

**THE STEREOTYPES OF LGBT ON REPUBLIKA ONLINE NEWS
ARTICLES**

Stereotip LGBT pada Artikel Berita Daring Republika

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Abstrak: *Penerimaan LGBT di Indonesia saat ini masih dalam situasi yang kurang jelas. Ada banyak marginalisasi dan stereotipe yang diterima komunitas ini di Indonesia meskipun juga masih ada yang menerima keberadaan komunitas tersebut. Penelitian ini akan mempelajari stereotipe LGBT yang tercermin dalam artikel berita. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kognisi sosial oleh Van Dijk (dalam Wodak and Meyer, 2001), peneliti bertujuan untuk (1) mengetahui pilihan lexical yang ditemukan di artikel berita Republika Online (ROL) yang mengandung stereotipe terhadap komunitas LGBT, (2) menemukan kognisi orang-orang Indonesia yang tergambarkan dalam artikel berita (3) mencari tahu respon pembaca terhadap stereotipe komunitas LGBT. Peneliti melakukan penelitian kualitatif untuk merinci temuan pada artikel berita ROL. Data didapatkan dari analisis dokumen untuk mencari jawaban pada tingkat wacana dan kognisi, kemudian wawancara dilakukan untuk mencari temuan pada tingkat masyarakat. Peneliti menemukan bahwa stereotipe “LGBT is an illness” dan “LGBT is a threat to the nation” dalam ROL telah merepresentasikan LGBT. Stereotipe ini dipicu oleh penolakan atas keberadaan LGBT, pergeseran sikap terhadap LGBT, dan ideologi muslim dalam ROL. Hasil dari wawancara menunjukkan bahwa pembaca memiliki beragam respon terhadap artikel berita tersebut. Satu pembaca setuju terhadap stereotipe tersebut, sedangkan tiga orang lain tidak setuju. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa stereotipe LGBT dalam ROL telah menyebabkan gambaran yang buruk terhadap LGBT yang tidak didukung dengan bukti saintifik dalam ROL. Namun, pembaca merespon stereotipe ini dengan secara berbeda, terlepas dari gambaran negative yang disebabkan oleh ROL terhadap komunitas LGBT.*

Kata Kunci: analisis wacana kritis, LGBT, media massa, stereotipe

Abstract: *The position of LGBT in Indonesia has received a vague response recently.*

There are also many marginalization and stereotypes faced by this community in Indonesia despite some acceptances received. This study will examine the stereotype of LGBT reflected within news articles. Employing socio-cognitive approach by Van Dijk (as cited in Wodak and Meyer, 2001), the researcher aims to: (1) find out the lexical choices found in Republika Online (ROL) news articles that contain stereotype towards LGBT Community, (2) discover Indonesian cognition depicted in the news articles, and (3) find out readers' responses to the stereotype addressed to LGBT community. The researcher conducted qualitative research to elaborate on the findings of stereotypes found in ROL. The data were obtained from a document analysis to find out the discourse and cognition level, and an interview to search the society level. The researcher found that stereotypes "LGBT is an illness" and "LGBT is a threat to the nation"s in ROL have represented LGBT. These stereotypes were motivated by the rejection of LGBT's existence, a shift in attitude toward LGBT, and ROL Muslim ideology. From the interview, the readers showed various responses toward the news; agreement to the stereotype by a reader, and disagreement by three others due to various reasons. In conclusion, the stereotypes of LGBT in ROL have caused negative images of this community even though they were not supported by scientific explanation in the ROL. The readers however have reacted towards these stereotypes differently, regardless of the negative images caused by the ROL stereotypes towards the LGBT community.

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, LGBT, mass media, stereotype

INTRODUCTION

The more acknowledged technology development these days has led to the flexibility of interactions between people, regardless of their backgrounds and identities. These interactions then caused social phenomena, which means the interaction between human beings, including their behavior that influences this same interaction (Caccioto, 2015) which influences or is influenced by organisms sufficiently alive to respond to one another (Markey, 1926). Shortly, social phenomena are occurrences caused by society, such as the existence of the LGBT community.

LGBT or GLBTQQ is an acronym referring to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning (Rosenthal, 2013, p. 234). This community recently has received unclear reaction regarding their existence in Indonesia. Indonesia is known as a country with a major influence of Islam which the homosexuality is unaccepted. This influence also impacted the public policy, in which The Indonesian Religious Affairs

Minister states that LGBT is unacceptable in Indonesia (SindoNews, 2016) regardless of some public acceptance of LGBT.

The form of how Indonesian react to the LGBT community can be found in many places and platforms. In this study, the researcher centers her interest on the stereotypes reflected LGBT community in news articles by Republika Online (ROL). Republika Online is the official website of Republika. According to a website called *website.informer.com* (“Website.Informer.Co,” n.d.), ROL achieved approximately 244.491 readers/day with more than 800.000 page views every day. This statistic represented ROL as a widely distributed and read news source in Indonesia.

The spreading community of LGBT, especially in universities in Indonesia, has become an interesting topic to be studied. This is due to the various reaction to the existence of LGBT in Indonesia. This is also depicted in mass media, as in this case, Republika Online. ROL itself has published several articles regarding LGBT issues. ROL as mass media might have a variety of LGBT images, however, the image created by words might be more subtle than pictures.

Many previous studies talk about stereotypes and ideologies (i.e. Fachrani; Cheng and Leung, 2014; Anggeria 2019). Moreover, there is little published data and a reasearch on LGBT stereotypes in Indonesia. In this case, the imagery of LGBT reflected in ROL is manifested in the form of stereotypes. This study provides new insights into LGBT stereotypes in Indonesia media. This discorsal imagery thus can be examined using the Critical Discourse Analysis approach.

This study is expected to give its reader an understanding of CDA- its steps, its coverage, and the problems regarding the recent existence of the LGBT community in Indonesia, specifically in universities. It is also expected to enrich the literature regarding the topic of gender issues. In this study, the researcher will work to finding out lexical choices that reflected LGBT stereotypes in Republika Online, identifying the cognition of Indonesian and providing the readers' response towards the stereotypes addressed to

the LGBT community.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Critical Discourse Analysis is an interdisciplinary study combining linguistic and other social disciplines (Wodak & Meyer, 2001) which is expected to be the tool to exercise the imagery Fairclough and Wodak (as cited in Machin & Mayr, 2013) stated that “CDA assumes that power relations are discursive. In other words, power is transmitted and practiced through discourse. Therefore, we can study ‘how power relations are exercised and negotiated in discourse’”. CDA serves the purpose of discovering the writer’s view, ideology, belief, intention, or anything implied by their writing. Media discourse, where this topic takes place, is an interaction made by a broadcast platform that may be in form of the presidential debate, speech, or news articles. In this case, Republika Online is chosen as a data source since it provides the amount of coverage regarding LGBT in recent years. Besides its availability in LGBT topics, Republika is a well-known reading source both from its newspaper and website.

Mass media plays its role in the controversies it has along with the acceptance issue toward LGBT in Indonesia. It is believed that each mass media has its own standing with an underlying ideology. Therefore, taking news from Republika Online may provide this study with the data it needed. Republika Online (ROL) is a news portal established by Muslim community in Indonesia on 17th August 1995. ROL provides textual, audio, and visual news formed based on hypermedia and hypertext technology (Republika, n.d.).

In this study, the critical discourse analysis is applied to analyze the stereotypes of LGBT found on Republika Online article news. Stereotypes occurred when people address someone wrongly due to the misconception of someone’s origin. Bruce and Yearly (2006) stated that stereotype is an exaggerated and usually prejudiced view of a group of people that is based on little or no evidence and is resistant to modification by

evidence. In addition, Blaine (2013) stated that a stereotype is a set of beliefs about the members of a social group and usually consists of personality traits, behaviors, and motives. Therefore, a stereotype can be overgeneralized over the image of social groups.

Blaine (2013) categorized stereotypes from their qualities. The first quality is that stereotypic beliefs tend to be dispositional; in which they inform people about the inner qualities of individuals based merely on their group membership. The second quality is that the evaluative content of stereotypes tends to be negative. Stereotype tends to overgeneralize people with negative images. For example, the Punk community. In Indonesia, people of the Punk community are considered troubled teenagers who love to wander around and closely related to criminal worlds.

All social groups obtained stereotypes, so does the LGBT community. LGBT, which is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (Rosenthal, 2013, p. 234), is an initial referring to the diversity of sexuality. LGBT is used since 1990 to replace the term *gay* in the 1980s which cannot represent the entire initial refers to. The initial has become mainstream as a self-designation; it has been adopted by the majority of sexuality and gender identity-based community centers and media in the United States, as well as some other English-speaking countries (Australia Government Press, n.d.). In the United States, LGBT is accepted in the majority, unlike in Indonesia that formally rejected the existence of LGBT. This rejection is amplified by the mass media that use all means to create imagery of the LGBT community. This imagery of LGBT in mass media then creates stereotypes of the LGBT community.

Theoretically, the CDA presented by Van Dijk (as cited in Wodak and Meyer, 2001, p. 98) consisted of three levels: discourse, cognition, and society. The step of discourse is used to analyze the discourse elements that can be seen physically, in this study, the researcher used phrases containing stereotypes as the discourse elements. Delahunty and Garvey (2010) stated that a phrase is a grammatical unit, intermediate between a word and a clause which may consist of just one word (its head) or its head and expressions

(including other phrases) that modify or complement it. In the cognition step, the researcher needs to identify social representations in the discourse. The social representations are 'particularized' mental models expressed in text and talk.

There is a historical background of LGBT in Indonesian that can be the base for the cognition level. In the traditional culture of Indonesia, LGBT existed in many different forms. For instance, a relationship between a male adult and a teenager is already established in the form of student-teacher in martial arts. Another example, a *warok*, is known for its magical possession. To preserve sacredness, a *warok* who is a male must maintain a same-sex relationship with a male teenager called *gemblak*. Demartoto (2010) stated that there is a shifting attitude of Indonesian in the acceptance of LGBT, which leads to a rejection to LGBT community. The recent study will also discover the shifting attitude phenomena toward LGBT in Indonesian.

Society includes both local, microstructures of situated face to face interactions, as well as the more global, societal, and political structures variously defined in terms of groups, group-relations (such as dominance and inequality), movements, institutions, organizations, social processes, political systems and more abstract properties of societies and cultures. This level concerns about who produces the discourse, what is his position, what influence does the speaker has, who the reader is, how the readers perceive the discourse and how this discourse influences them. In short, this level basically discusses the relation between discourse and society.

A study conducted by Fachrani (2013) to observe female stereotypes found in *Cantiq* Tabloid. Using Fairclough's three-dimensional approach of CDA, she found that the meaning constructed in the tabloid contained female stereotypes, thus showing the relation between language and ideology in forming the readers' perspective. The readers also contribute to the stereotype that Fachrani (2013) also found female stereotypes based on the readers' interpretation. In the end, the stereotypical image of women showed that patriarchal ideology dominated the discourse in the tabloid.

Another study of CDA and stereotype by Cheng and Leung (2014) analyzed health-related public service announcements in Hong Kong to give insight into the portrayal of females and males, and how these portrayals reflect gender ideologies. Using Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, they found that in terms of audio (utterances), male's usage of voice over exceeded the number of female's usage of voice. In terms of visual (images), women were also portrayed as a secondary gender. This shows that Hong Kong health-related PSAs actually reinforces traditional and conventional ideologies via various audio and visual elements. Thus, it highlights the patriarchal ideology which governed the discourse-making process of the health-related PSAs.

RESEARCH METHOD

The recent study is qualitative research, focusing only on the words as the data rather than numbers. Since the data were taken from written sources in the form of *Republika Online* (ROL) news articles, therefore this research is also recognized as a content or document analysis. This is aligned with Ary, Jacobs, Razavieh, & Sorensen's (2002) statement that a content or document analysis is a method used for specified characteristics identification that is applied for written or visual material. In relation to the interview results as the supporting data, this study also identified as a case study. A case study is an ethnographic research study that pays attention to a single unit, for instance, an individual, a group, an organization, or a program (Ary, Jacobs, & Sorenson, 2010). In a case study, several methods can be applied for collecting data, such as interviews, observation, and archives.

Following Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach that has three levels for its critical discourse analysis, the researcher also prepared three data sources for this study. Those sources are ROL news articles issued from 21th to 25th January 2016 under LGBT tags for the discourse level, related literature on LGBT in Indonesian and Indonesian ideology for the cognition level, and the results from the interview on ROL's readers for the society level. *Republika Online* article news was chosen because of the amount of coverage on

LGBT issues during its emergence in early 2016. Moreover, ROL is one of the most popular media platforms in Indonesia. With an approximate 244.491 readers/day and more than 800.000 page views, it is proved that ROL is widely distributed and known in Indonesia.

ROL issued on 21st January signifies the uproar of Support Group and Resource Centre on Sexuality Studies UI (SGRC UI) emergence. This organization aims to bring understanding on gender and sexuality through seminars, discussion, and other activities (SGRC UI, n.d.). While ROL issued until 25th January was chosen because it was the day when The Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia (KEMENRISTEKDIKTI) decided to bring the matter of SGRC UI to Universitas Indonesia, thus, ending the uproar. These particular issues of ROL were to discover the consistency of ROL's opinion on the LGBT community.

For the data in the cognition level, the researcher took Demartoto's (2010) explanation about LGBT in Indonesia. While for the society level, the researcher has interviewed three random participants. Those participants must fulfill the criteria as follows: 1. The participant must be a college student since the issue of LGBT covered in this study was in the scope of students on campus; 2. The participants were familiar with reading news, this is due to the researcher's focus on the participants' attitude towards an issue around them.

In collecting the data for the discourse level, the researcher marked the phrases containing negative evaluation and dispositional elements as the step of stereotype identification. According to Blaine (2013), the characteristics of stereotypes can be recognized from the negative evaluation and dispositional elements. For the cognition level, the data collection was done by collecting the knowledge and attitude existing in the ROL news articles. The researcher also read related literature regarding LGBT in Indonesian and Indonesian ideology as additional sources. This way, the researcher can uncover the cognition reflected in Indonesia. At the society level, the researcher

interviewed three random participants who fulfilled the criteria. Those participants were asked for their opinion and responses regarding LGBT on campus.

At the discourse level, however, the researcher found out that the analysis of all the articles issued from 21th to 25th January 2016 was not feasible. Thus, the researcher overcame this problem by doing a cluster sampling. It means that the researcher was able to collect a simple random sample of groups or clusters of elements (UT Dallas, n.d.). This sampling is beneficial when it is difficult to complete a list of the population members or when the population members are dispersed in a wide geographic. In this study, the population elements were the news articles, in which they were dispersed on the published dates. The researcher then took 10% of the total news articles post on each date for the analysis. For example, if there were 17 news articles on 22nd January 2016 under LGBT tags, then the researcher will take 2 articles to be analyzed. This requirement was applied to other dates that have more than 5 news articles. In the end, 4 articles were resulted from this method and can be continued into the analysis process.

For the analysis process at the discourse level, the researcher needed to infer the literal and contextual meaning from the stereotypical phrases on ROL first. Then, the researcher confirmed the meanings of the stereotypical phrases with the stereotype characteristics from Bruce and Yearly (2006). From this, then, the researcher can conclude the stereotype addressed to LGBT in ROL news articles. In the cognition level analysis, the researcher correlated the knowledge of Indonesian society regarding LGBT and the news articles. Then, the researcher identified the ideology behind ROL by looking for its background in various literary sources. The conclusion can be drawn from the discourse finding and the ideology found in the discourse. Lastly, in the society level analysis, the researcher analyzed the responses from the participants' interviews regarding the stereotype and the ideology enforced to them from the news articles. The final step was then to draw conclusions on the effects of ROL news articles on the readers.

RESULT

At the discourse level, the researcher found that there are two major stereotypes addressed to the LGBT community. Those are “LGBT is an illness” and “LGBT is threatening to the nation”. The stereotypes were reflected from the phrases analyzed from six ROL news articles. The researcher identified those stereotypes by looking for negative evaluation that was literally or contextually represented in the phrases. This section is going to describe those stereotypes with some chosen examples included.

For the first stereotype, ROL news articles implied that LGBT is an illness, and its existence needs to be treated. Most of these stereotypes were found in ROL news articles issued on 22nd and 25th January 2016. The phrases found in the article posted on 22nd January 2016 were “sexual orientation” and “recovery of homosexuals”. Below is the example:

- (1) *Consultation of gay and lesbian shall be done by psychologist or psychiatrist. This **sexual orientation problem** is not a biological matter, hence cannot be resolved by mere hormonal injection.* (Republika Online, *Dekan Psikologi UIN: Salah Berkonsultasi LGBT dengan Pelaku LGBT*, 22nd January 2016, para 1).

In example (1), the noun phrase “sexual orientation problem” consisted of the noun “problem” as the head, and was modified by the adjective phrase “sexual orientation”. In literal meaning, it is clearly defined that the sexual orientation of gay and lesbian is problematic, referring to the previous sentence. The label of “problematic” by the author did not receive any further discussion as if the author purposely leads the readers to consider gay and lesbian as a problematic sexual orientation. Moreover, the fact that the author wrote that sexual orientation can only be handled by psychiatrist and psychologist has convinced that the author indicated LGBT as a mental illness.

Based on these stereotypes, it can be inferred that LGBT is referred to as a mental illness that needs to be cured by psychologist or psychiatrist. Even though LGBT has politically removed from “mental illness” categorization in 1974, the label of LGBT as

mental illness itself is quite unclear in the first place. In American Psychiatrist Association's DSM-II (American Psychiatric Association, 1968), the term LGBT was only defined but does not explain why it was considered like mental illness. This also aligned with any other American Psychiatrist Association manuals and journals that did not mention the reason for LGBT existence in mental illness.

Here, it can be noticed that some are exaggerating and prejudicing the disposition of LGBT by the authors. The stereotypical attitude in those articles was even more apparent as there was a lack of elaboration and evidence provided by the authors on the reason why they consider LGBT is an illness. Also, the authors only mentioned LGBT as a "name" without other clues that can explain the origins of the labeling of LGBT. This is therefore aligned with Bruce and Yearly's (2006) definition of stereotype.

For the second major stereotype, the researcher found several phrases that indicated LGBT as a threat to the nation in ROL news articles issued on 22nd and 23rd January 2016. In detail, the phrases "serious threat" and "concept that destruct the nation" were found in an article posted on 22nd January 2016, while on 23rd January 2016, the phrase is "destroy the nation's morale". Below are further explanations.

- (2) *Muhammad Nasir Djamil stated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) are a **serious threat** to the nation.* (Republika Online, 22nd January 2016, DPR: *Kelompok LGBT Ancaman Serius*, para 1).
- (3) *LGBT groups cannot be left to develop and be given the chance to hold their activities. Moreover the LGBT that enters campuses in the name of research group or scientific discussion," said Nasir in Jakarta, Friday (1/22).* (Republika Online, 22nd January 2016, DPR: *Kelompok LGBT Ancaman Serius*. para 2).
- (4) *He stated that campus should be more caring and sensitive to fortify its students from the agenda of LGBT ideal infiltration. According to him, an assertive measure needs to be taken to prevent this **concept that destruct the nation**.*

(Republika Online, 22nd January 2016, *DPR: Kelompok LGBT Ancaman Serius*. para 3).

In example (4), the noun phrase is “serious threat”, consisted of “threat” as the head and “serious” as the modifier. The meaning of “threat”, according to Merriam Webster Online Dictionary (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, n.d.), is “expression of intention to inflict evil, injury, or damage”. The meaning of “threat” is even more described as devastating as the phrase is modified with “serious”. Thus, the phrase “serious threat” in the article can be viewed as the quality of the LGBT community. Following this stereotypical phrase, the researcher did not find any elaboration from the news articles on why LGBT is considered a serious threat.

Interestingly, the speaker mentioned in the article, Muhammad Nasir Djamil, uses several phrases that emphasize the LGBT community in the same position of terrorism. It is clearly mentioned in the examples that Muhammad Nasir Djamil treats LGBT as if it is a terror to the nation. He also expressed, in example (3) that LGBT should not be allowed even though for academic purposes. Example (4) gives a glimpse of M. Nasir Djamil’s perspective of LGBT, describing the reason for his rejection of LGBT. In his opinion, LGBT is a concept that can bring destruction to the nation.

Here, the concept discussed is viewed as something destructive that will ruin the nation. This concept of LGBT, said by M. Nasir Djamil, needed to be prevented. However, once again, the reason and the proof of LGBT as a destructive concept are not discussed and provided by either M. Nasir Djamil or the author of the news. This continuous negative labeling of LGBT has promoted a further stereotype of LGBT itself. Without any in-depth elaboration on these LGBT labelings, the news articles can encourage the readers to believe the stereotype of LGBT, thus continuing the negative representation of LGBT.

To understand the reason behind the stereotypical attitude in ROL news articles, the researcher needs to collect several cognitions regarding LGBT. The cognitions influence

the writing produces by an author and reflected through the discourse. In this study, the researcher found three cognitions related to the issues being discussed. Those are an attitude that rejection towards the existence of LGBT existed, a knowledge that shifts in attitude towards LGBT existed, and a Muslim ideology of Republika Online.

(5) *This **sexual orientation problem** is not a biological matter, hence cannot be resolved by mere hormonal injection. (...) The 'cure' for this homosexuals depend on one's level of sexual orientation, and since when it occurred to him* (Republika Online, *Dekan Psikologi UIN: Salah Berkonsultasi LGBT dengan Pelaku LGBT*, 22nd January 2016, para 1).

In the preceding sentence of example (5), it was mentioned that the sexual orientations being the problem here are the gay and lesbian. It is also stated here that, sexual orientation can only be handled by psychologist or psychiatrist, which it implies that sexual orientation problem is categorized as mental illness. However, in psychology, LGBT is no longer considered a mental illness. In fact, mental illness or disorder is defined as a mental condition that causes severe distress or disability. Contrary to this fact, the LGBT community does not see their sexual orientation or identity that cause them depression or troublesome.

In example (2), the author creates a certain level on LGBT as if this sexual orientation is an illness with a leveled degree of severity. The author in their writing also infers their expectation that homosexuals can be recovered. As already explained previously, LGBT is not a part of mental illness as the community stated that sexual orientation is not what caused them depressed. Therefore, homosexuals, as a part of the LGBT community, do not need so-called "cure" as the author has already stated in the news articles.

Even though faced with the fact that LGBT is not a mental illness, the writing of the authors indicates the consistency of their labeling that LGBT should be cured. This also supports the author's rejection of the idea of seeing LGBT in a neutral perspective, which also motivates them to continue promoting LGBT as a mental illness, a disease, or

a sickening matter. Having correlated with the illness-related topic, the LGBT in these news articles has an unpleasant and negative representation. These reflections then encourage the readers to have a rejective attitude towards LGBT existence and view them negatively.

Another topic of LGBT that seen this community as a threat was also found in the news article. The notion of threat here has emerged the sense of LGBT as terrorism in the news articles.

(6) *Muhammad Nasir Djamil stated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) are a **serious threat** to the nation.* (Republika Online, 22nd January 2016, DPR: *Kelompok LGBT Ancaman Serius*, para 1).

In example (6), it is described that LGBT is a threat that can put danger to the nation. As already mentioned in the previous explanation, the detail of why this label of LGBT appears in the news article is not further stated. This lack of mentioning specific reasons on the labels becomes the pattern in the news issued by ROL. Most of the news only report the rejection towards LGBT, in which the news also do not have scientific proof but rather, opinionated by those who have no direct experience in the LGBT community.

Even further, LGBT are seen to have the ability of destroying a nation. This is pictured in the example as follow:

(7) *According to him, the existence of LGBT can **destroy the nation's morale** and campus as moral keepers shall maintain the moral and noble value really well as Indonesian* (Republika Online, 23rd January 2016, para 6).

In order to combat the LGBT, this sentence indicates that the campus is positioned as the moral keeper and has become the frontier of preventing LGBT. In other words, the people on campus are responsible to create a “fortress” to keep the students from LGBT. This can be seen as a subtle way to represent the author's rejection of LGBT, especially in the academic field.

The Shift in Attitude towards LGBT

LGBT in Indonesian is actually not a new thing. In the past, when magic and sacredness were still highly influenced Indonesian, institutionalized homosexuality was done in order to acquire or perform sacred arts. The sacred value of magic can only be obtained by males as they were considered to be superior enough to hold magic and sacredness. This dominance of males in the magic-related performance then resembled homosexual activities. For example, the Toraja Pamona tribe in South Sulawesi has proved to have LGBT roles in their sacred performance. *Tadu Mburake* or shaman in Toraja Pamona, merged both males and females in their bodies as it symbolizes the dualism that represented the wholeness of life after death.

However, due to modernization, the Indonesian beliefs in magic and sacredness have apparently eroded. This also includes less appreciation towards traditional arts, in this case, the LGBT existence in the traditional community in Indonesia. Hence, a shift from institutionalization and appreciation for LGBT elements to negative views and stereotypical attitudes to LGBT emerged. Indonesian nowadays mostly adhered to heterosexuality and binary gender. The shifting of Indonesian perspective towards LGBT then added the image of LGBT as an abnormality, leading to several stereotypes such as illness.

As seen from the development of LGBT in Indonesia, there is a shifting attitude towards the existence of LGBT in Indonesia. The admittance of LGBT caused by its roles in traditional Indonesian sacred performance has changed into the rejection of LGBT caused by modernization in Indonesia. The attitude shift was portrayed well in the ROL news articles regarding the emergence of LGBT in campuses in Indonesia. This rejective knowledge and attitude towards LGBT in ROL news articles have shown the ideology embraced by Indonesian society, or at least reflected in the author who wrote the ROL news articles.

Republika Online's Muslim-based Ideology

It is important to highlight that Republika Online was established by the Muslim community in Indonesia. It is also supported by the Indonesian Muslim Scholars Foundation (ICMI). ROL's vision is Modern, Moderate, Muslim, National, and Citizenship. As a religion-based media platform, it held onto Pancasila's first principle tightly: "belief in the absoluteness of God". In the ROL news article posted on 25th January 2016, it was stated that Pancasila as the Indonesian constitution makes the same-sex marriage cannot be adopted in Indonesia. As the first principle stated that all Indonesian should have religion and believed in their own God, the author of ROL as a Muslim themselves then must obey this constitution.

In Islam, it is declared in the story of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Quran, 54: 33-34) that Allah SWT, the God, had condemned them for practicing homosexual activity. As Quran is the main religious text of Islam, Muslims then believe that LGBT is not allowed in Islam. This way, the authors of ROL as Muslims should also represent their rejection towards LGBT in Indonesia. Therefore, they wrote LGBT as if it is unpleasant and negative in Indonesian society.

Furthermore, ROL also stated that it embraced tightly onto the second principle of Pancasila: "just and civilized humanity". In the ROL articles issued on 25th January 2016 entitled *Anggota Komnas HAM Sebut Gerakan LGBT Dapat Energi Baru*, the author said that "as a civilized nation, Indonesia and other religions in Indonesia are bound to deny the existence of this sexual deviation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community" (Rostanti, 2016). Thus, this statement leads to an understanding that LGBT is seen as uncivilized, and its existence should be eradicated from Indonesia. In the end, it can be inferred that the reason behind ROL's stereotypical attitude towards LGBT was caused by the heavy influence of Islam and Pancasila on the authors' philosophical and attitude foundation.

Republika Online Readers' Responses

To discover the relation between discourse and society, such as how the discourse influences the readers and how the readers perceived an issue from the discourse, authors interviewed readers of ROL. Four random people have read the news published by Republika Online regarding the LGBT issue that emerged in Universitas Indonesia in early 2006. Their responses only surround the 4 articles that the researcher has chosen to analyze in this study. The participants were consisted of college students who often read the news on the internet. They are U, FAM, DP, and MIN.

The responses were quite various. Respondent MIN was skeptical towards the news, while respondent U showed an absolute agreement on the ROL news regarding LGBT. Two other respondents, FAM and DP, showed partial disagreements. Respondent U explained that he shared the same ideology as implemented in the ROL, while three other respondents conveyed their ideologies as more to individualism and liberalism. However, all the respondents indeed agree that the news articles will affect other readers since ROL employs influential institutions and officials to support their argument.

DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher has found several stereotypical phrases addressing the LGBT community. Most of them have the form of the noun phrase, especially in describing LGBT as an illness. The negative image and evaluation towards LGBT were also accompanied by generalizations, confirming the characteristics of stereotypes. These stereotypes found in phrases can be summarized into two major stereotypes, namely “LGBT is an illness” and “LGBT is a threat to the nation”. These stereotypes inferred the fact that LGBT is not welcomed in Indonesia. The rejection of LGBT in Indonesia is mainly because of the Muslim ideology that heavily influenced ROL. This ideology then is spread by ROL which has the power as a mass media to influence the readers.

Alongside the results of discourse, the researcher also searched for the impact caused by the ROL news articles on its readers. In this case, the researcher asked 4 random

respondents, namely U, FAM, DP, and MIN. All of them were active internet users and news-readers. Additionally, all of them also were familiar with both controversial and informative news regarding LGBT. FAM added that around 70% of LGBT news she had read contains the controversial topic of LGBT. The informative news article usually presented LGBT as freedom of expression.

In this study, respondent U expressed his agreement with the LGBT news in ROL. He agreed that LGBT is a psychological illness. His agreement is inspired by the Dean of Psychology in Universitas Islam Negeri, whom he thought was credible and professional in her field of study. However, when the researcher asked him how U interpreted LGBT as a mental illness, the respondent could not answer. Respondent U only described that his interpretation of LGBT as mental illness comes from his conversation with another person.

In contrast, respondents FAM and DP did not consider LGBT as an illness. This is because they have an experience with the LGBT community. Both of them have friends who are LGBT, thus they also witnessed that LGBT has no relation with mental illness. They stated that their friends do not show any symptoms of depression or disability caused by their sexual orientation that differed from most people in Indonesia. On the other hand, MIN cannot decide whether he agreed or not with the stereotype of LGBT. MIN admitted that he has no involvement in the LGBT community as well as LGBT friends. He also cannot conclude the reason LGBT is considered as a mental illness in ROL. MIN suggested that he needs more information from officials, such as Dean, to believe about LGBT in the context of campus life. Thus, it can be concluded that there is still a debate on the LGBT stereotype as an illness.

In the context of LGBT as a threat, respondent U agreed on a stereotype that LGBT is a concept that can destroy the nation and morale. His argument was based on the recent LGBT news at that time, the exposed sex party in Jakarta that involved gays. He said that based on the news, he can see that LGBT is morally problematic. Respondent U

concerned that if LGBT was left to grow, it will affect the nation's morale. He was also afraid that the excuses of having LGBT for the sake of science could be the way to normalize the LGBT existence so that it could be accepted by society.

Meanwhile, DP and MIN disagreed with the stereotype of LGBT as a threat to the nation. DP even questioning the quality of LGBT that is considered threatening. MIN added that if the sexual orientation is a threatening problem to the nation, then the heterosexual should also be banned from Indonesia. He thought that there is no need to differ the treatment only because of a different sexual orientation since LGBT is just a matter of categorization. Respondent FAM believes that if it was the truth, then there should be measurement and steps in order to prevent LGBT. Thus, rather than promoting the stereotype of LGBT, FAM thinks that it is better to have real action to face LGBT. This is due to the character of the stereotype that offers hatred towards LGBT, causing disintegration to the nation.

Regardless of the various responses towards the stereotype of LGBT, all the respondents agree on one thing, that they would not treat LGBT people differently than others. Respondent U said that he only mattered with the way LGBT blatantly admit their sexual orientation. For him, this confession could trigger and persuade others to be a part of LGBT. Thus, it shows that U shares the same cognition and beliefs with the news on ROL. In the same way, FAM, DP, and MIN also would not let the stereotype affect the way they treat LGBT people. FAM and DP respect the arguments stated in the media even though it contradicts their opinion. However, FAM, DP, and MIN treatments towards people are based on personality. Thus, they would not mind interacting with LGBT people because they did not judge from the sexual orientation but rather the personality.

When asked whether the news articles will affect the readers or not in the future, the respondents agree but with different reasons. Respondents U and FAM said that the LGBT coverage by ROL will affect future readers since it employs influential institutions and officials to support the disagreements of the existence of LGBT. Meanwhile, DP and MIN

argued that the influence of the news depends on the readers' personality. Thus, the readers can decide whether they want to believe the news or being critical of the news.

It can be said that respondent U and ROL shared the same cognition in LGBT issues, while FAM, DP, and MIN did not. Responses from U reflected a subtle rejection of LGBT, as well as the Muslim ideology. While FAM, DP, and MIN represented the old attitude of Indonesian that accept the existence of LGBT. These three respondents have no Muslim ideology depicted in their responses. Instead, they represented individualism and liberalism ideologies. The various responses showed that the LGBT is in a grey area, meaning that the acceptance of LGBT existence is still debatable in Indonesia.

The similar cognition of respondent U and ROL's authors is aligned with the study conducted by Fachrani (2013). She found that *Tabloid Cantiq* shared the female stereotypes with the readers. The readers of *Tabloid Cantiq* believed that women should be slim, wear make-up, and attractive to men. The idea of these traits was persuaded by the magazine to their readers. While in Cheng and Leung's (2014) study of gender stereotypes in Health-related PSAs in Hong Kong, it is found that the stereotypes of men and women did not depict the actual society of Hong Kong. It is said in their study that nowadays Hong Kong women have higher social status and received more respect due to their multi-function roles and tough character. This is in line with the result of this study, that the stereotype of LGBT portrayed in the news articles can be different from the actual situation in a social context.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, there were three main points that resulted from this study. First, the stereotype used by Republika Online authors in addressing the LGBT community contained negative evaluation and generalization. These two characteristics are important to notice because it shows the existence of stereotype in the phrases in ROL. All of the phrases analyzed represented two major stereotypes of LGBT, namely "LGBT is an

illness” and “LGBT is a threat to the nation). Second, the possible reason for the existence of these stereotypes was due to the rejection towards LGBT, the shifting attitude of Indonesian towards LGBT, and ROL’s Muslim-based ideology.

The rejection was realized through the knowledge that existed in the news article. The knowledge was in the form of macro propositions gleaned by the author. On the other hand, the attitude was realized through the knowledge found by the author. This combination of knowledge and attitude brought a realization of ideology that is employed by Republika Online in writing its article. They are Muslim ideology and Pancasila.

Third, the readers of ROL showed various responses regarding the issue of LGBT. One of them shared the same cognition and ideology reflected in the news articles, hence having the same attitude as the authors of ROL. On the other hand, the rest of the readers expressed their opposing attitude towards the authors of ROL. This was due to their difference in the ideology they embraced. These responses denote that there is still unclear agreement towards the existence of LGBT in Indonesia.

The results of this study inspire the researcher to encourage other upcoming research regarding CDA and gender-based linguistic. The researcher hopes that future research can investigate other linguistic aspects besides the choice of phrases, such as the grammatical aspect, syntactical aspect, or morphology aspect. Also, the researcher wishes to persuade other research in analyzing the LGBT phenomenon from a supportive point of view, e.g. from a human right point of view for instance. Hopefully, through this point of view, readers and future researchers can discover how the ‘victims’ portrayed themselves in certain social phenomena in a discourse.

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