Construction of Public Opinion in Online News on the Issue of Nurses' Expulsion from Boarding House: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

In the pandemic of covid-19 that has spread worldwide, health workers become heroes that stand on the frontline of the battle to fight the coronavirus, and 'public enemies' as well, they are also the people who interact directly with the virus through their patients. The case of nurses' expulsion from boarding house, has proved that society around them is afraid of being contaminated by the virus through their interaction with health workers. This study was conducted using Critical Discourse Analysis study (CDA) through the three dimensions by Van Dijk (1997) upon the texts to describe and to analyze the social actors involved in the case of nurses' expulsion from boarding house along with their roles in constructing public opinion through online news; to describe and to analyze the forms of power abuses and social inequality used by the social actors involved in this case which construct public opinions. The object of the study is taken from online article about a review about the nurses' expulsion from boarding house in Solo, central Java, in pikiran-rakyat.com. The source of data analysis was the text of the review itself, and the public comments about the issue. The analysis upon the social actors' attitudes and utterances, including the public's comment about the issue showed that the bad person can be the victim as well, depends on the construction upon public opinion.

Keywords: Critical discourse analysis, covid-19 pandemic, nurse expulsion

Introduction

Indonesia is known as a country with friendly people who maintain generosity and tolerance. This general culture of Indonesian people has been built for many years until now. In this culture, people mostly care about others more than to themselves by helping others, thinking about common interest, and maintaining relationship in politeness. However, the pandemic of covid-19 has changed this culture, and drew all people to think for their own sake since they are afraid of getting infected. This is because, as many have already known, the virus does not have boundaries and differentiation between colors, religions and beliefs (Pratiwi, Nofrahadi, Pendri, Komalasari, & Sumarlam, 2020). Everybody might get infected.

The pandemic of covid-19 that firstly identified in the late of 2019 in Wuhan, China (Al-Afnan, 2020) and continued to spread to the world in the beginning of 2020. After being officially declared by WHO, the outbreak of covid-19 which mostly affect the adults and old people (Abbas, 2020) forced the health workers to become frontliners to interact directly with the virus and pushed their efforts to save those who are contaminated by the deadly virus. However, health workers are not immune to the virus. They put their lives in jeopardy as well, and some of them had lost their lives in the struggle. These efforts are perfectly understood by the community that they are very grateful to the health workers devotions. Sadly, although the health workers have been risking their lives and done maximum efforts to save others as heroes do, they became 'public enemies' as well. This is because their

duties made them interact directly with the deadly virus. The health workers who took care of the contaminated patients positively became deadly carrier of the virus to those around them: families and communities. Although they have been protected safely by self-protector devices and sanitizer liquid during their duties, and fully self-cleaning process afterward, they still potentially became virus carrier. Some cases in the society have proved that this reality of deadly carrier made the community worried about their own safety. There are rejections of health workers who directly involved in the handling of the covid-19 patients to interact with common people outside the hospitals. One case that drew society's focus, was the expulsion of three nurses from boarding house in Solo, Central Java. These nurses work in *Bung Karno* general hospital which is appointed as special hospital for covid-19 patients, located in the same city, and one day they were driven out of the boarding house by their landlady. What made this case blown up in the society was that the landlady is a health worker herself, or to be more precise, a midwife. The society hardly understand why a health worker (the midwife) did not understand the duties and the position of the three nurses as health worker in this pandemic. This case drew attention from Ganjar Pranowo, the Governor of Central Java, who directly took care of the issue. This case also reviewed by some media, and create different comments from the public. These comments, though it is normal to have different comments, because of many problems in Indonesia lately tend to lead the debates into chaos if not dealt properly (Malik, 2019).

This study took one online media, *pikiran-rakyat.com*, as the source of data for the analysis. *Pikiran-rakyat.com* is an online version of a newspaper from Bandung, West Java. Online media is widely chosen as one of the information distributors by many people nowadays. However, the ability of the society to select media and interpreting meaning can be important shield from the huge storm of information from different media (Ghafur, 2016). In this chosen online media, the social actors involved in this issue tend to use their role in the society to draw public opinion. As it is widely known that the existence of media is actually in the middle of the complexity of different interests, conflicts, and facts (Musyafaah, 2017). There are social actors involved in this issue, namely: (1) the three nurses, (2) the landlady (the midwife), (3) the governor, (4) the online media, and (5) the public that gave comments about the issue. Although the problem definitely caused power abuse and social inequality toward the health workers, however, the power abuse and social inequality also occurred among other social actors. This is because the media play an important role to connect the government, health workers, and the public by reporting the news and information (Mintarsih, Kodrat, & Emiliasari, 2020). The utterances and behaviors from and among the social actors stated the opinion from each social actor in this issue.

In line with the preliminary indication upon the news review of this issue, the study proposed to conduct a research through the Critical Discourse Analysis study (CDA). Critical Discourse Analysis studies are mostly conducted in the field of politics, culture and social issues in the society. When people discuss about Critical Discourse Analysis, there are prominent figures in this study, namely: Norman Fairclough, Teun Adrianus van Dijk, and Ruth Wodak and Michael Meyer. Fairclough's approach proposed a study of critical language use that focus in the use of language as social practice (Fairclough, 1995). Fairclough argued that all kinds of social practices bound to certain context, and are the tools of social relation for different interests. In this approach by Fairclough, there are things that need to be known to analyze a text which is related to power: the position of the text in the issue; the people who get the advantages from the text; the people who get disadvantages because of the text; whether the text is used to stand against certain people; and the consequences of the existence of the text. In general, Critical Discourse Analysis based on Fairclough focuses on the analysis upon the text. Critical Discourse Analysis approach

according to Van Dijk (1997), is a study about relation among discourse, power, dominance, social inequality, and the position of the analyst in the social relationship among them. In this approach by Van Dijk, Critical Discourse Analysis is closely related to socio-cognitive approach than merely on the discourse itself (Dijk, 1993). Meanwhile, Critical Discourse Analysis approach proposed by Ruth Wodak & Michael Meyer, defined as how we see the language as a social practice based on the context of the language use (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). The characteristic of Critical Discourse Analysis according by Wodak and Meyer, is the common interest in the discrimination of power and ideology through systematic investigation upon semiotic data (written, oral, or visual).

Analyzing discourse critically in linguistics field, is not always based on the language only, since it is closely related to power and social inequality. Van Dijk's approach proposed a study in Critical Discourse Analysis that relates to power abuse and social inequality, which is usually has different results in different cultures. The analysis of the study upon the news review, take the opinion of the social actors involved into consideration, and how they think about the issue. The context of the news and their backgrounds influence the opinions given as comment, because as stated by Dijk (1988) context is the main event in other or previous news items. This context (Dijk, 2009) creates mental model of social situations of communication, and realizes the opinion in the comments by the public participants. This study was conducted to describe and to analyze the social actors involved in the case of nurses' expulsion in the online news along with their roles in constructing public opinion through online news; and also to describe and to analyze the forms of power abuses and social inequality that are used by the social actors involved in this case which construct public opinions. Van Dijk categorizes discourse structure into *three dimensions*, namely: *text, social cognition*, and *social context* (Eriyanto, 2001). Basically, van Dijk's approach is combining these three dimensions on a discourse (Yana, 2015). In the *text dimension*, the analysis concerns with the structure of the text and the strategy of the discourse creation to certain theme. This text dimension is divided into three levels or structures that support each other, namely: microstructure, macrostructure, and superstructure (Eriyanto, 2001). The second dimension is *social cognition*, that concern with the production of a text that involve the individual cognition of the reporter. The focus of understanding text or talk is by understanding the process of text production. The production of a text (or, a news report) mostly happen in the mental process of the reporter (Eriyanto, 2001). The analysis based on this dimension focus on how the phenomenon is understood, defined, analyzed or interpreted in a memory model, by concerning the participants, time, location, and the relevant condition of the object to create the text structure. The reporter includes opinions, perspective and other information into the text structure. The third dimension is *the social context*. The analysis on this dimension focus on the formation of discourse which relate with the issue developed in the society. On this level, the focus is to analyze the structure of the discourse that develop upon an issue, and to understand the meaning of social and power which is developed through the discursive and legitimation practices. Two important points in this analysis upon the society are *power* and *access* (Eriyanto, 2001). These dimensions are created and analyzed through media. Media have crucial role in constructing public opinions, because the discourses created by the media can influence readers' or audiences' views by doing neutralization or marginalization upon the reviews (Utama & Amalia, 2019). Through the marginalization in the media communication, the media built the representation of social actors involved in the issue into positive or negative in public's opinion (Citraresmana, Erlina, & Amalia, 2018).

To see how Critical Discourse Analysis were used, there were studies that focus on power abuse and social inequality which have been conducted before this study, as proofs

that these kind of studies drew attention as an interesting discussion. Septiani (2014) conducted a CDA study in socio-cognitive approach by Van Dijk through the microstructure upon the case of Bambang Widjojanto and the police in online news *The Jakarta Post*. The result of the analysis reveals that *The Jakarta Post* represents Bambang Widjojanto positively while the Police is represented negatively in the case. The review of the news shows that the Police misused their power over Bambang Widjojanto, and it affected the representation of the institution of the police department. Albert and Salam (2013) in their paper conducted a CDA as an approach to put social media as a social relations causing power differences and other forms in social practices that developed at the intersection of human collective communicative acts and information technology. CDA is used in the discussion around the critical information systems (IS) research. They found out that this emergence has created a need for considering novel approaches for investigating these emerging phenomena in social media. This research proved that CDA can be used beyond the linguistics fields. Behera and Muzaffar (2015) conducted a CDA study in the analysis upon media hegemony in media culture, through the political videos in channel YouTube. In this research, they argued that we all live in media culture, that media virtually has become imposed socio-politico-economic guiding force in developing, shaping and channelizing people's opinions. Thereby manipulating power to its favor creating a because of this, the media-hegemony is created because the media culture has manipulated power to its favor. The result of this hegemony, people's knowledge, identities, perceptions, ideologies, sociopolitical attitude, etc. are developed through language. These previous studies were done upon media (online media, multimedia, and social media) in critical Discourse Analysis approach about topics which were closely related to power (using power, power abuse, or manipulating power).

It is hoped that by this study conducted in Critical Discourse Analysis, would give broader perspective about the Critical Discourse Analysis study as one of linguistics field and may give benefits to those who concern to conduct similar study in related topic, as well as those who want to continue this study upon social attitude toward health workers in the pandemic of covid-19. The study upon the case of the expulsion of nurses from the boarding house which was exposed in the online media, is expected to give information and input to the society and the media in particular, to be more aware of observing an issue that become public concern. The construction of public opinion might be judgment upon individual right or community's interest.

Theory and Method

This study proposed to conduct a Critical Discourse Analysis to reveal the construction of public opinions through the news writing in the online media, upon the issue of the expulsion of nurse from the boarding house they live in. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was chosen as the analysis tool as the topic of the study concern with social inequality and social construction in the society. According to Dijk (2007), critical discourse analysis is an approach upon power abuse and social inequality. This approach suggested by van Dijk usually discusses political, cultural and social field, and more focuses on the power abuse by the superiors over the inferiors. CDA is one of the ways for the analyst to reveal the real identity of the object, or the social actors in the text. An object in discourse always relate to context, since context can determine the object's identity. In addition, this approach also analyzes social inequalities that occur due to the power abuse. Relying on van Dijk's approach of CDA, this study analyzes the text using his *three dimensions* (Eriyanto, 2001) which focuses more on the *social cognition dimension* in analyzing discourse in media. There is always background reason on every news release, in which an ideology is used to

present the news. When the news is released, there is a link between social systems made by the discourse from the media, and individual cognitive systems which are socially shared perceptions. Moreover, as mention before, Van Dijk in Eriyanto (2001) also argued that in the text production, the mental process can be built by the structure of specific discourse or specific social representation upon the issue and the social actors. Relying on this approach, this study analyzes the text upon the issue of the nurses' expulsion from boarding house in the news which created construction on public's opinions.

The object of the study was the expulsion of three nurses from boarding house in Solo, Central Java, which were reviewed in an online news, under the title of *"Ditelepon Ganjar Pranowo, seorang bidan menangis akui telah usir 3 perawat dari kos-kosan"* (*Called by Ganjar Pranowo, a Midwife Cried Confessing That 3 Nurses Had Been Kicked Out of Her Boarding House*). *Pikiran Rakyat* (2020), a newspaper from Bandung (West Java) in the format of online media (*pikiran-rakyat.com*), was taken as the source of the data which were used as the data analysis in the study. Eriyanto (2001) argued that one of the most influential agents to define a group is media since media can continuously release the issues which have built and shaped the audiences' understanding or awareness of a particular phenomenon.

The data were collected through purposive sampling. This sampling technique was used to obtain appropriate data materials that relate with the study. These data were taken from the texts in the online news chosen, which were divided into primary data and secondary data. The primary data were taken from the text in the review of the online news presented, which discussed the expulsion uttered or related to the social actors involved in the issue. The secondary data were taken from the comments about the issue given by the public, which were shown below the text of the news presented.

There are ninety-eight comments on the issue, consists of sixty-three direct comments on the news, and thirty-five comments on the direct comments. All of the data chosen were documented, described, and analyzed in order to build a compact analysis in the discussion section. The analysis in the study describes the social actors involved in the issue and the interaction among them, including the media that presented the issue to the public, and how the news presented constructed public opinions. Therefore, a descriptive qualitative approach brought by Creswell (2014) was suitable to conduct this study. There are items in the Qualitative approach proposed by Creswell (2014) to build a research analysis, namely: (1) emerging methods, (2) open-ended questions, (3) interview data, observation data, document data, and audiovisual data, (4) text and image analysis, and (5) themes, patterns interpretation. In this study, the approach has specifically conducted to reveal the construction of public opinion through the news presented to the public. About this approach, Creswell (in the same book, pg. 48) suggested researchers to observe behaviors by establishing the meaning of a phenomenon from the views of participants and identifying a culture-sharing group, during their engagement in activities.

Findings and Discussion

The discussion section in this study is arranged in two main parts: discussing the utterance and behaviors in the text of the online news that reviewed the issue of the nurses' expulsion from boarding house; and discussing the comments made by the public upon the issue. As Maghvira (2017) stated that language as communication tool used by media, might influence the pronoun, grammar, words order (syntax), vocabulary building and finally change and develop speech, language, and meaning; therefore, the word choice and the presentation of a fact determine the construction of meaning from it (Yanti, Putrayasa, & Artika, 2019). The use of language tend to be not clear, indirectly express the intention of the speaker or writer, but full of rhetoric, manipulation, and deception (Haryatmoko, 2016).

The use of language can be used as an identification that a person or group belongs to a certain social group (Yanti et al., 2019). In this section also, the analysis separated the participants into 'actors' and 'victims' among the social actors due to the power abuse and social inequality behavior on the issue. Although there are some materials (in the news and in the comments by the public upon the issue) which can be used as data in the discussion, however, this study only took some of them as samples of data analysis in the discussion section.

1. News Text Analysis

When the title of the news is read in a glance at the first time, it can be assumed that the midwife is the only person who is guilty. In the covid-19 pandemic, the role of health workers is very essential. Most people in the society are aware of this role of the health workers as the heroes that stand on the frontline to fight the coronavirus. As the public read the news firstly presented by the title, they will be stimulated by their cognition to judge the midwife without seeing any reason that might be the background of the midwife to take the decision. It illustrated of how the model used by the media (the journalist) determined the way of how the issue (the event or phenomena) was seen (by the public) (Eriyanto, 2001, p. 268). As it was presented in the text, the other social actors involved in this issue have used their power over others who (they think) are the guilty ones, or the inferior ones. The first sample can be seen from the title of the news that firstly drew readers' attention.

> *Ditelepon Ganjar Pranowo, seorang bidan **menangis akui** telah usir 3 perawat dari kos-kosan.*
> *~ (Called by phone by Ganjar Pranowo, a midwife **cried while admitting** that she had expulsed three nurses from her boarding house.)*

There are four social actors in the sentence above, involved in the text with their own interests, namely: (1) *Ganjar Pranowo* (known as the Governor of Central Java), (2) *bidan* (the midwife), (3) *3 perawat* (three nurses), and (4) *the media* itself. All of this information and the picture of the situation, are presented by the text to the public and construct public opinions: in the situation after the covid-19 outbreak, health workers (such as doctors and nurses) become heroes. The expression "*menangis akui*" (cried while admitting), shows that the midwife was the guilty participant in this context, and therefore become the "goon" over the three nurses. Though she cried and admitted her mistake, the public opinion has been constructed that the midwife was guilty to expulse the three nurses from her boarding house, in which the nurses are known as the heroes or pandemic warriors. Meanwhile, the midwife is a health worker herself, therefore, she was supposed to know the hard situation of the three nurses in this pandemic outbreak. Ganjar Pranowo as the Governor showed the superiority by immediately calling the midwife to admonish her upon the issue, and made the midwife, as the inferior, cried and admitted her mistake. Ganjar Pranowo, in this context, also became the savior upon the three nurses, by using his power over the midwife. This means that the Governor is superior over the midwife, and the midwife is superior over the three nurses. While the media is superior over all of them, since it has the power to present the information and the situation through words created based on its interest to construct public opinion. This construction can be seen even through the beginning of the news that follows the title, repeating the title by emphasizing: *'Gubernur Jawa Tengah Ganjar Pranowo menegur seorang bidan asal Surakarta, yang mengusir tiga perawat …'* ~ (The Governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo, admonished a midwife from Surakarta, who expulsed three nurses…). The further explanation is followed by the statement by the governor in the interview by the media, which shared to public that: *"**Saya telepon** pemiliknya, **dia nangis-***

nangis dan minta maaf. *Bahasanya dia tidak mengusir, hanya takut suaminya tertular.* ***Saya heran*** *kenapa bisa begitu,* ***padahal*** *si ibu pemilik kos ini adalah* ***bidan,"*** *kata Ganjar ~ (****I called*** *the owner,* ***she cried and apologized****. She said that she didn't expulse, it's only because she is afraid that her husband gets infected. I wonder why she did that,* ***whereas*** *the landlady is* ***a midwife.****).* This statement adds more emphasize to the power used in this issue. Leaders consciously use their skills to persuade masses of their ideologies locally or internationally (Norali & Rezaei, 2016). A statement by a person who has power would construct public's opinion. *How many ordinary people got their first call by the governor? This must be a big matter, moreover this call was a reprimand.*

The power also used to save the nurses, which gave more emphasize on the 'take side' behavior by the governor. A behavior to save one side, could be a behavior to drop another. Leaders also has profound language and persuasive skills that might influence the mind of the listeners (Iqbal et al., 2020). This is shown in the statement by the governor in the interview with the media, *"Tadi* ***langsung saya telpon ketiganya****, alhamdulillah* ***semuanya sudah aman*** *…"~ (****I directly called them*** *(the nurses) at once, thank God* ***they're save*** *(now) …"*. This statement by the governor was given more emphasize by the explanation by the nurses, who explained the chronology of the events as well. One of the nurses, Siska, explained in an interview that,

> *"Saya* ***baru bangun tidur, tiba-tiba dapat WA*** *itu.* ***Intinya disuruh pergi*** *karena posisi rumah sakit kita jadi rujukan covid-19. …* ***Jelas kami syok dan kecewa sekaligus sakit hati, kenapa kami diperlakukan semacam ini****, … Tadi* ***pak Ganjar telpon*** *dan menanyakan kronologis. Beliau juga* ***tanya kondisi kami serta tanya nomor telpon ibu kos*** *dan direktur rumah sakit kami."*
> *~ (I just woke up, suddenly got the whatsapp message. The point is, we're asked to leave because the hospital we work in is appointed to take care the covid-19 patients. … We're definitely shocked and disappointed and hurt at the same time, why we were treated like this, … Mr. Ganjar called and asked for the chronological event. He also asked about our condition and asked for the landlady's number and the number of the hospital's director.)*

By this explanation, the nurses as one of the social actors in this issue, turned from victims into social actors who have 'power' after being 'saved' by the governor, so that their statement contribute the construction of public's opinions that they were the victim in this issue. Power practiced by the media gave access of domination to another social actors in this issue and indirectly (mentally) control the subordinates, even discriminate them (Eriyanto, 2001).

The media fully contribute to the construction of the public opinions by emphasizing certain words to their cognition in the news presented, such as: gubernur / Ganjar (governor / Ganjar), *mengusir / diusir / pengusiran (expulsed / be expulsed / expulsion), menegur (admonished), bidan (midwife), perawat (nurses), covid-19.* When these words come to public's mind, they created a construction in public's mind that made them have common opinions, such as: *'the governor uses his superior power as a leader over his people as the inferiors'; 'the midwife uses her power as the owner of the boarding house'; 'the midwife is the bad person'; 'the nurses are the victims of the midwife'; 'the nurses are heroines to fight covid-19'.* In this study on the use of power abuse and social inequality, it turned out that not only the nurses who were the victims of being expulsed by the landlady in this issue, but also the midwife who got bad stigma. In the covid-19 pandemic the nurses are not only become heroines, but also become 'public enemy' since they work in the hospital which is appointed to take care the covid-19 patients and made them interact directly with the patients.

Ordinary people are afraid of being infected by health workers, therefore, they keep distance with them as far as they can. What makes the landlady became 'public enemy' as well, was that she tried to save her family from the opportunity of being infected without considering her status as a midwife, which is a profession included in health workers. She became 'victim' for being judged because of the construction of public opinion about the fact.

2. Public Comments Analysis

The review of the nurses' expulsion from boarding house by the landlady drew attention from the public, so they gave their comments upon the issue. These comments are proofs of how the public responded to the issue which was produced (by the media) and constructed in the society (Eriyanto, 2001). There are ninety-eight comments on the issue, consists of sixty-three direct comments on the news, and thirty-five comments on the direct comments. Of all these comments, this study only took some of them as samples for the analysis. Many of them are in inappropriate words, therefore, they cannot be displayed in this study for the sake of politeness. From these all ninety-eight comments, they were divided into the positive (+) and negative (-) comments on each public participant, added by the comments which cannot be included in any of the public participant's since they cannot be described as to be intended to which public participant, and also added by the comments which are indicated as 'out of context' (not related to the issue). The column 'other' is for comments which cannot be described as positive nor negative. The resume of the division can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. The Number of Comments Created on Each Social Actor

Comments	(+)	(-)	Other
On the Governor	13	4	0
On the Midwife	6	32	0
On the Nurse	2	0	0
On the Media	0	0	0
Neutral / Unknown	3	2	5
Out of context	2	7	22
Sub-total	**26**	**45**	**27**
Total	**98**		

a. Comments on the Governor's Action, Behavior, and Statement.

In this issue, the governor mostly assumed as a good leader that responsible in handling problem, by his fast response and action in the issue. There are thirty positive comments compared to four of the negative ones. Although not many of the public participant gave positive comments about the governor (about thirty percent out of all comments), however, it is a significant number of all the comments given compared to the negative ones. Below are the samples of the positive and the negative comments on the Governor. The names afterward are the user name of the commenters.

(+) *"Pak Gub sangat perhatian dan tanggungjawab dengan yg dihadapi pemerintah saat ini sampai yg sedetil detilnya.....luar biasa ..."* <Ekh Wan> ~ (*Mister governor is very concerned and responsible with the problem faced by the government nowadays to the very detail... exceptional...*)

(-) *"Gayamu pak...wargamu mudik tok larang jare marai nulari wong kampung...ingat kata2mu pak...kalo sayang keluarga jangan mudik...giliran*

> *ada bidan yang nyuruh pindah perawat yg tiap hari bersinggungan dengan covid 19 kok sampean marah2." <Babene Imez>*
> *~ (How pompous...you forbid residents to go home so as not to infect families and others, but you got angry when a midwife asked nurses of covid-19 to move out.)*

In both comments above, it can be seen that each commenter gave their comments based on their cognitive acceptance upon the same issue and on the same subject. However, the negative (-) comment relate the action of the governor in the current issue to the previous instruction of the governor for handling the covid-19 pandemic. This sample of negative comments tried to show that the governor used his power to act differently in this pandemic situation for some purpose. Meanwhile, the positive comments merely praised his action to solve the problem at once.

b. Comments on the Midwife's Position and Behavior

As it was predicted before, the comments on midwife's position and behavior in this issue mostly are negative. This study illustrates of how the language used by media can construct the public's mind with dominant values and self-serving ideologies, and this might lead to dominate those who do not have the same values (Harb & Serhan, 2020). There are thirty-two negative comments compared to six of the positive ones. It is almost one-third out of the total number of all comments. However, there are some positive comments on the midwife. Not directly uttered to the midwife, but tried to think positive and see the situation faced by the midwife.

> (-) *"Semoga dicabut izin kebidanannya, gak pantas bidan punya jiwa seperti itu. Sama2 bergelut di kesehatan tp pikirannya kerdil." <Setyo Budy>*
> *~ (Hopefully her certificate will be revoked. She's a health worker as well, but has small mind.)*

> (+) *"Anda yakin kalau yang mendesak untuk mengusir itu bukan karena permintaan warga kos, warga kampung dan suami? Dan Bu bidan hanya jubir saja. Apakah anda sudah konfirmasi ke Bu bidan?" <Dwi Fitriyana Putri>*
> *~ (Are you sure the one who expulsed the nurses was the midwife, and not the other boarding house residents, villagers, or her husband? Have you confirmed to the midwife? Probably she was just a spokesperson.)*

Most of the negative comments given by commenters, requested the revocation of the midwife's certificate, other than inappropriate comments (in the form of curses) which cannot be displayed in this study. However, the number of the inappropriate comments are half by the total of negative comments. This fact is enough for the assumption that there was a power abuse and social inequality done by the commenters. They have powers as community judges to determine which behavior could be accepted in the society. By observing both sample comments on the midwife above, it can be seen that the negative comments merely 'attacked' the midwife as an object without finding out the background reason of the behavior. Meanwhile, the positive comments only tried to see another possible reasons of the midwife for doing so, without directly giving courage to her with something like: *"It's ok, midwife. Go for it!"*, since it will create new problems to the existing issue.

c. Comments on the Nurse as the Victim of the Expulsion

As the victims of the expulsion, there were no negative comments made by the commenters on the three nurses. There is no power abuse or negative stigma which can lead to social inequality over the three nurses. As the health workers who fight in the frontline

against the covid-19 pandemic, most of the members of the society still give respect to them. However, there are only a very small number of positive comments given to them, and they were not directly given to them nor in the form of consolation. There are only two comments on the nurses, and all of them are presented below:

(+) "*Sudah seharusnya pak ganjar segera menyediakan shelter buat mereka, kayak anies itu, sudah di antar jemput, ga perlu nunggu ada pengusiran, dengan begitu mereka bisa tenang dalam bertugas kar3na ga kwatir menularkan ke keluarga nya...*" <*Woro Cupulopp Suglowor*>
~ (*Mister Ganjar should provide shelter for them, so that they can be dropped off and picked up to the workplace without worrying any expulsion. Therefore, they can work better without worrying to infect families…*)

(+) "*Mereka, siska dkk, juga tdk ingin mati dan tertular. Ngenes.... Bangsaku.*" <*Jason Lamijan*>
~ (*They, Siska and friends, don't want to die as well. Poor my country…*)

The very small number of comments on the nurses shown above, have proved that although there are no negative comments on them, however, almost there was no mental support from the public sent directly to them to pass the situation they have been through. The comments made by the public represented by the commenters were merely slight sympathy that actually aimed to health workers in general.

d. Comment on the Media as the Presenter of the Issue

In the section of comments by the public, there are no comments that directly given to *pikiran-rakyat*.com as the online media-presenter of the issue to the public. The public, which is represented by the commenters, seemed to accept every 'fact' given by the media. Whereas the public construction upon an issue influences public's way of reading and their understanding about the news written by the journalist (Eriyanto, 2001). The media as the 'real actor' to construct public's opinions is free from the social burden to turn participants into actors, victims, goons (the bad people), or any title that can be given to the social actors. As it is explained before, the media is superior over all of the social actors involved in the issue presented in the news, since it has the power to present the information and the situation through words created based on its interest to construct public opinion.

Conclusion

Covid-19 pandemic has changed people's habit and attitude. The expulsion of nurses from boarding house has proved that humanity and social relation began to erode from the culture that already existed in society, due to the outbreak. The Critical Discourse Analysis proposed in this study was conducted to expose the social inequality in communities affected by the covid-19 pandemic, and how it was written in the online news to construct public opinions. The online news showed that no matter how much social life and harmony in the community has been built up to now, the pandemic has increased selfishness because everyone cares about their own health. The news brought to public has constructed their opinions about the issue.

On the other hand, the construction of public opinion about certain issue which is reviewed in media and presented to public has created different opinion in the society. It is not necessarily that someone who is positioned as a victim by one would be seen as a victim by another, as well as the bad person in a case or reviewed in an issue would not necessarily be a bad person to different other people. It depends on the cognition of each individual to take the issue from their own points of view.

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