

## TEXT DIMENSION OF GOVERNMENT'S ATTENDANCE POLEMIC AT CELEBRITY WEDDING: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

**Rahma Cahyaningrum<sup>1</sup>**

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
cahyaningrum12@gmail.com

**Lazuar Azmi Zulferdi<sup>2</sup>**

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
lazuar.zulferdi@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

Polemics about the government's attendance at celebrity weddings during COVID-19 caused various negative responses, particularly in online news. The present research aims at identifying the text dimension representing news about the government's attendance polemic at a celebrity wedding in *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*. The qualitative method is employed to analyze two articles entitled "*The wedding that Sparked a Backlash*" and "*State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi's Celebrity Wedding Attendance*" using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (2010) as the theoretical approach. *Simak* (observation) method is used to collect the data and *padan* (identity) method is used to analyze the data by Sudaryanto (2015). The results showed that *The Jakarta Post* is more neutral in representing the polemic of government presence since it contains views from four parties. Meanwhile, *Tempo.co English* tends to elicit a negative impression of the government as it includes information from a one-sided view. However, both online news represents similar political ideology since it highlights the political purpose of the government's existence at celebrity weddings.

**Keywords:** Critical Discourse Analysis, Text Dimension, Indonesian Online News

### 1. INTRODUCTION

People demand the latest information about what is happening worldwide. One of the platforms that can be used to gain various kinds of the latest news is online media. Abidin and Lokananta (2020) explain that online media is a medium of information and communication

accessed through internet devices. Yunita (2016) further states that the information in online media is highly up-to-date so that the dissemination of information can be absorbed rapidly. There are several types of online media, one of which is a news site.



The term “news” refers to information about a recent incident. According to Van Dijk (2009), the news is a piece of new information about current events, things, or persons presented on radio, TV, or the newspaper. Various topics ranging from politics, economics, lifestyle, celebrities, health, and science are shown in the news to attract the reader’s interest. Based on the report by Pew Research Center (2007), news media reports more on issues related to celebrities with a percentage of about 40 percent. Following Jakpat's (2016) survey results, entertainment and celebrity are ranked first in the order of popular news issues in Indonesia with a percentage of around 47.79 percent. Evolved from the high interest of readers and the news media themselves in celebrity issues motivates the researcher to analyze celebrity news as the object of the research.

Celebrities as public figures attract attention and encourage public consumption (Turner, 2010). They tend to make their daily routines extraordinary. Moreover, the phenomenon which gains so much attention in the middle of the pandemic, Atta Halilintar’s wedding ceremony, raises controversy among netizens. This celebrity wedding did not escape the media’s attention as it was broadcasted on national television channels. The appearance of celebrity weddings in the media has raised various assumptions from the public, especially regarding the presence of several state officials at weddings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, the polemic about the government’s presence at celebrity

weddings cause various negative responses and raised as hot issues in the mass media. The wedding news has spread to online media such as *The Jakarta Post* entitled “The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash”. Another online media that also write information about this celebrity wedding is *Tempo.co English* with the headline “State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi’s Celebrity Wedding Attendance”. Considering the news titles of the two media, there are differences in the word choices. The difference in terms and word choices of the news media raises usually refers to a particular discourse. Discourse in news media can be influenced by the characteristics of the media's owners and practitioners (Muslim, 2013). According to Fairclough (2010, as cited in Darma, 2009), discourse refers to language representing a social practice from a certain point of view. This is why the language in news media leads to an exciting topic to discuss. The use of language in news texts contains values, ideologies, or interests that can occur due to parties participating in news production.

Moreover, *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* are two well-known Indonesian online news selected to get adequate data for this research. According to Merdeka.com (2014), *The Jakarta Post* is an English-language Indonesian newspaper founded on the idea of Minister of Information Ali Moertopo and politician Jusuf Wanandi in 1983. In addition, it contains the latest information in Indonesia related to politics, business, lifestyle, entertainment, health, parents, technology, people, arts, and culture. Through its slogan “Always



*Bold. Always Independent*”, *The Jakarta Post* positions itself as a pro-democracy news media. Meanwhile, *Tempo.co English*, which is under Tempo Media Group, was founded in 1971 on the idea of six journalists, namely Goenawan Mohamad, Harjoko Trisnadi, Fikri Jufri, Lukman Setiawan, Usamah, and Christianto Wibisono (Tempo Media Group, 2016). *Tempo.co* has cultural values, including trustworthiness, independence, and professionalism. Since its inception, *Tempo.co* has strived to be an independent media, eliminating prejudice. As has been said above, the relationship between participants in the news media affects the realization of discourse. Tuchman (as cited in Darma, 2009) reveals that news is not only a representation of events but also includes the values of the media institutions that make them. Therefore, the present study attempts to explore the text dimension of *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* in representing the polemic of the government’s attendance at celebrity weddings through a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective.

Previous researchers have conducted similar studies on online news. Prayudha and Fawwaz (2019) focused on text analysis to examine the ideology and power underlying five news articles on *CNN* regarding the Uyghur issue. The results reveal that *CNN* used standard features and a vague vocabulary to avoid negative stereotypes from readers toward China. Furthermore, the text shows that *CNN* is more biased toward China than Uyghur Muslims of China’s immense strength. In addition, Romiyati (2020) discusses gender bias

in *Detik.com* and *Nova.grid.id* using Fairclough’s three-dimensional model. The study reveals that there were inequalities in representing the identities of men and women in both media, such as using the word “*pelakor*” as a negative attribute for women. Then, men are depicted as active, while women are portrayed as passive and emotional. Furthermore, the representation of men and women produced

by *Detik.com* and *Nova.grid.id* is influenced by the patriarchal culture. Meanwhile, Ismiyati et al. (2021) observe the meaning and ideology of COVID-19 in *Detik.com* news through text analysis, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. The results show that the words “*meminta, mencegah, tidak panik*” represent that social distancing is a new hope that the government is trying to make people live calmly and reduce the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the ideology related to the COVID-19 discourse was an effort to influence the community to implement social distancing to support government programs.

In comparison, several studies above are closely related to present research, namely, discussing the news media. What distinguishes from several previous studies is the issue raised in celebrity news. These studies discuss various specific issues, such as political, racial, and health issue using text analysis dimension, gender bias issue using text analysis and socio-cultural context dimension, as well as examining the issue of COVID-19 using textual dimension, discursive practice, and socio-cultural practice. Furthermore, the analysis of previous studies focusses heavily on vocabulary



and grammatical stages. Meanwhile, the present research sheds lights on how *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* portrays text dimension analysis of government's attendance polemic at celebrity wedding through the three-dimensional model by Norman Fairclough (2010).

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a form of interdisciplinary analysis because it analyzes dialectical relationships between discourse and other objects, elements, or moments, as well as analyzes the internal relations of discourse (Fairclough, 2010). Followed by Tannen, Hamilton, and Schiffrin (2015), CDA is defined as a discourse empirical study that focuses on how social-power violence and injustice are implemented, replicated, legitimized, and opposed in the social and political context. Fairclough (as cited in Eriyanto, 2011) divided critical discourse analysis into three dimensions, namely (1) text, (2) discourse practice, and (3) sociocultural practice. He (as cited in Eriyanto, 2011) analyzed text dimensions through three elements, namely representation, relation, and identity. As for discourse practice dimension deals with two aspects, that is text production and consumption. While sociocultural practice and text relations are mediated by discourse practice on which an ideology accepted by society depends on the production of the text. There are three aspects in sociocultural practice, namely situational, institutional, and social levels (Eriyanto, 2011).

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is included in qualitative research. The primary data in this research are two articles entitled "*The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash*" on *The Jakarta Post* and "*State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi's Celebrity Wedding Attendance*" on *Tempo.co English*. This research approach uses critical discourse analysis based on Norman Fairclough, namely a three-dimensional model. In collecting the data, the researchers apply *simak* (observation method) by Sudaryanto (2015). *Simak* (observation method) is a method that is done by scrutinizing or observing the use of language (Sudaryanto, 2015). The steps of collecting the data can be described as follow:

- 1) Visiting the official news site based in Indonesia and presented in English, namely *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*.
- 2) Selecting the news text on *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* regarding the issue of celebrity weddings.
- 3) Reading the news texts which have been selected to gather the data.
- 4) Classifying the data with different codes adapted from previous studies by Nursagi (2020), the researchers designate code 'A' as data from *The Jakarta Post* and code 'B' as data from *Tempo.co English*.
- 5) Arranging the data, including words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, into the table in order from *The Jakarta Post* data followed by *Tempo.co English* data.

In analyzing data, this research applies *padan* (identity method) by



Sudaryanto. *Padan* (identity method) determines the identity of the determining lingual unit whose determinants are outside the language, apart from the language, and are not part of the language in question (Sudaryanto, 2015). The steps are as follows:

- 1) Reading the data source, which is a news text.
- 2) Arranging the data into representation, relation, and identity to understand *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* display discourse in text dimension.
- 3) Examining the data in text production and consumption under discourse practice to perceive the ideology built by *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*.
- 4) Categorizing the data to situational, institutional, and social levels under sociocultural practice to realize the social context correlated to discourse in *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*.
- 5) Drawing conclusion from data analysis.

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Text

#### 4.1.1 Representation

Fairclough (as cited in Eriyanto, 2011) stated that representation looks at how a person, group, action, and activity are displayed in the text through words, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs. In the news text of *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*, the representation is depicted as follows:

#### a. Representation in *The Jakarta Post*

(Datum 1.A.1)

#### *The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash*

In datum 1.A.1 above, the diction in the news headline is neutral and vague, as evidenced by adding '**backlash**' to the clause. The headline of *The Jakarta Post* did not represent who held the wedding and what reaction the marriage caused. The short word count selection on the title can be seen as a strategy used by *The Jakarta Post* to make readers wonder and attract readers to find out more about the content of the news.

(Datum 1.A.2)

*Wildly **popular YouTube star Atta Halilintar held a lavish, nationally televised wedding party in the middle of the pandemic with his bride-to-be, singer and model Aurelia Hermansyah on April 3.***

The phrase '**Popular YouTube star**' in datum 1.A.2 refers to the person displayed in the text, namely Atta Halilintar. The word '**popular**' serves as an adjective to modify the noun '**YouTube star**', which wants to emphasize the status of the person who is reported. In this data, there is also found the use of ellipsis before the word '**nationally**'. The ellipsis refers to the noun phrase '**a lavish**' which is related to the activities carried by the person in the text, namely the wedding party. The word '**lavish**' represents a person who has high power and is very close to luxurious life as depicted on a wedding broadcast on national television.

(Datum 1.A.3)

*According to Atta, both attended at their invitation to act as witnesses to **their wedding**. "We want **this** happy*



*moment to be witnessed by **great figures** in our country,”* *Atta said at a press conference at the Raffles Hotel, Jakarta, on April 3.*

The noun phrase '**great figures**' in datum 1.A.3 indicates a group of government displayed in the text. The phrase '**great figures**' are used to emphasize the status of President Joko Widodo and Defense Minister Prabowo as the people who have the highest position in the country. The use of demonstrative reference is also found in the word '*this*', which appoints the activity, namely the wedding. At this point, datum 1.A.3 reflects the celebrity's happy feelings in which his marriage was witnessed directly by the government.

*(Datum 1.A.4)*

***Popular writer and singer Fiersa Besari** got the ball rolling when his personal Twitter account seemed to **criticize Jokowi's presence at the wedding**, especially as the pandemic continued to rage and after the government formally **banned the annual Idul Fitri mudik (exodus)**.*

In datum 1.A.4, the subject '**popular writer and singer Fiersa Besari**' shows a person represented in the text. The phrase '**popular writer and singer**' is applied to explain the status of the subject. In addition, it was also found the activity carried out by the subject in the phrase '**to Criticize Jokowi's Presence at the wedding**'. This activity deals with the action taken by the government as a response to the pandemic '**banned the annual Idul Fitri mudik (exodus)**'. The datum above shows to the reader that

the actions of the criticism carried out by Fiersa Besari as the opposition are the result of the disapproval of the activity carried out by the government while attending celebrity marriages in the pandemic period.

#### **b. Representation in *Tempo.co English***

*(Datum 1.B.1)*

*State Secretariat **Blasted** for Posting Jokowi's Celebrity Wedding Attendance*

Based on datum 1.B.1, the diction '**blasted**' refers to activity. This activity shows a negative stigma towards the government. The choice of diction in the title can also be seen as the strategy to attract the reader to *Tempo.co English* news.

*(Datum 1.B.2)*

***Public policy expert Trubus Rahadiansyah** on Monday questioned the reason behind the decision of **the State Secretariat announcing news about President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's attendance in the wedding reception of local celebrity Aurel Hermansyah**, who is popularly known as Atta Halilintar.*

The subject '**public policy expert Trubus Rahadiansyah**' in datum 1.B.2 depicts a person in the text. The phrase **public policy expert** is used to clarifying the status of the subject, namely Trubus Rahadiansyah. On the contrary, the clause '**the State Secretariat announcing news about President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's attendance in the wedding reception of local celebrity**' shows an activity carried out by the state staff. Related to the datum above, it highlights public



confusion about the state secretariat in publicizing the activities of presidents attending celebrities' local weddings for which it is not associated with the state.

*(Datum 1.B.3)*

*He said there was no urgency to report the President's attendance at the private wedding, and that **the State Secretariat** had acted unethically as the wedding was clearly not a public affair.*

In datum 1.B.3 above, the phrase '**the State Secretariat**' depicts a group of government agencies displayed in the text. The datum above emphasizes the public response that does not agree with the post of the President's attendance at celebrity weddings in the state secretariat account for which it relates to the President's activities. The text tells that the duty of the state secretariat serves as a communicator between the President and the public in reporting on the President's activities related to state affairs.

*(Datum 1.B.4)*

*Trubus tried to analyze why **President Jokowi's attendance in the wedding had garnered wide public criticism and believed it was due to alleged political motivations and the influence Atta Halilintar had among the young generation.***

In datum 1.B.4, the clause '**President Jokowi's attendance in the wedding had garnered wide public criticism and believed it was due to alleged political motivations and the influence Atta Halilintar had among the young generation**' displays the action in the text. The datum describes

the statement of the public that the President's participation at celebrity weddings contains an implied purpose of enhancing his political image among young people, considering the majority of Atta's fans are the younger generation. In other words, young people are the objective for political image development since they will be future voters.

#### 4.1.2 Relation

Fairclough (as cited in Eriyanto, 2011) said that relation identifies how participants in the media relate to each other and display in the text. In the media, there are three main participants, including journalists, public participants in the text, and the audience.

##### a. Relation in *The Jakarta Post*

*(Datum 2.A.1)*

*Their guest of honor? **President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, his former rival-turned-Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, and a slew of House of Representatives members.***

In datum 2.A.1, '**President Joko Widodo, Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, and House of Representative members**' are the government agency represented in the text. The relationship between the journalist and the government agency is between the interviewer and the object of the news. *The Jakarta Post's* journalist, Raka Ibrahim, informed the reader that President Joko Widodo, the Defense Minister, and House of Representative members were also present as honorary guests for celebrity weddings during the pandemic. In this case, the reader



relationship is as the recipient of the information.

*(Datum 2.A.2)*

*According to Atta, both attended at their invitation to act as witnesses to their wedding. "We want this happy moment to be witnessed by great figures in our country," Atta said at a press conference at the Raffles Hotel, Jakarta, on April 3.*

In datum 2.A.2, the relationship between the journalist and '**Atta Halilintar**' is interviewer and interviewee. Raka Ibrahim, who is a journalist for *The Jakarta Post*, interprets that Atta Halilintar hosted a lavish wedding reception that was broadcast on television during the COVID-19 outbreak. The journalist simultaneously generates information for the reader while also establishing connections as a provider and receiver of information.

*(Datum 2.A.3)*

*For public health expert Irma Hidayana, Jokowi's excursion to the wedding is "insensitive" at best and ignorant at worst. "We're still in the middle of a public health emergency. There's no urgency in going to the wedding," Hidayana said. "His time would've been better spent visiting hospitals to check their readiness, or doing impromptu inspections at the Health Ministry to ensure that they're ready to distribute the vaccine. There's so many things on his bucket list."*

In datum 2.A.3, the phrase '**public health expert Irma Hidayana**' refers to a health consultant displayed in the

text. Irma Hidayana and the journalist from *The Jakarta Post* have an interviewer-interviewee relationship. As a journalist, Raka Ibrahim engaged Irma's participation in gathering information about the government's strategies for controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus among Indonesian citizens. Related to the datum, the news creates a connection with public welfare to evoke sympathy from readers as information recipients.

*(Datum 2.A.4)*

*"However, Jokowi blurred the lines between his private and public duties when the State Secretariat's social media posted about his visit," Wisnu continued. "If he's there in his capacity as president, which means his visit is an official state visit, how important is his visit there, especially as we're still dealing with the pandemic and natural disasters in Nusa Tenggara? If he's there as a private citizen, why did official state accounts post his visit?"*

The connection between '**Wisnu Prasetya Utomo**' and Raka Ibrahim as *The Jakarta Post*'s journalist is interviewee and interviewer. The Journalist selected Wisnu, who is an academician in the field of media and communications to respond about the President's attendance at celebrity weddings published by the State Secretariat. The reader as an information user can recognize the existence of inequity in the fulfillment of government employees' responsibilities.

*(Datum 2.A.5)*

*"Their presence there worsened Jokowi and Prabowo's public*





*image,” opined **Edbert Gani**, a political scientist at **the Centre for Strategic and International Studies**. “There’s no significant political incentive to be had by being there, especially because Jokowi won’t be able to stand for a third term as president.”*

The *Jakarta Post*’s journalist Raka Ibrahim and ‘**Edbert Gani**’ have an interviewer-interviewee relationship in datum 2.A.5. Edbert Gani, a researcher at a research institute that focuses on political and social issues, is involved by the journalist in the text as a source of knowledge about political purposes emerging from the government’s involvement in celebrity marriages. Readers who serve as information consumers can understand how political objectives impact the government’s participation in celebrity marriages.

#### **b. Relation in *Tempo.co English***

*(Datum 2.B.1)*

*He said there was no urgency to report the President’s attendance at the private wedding, and that **the State Secretariat** had acted unethically as the wedding was clearly not a public affair.*

In datum 2.B.1 above, ‘**the State Secretariat**’ is the government agency displayed in the text. The relationship between the journalist and the government agency is between the interviewer and the object of the news. *Tempo.co English* journalist, Egi Adyatama, conveyed to the reader that the State Secretariat has committed a less wise act in exposing the President’s presence at celebrity weddings, which is not related to state

affairs. In this case, the text referred to negative public perceptions of the government as consumer information.

*(Datum 2.B.2)*

***Trubus Rahadiansyah** said the President’s attendance was not an issue as long as the wedding reception was conducted under strict health protocols overseen by the PPKM social restriction that had been imposed by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19.*

Egi Adyatama as a journalist in *Tempo.co English* and ‘**Trubus Rahadiansyah**’ have an interviewer-interviewee relationship in datum 2.B.2. The journalist includes Trubus Rahadiansyah, a scholar in the disciplines of law and public policy, in the text as a source of knowledge on the action of implementing severe health regulations on marriages attended by the President following the guidelines formerly established by the government. According to the data, readers as receivers of the information can consider that the limitation rule’s implementation applies to all stakeholders, including public figures.

#### **4.1.3 Identity**

Identity examines how journalists’ identities are constructed in the text (Fairclough as cited in Eriyanto, 2011). In other words, identity identifies how journalists place themselves as part of a certain group or independent in the text.

##### **a. Identity in *The Jakarta Post***

*(Datum 3.A.1)*

*Popular writer and singer Fiersa Besari got the ball rolling when his personal*



*Twitter account seemed to criticize Jokowi's presence at the wedding, especially as the pandemic continued to rage and after the government formally banned the annual Idul Fitri mudik (exodus).*

Referring to datum 3.A.1, Raka Ibrahim as the journalist of *The Jakarta Post* places himself as an observer who explains the distance between Fiersa and the Government due to the action of criticism made by Fiersa over the Government's presence in celebrity weddings.

*(Datum 3.A.2)*

*For public health expert Irma Hidayana, Jokowi's excursion to the wedding is "insensitive" at best and ignorant at worst. "We're still in the middle of a public health emergency. There's no urgency in going to the wedding," Hidayana said. "His time would've been better spent visiting hospitals to check their readiness, or doing impromptu inspections at the Health Ministry to ensure that they're ready to distribute the vaccine. There's so many things on his bucket list."*

According to datum 3.A.2, Raka Ibrahim, a journalist for *The Jakarta Post*, positions himself as a part of the health workers that understand the proper strategy for the Government to handle the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

*(Datum 3.A.3)*

*"However, Jokowi blurred the lines between his private and public duties when the State Secretariat's social media posted about his visit," Wisnu*

*continued. "If he's there in his capacity as president, which means his visit is an official state visit, how important is his visit there, especially as we're still dealing with the pandemic and natural disasters in Nusa Tenggara? If he's there as a private citizen, why did official state accounts post his visit?"*

From datum 3.A.3, the journalist for *The Jakarta Post*, Raka Ibrahim, places himself as a part of the media observer who affirmed that the Government's participation in celebrity weddings is a personal activity that should not be published by the State Secretariat.

*(Datum 3.A.4)*

*"Their presence there worsened Jokowi and Prabowo's public image," opined Edbert Gani, a political scientist at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. "There's no significant political incentive to be had by being there, especially because Jokowi won't be able to stand for a third term as president."*

Regarding datum 3.A.4, the journalist of *The Jakarta Post*, Raka Ibrahim, positions himself as a political observer point of view that explains the political objectives behind the government's involvement in celebrity weddings.

#### **b. Identity in *Tempo.co* English**

*(Datum 3.B.1)*

*Public policy expert Trubus Rahadiansyah on Monday questioned the reason behind the decision of the State Secretariat announcing news about President Joko "Jokowi"*



*Widodo's attendance in the wedding reception of local celebrity Aurel Hermansyah, who is popularly known as Atta Halilintar.*

In datum 3.B.1 above, the journalist of *Tempo.co English*, namely Egi Adyatama, places himself as a neutral person who conveys the problems related to the actions of government staff who publish the President's presence at celebrity weddings.

*(Datum 3.B.2)*

*Trubus Rahadiansyah said the President's attendance was not an issue as long as the wedding reception was conducted under strict health protocols overseen by the PPKM social restriction that had been imposed by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19.*

Regarding datum 3.B.2, a journalist of *Tempo.co English*, Egi Adyatama, positions himself in a public policy perspective that explains how the COVID-19 restrictions apply to all parties involved in the activity, including the government and celebrities.

## 4.2 Discourse Practice

### 4.2.1 Text Production

*The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* are online web-based media in Indonesia that aim to provide readers with information using an English language format. In producing news, there was a difference in gathering information and writing style carried by journalists from *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*.

Table 1

### Text Production in The Jakarta Post

Process of Gathering Information	Writing Style
... "We want this happy moment to be witnessed by great figures in our country," <b>Atta</b> said...	Wildly <b>popular YouTube star</b> Atta Halilintar held a lavish, nationally televised wedding party ...
... "We're still in the middle of a public health emergency. There's no urgency in going to the wedding," <b>Hidayana</b> said ...	... "We want this happy moment to be witnessed by <b>great figures</b> in our country," Atta said ...
... "However, Jokowi blurred the lines between his private and public duties when the State Secretariat's social media posted about his visit," <b>Wisnu</b> continued ...	"However, Jokowi <b>blurred</b> the lines between his private and public duties when the State Secretariat's social media posted about his visit," Wisnu continued ...
"Their presence there worsened Jokowi and Prabowo's public image," opined <b>Edbert Gani</b> ...	

In producing news text entitled "*The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash*", *The Jakarta Post* as seen in Table 1 above involves sources from different sides to deliver fair and responsible information. The practice of *The Jakarta Post* places itself in a neutral, balanced, and impartial position in producing news and also reflects its slogan, "*Always Bold. Always Independent*".

Table 2

### Text Production in Tempo.co English



Process of Gathering Information	Writing Style
<i>Public policy expert Trubus Rahadiansyah on Monday questioned the reason behind the decision ...</i>	<i>State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi's Celebrity Wedding Attendance</i>
<i>Trubus Rahadiansyah said the President's attendance was not an issue as long as the wedding reception ...</i>	<i>Trubus Rahadiansyah said the President's attendance was not an issue as long as the wedding reception was conducted under strict health protocols ...</i>
<i>Trubus tried to analyze why President Jokowi's attendance ...</i>	
<i>Public policy expert Trubus Rahadiansyah on Monday questioned the reason behind the decision ...</i>	

As seen in Table 2 above, the gathering information process on the news text entitled “*State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi’s Celebrity Wedding Attendance*” in *Tempo.co English* involves only one party as an information provider in the news where it is considered less balance. However, the process of gathering information and writing above can also be assumed to be a reality of independent character and space for freedom of opinion in line with *Tempo’s* value of culture that is “*Trustworthy, Independent, and Professional*”.

Followed by producing news in the media, there also reveals what

kind of ideology is employed by *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*. Depending on the data analysis, it can be supposed that the ideology used by the two media is a political ideology because the two media highlighted the purpose of branding images of the government’s presence at the celebrity wedding. Celebrities, who have many followers and often attract people’s attention, are used as opportunities for the government to gain political support to strengthen its existence as a public official in Indonesia.

#### 4.2.2 Text Consumption

The process of writing style is established in the production of news text in *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* influences the difference in the reader’s interpretation of the government’s attendance at a celebrity wedding. The news text by *The Jakarta Post* creates a positive emotion in the reader. There is found the word ‘*popular*’ and the phrase ‘*great figures*’ in *The Jakarta Post’s* news text to emphasize the people’s identity, namely Atta as a celebrity and the President who has the highest position in Indonesia. The choice of words is being able to present a positive image for the reader in seeing the objects reported. Furthermore, *The Jakarta Post* choose the word ‘*blurred*’ to describe the deviations from the government’s actions to make it easier for readers to understand because the word is quite familiar in the reader’s everyday language, and it aims to create a neutral impression.

On the contrary, *Tempo.co English* in its news creates negative interpretations from readers. There is



found the word **'blasted'** which can influence the negative image of readers toward the government because it would encourage readers' perception that what the government undertook was a mistake. In addition, the word **'strict'** is also found in the news which aims to attract people's attention to the government's actions. The word **'strict'** indirectly represents the inequality that people have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to various rules issued by the government.

### 4.3 Sociocultural Practice

#### 4.3.1 Situational Level

The attendance of the government at celebrity weddings is triggering polemic that influenced the situation among Indonesian citizens. Based on data from *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*, the wedding of celebrities who invited the government became polemic because the State Secretariat publicized the government's presence in the official account. It is considered to be a misrepresentation of the state secretariat performing duties as part of the government where the President and several state officials attend the marriage does not concern state affairs.

Meanwhile, the government has released the activity restriction rules or those known under the term *PPKM* to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia. During the implementation of this rule, several citizen activities were restricted, such as exodus which had become a tradition before Eid, and significant activities that invited masses were also banned. Regarding celebrity weddings

in the news text of *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*, there is nothing faulty with the government that attended the wedding party if the activity is attended with private activity status, and it is no need to be exposed in the state secretariat account which affects conflicts between the public and government. As a result, this event attracts media attention, including *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English*.

#### 4.3.2 Institutional Level

The writing of celebrity wedding news texts attended by the government on *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* involves different sources of information. *The Jakarta Post* covered four sources which consist of celebrity and public parties. From the celebrity side, this media involves Atta who was the groom at the wedding to give a reason behind the government's presence at the wedding. Meanwhile, from the public side, *The Jakarta Post* includes several experts to provide views regarding the presence of the President and several state officials in celebrity weddings, such as Irma Hidayana from the health field, Wisnu Prasetya Utomo from the media and communication field, and Edbert Gani from the political field. The reality of the selection of information resources affects the news delivered by *The Jakarta Post* to be more balanced and reliable because it sees events happening from various sides or characters. It could also be said that *The Jakarta Post* has a neutral position in delivering news.

A different view from *The Jakarta Post*, *Tempo.co English* only involves sources from public policy experts,



namely Trubus Rahadiansyah. The reality of the resource selection in this media only portrays one character or side. At this point, the main focus of the news in *Tempo.co English* refers to criticism of the government. However, it could be believed that *Tempo.co English* established a public stance to express citizen dissatisfaction amid pressure restrictions on activities during the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

#### 4.3.2 Social Level

The news about celebrity weddings attended by the government indirectly represents political and social values. According to the news text entitled “*The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash*” and “*State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi’s Celebrity Wedding Attendance*”, there is an apparent difference in social class. In this context, the one who holds a wedding is a celebrity and has a significant influence, so the government also attends the activity. Meanwhile, several Indonesian citizens who also held similar events in several regions were disbanded based on the restriction rules issued by the government because they could cause crowds. In addition, the government also utilized this wedding to attract young people’s attention, gain political support, and strengthen their standing in the next election.

However, *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* produced the news of the government’s presence at celebrity weddings is closely related to the existence of the media itself. There is a particular motivation from the news portrayed by the two media. *The Jakarta Post* in producing news

entitled “*The Wedding that Sparked a Backlash*”, tries not to display a dominant partiality toward either party. In this event, *The Jakarta Post* acts as a neutral party by presenting speakers from two sides. As a result, the resulting news brings a positive impression from readers to celebrities, the government, and the public.

On the contrary, the news entitled “*State Secretariat Blasted for Posting Jokowi’s Celebrity Wedding Attendance*” was produced by *Tempo.co English* presents a different image from *The Jakarta Post*. *Tempo.co English* appears to be on the side of the public. This is evidenced by the appearance of speakers from public policy observers solely. Therefore, the resulting news led to readers’ opinions negatively against the government.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Firstly, text dimension in *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* consists of representation, relation, and identity. On the representation level, *The Jakarta Post* mainly contains the public’s opinion from several parties and the suggestion towards the government who is invited to the celebrity wedding. Meanwhile, the representation of *Tempo.co English* highlights the negative opinion from one side towards the government’s attendance at the wedding. At the relation level, *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* contains a similar relationship in the text: interviewer-news object and interviewer-interviewees. The last one is the identity which includes the point of view of the journalist. The



journalist of *The Jakarta Post* places himself as a neutral person or observer, part of health worker, part of media observer, and part of the political observer. Whereas the journalist of *Tempo.co English* put himself as a neutral person and role of public policy.

Secondly, discourse practice focuses on two levels: text production and text consumption. *The Jakarta Post* builds a neutral character in its reporting by engaging two-sided sources, which leads to a positive impression on the readers as news consumers. Meanwhile, the news generated by *Tempo.co English* is unbalanced because it leads to information from one source, which leads to negative interpretations from readers as news consumers. Moreover, it is found that the news of *The Jakarta Post* and *Tempo.co English* represents the same political ideology because it highlights the existence of the government at the celebrity wedding.

Lastly, social practice focuses on the situational, institutional, and social levels. At the situational level, it is found that the news occurred because State Secretariat publicized the government invitation to celebrity weddings during COVID-19 emerging polemic among the public. At the institutional level, *The Jakarta Post*'s reporting involves four parties: celebrities as wedding hosts, health consultants, media observers, and political observers. Meanwhile, *Tempo.co English* includes only one party, that is the public policy expert. At the social level, it can be found that the news in *The Jakarta*

*Post* and *Tempo.co English* relates to political and social values.

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REPUBLIC INDONESIA  
KEMENTERIAN HUKUM DAN HAK ASASI MANUSIA

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Dalam rangka perlindungan ciptaan di bidang ilmu pengetahuan, seni dan sastra berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 28 Tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta, dengan ini menerangkan:

Nomor dan tanggal permohonan : EC00202338207, 25 Mei 2023

## Pencipta

Nama : **Lazuar Azmi Zulferdi S.S., M.Appl.Ling. dan Rahma Cahyaningrum**

Alamat : Perum, Villa Gardenia Kav. D 08 RT 002 RW 000, Bangunjiwo, Bantul, DI Yogyakarta, 55184

Kewarganegaraan : Indonesia

## Pemegang Hak Cipta

Nama : **UNIVERSITAS AHMAD DAHLAN**

Alamat : Jl. Pramuka 5F, Pandeyan, Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta, 55161

Kewarganegaraan : Indonesia

Jenis Ciptaan : **Karya Tulis (Skripsi)**

Judul Ciptaan : **Text Dimension Of Government's Attendance Polemic At Celebrity Wedding In Indonesia Online News: A Critical Discourse Analysis**

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NIP. 196412081991031002

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