Anti-Vaccine COVID-19 Narratives: A Critical Textual Analysis of American and Indonesian Online News

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Abstract

This study utilized Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), grounded in Van Dijk's framework to investigate how online news articles from American and Indonesian outlets portrayed anti-vaccine views related to COVID-19. Through systematic online searches, the research examined the data through the lenses of macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Eight articles were selected for this study: four from American sources and four from Indonesian sources. The selected articles were published during specific periods: February 2022 to February 2023 for the U.S., and January 2021 to January 2022 for Indonesia. These articles, ranging from 500 to 1500 words, focused on 'Anti-Vaccine COVID-19' topics. The findings revealed distinct thematic differences. The macrostructure analysis showed that American articles highlighted distrust in specific vaccines and opposition to mandates, fostering skepticism, while Indonesian articles examined a wider range of cultural, religious, and personal factors influencing vaccine hesitancy, including anti-vaccine sentiments among expatriates and athletes. The superstructure analysis indicated that American reports emphasized controversy, whereas Indonesian reports explored motivations more deeply. Additionally, linguistic choices in the microstructure influenced portrayals, with American articles using dysphemism and active voice to emphasize danger, while Indonesian articles employed strong language to convey diverse perspectives. Despite its emphasis on textual analysis, this study offered significant insights into the sophisticated discussions of anti-

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vaccine sentiments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected in American and Indonesian online news.

Keywords: Anti-vaccine COVID-19, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), online news, textual analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented effort unfolded to develop and distribute vaccines as a key strategy against the virus. This initiative, however, encountered significant challenges from the anti-vaccine movement, a phenomenon with historical roots dating back to the 19th century and Edward Jenner's pioneering work in vaccination (Maci, 2019). The historical drive to promote widespread vaccination, particularly during the smallpox outbreaks, set the stage for the modern anti-vaccine discourse, characterized by deep-seated skepticism and distrust in government authorities.

Vaccine hesitancy is not unique to COVID-19 but has become a widespread issue across various vaccines, despite the availability of extensive scientific data supporting their efficacy (Scannell et al., 2021). Factors contributing to this hesitancy include cultural influences, government distrust, and barriers to healthcare access. In the digital age, online platforms become key channels for amplifying anti-vaccine discourse, significantly shaping public perception (Smith & Graham, 2019). The far-reaching impacts of COVID-19 on society, affecting the economy and social structures, intensified global vaccination campaigns. Concurrently, there is an increase in media discussions highlighting the vital role of news media as a link between policymakers and the public (Abbas, 2022a).

The advent of technology and digital media channels notably facilitates the spread of anti-vaccine narratives, with medical information now being widely available online (Sun, 2020). To thoroughly examine the linguistic and ideological aspects of this discourse, employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is crucial. Van Dijk's CDA methodology, with its focus on textual analysis, provides a structured approach for dissecting online news content, particularly its macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure (Husna et al., 2021; Zulhamsyah & Degaf, 2022). Previous studies extensively explored textual analyses within the framework of pandemic-related news (Abbas, 2022a; Alqaysi & Singh, 2022; Fauzi, 2022; Nazar et al., 2021; Pratiwi et al., 2020; Yasin et al., 2021) and the discourse surrounding anti-vaccine sentiments (Sun, 2020). These studies often highlighted how news media could shape public opinion and propagate specific ideologies. However, there was a gap in understanding the comparative discourse of anti-vaccine sentiments in different cultural contexts, specifically between American and Indonesian online news outlets.

This study, therefore, sought to bridge existing research gaps by incorporating linguistic theories and unique research objects not previously explored. Using Van Dijk's (1988) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) for text analysis, this research attempted to examine anti-vaccine COVID-19 discourses in American and Indonesian online news. In contemporary society, online news has become a primary source of information, especially for younger people (Boumans, 2018; Mitchelstein & Boczkowski, 2010; Trilling & Schoenbach, 2015). Previously, people relied on local

print newspapers, but the internet has shifted news access from traditional media to online sources (Bentley et al., 2019), offering more diverse ways to access news.

The influence of anti-vaccine views is particularly strong online, often more so than pro-vaccine sources (Davies et al., 2002; Kata, 2012; Smith & Graham, 2019). Using Van Dijk's CDA, this study analyzed news texts at three levels: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure, to reveal the underlying ideology in the news. The study hypothesized that anti-vaccine COVID-19 discourses in online news reflect prevailing ideologies and that mass media shape perceptions, beliefs, and public sentiment (Abbas, 2022a). Each media outlet has its own style, leading to different findings.

The objectives of this research were to analyze the portrayal of anti-vaccine sentiments in American and Indonesian online news articles, compare the thematic and narrative structures of anti-vaccine discourse between the two countries, and identify the linguistic elements employed in shaping anti-vaccine narratives in online news. The research questions guiding this study were as follows:

1. How were anti-vaccine sentiments portrayed in American and Indonesian online news articles?
2. What were the thematic and narrative differences in the portrayal of anti-vaccine sentiments between American and Indonesian news outlets?
3. What linguistic elements were used to shape anti-vaccine narratives in American and Indonesian online news?

By addressing these questions, this study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how anti-vaccine sentiments were constructed and communicated in different cultural contexts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several researchers explored textual analyses in pandemic-related news. Abbas (2022a), Al-Qaysi and Singh (2022), Fauzi (2022), Nazar et al. (2021), Pratiwi et al. (2020), and Yasin et al. (2021) analyzed news schemas, while Sun (2020) examined anti-vaccine discourse. Additionally, Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was frequently used to understand ideology within discourse, as demonstrated in the studies by Al-Ghamdi (2021), Dezhkameh et al. (2021), Elyas et al. (2023), and Qowim and Degaf (2024).

Previous research on news schemas indicated that COVID-19 news was often politicized and used for ideological purposes. For example, Abbas (2022a) found that news articles frequently incorporated political biases. Fauzi (2022) and Nazar et al. (2021) demonstrated that media outlets used specific linguistic strategies to influence public perception. Pratiwi et al. (2020) and Yasin et al. (2021) highlighted the role of news schemas in shaping narratives around the pandemic.

In the context of anti-vaccine discourse, Sun (2020) identified recurring themes and language practices within the anti-vaccine community, emphasizing the role of online platforms in spreading anti-vaccine sentiments. Al-Ghamdi (2021) explored how Saudi Arabian news on COVID-19 reflected ideologies of fear and hope. Dezhkameh et al. (2021) analyzed how newspapers used strategies to promote certain ideologies and criticize others. Elyas et al. (2023) revealed that US media implied

China as the virus's origin, whereas Arab newspapers blamed early COVID-19 cases on travel to Iran.

Despite these comprehensive studies, a significant gap persisted in the literature regarding the textual analysis of anti-vaccine COVID-19 news using Van Dijk's CDA framework. While previous research explored the ideological underpinnings and narrative strategies of pandemic-related news, there was limited focus on a cross-cultural comparison of anti-vaccine discourse specifically through the lens of Van Dijk's CDA. This study aimed to address that gap by thoroughly analyzing the ideological content of anti-vaccine discourse in online news from both American and Indonesian sources. In doing so, it aimed to uncover the subtle ways in which these narratives were constructed and disseminated across various cultural contexts, offering a deeper understanding of the global dynamics of vaccine hesitancy and its media portrayal.

2.1 Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an interdisciplinary field that emerged in the early 1990s, championed by academic figures such as Theo van Leeuwen, Gunther Kress, Teun van Dijk, and Norman Fairclough (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). CDA is a qualitative analytical technique concerned with describing, analyzing, and explaining how discourse perpetuates social inequality (Wodak & Meyer, 2008). It highlights the significance of language as a source of power and explores how language usage can contribute to social control and psychological impacts (Mullet, 2018; Willig, 2000). CDA employs various approaches from the humanities and social sciences to investigate significant social issues.

Scholars have engaged in debates over CDA's classification, questioning whether it should be considered a theory, a method, or an approach (Degaf et al. 2019). CDA emerged from the integration of diverse theories, leading it to be predominantly recognized as a theoretical framework (Fitriani et al. 2021). Aligned with its core principles, CDA research has been applied to investigating issues such as gender, racism in texts and speeches, and the perpetuation of power in media, politics, professions, and various forms of discourse (Cap, 2018). Building upon these foundational criteria, Wodak (2001) emphasized that CDA critically examines how language is utilized in speech to express, signify, mold, legitimize, and attain diverse objectives. Similarly, Meyer (2001) emphasized CDA's objective of enhancing transparency in discourse concerning inequality and social discrepancies. Specifically, CDA has been used to analyze how language operates within society, delineate linguistic processes within social contexts, and unveil underlying ideologies and politics. Linguistic descriptions play a pivotal role in uncovering ideologies embedded within the discourse under examination (Amoussou, 2018).

2.2 Van Dijk's Model of CDA

Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory is well-regarded for its socio-cognitive perspective, which views discourse as a fundamentally social activity. This perspective places social cognition as the bridge between society and text. Van Dijk contended that social collectives, including groups, organizations, and institutions, possess various social cognitions that must be considered when

conducting CDA (Van Dijk, 2001). Central to CDA, according to Van Dijk, is the understanding of ideological frameworks and power relations encoded within language (Van Dijk, 2000, cited in Jahedi et al., 2014). He highlighted that ideological discourse often employs strategies such as self-presentation, negative depiction of others, and self-promotion, conveying arrogance.

Van Dijk's CDA model comprises three fundamental aspects or structures: text, social cognition, and social context. The core of Van Dijk's approach lies in the integration of these three dimensions in discourse analysis. The text dimension explores how specific concepts are emphasized through textual organization and discourse techniques. The production of texts and speech, involving both individual and social cognition, is examined at the social cognition level. The third component investigates how discourse concerning a particular issue evolves within society (Nazar et al. 2021).

2.2.1 Macrostructure

Macrostructure, often referred to as the overarching or general meaning of the text, represents the primary theme or subject matter discussed within a discourse. Analyzing the thematic content of a text forms the basis for understanding the entire narrative. It is within macrostructures that the main topics or overarching ideas conveyed in news reports or articles are found. Macrostructures are pivotal in determining the overall coherence of a piece of work (Van Dijk, 1988).

2.2.2 Superstructure

Superstructure, on the other hand, pertains to the organization of a discourse within the framework of a text. It outlines the critical components and arrangement of a story or narrative. The news superstructure typically comprises three main sections: the introduction, which sets the stage for the story; the body, which contains the substantive information; and the conclusion, which offers the outcome or summary of the story. The superstructure also includes various schematic features, such as headlines, leads, primary events, background information, verbal reactions, and conclusions, which can be further dissected for analysis (Van Dijk, 1991; Aini & Widodo, 2018; Firmansyah & Degaf, 2024).

2.2.3 Microstructure

Microstructure examines the meaning of discourse as observed through word choice and sentence construction within online media news reporting. It focuses on lexical choices (words), sentence structures, semantics, and rhetorical features employed to construct a narrative. According to Van Dijk (1991), these variations in meaning-related features are intrinsic to news reporting and cannot be separated from it. The microstructure encompasses the local meanings within a text, ranging from the meanings of individual words and word groups to clauses, sentences, and their interconnections. Within the microstructure, linguistic elements such as dysphemism, euphemism, active voice, passive voice, nominalization, pronouns, sentence structures, and more play a crucial role in shaping the discourse's meaning. It is within

the microstructure that ideology permeates all aspects of meaning, often remaining concealed until scrutinized through discourse analysis (Van Dijk, 1991).

3.   METHODS

3.1   Research Design

In this study, we adopted a critical approach, using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Van Dijk, 1991) to examine anti-vaccine COVID-19 narratives in American and Indonesian online news; the primary focus is on text analysis. Our methodology was qualitative, with direct observations forming the core of our data collection. We sourced textual elements from online news articles, chosen for their accessibility and content diversity. For the American data, sources were drawn from online news websites, including mlive.com, rollingstone.com, usnews.com, and minnesotareformer.com. For the Indonesian data, sources were derived from online news websites, such as thejakartapost.com, news.detik.com, cnnindonesia.com, and kompas.tv.com. These sources were selected because they are prominent and credible in their respective countries, providing a reliable basis for our analysis.

3.2   Data Sources

Initially, we collected a total of 8 articles: 4 from American sources and 4 from Indonesian sources. The articles were selected based on their relevance to "Anti-Vaccine COVID-19" and their publication within the specified periods. The inclusion criteria included a focus on anti-vaccine content, a publication date within the specified period, and a word count ranging from 500 to 1500 words per article. The selected periods—February 2022 to February 2023 for American sources and January 2021 to January 2022 for Indonesian sources—reflected significant phases in the COVID-19 pandemic response and vaccine rollout in both countries. This timing allowed us to capture the evolving discourse on vaccination during crucial moments.

3.3   Data Analysis

For data analysis, we used Internet search techniques, specifically Google News keyword searches with 'Anti-Vaccine COVID-19'. Relevant articles were reviewed to gather comprehensive data. Guided by Van Dijk's CDA model, we analyzed the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure elements of the texts (Van Dijk, 1991; Aini & Widodo, 2018; Firmansyah & Degaf, 2024). We categorized the texts into words, phrases, and sentences, coding each for media name, paragraph, line, and year (e.g., JP/Par.2/L.1/2021). This detailed process allowed us to unveil themes, narrative structures, and linguistic details, revealing the ideological elements within the texts.

To ensure the validity and reliability of our data, we employed triangulation methods (Moon, 2019), cross-referencing the findings from different articles and sources. Additionally, we ensured consistent coding practices (Hemmler et al., 2022) by developing a coding rubric to guide the textual analysis of the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. We used purposive sampling (Tongco, 2007). to

select articles that best represented the anti-vaccine discourses in both countries. This approach ensured that the selected articles provided rich and relevant data for our analysis.

Each article was thoroughly read and analyzed for relevant content. Data analysis employed Van Dijk's CDA model (Van Dijk, 1991), examining three levels of analysis: macrostructure, which explored the overarching themes and main topics of the articles; superstructure, which analyzed the organization and structural components of the narratives; and microstructure, which investigated the lexical choices, sentence structures, semantics, and rhetorical features.

4.   RESULTS

The results of this study provided a deep understanding of the anti-vaccine discourse in the context of COVID-19, highlighting the ideological elements embedded within the texts through macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. They offer profound insights into how anti-vaccine narratives were constructed and disseminated across different cultural contexts.

4.1   Macrostructure

The macrostructure analysis identified overarching themes or topics within the online news articles. It showed the most significant information presented in the texts. The themes identified in American and Indonesian online news articles are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Themes in American and Indonesian online news.

Country	Source	Theme	Description
American	MLive	Anti-vaccine Rally Against Pfizer	Emphasizes rallies expressing distrust, specifically targeting Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.
American	Rolling Stone	Claims of Injuries and Deaths Linked to the Vaccine	Focuses on allegations of vaccine-related injuries and fatalities, contributing to vaccine hesitancy.
American	U.S. News & World Report	Protests Against Mandatory Vaccination	Highlights opposition to vaccine mandates, emphasizing individual freedoms.
American	Minnesota Reformer	The Stigmatization of the COVID-19 Vaccine as the "Death Shot"	Characterizes the vaccine negatively, contributing to public fear.
Indonesian	The Jakarta Post	Emergence of Anti-vaccine and Anti-mask Attitudes Among Expatriates	Highlights anti-vaccine and anti-mask sentiments among expatriates.
Indonesian	Detik News	Religious Rejection of AstraZeneca Vaccine	Focuses on vaccine rejection on religious grounds, emphasizing cultural and religious factors.
Indonesian	CNN Indonesia	Individual Refusals Based on Doubts About Vaccine Effectiveness	Centers on personal skepticism about the vaccine's effectiveness.

Table 1 continued…

Indonesian	Kompas TV	Athlete Reluctance Toward COVID-19 Vaccination	Explores vaccine hesitancy among athletes.

The macrostructure analysis revealed a clear difference in focus between American and Indonesian news articles. American online news tended to highlight themes that emphasized distrust in the Pfizer vaccine, claims of injuries and deaths linked to the vaccine, opposition to mandatory vaccination, and the negative characterization of the vaccine as the "death shot". These themes shaped a narrative of skepticism and fear around the COVID-19 vaccine within the American media landscape.

Conversely, Indonesian online news addressed a broader range of factors influencing anti-vaccine attitudes. Themes included the emergence of anti-vaccine and anti-mask attitudes among expatriates, religious rejection of the AstraZeneca vaccine, individual refusals based on doubts about vaccine effectiveness, and vaccine hesitancy among athletes. These themes reflected the diverse considerations influencing vaccine attitudes in Indonesia, including cultural, religious, and personal beliefs.

In general, American news articles predominantly focused on skepticism and negative perceptions of the vaccine, whereas Indonesian news articles explored a variety of factors that contributed to vaccine hesitancy, emphasizing the complex and diverse nature of the discourse in each country. This comparison underlined the importance of understanding the cultural and contextual nuances that shape public opinion on vaccination in different regions.

4.2 Superstructure

The superstructure schema of news discourse consists of summary and story elements, including headlines, leads, situations, and comments. Table 2 presents a comparison of the superstructure elements in American and Indonesian online news articles.

Table 2. Superstructure in American and Indonesian online news.

Country	Source	Headline/Lead	Situation	Comments	Conclusion
American	MLive	Rally at Pfizer headquarters led by Republican lawmakers	Emphasizes anonymity concerns about vaccine production	Demand for accountability	Highlights distrust in Pfizer's vaccine
American	Rolling Stone	Claims of injuries and deaths reviving anti-vaccine protests	Cultural shift from pro-vaccine to anti-vaccine sentiments	Doubts about vaccine safety; conspiracy theories	Persistence of anti-vaccine sentiments
American	U.S. News & World Report	Thousands rallying in Los Angeles against vaccine mandates	Rally opposing vaccine mandates	Belief in personal freedom	Opposition to COVID-19-related bills
American	Minnesota Reformer	Senator brands COVID-19	Anti-vaccine sentiments	Strong anti-vaccine stance	Perception of the COVID-

Table 2 continued…

		vaccines as 'death shot'			19 vaccine as a 'death shot'
Indonesian	The Jakarta Post	Expatriates opposing anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers in Bali	Expatriates considering leaving Bali	Diverse attitudes against compulsory vaccination	Spread of anti-vaccine sentiments among expatriates
Indonesian	Detik News	Rejection of AstraZeneca vaccine by caregivers at an Islamic boarding school	Religious considerations	Perceived dangers of AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca vaccine deemed *haram* (anything that is forbidden or prohibited in Islam according to Islamic law) due to its ingredients
Indonesian	CNN Indonesia	Ribka Tjiptaning's refusal of COVID-19 vaccine	Arguments against COVID-19 vaccination	Doubts about vaccine effectiveness	Refusal of COVID-19 vaccine due to lingering doubts
Indonesian	Kompas TV	Novak Djokovic's case and athletes' reluctance to get vaccinated	Djokovic a controversial figure	Concerns about vaccine effects	Athletes' reluctance due to concerns for their bodies

The superstructure analysis revealed a structured approach to how news is presented in both American and Indonesian articles. American online news reports frequently featured headlines and leads that emphasized controversy and conflict, such as rallies, claims of injuries, and strong anti-vaccine statements. These were often followed by situations that framed the context of these events, comments that articulated various stances, and conclusions that underscored persistent sentiments of distrust and opposition.

For example, MLive highlighted a rally at Pfizer headquarters led by Republican lawmakers, focusing on concerns about vaccine production and demanding accountability. Rolling Stone emphasized a cultural shift from pro-vaccine to anti-vaccine sentiments, driven by doubts about vaccine safety and conspiracy theories. Similarly, the U.S. News & World Report covered large rallies against vaccine mandates, framing them as a fight for personal freedom, and the Minnesota Reformer reported a senator labeling COVID-19 vaccines as a 'death shot', capturing strong anti-vaccine sentiments.

In contrast, Indonesian online news reports tended to explore a wider range of motivations and contexts for vaccine hesitancy. The Jakarta Post, for example, discussed expatriates in Bali who opposed anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers, contemplating leaving the country due to mandatory vaccinations. Detik News focused on the religious rejection of the AstraZeneca vaccine, highlighting the perceived dangers and cultural considerations. CNN Indonesia featured Ribka Tjiptaning's refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine, driven by doubts about its effectiveness, while

Kompas TV examined athlete reluctance to get vaccinated, focusing on personal concerns and misinformation.

The superstructure analysis accentuated underscored the differences in how news is structured and presented in American and Indonesian media. American news reports often emphasized conflict and opposition, using strong and sometimes provocative language to frame the narrative. Indonesian news reports, on the other hand, provided a more varied exploration of vaccine hesitancy, considering cultural, religious, and personal factors. This comparison highlighted the importance of understanding the specific contexts and motivations that shaped public opinion and discourses in different countries.

4.3 Microstructure

Microstructure encompasses several linguistic elements, including word choice, grammar, and semantic analysis. These elements are crucial for understanding how discourse is constructed and how meaning is conveyed within news reports. The microstructure elements identified in the analysis are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Microstructure elements in American and Indonesian online news.

Country	Element	Example	Description
American	Dysphemism	"Mutating" (MLive)	Conveys danger and uncertainty, framing vaccine development negatively.
American	Euphemism	"Peaceful crowd" (U.S. News & World Report)	Implies non-violent demonstrations, fostering a positive perception of the anti-vaccine movement.
American	Active Voice	"Anti-vaccine activists have decried vaccine 'mandates'" (Minnesota Reformer)	Focuses on the actions of anti-vaccine activists, emphasizing their opposition to mandates.
American	Passive Voice	"Protesters at the rally were upset about a recent video released by Project Veritas" (MLive)	Shifts focus to the situation, highlighting protesters' emotions and context rather than the agents involved.
American	Nominalization	"The end of the year brought the premiere of Died Suddenly" (Rolling Stone)	Creates intrigue about the documentary without specifying responsibility.
American	Pronoun Usage	"Its research activities" (MLive)	Clarifies the connection between Pfizer and its research activities.
American	Positive Portrayal of Protesters	"About 100 people gathered Monday across Portage Road from the biopharmaceutical company, many holding signs to help voice their distrust" (MLive)	Presents protesters as engaged citizens seeking truth and transparency.
American	Negative Portrayal of Pfizer	"A representative from Pfizer's communications team did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday	Casts Pfizer in a less favorable light, suggesting a lack of transparency.

Table 3 continued…

		afternoon after the rally" (MLive)	
Indonesian	Strong Language	"Strongly reject" (Detik News)	Focusing on firm resistance, suggesting religious or moral justifications for vaccine rejection.
Indonesian	Euphemism	"Worry more about their bodies" (Kompas TV)	Portrays athletes as health-conscious without negative connotations.
Indonesian	Active Voice	"Bali's provincial economy relies heavily on tourism" (The Jakarta Post)	Clarifies the cause-and-effect relationship between Bali's economy and tourism.
Indonesian	Passive Voice	"The rejection of the AstraZeneca vaccine was expressed bluntly by the caregiver of the Amanatul Ummah Islamic Boarding School" (Detik News)	Highlights the situation surrounding vaccine rejection, emphasizing broader context.
Indonesian	Nominalization	"Reasons for Islamic boarding school caregivers in Mojokerto to refuse the AstraZeneca vaccine" (Detik News)	Succinctly summarizes the rationale behind vaccine refusal, making information accessible.
Indonesian	Pronoun Usage	"Ia" ("He" in English) to refer to Djokovic (Detik News)	Places Djokovic at the center of the narrative, highlighting his personal experiences and decisions.
Indonesian	Nuanced View of Anti-vaccine Individuals	"31-year-old American woman who divides her time between Ubud and Canggu. Martha (not her real name)" (The Jakarta Post)	Presents Martha as a multifaceted individual, encouraging readers to consider diverse viewpoints.
Indonesian	Categorization of Individual Experiences	"Paquette, now 35, isn't the only person to develop myocarditis after getting a COVID-19 vaccine" (MLive)	Highlights individual experiences within a larger narrative.
Indonesian	Skepticism about Vaccine Effectiveness	"Rebekah's statement actually aims to ensure that the interests and safety of the community are prioritized in implementing the COVID-19 vaccination program" (CNN Indonesia)	Presents skepticism about vaccine effectiveness, emphasizing community safety concerns.

The strategic use of dysphemism and euphemism significantly shaped the discourse on anti-vaccine sentiments in both American and Indonesian news articles. In American reports, dysphemism, such as the term "mutating" (MLive), conveyed a sense of danger and uncertainty, framing the vaccine development process negatively. Euphemism was employed to soften the portrayal of events, exemplified by "peaceful

crowd" (U.S. News & World Report), which implied non-violent demonstrations and fostered a positive perception of the anti-vaccine movement. Indonesian news also used strong language, as seen in Detik News' "strongly reject", to emphasize firm resistance to vaccines, suggesting religious or moral justifications. Conversely, the euphemism in Kompas TV "worry more about their bodies" portrayed athletes as health-conscious, maintaining a positive tone.

Grammar analysis revealed the impact of active and passive voice, nominalization, and pronoun usage on narrative construction. American news articles frequently used the active voice to highlight the actions of anti-vaccine activists, such as in the Minnesota Reformer, emphasizing opposition to mandates. Conversely, passive voice in MLive reports shifted focus to the situation, emphasizing protesters' emotions and context. Nominalization in Rolling Stone, like "the end of the year brought the premiere of Died Suddenly", created intrigue without specifying responsibility. Pronoun usage in MLive clarified connections, as seen with "its research activities" referring to Pfizer. Indonesian reports similarly utilized active and passive voices to shape narratives, with The Jakarta Post clarifying cause-and-effect relationships and DetikNews emphasizing broader contexts. Nominalization succinctly summarized rationale, as seen in Detik News, while pronoun usage in references to figures like Djokovic highlighted personal experiences.

Semantic analysis demonstrated how media outlets used language to influence public perception. American news articles often portrayed anti-vaccine protesters positively, as seen in MLive's description of engaged citizens seeking truth. Conversely, the same report cast Pfizer negatively, emphasizing a lack of responsiveness. Indonesian news provided detailed portrayals of anti-vaccine individuals, such as The Jakarta Post's depiction of Martha, encouraging readers to consider diverse viewpoints. The categorization of individual experiences, like in CNN Indonesia's portrayal of Rebekah, emphasized skepticism about vaccine effectiveness and community safety. Additionally, the use of counterfactuals and disclaimers shaped narratives, highlighting concerns about vaccine effectiveness and potential economic impacts, as seen in U.S. News & World Report and The Jakarta Post.

In summary, the strategic use of linguistic elements in these reports enhanced clarity and significantly influenced reader engagement and interpretation. This careful crafting of language played a vital role in shaping public understanding and perception of the anti-vaccine discourse surrounding COVID-19, guiding readers' perceptions and contributing to the overall impact of the narratives presented.

5.   DISCUSSION

In the preceding section, a comprehensive textual analysis was carried out, examining the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure in American and Indonesian online news content concerning anti-vaccine topics. This analysis, informed by Van Dijk's (1985, 2006) seminal works, revealed distinct disparities between the news media of the two regions.

In the macrostructure domain, significant differences became apparent, particularly regarding the coverage of anti-vaccine COVID-19 topics by American and Indonesian online news platforms. While American media placed a stronger emphasis on protests and negative assertions about the COVID-19 vaccine, Indonesian media

tended to focus more on factors influencing anti-vaccine attitudes toward COVID-19. Shifting to the superstructure analysis, it was noteworthy that both American and Indonesian online news adhered to a similar structural framework. Each news article included standard elements such as headlines, leads, main events, background information, verbal reactions, and conclusions. However, despite this shared structure, observable differences in content emerged, manifested through variations in paragraph count and the depth of exploration for each aspect of the news. Furthermore, the microstructure analysis, which examined linguistic intricacies, uncovered interesting disparities in linguistic strategies between American and Indonesian online news sources. These differences stemmed from the distinct focuses of each news source analyzed. Among the 20 strategies evaluated, word choice elements were the most prevalent, followed by semantics, grammar, and rhetoric elements.

From these findings, it was evident that both American and Indonesian online news outlets gave greater prominence to negative narratives concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. In the American context, online news sources prioritized aspects such as anti-vaccine propaganda, protest movements, health freedom, distrust in government and pharmaceutical companies, conspiracy theories, misinformation, negative experiences, and political ideologies. Conversely, Indonesian online news sources emphasized narratives surrounding high recovery rates, declines in economic income, religious beliefs, doubts about vaccine effectiveness, conspiracy theories, misinformation, negative experiences, and alternative treatments. These findings established the prevalence of an anti-vaccine COVID-19 discourse in online media, characterized by a diversity of beliefs, arguments, and emotions, with significant implications for public health initiatives aimed at combating the ongoing pandemic (Abbas, 2022b).

This research explored the discourse surrounding anti-vaccination sentiments related to COVID-19 through a textual analysis approach, distinguishing it from Sun's (2020) work that primarily employed corpus-assisted discourse analysis. In contrast to Yasin et al.'s (2021) comprehensive exploration covering text structure, social cognition, and social context, this study exclusively adopted Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) for its textual analysis. By focusing on CDA, the research aimed to unveil the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure in the discourse on anti-vaccine COVID-19. This approach enabled a nuanced examination of how language constructed and disseminated specific narratives, contributing to a deeper understanding of textual analysis concerning anti-vaccine sentiments during the ongoing pandemic. The emphasis on CDA reflected a commitment to critically examine the language used in anti-vaccine discourses, revealing the implications of textual analysis on anti-vaccine COVID-19 news in American and Indonesian online media.

Moreover, this study broadened the scope of textual analysis to include macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. This distinction set it apart from prior works by Abbas (2022a, 2022b), Fauzi (2022), Nazar et al. (2021), and Pratiwi et al. (2020), where textual analysis was predominantly presented in the form of news schema paragraphs. This expansion allowed for a more comprehensive examination of the structural elements within the discourses on anti-vaccine COVID-19, providing a nuanced understanding of how language was employed across different levels. By scrutinizing the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure, the research aimed

to uncover deeper layers of meaning and contribute to the existing body of knowledge on textual analysis in the context of anti-vaccine sentiments surrounding COVID-19.

Furthermore, this research adopted Van Dijk's theoretical framework (1988, 2006) to unveil the underlying ideologies embedded within the observed discourses. This method diverged from Al-Ghamdi's (2021) study, which explored ideological features using CDA theory, such as authority, evidentiality, and categorization. Additionally, the research differed from Dezhkameh et al.'s (2021) application of systemic functional linguistics and Van Dijk's ideological square, along with Elyas et al.'s (2023) examination of three primary discourse levels: meaning, form, and action. At its core, the research approach centered on a comprehensive analysis of textual content within the framework of CDA that offers a unique perspective in uncovering and understanding the ideology present in news about the COVID-19 vaccine. According to Van Dijk, ideology is the inherent orientation of a particular discourse toward the pros or cons. In this study, both the American and Indonesian online news selected exhibited an anti-COVID-19 vaccine stance.

In the context of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), ideology plays a pivotal role as it becomes deeply intertwined with the linguistic elements strategically employed within discourse. In the context of the study, the researchers discerned a prevailing ideology in the analytical data drawn from American and Indonesian online news, and this ideology closely aligned with the overarching sentiment of opposition to vaccines in the context of COVID-19. It is important to emphasize that ideologies, as conceptualized by Van Dijk (2006), are not abstract concepts but integral dimensions of the social identity and self-image of various societal groups. In this research, the ideology of anti-vaccine sentiment related to COVID-19 was connected to three core contextual dimensions: historical, institutional, and social.

In the historical context, anti-vaccine sentiments had deep historical roots dating back to the 19th century, notably marked by the rejection of the smallpox vaccine. Over time, these sentiments evolved in response to the changing landscape of vaccine development. For instance, in the 1990s, resistance emerged against childhood vaccinations, driven by controversial claims linking the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine to autism (Sun, 2020; Wakefield et al., 1998). Fast-forwarding to 2019, with the global emergence of the coronavirus pandemic and the development of COVID-19 vaccines, these long-standing anti-vaccine sentiments resurfaced prominently within the discourses.

Within the institutional context, governments worldwide proactively implemented mandatory regulations for COVID-19 vaccination, extending to various public settings, including airports, libraries, shopping malls, entertainment venues, and more (Holovatenko, 2022; Damian & Tshitangano, 2023). In Indonesia, citizens were required to register with the *Peduli Lindungi* application to access certain places. This application provided essential information regarding a person's COVID-19 vaccination status. Moreover, job applications often demanded proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and some companies and government agencies even enforced mandatory vaccination policies for their employees. While these measures aimed to protect public health, they frequently faced criticism from factions opposing COVID-19 vaccines (Fastyaningsih, 2021).

In the social context, the formation of anti-vaccine attitudes was connected to numerous social factors. These factors were closely intertwined with the influence of communities and the extensive reach of social media platforms, which could

disseminate misinformation and foster conspiracy theories (McKinley & Lauby, 2021). Individual perspectives on the COVID-19 vaccine were also susceptible to various influences, including perceptions of science, and religious beliefs (Keselman et al., 2022). Additionally, cultural and religious beliefs, as well as sociodemographic factors, are vital in influencing attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines (Al-Jayyousi et al., 2021).

6. CONCLUSION

The study's findings reveal significant differences in the anti-vaccine discourse surrounding COVID-19 in American and Indonesian online news articles through macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure analyses. The macrostructure analysis identified dominant themes in each context, with American articles focusing on distrust toward a certain vaccine, claims of vaccine-related injuries, and opposition to vaccine mandates, creating a narrative of skepticism and fear. In contrast, Indonesian articles explored a broader spectrum of factors influencing vaccine hesitancy, including cultural, religious, and personal beliefs, highlighting the emergence of anti-vaccine sentiments among expatriates and athletes. The superstructure analysis showed that American reports often emphasized controversy and conflict, while Indonesian reports provided more explorations of motivations. Linguistic choices in the microstructure further influenced the portrayal of anti-vaccine individuals and sentiments, with American articles utilizing dysphemisms and active voice to emphasize danger and agency, while Indonesian articles employed strong language and portrayals to convey diverse perspectives and cultural contexts. The findings showed the importance of understanding the cultural and contextual elements that shape public opinion on vaccination in different regions.

Recognizing the limitations of this study, particularly its reliance on selected online news articles from American and Indonesian sources and its focus on news reports using Van Dijk's CDA textual analysis, future research directions are proposed. Future studies could expand upon this research by broadening the dataset and comparing data across different years, or by exploring different phenomena, such as anti-vaccine sentiments among specific demographics. Additionally, future research could employ a more comprehensive approach to CDA, integrating text, social cognition, and social context as per Van Dijk's framework, to gain a more varied and potentially insightful analysis. These suggestions are intended to advance research within this field, offering opportunities for deeper exploration and understanding.

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