writer, assistant editor, and editor or even producer. At a minimum, all social cultural, social and educational backgrounds of journalists strongly influence how facts are constructed in a story.

Therefore, every news or media text certainly has the potential to contain media bias or news bias. This condition is very difficult to avoid if it is not something given. Because journalism, shows, and news texts are not in a vacuum. Those are always in a social context and in certain struggles. Because it is normal if the news text is always in a situation and partisanship for certain parties as well.

Not all events can be made as a news. Everything depends on the perspective as the editor wants to take, whose decision is determined by editorial policy. Journalists who are on the ground are just looking for the facts of an event. While the editor is just tidying up the news. This is where the role of the editor of a newspaper, for example, greatly determines the loading and placement of a news. They cannot determine the news they make displayed in the media. Because the decision to load news is determined by the editorial policy reflected in the editorial meeting. Thus, editorial policy, on the one hand, is a combination of institutional ideals, and the desires of audiences, viewers, and readers are on the other side. It means that there are certain mechanisms and sequences of news that can be loaded or revealed.

One of the dominant elements in a news that is ready to be presented to the reader is the knowledge of the editor who processes data and facts provided by reporters from the field. It seems that an editor is cooking whose raw materials that obtained by reporters in the field. News that is a processed product can certainly not just happen, but it is an intervention that the editor has, including knowledge.

Lately, LGBT issues in national newspapers have tended to increase. Many pros and cons. Debate covers a variety of issues such as origins, religious views, socio-cultural, to religious views on LGBT. The debate certainly contains a lot of news value that newspaper editors must pay attention to. Even sociologically leads to anarchism because it is related to one's absolute beliefs. On the other hand, this LGBT issue has a broad place in the international media arena. Because there are no media that is free from international relations, this LGBT issue will affect the editors of domestic newspapers, including *Republika*, *Koran Sindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan*.

Based on the explanation above, this study tries to portray the relationship between the knowledge of religious journalists and LGBT reporting in *Republika*, *Koran Sindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan*. Journalists in this study are editorial level. Editors are journalists who process results from the reporter's field. Usually, editors are more senior, experienced, and broader

experience than any reporters in the field. Editor is the highest career of the journalist profession. It determines whether the news can be published in a newspaper or not. More specifically, this kind of editor is an editor of a nationally-based newspaper. The intention is to have a national level of production, distribution and consumption networks throughout Indonesia, in the sense of paper, not e-paper.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Grand Theory

This research has a theoretical framework as follows; theory of system becomes a grand theory, a media organization for the middle range theory, and an agenda setting as its applied theory.

The system comes from Greek; it means a whole composed of so many parts. It is a unit that is not separated from one to another. Each element or sub-system is interrelated and mutually reinforcing. According to Littlejohn, a system consists of four things, namely:

1. Objects. Those are parts, elements, or variables of the system. May be physical or abstract or both, depending on the nature of the system.
2. Attributes. A system consists of attributes, quality or property of the system and its objects.
3. Internal relations, relationships between system members.
4. Environment, a system has an environment. Not present in a vacuum, but are influenced by their surroundings.

The continued system has several properties. Among other things, first, wholeness and interdependence. Second is hierarchy. Third, self-regulation and control. Fourth, interchange with environment. Fifth is balance. Sixth, change and adaptability, and finally is equifinality.

System theory has links with two other theories, those are, information theory and cybernetics. System theory is born from the reductionist approach adopted by the natural sciences. In systems theory everything is related to networks, including aspects of communication and organization. Individuals are part of groups that communicate with other groups to form larger systems. A large community is a communication network of groups that are interconnected and interact.

Middle Range Theory

Meanwhile, the middle range theory in this research is a media organization. Journalistic production activities are managed by institutions that adhere to organizational principles. Because they are in the media, they are referred to as media organizations. It is an organization that have a distinctive work climate. It is guarded by every member of the organization and it influences how they work in it. What is in the media organization will regulate how the people in it, ranging from editor in chief, executive editors, editors, assistant editors, to reporters working

in journalism activities. The working structure of media organizations also needs to be understood not only by each individual in the media but also by the general public, the purpose of being able to better understand the function and role of the press.

Not all events can be made as a news. Everything depends on the point of view (angle) that the editor wants to take, whose decision is determined by editorial policy. Reporters who are in the field (reporters) are just looking for the facts of an event. While the editor is just tidying up the news. Those could not determine the news it made displayed in the newspaper. Because the decision to load news is determined by the editorial policy reflected in the editorial meeting. Thus, editorial policy is a combination of the ideals of the institution, on the one hand, and the wishes of the reader, on the other. This means that there are certain mechanisms and sequences of news that can be published as illustrated below.

Applaid Theory

Setting Agenda

Of the several assumptions regarding the effects of mass communication, one that survives and continues to develop is the agenda setting. This theory considers mass media - by giving attention to certain issues and ignoring other factors -, has an influence on public opinion (public opinion). People will tend to know about the things that are reported and accept the priority arrangements given by the mass media on different issues.

Agenda setting theory was first put forward by Maxwell McComb and DL Shaw in the 1972 Public Opinion Quarterly entitled Function of Mass Media Settings. Both said the public not only studied the news and other matters through the mass media, but also learned how much importance was given to an issue or topic from the way the mass media emphasized the topic.

While Littlejohn added the agenda setting establishes the silent issue or images in the mind of the public. Therefore, continued, the media must be selective in the reporting of news. The ability to influence individual cognitive changes is the most important aspect of the power of mass communication.

The rationale for the agenda setting is among various topics published by mass media, topics that receive more attention from the mass media will be closer to the readers. News will be considered important in a period. While other news is ruled out. Griffin concluded that the agenda setting is the pattern of news coverage across the major print and broadcast media.

Agenda-Setting Theory is closely related to mass communication and news production. Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw revealed that Agenda-Setting is the ability of mass media to send the importance of an issue in their news agenda to the public agenda McCombs and Shaw do not state that employees of print and electronic media directly influence audiences on an issue.

Reporters in the view of McCombs and Shaw have independence and balance as an effort to maintain their neutral reputation. But McCombs and Shaw stated that most people look

at professionals who are behind the news to look for clues to where the focus should be given. In a simple expression McCombs and Shaw state that most people view the importance of what the media perceive as an important issue. The mass media in Bernard Cohen's view may not be very successful in dictating to people about what to think, but mass media successfully dictates the audiences in case what to think about.

Agenda Setting Theory offers an interesting thing. On the one hand this theory reinforces the view that the press has great power but on the other hand maintains the view that individuals have the freedom to choose. This is what distinguishes Agenda Setting Theory from previous theories which consider the press or mass media to be very powerful and the audience is considered passive. McCombs and Shaw's Agenda Setting Theory is built on assumptions that state where there is a causal relationship between media content and audience perceptions.

Subsequent research shows that there is a strong influence from media priorities that considers something important to audiences. This then shows there is a convenient between the media agenda and the public agenda; compatibility between Media Agenda and Public Agenda. Media Agenda can be defined as a pattern of news coverage carried out by print and electronic media as measured by the appearance and duration of the story or issue. While the public agenda is defined as public issues which are considered the most important based on public opinion surveys.

Actually in the view of Agenda Theory Setting, not the media influence that determines the actions of audiences linearly, but there is a kind of causal relationship that occurs. At one point the media is able to influence the audience through its agenda, so that the perception of the audience will be the same as the perception built by the mass media.

But what is considered important by the public influences the mass media so that what is displayed by the mass media is a reflection of what audiences consider important. This is however inviting debate among scientists because many still believe that the media agenda is a temporary cause of the public agenda as an effect of the media agenda.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is a survey that examines and takes samples in one population, namely the editor of *Republika*, *Koran Sindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan*. Survey Method, said Kerlinger (1997) as quoted by Sugiyono, states that research is carried out in large or small populations. Juwono Tri Atmodjo added, survey research is a study that takes samples from a population and uses questionnaires as a basic data collection tool, usually by testing hypotheses. The survey method continued by Mohamad Nazir, explaining that the survey method dissected and skinned as well as the problems and justifications for the situation and ongoing practices.

Data collected and studied are sample data from the population. From the sample data after being given a questionnaire, it will be known that the causality relationship between the independent variables is the religious knowledge of journalists and the dependent variable is LGBT reporting.

This study uses a quantitative approach. The method used is a survey, because it aims to describe the characteristics of a number of populations (Purwanto and Sulistyastuti, 2011: 60). The population in this study was the editorial staff of *Republika*, *Seputar Indonesia*, and *Suara Pembaruan*. The sampling uses a non-probability sampling, which is judgment sampling or “sampling” on its own, but quite representative (Asra and Prasetyo, 2016: 37). After going through calculations, the number of samples obtained was 30 respondents who represented the three diaries. The data analysis technique uses non-parametric statistics (Purwanto and Sulistyastuti, 2011: 137).

RESEARCH RESULT

A. Characteristics of Respondents

The study was conducted in the period of May 2017 – January 2018. After the questionnaire was distributed, 30 questionnaires were collected by the respondents.

For more information, the characteristics of respondents are presented in Figure 1.1 as follows:

Figure 1.1 Characteristics of the Respondents

No	Characteristics		Total (People)
1	Gender	Male	22
		Female	8
2	Age	25-35 years old	7
		35-45 years old	16
		➤ 45 years old	7
3	Education	Undergraduate	23
		Graduate	7
4	Experience	2-4 years	1
		4-6 years	2
		➤ 6 years	27

Source: Research Analysis

Based on the above figure, the majority of respondents were men, aged 35-45 years old, had undergraduate education, and had more than 6 years worked as editors.

B. Religious Background and Religious Activities of Respondents

To find out the extent to which reporting on LGBT phenomena is written in the media, the religious background and journalist religious activities are interesting things to study. The results of the study showed that the majority of respondents (20 people) had received religious education (Madrasa for Islamic or Sunday schools for non-Muslims). A total of 16 respondents claimed to be diligent in participating in routine worship (five daily prayers for Muslims or Sunday worship for non-Muslims).

C. Knowledge of Religion Thought

To discuss the religious knowledge of respondents, at first, it must calculate the scale interpretation. The scale calculation interpretation is shown below:

X = highest Likert score x number of respondents

Y = lowest Likert score x number of respondents

Thus, X is 120, and Y is 30. Assessment of respondents' interpretation of the questionnaire questions is the result of the value generated using the % Index formula.

% Index formula = $(\text{Total Score} / X) \times 100$

Because this study uses a Likert scale, assessment categories are also made based on the scale used. The following interpretation criteria for the score are based on the lowest 0% interval to the highest 100%.

Figure 1.2 Percentage

Answers	Explanation
0% - 24.99%	Very Disagree, Bad or Less
25% - 49.99%	Disagree or Not Good
50% - 74.99%	Agree, Good or Like
75% - 100%	Very Agree, Good, Like

The questionnaire for religious knowledge consists of 15 questions. The interpretations scale for religious knowledge are presented as follows:

Figure 1.3 Respondents' Religious Knowledge

Questions	Score	Percentage (%)
X1	119	99.16
X2	53	44.16
X3	52	43.33
X4	95	79.16
X5	106	88.33
X6	90	75
X7	113	94.16
X8	108	90
X9	91	75.83
X10	96	80
X11	88	73.3
X12	91	75.8
X13	87	72.5
X14	86	71.6
X15	88	73.3
Average		75.7

With the total average score of 75.7%, it can be stated that the religious knowledge of the editorial staff in *Republika*, *Koran Sindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan* is very good.

D. Relationship between Religious Background and Religious Activities with Religious Knowledge

To find out whether the respondent's religious knowledge is influenced by factors of religious background and religious activities or not, this study will examine these factors.

The relationship between these factors and the knowledge of the respondents' religions is presented below:

1. The relationship between religious background and religious knowledge

The hypotheses built for this relationship are as follows:

H₀ = There is no relationship between religious background and religious knowledge

H_a = There is a relationship between religious background and religious knowledge

The results of the chi square test for this relationship are presented as follows:

Figure 1.4. The Result of Chi-Square Testament

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.804 ^a	1	.001		
Continuity Correction ^b	8.488	1	.004		
Likelihood Ratio	11.573	1	.001		
Fisher's Exact Test				.002	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.443	1	.001		
N of Valid Cases	30				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.60.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

From above figure, because of Asymp. Sig has a value of 0.001, it has a mean that it is smaller than the significance level, which is 0.05, then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. That is, there is a relationship between the religious backgrounds, namely the respondent's religious education with the respondent's religious knowledge.

2. Relation of religious activities with religious knowledge

The hypotheses built for this relationship are:

H_0 = There is no relationship between religious activities and religious knowledge

H_a = There is a relationship between religious activities and religious knowledge

The results of the Chi-square test for this relationship are presented as follows:

Figure 1.5. Chi-Square Testament

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.010 ^a	1	.919		
Continuity Correction ^b	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.010	1	.919		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.610
Linear-by-Linear Association	.010	1	.921		
N of Valid Cases	30				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.13.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

On the above figure, because of Asymp. Sig has a value of 0.919, meaning that it is greater than the significance level, which is 0.05, then H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected. Thus, there is no relationship between the religious activities of respondents with religious knowledge.

E. News Reports about LGBT in Republika, Koran Sindo, and Suara Pembaruan

1. Complete news

Questionnaire for news completeness consists of 5 questions. The scale of interpretations for the complete news criteria are presented in the following figure:

Figure 1.6 Interpretation of News Completeness Value

Questions	Score	Percentage (%)
Y1	105	87.5
Y2	106	88.3
Y3	104	86.6
Y4	69	57.5
Y5	83	69.1
Average		77.8

Because the average score is 77.8 percent, it can be said that the respondent in news writing about LGBT has fulfilled the completeness of the news very well.

2. Writing placement

Questionnaire for writing placement consists of 6 questions. Interpretations scale for writing placement criteria are presented below:

Figure 1.7 Interpretation of Writing Completeness

Questions	Score	Percentage (%)
Y6	75	62.5
Y7	75	62.5
Y8	78	65
Y9	75	62.5
Y10	66	55
Y11	63	52.6
Average		50.01

Because the scale has the score as 50.01, it can be said that the respondents in writing news about LGBT have fulfilled the element of writing well.

Based on the results of previous calculations, a resume can be made regarding reporting on LGBT editorial staff of Republika, Koran Sindo, and Suara Pembaruan that is known as follows:

Figure 1.8. Reporting of LGBT

No	Activities	Percentage
1	News Completeness	77.8
2	Writing Placement	50.01
	Total	63.9

With the average value of 63.9, it can be noted that the news about LGBT by the editorial staff of Republika, Koran Sindo, and Suara Pembaruan, has been quite good by following the rules of news completeness and writing placement.

F. Relationship between Religious Knowledge and Reporting on LGBT

The research hypothesis formulation has known below:

H₀: There is no connection between religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT

H_a: There is a connection between religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT

The results of testing the hypothesis are as follows:

Figure 1.9. Chi-Square Testament

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.571 ^a	2	.276
Likelihood Ratio	3.340	2	.188
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.682	1	.195
N of Valid Cases	30		

- a. 4 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5.
The minimum expected count is .93.

Based on the results of the Chi-square test above, the interpretation can be done by looking at significance (Sig);

- a. If the sig value is < 0.05 , then there is a significant correlation (H_a accepted)
- b. If the value of sig > 0.05 , then there is no significant correlation (H_0 accepted)

Due to the correlation score above, the sig value is 0.276, greater than 0.05, there is no significant correlation or H_0 is accepted. Thus, there is no relationship between religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that the majority of respondents are male, aged 35-45 years, have a degree in education, and have more than 6 years worked as editors. The majority of respondents have received religious education (madrasa for Islamic or Sunday schools for non-Muslims). In addition, the majority of respondents also claimed to be diligent in attending routine worship (five times prayer for those who are Muslim or Sunday worship for non-Muslims).

The religious knowledge of the editorial staff in *Republika*, *Koran Sindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan* was very good. Based on the hypothesis test, there is a relationship between religious backgrounds, for example, the respondent's religious education with the respondents' religious knowledge. However, there is no relationship between respondents' religious activities with religious knowledge.

This research is based on the assumption that the respondents' religious knowledge will influence how editors form the news about LGBT issues. This is in line with the thought from both Marisa and Prasetya's knowledge (2013) states through knowledge, journalists are required to have multi-skills in processing news into various forms of media. The knowledge gained will at least reduce concerns about the decline in the quality of information presented by journalists.

The results of this study indicate that respondents' religious knowledge was obtained through religious background. This knowledge is related to the competence of a journalist in writing a story. Press Council Regulation No. 1 / Regulation - DP / II / 2010 Regarding Journalist Competency Standards refers to six objectives of Journalist Competency Standards, namely

(1) improving the quality and professionalism of journalists, (2) becoming a reference system for journalist performance evaluation by press companies, (3) enforce press freedom based on public interest. (4) maintaining the dignity of journalism as a special profession producing intellectual work, (5) avoiding misuse of the journalist profession, and (6) placing journalists in strategic positions in the press industry. In addition, there are three competency categories that a journalist must have, namely (Syabri, 2017): (a) awareness about ethics, law, and career, (b) having general and specific knowledge in accordance with the relevant field, and (c) having writing skills, interviews, research, investigation, capable of using a variety of work equipment.

Knowledge held by respondents in line with their background at least confirms the research of Hamami, Sinaga, and Erwina (2014) which states that journalists' background in seeking information so as to produce knowledge is inseparable from their work, community interests and curiosity. At the stage of formation of knowledge, in addition to personal background, at least journalists will try to add information obtained through discussion, both with fellow journalists and the external environment.

Related to LGBT issues, is information that is sensitive, but still has to be disseminated to the public. According to Yuniati and Rachmiati (2006), information is a spirit that must be developed continuously in a democratic communication system. Information will develop and increase in value and meaning for the wearer when the information touches the needs of the community. There are certain requirements or criteria so that information is categorized as qualified:

- a. Certainty is needed to ensure that the information that is extracted, structured, processed, and distributed is not in the interests of the manager / management institution.
- b. Information must be clear and complete by meeting basic standards, namely being able to answer at least: what, who, where, when, why and how.
- c. Information that is compiled and structured according to needs and
- d. Problems faced by the community
- e. Information compiled and structured according to needs and
- f. problems faced by the community; especially those at
- g. The environment.
- h. Such information can be used as a tool for decision making
- i. By the community (the decision maker).
- j. The information is a tool to empower all levels of society, with this information, the audience's knowledge increases, with this information the audience can also develop their own planning and that increasingly pushes towards their independence.

The dissemination of information by the media must also be that the media must be objective. As stated by Rivers and Jensen (2003: 330) the objectivity stated by the mass media is not rarely the actual objectivity, but rather the objectivity that is constructed. Facts and opinions are sometimes difficult to distinguish, but journalists certainly have to try to sort out rather than mix it.

This study highlights the influence of the editor's religious knowledge on reporting the LGBT. The results showed that reporting on LGBT by the editorial staff in *Republika*, *KoranSindo*, and *Suara Pembaruan*, had been quite good by following the rules of completeness of the news and writing placement. Media that will raise sensitive issues such as LGBT must obey the corridors that have been determined by the Press Law No. 40 of 1999. In Article 6 of the Law mandates that the national press carry out the role of fulfilling the right of the people to know, uphold basic democratic values, human rights, and respect for its diversity. Developing the public opinion that based on the proper, accurate, and right information.

The results of this study indicate that there is no influence between respondents' religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT issues. Thus, the respondent's religious background did not affect the news about the issue at all. This can be understood because journalists in seeing an event are influenced by how the references motivate them to translate events into linguistic construction to be produced into the news. Journalists in *Republika*, *Koran Sindo* and *Suara Pembaruan* translate these references freely in delivering the news on LGBT issues in accordance with the norms and journalistic principles without being interfered by individual preferences. It means that from those three daily newspaper, journalists are still able to maintain their objectivity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research that has been done, the conclusion can be drawn as follows:

1. There is a relationship between the religious background, namely the respondent's religious education and the religious knowledge of the respondents, but there is no relationship between the religious activities of the respondents with religious knowledge.
2. Respondents have high knowledge regarding aspects of religious knowledge. This is evident from the average score of 15 question items that are able to pass the standard point of 75.
3. Respondents also have a fairly objective attitude towards reporting on LGBT, which is evidenced by the high score of news completeness, which is 77.8 point, although the score for writing placement is in the average score.
4. There is no influence between the respondents' religious knowledge and reporting on LGBT. This is evidenced by hypothesis testing that statistically accepts H_0 and rejects H_a .

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