

Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com Editorial Policies in Middle East Conflict Reporting

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Abstract

Online media has been widely used as a media for jihad by Islamic activists around the world, including in Indonesia. These media include Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com. The two media reported on the conflict that occurred in the Middle East. In this study, researchers used the theory of message content hierarchy in the Shoemaker & Reese mass media. Based on the explanation above, this study aims to find out how the theory of influence hierarchy is applied in determining the production of news about the Middle East conflict in the online media Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com. Researchers use the post-positivism paradigm as a research approach. The research method used in this study is descriptive analysis. The data collection method in this study was interviews with the editors of Liputanislam.com, news writers of Liputanislam.com, and editors of Hidayatullah.com. The results of the study show that there are similarities and differences in the editorial policies of Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com in reporting on Middle East conflicts. The similarities lie at the individual and ideological levels. At the individual level, both news writers for Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com have foreign language skills, namely English and Arabic. At the ideological level, the editors of Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com believe that the mainstream media in Indonesia needs to be more balanced and make many mistakes in publishing news about the Middle East conflict. Meanwhile, the difference is at the organizational and extramedia levels. At the organizational level, Liputanislam.com media workers are given more freedom in choosing news sources than Hidayatullah.com media workers. For the extramedia level, Hidayatullah.com editors tend to choose news sources from authoritative media or official news sites and news agencies owned by Middle Eastern countries. On the other hand, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com refers to media they think share the same ideology and ideals.

Keywords: Middle East, Conflicts, Ideology, Shoemaker & Reese, Online Media.

A. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of the internet, there is a new form of mass media. One of them is online media, which is a breakthrough in journalism. Various online media or news sites exist in multiple formats, such as blogs and online periodicals. Many also offer news and commentary and links related to or supporting informational websites.

Online media, specifically online news media, has advantages that other media do not have. According to Moustafa (2013), these advantages include online news media offering high-speed access to information worldwide. The forms of communication obtained are also varied, such as reports in audio and video, interactive maps, animated graphics, and others. This diversity of forms of information often causes a surge in the number of visitors to online news sites.

Added by Moustafa (2013), the advantage of other online media is that online media has more freedom in news writing when compared to conventional media, which have restrictions set by the government or authorities. In addition, online media can also accommodate marginalised voices by offering alternative perspectives, contexts, and ideological diversity to their readers (Allan, 2004). Each online media has different characteristics in writing news. One of the prominent differences is each online media's point of view and objectivity. One of the objectivity is influenced by the ownership of online media (Apsari, 2018).

Online media has been widely used for jihad by Islamic activists worldwide, including in Indonesia. There is a term called the *intifada*, a whole-souled struggle for the cause of Islam by Islamic activists in several Islamic countries from Western oppression and colonialism. In the world of online media, there are also similar activities, namely jihad efforts by disseminating information and the spirit of Islam. According to Bunt (2003:91-93), this phenomenon in online media is called *interfada*. Some groups also seem to take advantage of this situation to propagate their religious and political agendas in different ways (Ahmad, 2013).

The *interfada* phenomenon also occurs in Islamic online media in Indonesia. These media include Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com. Based on interviews that the author has conducted with the editor-in-chief of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com, the two media consider that the conflict that occurred in Palestine should be discussed because they have the assumption that the centre of the Islamic resistance movement against Western oppression and the colonial state is in Palestine. In addition to reporting on the conflict in Palestine, the two media also reported on the war in the Middle East.

Although the two media both report on the Middle East conflict, there are differences in reporting it. The difference between them lies in the process of writing news. Based on the interviews with the researcher, the news sources chosen by the editors of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com in reporting on the Middle East conflict are quite different. This difference is caused by differences in editorial policies in the two online media. One of the reasons for the difference in editorial guidelines between one media and another is the ideological difference that each press has, which causes the reality presented by each media to be different (Safwedha & Suprihatini, 2019).

In this study, the researcher uses the Hierarchy of Influences, which describes the relationship between various factors and the mass media agenda. Shoemaker and Reese (1996) draw a picture of the relationship as a multi-layered circle. The outer circles affect the innermost circle (layer) or core. The outermost circle is referred to as the extramedia level. These are external news sources (news sources from outside) and several individuals who influence the content of the mass media. Shoemaker and Reese mention five levels of factors that influence the content of mass media messages.

This theory illustrates that media content conveyed to the public does not come from a "vacuum" that is neutral and interest-free but from an internal policy of media organisations and is also influenced by the external media itself (Krisdinanto, 2017).

Internal influences on media content are influenced by the interests of media owners, news writers, and the routines of media organisations. Meanwhile, external media factors are influenced by advertisers, government, society, and others. Therefore, media content results from pressure from inside and outside the media organisation.

The five levels in the Hierarchy of Influences by Shoemaker and Reese are as follows:

1. Individual levels, namely media workers such as journalists, reporters, and others, have essential roles in determining media content. They are the ones who are directly involved in finding news and witnessing firsthand a reality that will be reported.
2. Media Routine Level, namely daily activities in media institutions, involving the media management process, especially media production. Media workers in reporting their findings are usually subject to media routine. What is meant by media routine is a media practice where journalists' decisions and perceptions about events are influenced by how media professionals organise their work systems in their companies.
3. Organization level, in addition to media routines, media organisations are also involved in reconstructing news or events. At this level, the organisation as a structural device for the media industry will also determine the process of rebuilding the events that occur and is usually adjusted to the ideology, vision, and mission of the media concerned.
4. Extra Media Level, variables at the extra media-level question the sources of information, advertisers, target audiences, government control, or the media market.
5. Ideology level, questioning the various belief systems, values, and meanings used by the mass media to determine the content to be displayed

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to find out how to apply the theory of the Hierarchy of Influences in determining news production regarding the Middle East conflict in the online media Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com.

B. METHOD

The researcher uses the post-positivism paradigm as the research approach. The Post-positivism paradigm is a research paradigm that focuses on research subjectivity. This makes the post-positivism paradigm more directed to qualitative research methods. This type of qualitative research aims to provide an in-depth explanation of a phenomenon by collecting in-depth data (Kriyantono, 2014). The researcher uses qualitative research to explain in detail and depth the editorial policies of the online media Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com.

The research method used in this research is descriptive analysis. This method produces descriptive data in the form of words and images. A descriptive study is carried out by analysing the results of interviews, which aim to describe, explain, and explore the data that has been obtained, then adjust to the formulation of the research problem (Cahyani & Rachmaria, 2018). This study describes or provides an overview

of how the managing editors of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com make policies to determine the news about the Middle East conflict that deserves to be published in their respective media.

This study's data collection methods were divided into two, namely, primary and secondary data. The preliminary data in this study were obtained from interviews with the editor of Liputanislam.com, the news writer of Liputanislam.com, and the editor of Hidayatullah.com. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from reading sources, the internet, and literature studies to strengthen primary data.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the theory of the Hierarchy of Influences in the mass media proposed by Shoemaker and Reese, five levels influence the content of media messages on online media Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com, are individual level, media routine level, organisation level, extra media level, and ideology level.

Liputanislam.com Editorial Policy

At the individual level, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com has ten news writers who also double as news translators. News writers at Liputanislam.com also perform translations during the news writing process. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, seven news writers can speak foreign languages. News writers need to have foreign language skills because most of the news media sources used by Liputanislam.com editors are foreign media. In addition, news writers at Liputanislam.com are also required to have good writing skills in journalism.

Based on Krisdinanto (2017), media routines are formed by three elements, namely news sources (suppliers), media organisations (processors), and audiences (consumers). News sources are sources obtained by the media to produce news. Media organisations (processors) or editors are tasked with packaging the information. At the same time, the audience (consumers) are consumers or newsreaders. At the level of media routines, the daily activities of the Liputanislam.com editorial staff in the news production process include conducting intense communication through Whatsapp media in the early days of Liputanislam.com. The editor of Liputanislam.com will always remind news writers to report topics or issues that have not been reported. At that time, the editor of Liputanislam.com did a lot of assignments for news writers. After about a year, news writers are getting used to the pattern of news production, and editors are no longer doing chores, so news writers are becoming more independent in determining what stories to publish. In addition, Liputanislam.com editors also hold meetings with other online media via Zoom or Google Meet.

However, Liputanislam.com media workers still coordinate through Whatsapp groups to publish news. Often from the results of discussions in Whatsapp groups, several information is issued by the Liputanislam.com editor. Sometimes also, when they are not sure about the news to be published, the news writers and editors will discuss in the Whatsapp group whether the information is newsworthy or not,

especially if the word is inappropriate or corners the ideology of the Liputanislam.com media. Another thing that the news writers of Liputanislam.com need to pay attention to is that the source of the news must be obvious and will not change. This is because the information from the start, especially from online media sources, can vary due to a crisis.

According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, in terms of media organisation, news writers who have recently joined Liputanislam.com will be monitored for their performance by the leader. In this phase, the leader will determine what news the news writer should write. After passing a certain period and news writers are getting familiar with the style and pattern of reporting on Liputanislam.com, news writers will be given the freedom to determine the news topic they will write about. This is in line with the statement of Mr Dani, one of the news writers at Liputanislam.com. According to Mr Dani, in the early years he worked at Liputanislam.com, the theme of the news was still determined by the editor. However, the author will be given more freedom in choosing the news article in the following year, but the theme's choice must be accounted for at the editorial meeting.

As for news sources, which are one of the components that influence the extramedia level, the editors of Liputanislam.com refer to media that, according to them, have the same ideology and idealism. These ideologies and ideals are resistance; to be more precise, they resist mainstream media. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, mainstream media are the mouthpiece of Western interests, especially in the United States. The editor of Liputanislam.com added that the editor of Liputanislam.com also fought against the imperial media, namely media interested in affirming the interests of the West, Zionists, and America. For Liputanislam.com workers, the media empire has supported radical Islamic groups, especially those in Syria. The imperial media reported developments in the activities of the rebels in Syria, such as the White Helmets. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, the White Helmets are a rebel group, contrary to the Western media who report the White Helmets as humanitarian activists.

On the other hand, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com also reports on rebel groups, but with a different point of view from the mainstream media. This is done to fight the rebellion and the spread of radical Islam. One of the things that the editors of Liputanislam.com have done is to trace and investigate the flow of funds from ten fundraising institutions on behalf of humanity in Indonesia, one of which is the Indonesian Humanitarian Relief (IHR), led by Ustaz Bachtiar Nasir. The editor of Liputanislam.com believes that terrorists received the funds collected by IHR in Syria.

In the news production process that uses sources from foreign-language media, the editor of Liputanislam.com uses the twisting technique, which combines several news sources to write one news article. To publish a new story, the editors of Liputanislam.com often connect Arabic, Persian, or English news sources. The editor of Liputanislam.com said that the editor of Liputanislam.com has approximately 100 news media that they can use as references. The news writers at Liputanislam.com can speak foreign languages, namely English, Arabic, and Persian. Therefore, the editors

of Liputanislam.com have many choices and alternative news sources that they can use. From the 100 news media, selections will be made, which news media are similar to the vision, mission, and ideology of Liputanislam.com, until finally, they will be used in the news production process.

The editor of Liputanislam.com gives examples of several media usually used as references, namely Al-Manar and Al Mayadeen from Lebanon, al-Masirah from Yemen, Al-Quds al-Arabi, Arabic-language press based in London, and Press TV, Al-Alam, IRNA, ISNA, and IRIB from Iran. In addition, based on Mr Dani's statement, in the Middle East, there is an axis called the axis of resistance, which is an alliance formed by Iran, consisting of Hezbollah Lebanon, Hamas Palestine, Palestine Islamic Jihad, The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, pro-government groups that support Bashar al-Assad in Syria, Yemen's Houthis, and various militia groups in Iraq. These groups manage a media called Al-I'lam Al-Harbi, or media of war. The editors of Liputanislam.com also use this media as a source of news. The citations from the sources above do not make the Liputanislam.com editorial completely ignore sources from the mainstream media. The editors of Liputanislam.com also use Al-Jazeera, one of the mainstream media in the Middle East, and Al-Arabia from Saudi Arabia as news sources. Even the editors of Liputanislam.com also read Israeli media such as The Jerusalem Post. Their purpose in reading the media is to include statements from Israeli officials in their news texts for later criticism. More specifically, for news about conflicts, military controversies, and geopolitical controversies, the editor of Liputanislam.com uses sources from the media mentioned above. As for neutral information, such as religious issues, use the Egyptian media office and the website of University al-Azhar as a reference.

The editors of Liputanislam.com only quote from news media sources that align with the vision and mission of Liputanislam.com, namely news media that tend to fight or oppose global imperialism. The editor of Liputanislam.com views that the US government is the centre of the imperialist project. Therefore, in various reports published, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com consistently corners the US government.

On the other hand, Krisdinanto (2017) states that news sources do not significantly impact media content, but the media's dependence on news affects news coverage more or less. This statement does not comply with the editorial policy of Liputanislam.com. For the editors of Liputanislam.com, news sources greatly influence the news articles they produce; even the selection of news sources is related to the ideological level of Liputanislam.com.

Based on the interview conducted by the researcher with Mr Dani, the editor of Liputanislam.com, he also has a strategy to balance the mainstream media. The editor of Liputanislam.com carries out the balance by quoting statements from officials reported by mainstream media such as AFP, DPA from Germany, and Reuters. After that, the editors of Liputanislam.com will look for other sources from the media that they usually use as references or according to their ideology. Liputanislam.com's reference media will usually comment on and respond to official

statements quoted by the mainstream media. The editor of Liputanislam.com quotes these comments and responses.

News sources have a significant effect on media content because journalists cannot include in their news what they don't know (Krisdinanto, 2017). News writers can get it from news sources who have unique and different perspectives on what is happening. This is by Liputanislam.com's editorial policy, which only sources news from media that share the same ideology as Liputanislam.com. Krisdinanto (2017) added that news sources could shape media content.

In addition, news sources can also create bias in the news text. The tendency carried out by the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com is in the form of choosing news sources from the Iranian media. The reason is that Iranian media share the same ideology as Liputanislam.com. The ideology in question is the resistance to empire. What is meant by empire is the United States and its allies. The editors of Liputanislam.com believe that the mainstream media are more likely to position themselves as mouthpieces from the West based on the evidence they know.

This, of course, creates a bias because the Iranian media also have their interests in defending the ideology they think is right. There are other media besides Iranian media which also have a resistance ideology. The editor of Liputanislam.com had mentioned that they also used several media from Iraq and Lebanon as news sources. However, these media turned out to have the same ideology as the Iranian media they used as a reference. This bias increases when the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com tends to criticise when citing news from mainstream media. Based on Mr Dani's statement, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com also uses RT and Xinhua, which are Russian and Chinese news agencies, as news sources. According to Mr Dani, these media are more neutral than Western or mainstream media. However, Liputanislam.com editors are more inclined to take references from the Iranian media or media with alliances with the Iranian government. This shows that the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com is indeed biased in reporting.

According to Shoemaker & Reese (1996), news sources strongly influence shaping messages. News sources significantly influence media content because journalists can find various news sources. The bias is created because Liputanislam.com tends to only quote from sources in line with their ideology, so the news published on Liputanislam.com tends to have solid ideological content and apparent bias. Another form of discrimination is that the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com consistently portrays the US government in a negative light. Liputanislam.com news workers already believe that the US is a country that likes to oppress other countries.

According to Sudibyo in Soegiarto (2013), it is difficult to expect a media or journalist to be utterly neutral in reporting an issue. This is because ideology is inherent in every individual, including individual media workers. Therefore, although one of the missions of Liputanislam.com is to provide balanced coverage, in reality, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com is still very biased.

Boczkowski (2005) argues that readers significantly affect news published online because of the increased interaction between readers and media workers. The media depend on the audience, so the media pays excellent attention to the audience when producing and selecting the news. This is in line with the editorial policy of the Liputanislam.com editor. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, when a reader contacts Liputanislam.com and criticises the published news, the editor will check and instruct the news writer to revise the information. As for the target audience of the Liputanislam.com media, the editor of Liputanislam.com stated that their target readers are moderate Muslims, have a love for the Republic of Indonesia, and share the same ideology as the editors of Liputanislam.com.

Weaver et al. (2006) found that online journalists pay much more attention to their audience than their fellow media journalists. On the other hand, based on interviews conducted with the editors of Liputanislam.com, Liputanislam.com has a particular rubric called Tabayyun, a rubric containing a collection of articles that consist of objections addressed to the media or groups with different ideologies from Liputanislam.com. Even Liputanislam.com has also had polemics with media such as Amar Ma'ruf Nahi Munkar and Arrahmah. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, these media have criticised the coverage of Liputanislam.com, so the editor of Liputanislam.com needs to give a rebuttal. It can be concluded that Liputanislam.com still pays great attention to other online media and considers them in news production.

The editorial staff of Liputanislam.com does have a principle of balancing the media with ideological opposites to Liputanislam.com. The editor of Liputanislam.com calls the press with the opposite ideology as radical media. The Liputanislam.com editors offset the radical media, not resist them. The Liputanislam.com editorial team does not have enough resources to fight back. The editors of Liputanislam.com admit that they lack a media crew or news writers and funding capabilities. Meanwhile, the radical media have a more significant funding source than the Liputanislam.com media. However, amid these limitations, the editors of Liputanislam.com are still trying to balance so that the published reports, especially the news about the Middle East conflict published by radical media, do not become the only narrative that appears in public.

The fifth level is the ideological level. For the editor of Liputanislam.com, news writers who are members of the editorial of Liputanislam.com must have the same ideology as Liputanislam.com; in this case, it means the ideology of resisting radicalism. News media's ideology becomes the primary reference in the news writing process. Media ideology is the values used as a reference by the media since the media was founded. Journalism activities carried out, including producing news texts, must be by the ideology of the press (Rusadi, 2015). Ideology is the main thing that affects all aspects of the news writing process.

The editor of Liputanislam.com believes that mainstream media has a narrative with a particular perspective and the editor of Liputanislam.com wants to criticise it. This perspective began to appear during the Syrian conflict. For the editor of

Liputanislam.com, media such as CNN, BBC, and other mainstream media have made efforts to lead or create wrong and erroneous public opinion. Liputanislam.com criticises the mainstream media by continuing to read and refer to news originating from mainstream media such as CNN, IDC, AFP, and others, but read it from a critical point of view and make comparisons with other media that Liputanislam.com referenced. Based on interviews conducted with the editor of Liputanislam.com, the mainstream media are media that defend the interests of Western countries. The editor of Liputanislam.com added that about the Syrian conflict, the mainstream media have also become the mouthpiece of the interests of radical Islamic groups.

According to Van Dijk (2009), the social ideology believed by the media influences the news writing process. This social ideology includes norms and news values of the media. This means that Liputanislam.com and the mainstream press have different news values. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, the mainstream media tends to defend the rebels' interests in Syria. The editor gives an example that the mainstream media reports a lot about the latest activities of the Syrian rebels. Liputanislam.com criticises these reports because the ideology of the Syrian rebels is not the ideology and norms adopted by Liputanislam.com. Liputanislam.com wants to show that its ideology and models are correct, and it is proven by criticising the news in the media with an ideology that is different from theirs.

One of the Middle East conflict topics that had become the focus of the Liputanislam.com editorial news was the ISIS rebellion. This has something to do with one of the goals of the establishment of Liputanislam.com, namely to provide support for the struggle of Palestine and other oppressed Muslim nations. In the view of the editors of Liputanislam.com, one of the oppressed Middle Eastern countries is Syria, and the oppressor is ISIS. On the other hand, Syria is the only Arab country with an apparent feud with Israel. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, Syria is being weakened. One of the reasons for establishing terrorist groups like ISIS is attacking or destroying the Syrian government, the only Arab country at war with Israel. According to the editor of Liputanislam.com, one form of Syria's alignment with Palestine was that Syria was the largest Palestinian refugee shelter before the crisis occurred. In addition, Hamas' political bureau has offices in Syria. Statements about the Palestinian people's struggle against Israel are often delivered from Syria.

The editor of Liputanislam.com argues that one of the reasons for establishing terrorist groups that carry out an uprising against the Syrian government is to destroy the only Arab country at war with Israel. In addition, according to the editor of Liputanislam.com, Israel provides support for the continuation of ISIS by providing donations, medical treatment to Syrian rebels in Israeli hospitals, and even being visited by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. According to one of the news writers at Liputanislam.com, America and other Israeli allies have secretly made radical movements, backing terrorism movements.

The editor of Liputanislam.com adds that if ISIS is allowed to exist, the Assad government will fall, and Israel will further expand its power. For the editors of

Liputanislam.com, what President Assad has done is in line with the vision and mission of Liputanislam.com. Therefore, the editor of Liputanislam.com needs to make reports that support President Assad and corner Israel. Liputanislam.com editorial wants to show that the government of Bashar al-Assad deserves to be supported and reported positively. This is different from the Western media, which reports Bashar al-Assad as a figure who massacred Syrian civilians. For the editors of Liputanislam.com, the issue of ISIS and Syria is closely related to Palestine, so they need to publish news about these issues regularly.

Hidayatullah.com editorial policy

At the media routine level, news that has been written by reporters based on data obtained in the field will be submitted to the editor for processing, editing, and cross-checking before the news is finally published. Meanwhile, at the organisational level, according to Van Dijk in Eriyanto (2001: 272), the editor of Hidayatullah.com is considered to have power in the form of knowledge and persuasion or control by influencing beliefs, attitudes, and knowledge. In addition, with this power, the editors of Hidayatullah.com can have access to the authorities in the Middle East. Another form of power possessed by the Hidayatullah.com editor is the ability to speak foreign languages. Foreign language ability is a form of knowledge. This is by Van Dijk's (2001:272) statement that power is based on ownership of valuable resources, such as money, status, and knowledge.

In choosing news sources, Hidayatullah.com media workers are not given freedom. The editor of Hidayatullah.com offers limitations. Hidayatullah.com editors will provide news sources from Middle Eastern media that are accurate according to them. However, if the news writer has other news sources, the writer can use them if the news is collected first. According to the editor of Hidayatullah.com, if news writers are genuinely free to use news sources from anywhere, then the information they produce will be of poor quality and inaccurate.

At the extramedia level, Hidayatullah.com editors have several policies regarding selecting news sources. Based on an interview with the editor of Hidayatullah.com, the news sources chosen by Hidayatullah.com are traditional media. Examples of traditional media include Saudi Arabia's official news agency, SPA, Turkey's official news agency Anadolu Agency, and newspapers such as Arabnews, Saudigazette, Okaz, and Daily Sabah. It shows that the editors of Hidayatullah.com tend to choose news sources from major or official news sites and news agencies owned by Middle Eastern countries. Hidayatullah.com editors avoid taking sources from personal sites or blogs because, according to the editors of Hidayatullah.com, taking sources from personal blogs can create news that tends to lead to hoaxes and cause disputes.

On the other hand, some studies state that a country's official news agency can also be biased. It is because each state government has particular political interests to defend, in line with Adegbola, et al. (2020), who stated that official news agencies belonging to the government treat reporting as an instrument to project the power of

their nation and support countries that have good diplomatic relations with their country. Based on research conducted by Watanabe (2017), official news media belonging to governments of non-Western countries tend to disguise opinions as facts in their reports.

Even based on Adegbola, et.al (2020), global news agencies such as AP, AFP, Reuters, Xinhua, and TASS, are also inseparable from the various interests of their country of origin. These news agencies are required to produce objective, accurate, and neutral reports, but in practice, these media are heavily influenced by media ownership and various external factors. Xinhua and TASS, for example, the political ideology of the regime is a reference for which foreign events can be reported and how the news is structured (Adegbola, et.al, 2020). In addition, the AFP received subsidies from the French government. It, of course, can affect the objectivity of the AFP in reporting. The AP and Reuters' reporting is heavily influenced by the democratic system of their home countries, namely the US and the UK. Therefore, citing news sources carried out by Hidayatullah.com, namely quoting from official media belonging to the governments of Middle Eastern countries, cannot be separated from the ideological content or interests of the country of origin of these media. In the end, news articles published on Hidayatullah.com are biased.

At the ideological level, the editors of Hidayatullah.com think that the mainstream media in Indonesia must be more balanced and make many mistakes in publishing reports about the Middle East conflict. The editors of Hidayatullah.com think that 90% of the media in Indonesia use sources from American, British, and European news media for reporting on the Middle East. The editor of Hidayatullah.com added that in every report about the Middle East conflict written by Western media, there is dishonesty in viewing every issue of Islam.

Many studies state that Western media tends to create Islamophobia in its reading audience. In addition, these Western media are often used as a reference for the mainstream media in Indonesia. Rachman (2018) states that the Western media often depicts Islam using their references and generally creates hegemony. The perspectives usually highlighted by the Western media regarding the Islamic world are Islam and violence, Islam and peace, and Islam and weakness.

Ideology is built by the dominant group to produce and legitimize their domination. According to Darsono (2016), one of the main strategies for ideological domination is creating public awareness about this ideology. However, the domination of this ideology is taken for granted. Such an approach is a medium for the dominant group. This approach is taken to communicate to the public their power and domination so that their ideology will appear legitimate and correct.

The domination of this ideology is also carried out by the editorial staff of Hidayatullah.com. Through their knowledge of the Middle East conflict, access to parties living in the Middle East, and their ability to speak foreign languages such as Arabic and English, they can spread the domination of the ideology they think is right to the masses. Even the editor of Hidayatullah.com stated that his party had access to clerics living in the Middle East and could do live coverage in Gaza. This shows that

the editors of Hidayatullah.com do have access and power to influence the ideology they consider to be true.

Indonesian Online Islamic Media and Views of Western Media

Based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers with Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com media workers, the two media workers needed to describe which Islamic sect they believed in clearly. They do not explain whether the two media are affiliated with Wahhabism or Shia. However, in interviews conducted by researchers, the two media workers explained their views on the Wahhabi sect.

Based on the results of the interviews, the editors of Hidayatullah.com did not vilify or negatively assess Wahhabism but also did not defend Wahhabism, so they tended to be neutral in addressing Wahhabism. On the other hand, the editors of Hidayatullah.com also try to make news that does not discredit Wahhabism so that readers do not hate Wahhabism too much. Meanwhile, Liputanislam.com employees tend to view Wahhabism negatively. Liputanislam.com workers describe Wahhabi teachings as a radical, intolerant movement and are the forerunners of the ISIS organization, which seeks to destroy several places sacred to Shia people. Another conclusion that can be drawn is that the more opposite a phenomenon, event, or figure is to the Islamic ideology of Islamic online media in Indonesia, the louder and more negative the media will report it.

On the other hand, Muslims are often portrayed negatively and detrimentally in Western media. This is consistent with Van Dijk's ideological square theory (1998), which states that positive perceptions about oneself and negative perceptions about others can lead to polarization in ideology and binary opposition between different groups (in the context of this study, Islamic online media workers in Indonesia with Western media). The Western media will indeed try to represent "us" or the governments of Western countries as positive or beneficial parties and "them" (Islam and Muslims) as negative or unfavorable parties through the application of the square ideology. This view is repeated repeatedly so that the public will think that what the Western media reports about Islam is true.

The explanation of the ideological square theory above is consistent with the results of interviews with Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com media workers. The editor of Hidayatullah.com considers that the Western media make many mistakes in reporting on the Middle East conflict. Besides that, the editor of Liputanislam.com has a similar opinion. According to him, the Western media or the mainstream media are mouthpieces for the interests of Western governments and even radical Islamic groups. It can be seen that the Liputanislam.com editor has a more negative view of Western media when compared to the Hidayatullah.com editor. Suppose it is related to the opinions of the editors of Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com regarding the Wahhabi sect. In that case, it can be concluded that the more negatively an Islamic online news media in Indonesia views the Wahhabi sect, the more negative its evaluation of Western media will be.

The editorial viewpoints of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com regarding Western media are recorded in the memories of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com media workers, thus influencing the mentality they use when constructing news about the Middle East conflict. The mental schema of news writers regarding Western media determines how the editors of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com choose the news sources to use, what topics are appropriate to report on, and how often these topics are reported.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, the reporting on the Middle East conflict published by the online media Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com is based on editorial policy determinants, namely individuals, media routines, organizations, extra-media, and ideology. The results of the study show that there are similarities and differences in the editorial policies of Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com in reporting on Middle East conflicts. The first equation is at the individual level. Both news writers, Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com, both have foreign language skills, namely English and Arabic. This foreign language ability is used to translate news texts from foreign media, which they use as news sources. The next similarity is the ideology adopted by the two media. The editors of Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com believe that the mainstream media in Indonesia need to be more balanced and make many mistakes in publishing reports about the Middle East conflict. Both media think that most media in Indonesia use sources from American, British, and European news media for reporting on the Middle East.

On the other hand, there are several editorial policy differences between Liputanislam.com and Hidayatullah.com media. The first difference lies in the organizational level. In choosing news sources, Hidayatullah.com media workers are not given freedom. The editor of Hidayatullah.com gives limitations. Hidayatullah.com editors will provide news sources from Middle Eastern media that they think are accurate. As for Liputanislam.com media workers, news writers will be free to determine the topics and sources of news they will write about. The second difference is at the extramedia level. Hidayatullah.com editors tend to choose news sources from authoritative media or official news sites and news agencies from Middle Eastern countries. Meanwhile, the editorial staff of Liputanislam.com refers to media that they think share the same ideology and ideals. This ideology and idealism are resistance, more precisely, resistance to the mainstream media. The selection of news sources for Liputanislam.com is different from Hidayatullah.com because the editors of Liputanislam.com will not take sources from authoritative media if these media do not have the same ideology as Liputanislam.com. Even though the editors of Hidayatullah.com and Liputanislam.com both believe that Western media has published a lot of erroneous reports, especially regarding the Middle East conflict, the editors of Liputanislam.com have a more negative view of Western media when compared to the editors of Hidayatullah.com. According to the editor of

Liputanislam.com, the Western media or mainstream media is the mouthpiece for the interests of Western governments and even radical Islamic groups.

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