

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON MATA NAJWA EMPTY-CHAIR INTERVIEW #MATANAJWAMENANTITERAWAN

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Abstract: Mata Najwa empty-chair is an interviewer's last resort to criticize the health crisis during the pandemic. This research focuses to reveal the utterance of hashtag #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan and purpose of empty-chair interview at Mata Najwa using critical discourse analysis (CDA). The approach of research using three-dimensional CDA of Norman Fairclough has a purpose to describe macro, micro, and mezzo. This study also describes social, political, and cultural situation level by linguistic aspects. The result of study shows that linguistic aspect used in #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan is a metaphor. The movement is indicated as social and institutional criticism of the government in Covid-19 management. Then, an empty-chair interview is aimed to make points of public criticism of the failure of the health minister. Related to Mata Najwa and Narasi TV as neutral and independent mass media, it is acceptable journalistically to have criticism of the government during the crisis of Covid-19 crisis in Indonesia. Keywords; critical discourse analysis in Covid-19, empty chair interview.

Keywords: *critical discourse*

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INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 in Indonesia, in November 2020, has reached 506.302 people infected nationwide, published on The Jakarta Post. On the other hand, Nuning Nuraini on BBC Indonesia (2020) stated that mathematically the number of infected Indonesian has reached million cases, but it is undocumented. However, there are still societies who believe Covid-19 is the conspiracy (Go-kompas.com, 2020). So, Covid-19 crisis in Indonesia makes several figures question what the health ministry has done to build trustworthy society.

Najwa Shihab at the end of September 2020, after 7 months Covid-19 outbreak, released a video of her talk show entitled #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan, by Mata Najwa and Narasi TV. She claimed several times inviting Terawan Agus Putraton for having public interviews regarding how he handled the Covid-19 crisis in Indonesia, but unfortunately there was no answer or a call back. Therefore, Najwa Shihab questions an empty-chair where Terawan Agus Purtanto would have a seat. Moreover, the hashtag of #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan goes viral on several social media and becomes a trending topic on twitter.

Empty-chair interview, a brand new on Indonesia's Journalism, is aimed to draw attention to the absence of a person from discussion or debate. Never do journalists

in Indonesia have the courage to conduct Empty-chair interview, and Najwa Shihab is the first and only in 2020. However, it is actually common in other countries like what Clint Eastwood did, an empty-chair interview to criticize Barack Obama in 2012. In line to Simon (2019) “An empty chair is the interviewer’s last resort. It demonstrates their frustration at being snubbed, as they see it. Sharing that frustration with their audience or talking to an empty chair allows them to vent their spleen and enables them to show what they would have asked had the guest turned up.”

Through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the writer aims to reveal what underlies the value and perspective of Najwa Shihab to some figures in Indonesia government during Covid-10 outbreak. Specifically, the writer using Fairclough Modeling reveals the speech meaning by analyzing text, discourse practices, and sociocultural practices.

There are three main reasons why the writer discusses this issue. Firstly, Covid-19 is worldwide pandemic along 2020 with several conspiracy theories. Secondly, an empty-chair interview is the first spoken discourse in Indonesia initiated by Najwa Shihab. The last, discourse analysis helps the writer to analyze objectively in revealing the hidden message. In addition, the writer expects to discover the utterance on empty-chair interview as a viral protest to health crisis during covid-19 in Indonesia based on situational, institutional, and social aspects.

METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted by qualitative method using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Fairclough Modelling approach. The writer in qualitative research collected data from corpus such as video and text from the original and first source. Then, the writer analyzed the collected source using three-dimensional conception of discourse (Fairclough, 1992), firstly analysis at word level, secondly analysis of discursive practice takes place at the text level, and thirdly analysis of norm level on social practice. Moreover, the three-dimensional level of CDA by Norman Fairclough had a purpose to describe macro, micro, and mezzo. In line to Rogers (2004) CDA should include a description, an interpretation, and explanation.

The source of data in the research was taken from original sources-- Mata Najwa youtube channel, Mata Najwa and Narasi TV official twitter entitled #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan that was published on September 28, 2020.

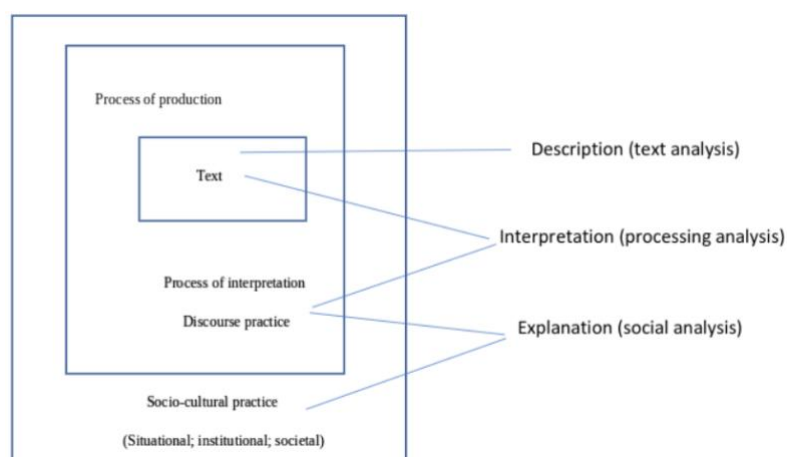


Figure 1. Process of Production

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The writer analyzed the Empty-chair interview in Mata Najwa using critical discourse analysis by Fairclough theory. The results and discussion were shown in a description formed.

Describing Linguistic Expression

Wawancara Bangku Kosong, Empty-chair Interview

Bangku kosong 'empty-chair' means the absence of a person who should sit at the prepared seat. Moreover, *wawancara* 'interview' reflects on conversation which contains questions and answers between two people or more. Therefore, an empty-chair interview refers to an activity of plotting the question without the presence of interviewee. Empty-chair interview is the first time conducted in Indonesia by Narasi TV intended for the health minister of Indonesia, Terawan Agus Putranto who has avoided the interview invitation for months. No presence of interviewee makes it as a one-way communication where the interviewer who is the only one dominates the show without any rebuttal or clarification from the object.

#MataNajwaMenantiTerawan, Mata Najwa waits Terawan

The symbol “#” is called a hashtag used as a label or keyword on social media which makes the search easier. Secondly, the word of *Mata Najwa* refers to the name of a TV show focusing on the journalism genre. The last, *menanti terawan* means “wait for Terawan”. It can be concluded that #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan meaning is Terawan as health minister is waited to have an open discussion at Mata Najwa Show. As well as that, the usage of the hashtag is set with a purpose and agenda of Mata Najwa and Narasi TV.

The hashtag of #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan leads the audience to have following criticism to make the issue a viral and trending topic. The popularity of that hashtag can be a viral marketing for the media brand awareness, and it also can be a tool to threaten the government.

Text analysis (description)

After listening to the video from the original source, Mata Najwa youtube channel, the writer transcribed it into written text and found several interesting sentences.

Table 1. Transcribed text

Content of text	Text analysis
(1) <i>Kesekian kalinya kami mengundang, inilah kursi dan panggung mata najwa untuk menteri Terawan. Mengapa menghilang, Pak?</i>	The text using simple present tense contains rhetoric questions addressed to Terawan.

For several times we send invitations. Here, the Mata Najwa stage for the health minister, Terawan. Why have you disappeared, sir?

<p>(2) <i>Rasanya Menteri Kesehatan yang paling low profile di seluruh dunia selama wabah ini hanya Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia.</i></p>	<p>The text has metaphor and indirectness.</p>
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It seems like the only health minister in the world this low profile during the crisis is Indonesia's.

<p>(3) <i>Pak Terawan, ada banyak menteri kesehatan yang mundur karena penanganan Covid-19. Misalnya Menteri Kesehatan New Zealand, Ceko, Polandia, Brazil, Chile, Pakistan, Israel, Kanada. Apakah penanganan kita lebih baik dari negara-negara yang Menkesnya mundur itu?</i></p>	<p>The text contains satire metaphor and has two tenses; present and past tense.</p>
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So many health ministers stepped down because of their COVID-19 handling. For example, the health ministers in New Zealand, Czech Republic, Poland, Brazil, Chile, Pakistan, Israel's public health director,

Canada's public health agency president. My question is, sir, is our handling better than those countries	
(4) <i>Siap mundur, pak?</i> Ready to step down, sir?	The text contains directness
(5) <i>Menteri Kesehatan, Terawan Agus Putranto, waktu dan tempat, dipersilahkan.</i> Indonesia Health Minister, Terawan Agus Putranto, time and floor are yours, please.	The sentence consists an opened invitation

From data (1) to (5) on the table, the speech content of #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan contains tenses, directness, and indirectness, and metaphor. There are two tenses which are present and past tense. Furthermore, the text has several hidden meanings that should be revealed as indirectness and metaphor. The analysis of text to know the linguistics aspect only is not enough, but it is also needed to gain proper interpretation of the text.

Interpretation of Text

Micro-structural Analysis

The writer found several controversial sentences which were already written in the table of text analysis, they were data (1) to (5).

From data (1) to (2), they showed how Narasi TV distinguished the word collection to indicate the figure. In Datum (1) *menghilang* (disappear) describes the absence and *pak* (sir) refers to Agustriawan Putranto as the Health Minister. The sentence implied Najwa Shihab questions the absence of Terawan Agus Putranto by asking the empty-chair. It was used as a satire metaphor to express the indirectness of complaining to Terawan who did not respond or accept her interview invitation several times. In line to the first datum, datum (2) also uses a metaphor which is a softer, ironic metaphor, by praising the opposite fact--the most low-profile Health Minister in the world. The data (1) and (2) had the same purpose as criticism of and his absence in the media and how Terawan handled the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia.

From datum (3) to (5), the news anchor presents direct and indirectness. In datum (3) *ada banyak meteri kesehatan* refers to other health ministers from several countries and *mundur* translated as step down has a meaning as resign. Furthermore, the question sentence in this datum 'my question is, sir, is our handling better than those countries?' had a satire metaphor to give indirectness by comparing the action from health ministers from other countries who resigned as their dignity. Contrast to

datum (3), the datum (4) did not use indirectness, but directness. From the words of *siap mundur, pak?*, It was translated as ready to step down, sir?. *Mundur* or step down refers to asking the health minister to resign from his current position. In last datum (5) the words of *waktu dan tempat* or the time and floors refer to a slot or space in the Mata Najwa which was available for Terawan. In addition, word choice of *dipersilahkan* or please, referred to the expectation for rebuttal, clarification and confirmation from Terawan. The data (3), (4), and (5) are aimed to provoked the health minister to resign, or give him time to clear his name and face by clarifying his effort handling Covid-19.

Mezzo-structural analysis

In this analysis, the interpretation was reached by processing of discourse aspects in distribution, production, and using of text. The writer analyzed how the media, Narasi TV & Mata Najwa, produce the script of an empty-chair interview. Moreover, society not only heard the content of published issues, but also how the issue was delivered through empty-chair interviews.

Narasi TV is a Youtube Channel led by Najwa Shihab, Indonesian Journalist. It was concerned on current issues to uphold three main values; anti-corruption, tolerance, and participation (2019). The tagline of Narasi TV is :

“Indonesia tak tersusun dari batas peta, tapi gerak dan peran kaum muda.”
 “Indonesia is not composed by map borders, but by the movements and roles of youth.”

Table 2. The interpretation of the tagline

sentences	utterance
Indonesia is not composed by map’s borders	borderless ideas and information
but by the movements and roles of youth	independent and no tendency

By the tagline of Narasi TV, it can be interpreted (1) not composed by map’s borders means borderless information source or ideas that Narasi TV works on in publishing news (2) movements and roles of youth are interpreted working clearly without any bias or intervention of any political purpose.

In line to Narasi TV, Mata Najwa had a reputable image to Indonesian society proven by being nominated from 2010 to 2019 in a row for Panasonic Global Award. The news anchor, Najwa Shihab is well-known as aggressive and progressive in leading the show, not all politicians like the way she dropped sharp and fast-fire questions. Moreover, she was reported by Jokowi supporters to police for blasphemy to Terawan after conducting an empty-chair interview.

In conclusion, Narasi TV and Mata Najwa are media platforms which are influential and reputable for society. The text production realized by these media especially the Empty-chair #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan is considered a reliable, actual, and objective show.

Macro-structural Analysis

The third dimension in discourse analysis is a macro-level analysis which is influenced by society opinion. The content of an empty-chair interview was determined by external factors of the media platform itself--social-cultural practices which are divided on three analyses; economics, politics, and culture.

The analysis for socio cultural practices has three concerns which are situational level, social level, and institutional level. The situational aspect views how the context of the issue is happening when the news is produced. In other aspects, the social aspect views how the issue is influenced by culture, economics, and policial practices. The last, institutional aspect saw at how institution or organization influences the production of a discourse.

Situational level

The empty-chair interview #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan was published on September 28, 2020 when it had already taken seven months of Covid-19 transmission outbreak in Indonesia. Furthermore, Indonesia was at the third ranked of Covid-19 transmission case in Asia on September 25, 2020 (Maula 2020). In line to Akbar (2020) published by Tempo, there are 59 countries which close the border for visitors from Indonesia. The show is aimed to make points as the following table.

Table 3. The points of the show

Activity	: Interview for TV show, Mata Najwa and Narasi TV
Topic	: Covid-19 management criticism to Indonesia health minister
Purpose	: Inviting health minister to have public interview and clarification

On the table, the situation of Covid-19 pandemic which was not well managed makes society address the criticism in government, specifically to the health minister. The implication of lack regulation and participation from the health minister creates the assumption that Terawan should work more on his responsibility in leading pandemic management.

The gimmick of an empty chair is proposed to make a highlight of the current situation and invite the health minister to publish strategic planning to prevent a worse number of coronavirus cases in Indonesia.

Institutional level

The news of #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan has a content team published on Narasi TV official website (2020). The team members are Laban Abraham Laisila and Surya Wijayanti as news managers and Amanda Valani Nurvadila as content production manager. PT. Narasi Media Percaya registered and verified by Dewan Pers 29 November 2019 has legal proof 472/DP-Verifikasi/K/XI/2019 as trusted media. The last, Najwa Shihab is the news anchor who leads the show. Najwa Shihab, leading the empty-chair interview, was the alumni of law faculty in University of Indonesia and master degree in University of Melbourne, has a reputable image awarded as The Most Progressive Figure by Forbes Magazine 2016. So, it can be concluded that the news produced is trustworthy and actual.

Social level

The Narasi TV and Mata Najwa indirectly led audience opinion to give a negative image for the government in tackling Covid-19. By using the hashtag #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan on the screen and title of the show, it guides social internet movement to have following comment and discussion regarding the lack of Coronavirus management. It can be considered as the opposite media which invites society to make the issue viral on several social media such as trending topics on twitter and viral issues on Instagram.

The last, the social, cultural, and political situation from language choice in #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan can be reflected as igniting and insulting the object although the news is also critical, sharp, and profound.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) used in #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan shows that the first empty-chair interview is conducted to make points of the health minister failure in Covid-19 management by gimmick of the interviewee's absence, but it has weaknesses such as no rebuttal or clarification directly from Terawan or the government representative as the interviewee that makes the content is not balanced. The second, the content writer uses several metaphors such as satire and irony. The third, the text production of Mata Najwa and Narasi TV has institutional context which involves journalists, news managers, editors, content production managers, and others. The produced text can be considered as objective although there is no two-way communication or confirmation from the government side.

Moreover, the situational and social level of discourse on #MataNajwaMenantiTerawan provoked the community or society through the hashtag in social media to threaten the current health minister to resign from his position.

The writer has some suggestions for government, Mata Najwa and Narasi TV, and future research. Firstly, the government should publish transparently on what the health ministry has done in handling Covid-19. Secondly, Mata Najwa and Narasi TV should create one more session with government representatives in order to make the information balance. The last, the writer suggests to researchers to deepen research on the effectiveness of an empty-chair interview.

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