

The Ballad of Journalists in Shariah Land: The Experience of A Journalist Working in Aceh in Implementation of Journalistic Code Ethics after the Implementation of Islamic Shariah

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Abstract: *The following article explores the daily experience of journalists who worked in Aceh in applying the code of journalistic ethics after the implementation of Islamic Shariah. The main argument put forward is that even though Aceh has applied the Shariah law in a kaffah manner, the journalistic activities in the area have not yet shown a process of covering, processing and disseminating events with the content of Islamic values and upholding good journalistic ethics. To prove the argument, the researcher traced the daily experience of 15 journalists who served in Aceh, Indonesia. The data were collected during the second and third semesters of 2017, through semi-structured interviews, daily journalist observations, and tracking of news reports by informant journalists. This research concludes that the journalists who worked in Aceh cannot implement all the principles of the code of journalistic ethics and the Islamic law in the work of gathering facts and writing news because of the welfare factors that are still lacking, the demands of a very high company, meanwhile the journalists in general have the limited knowledge and skills.*

Keywords: *journalist; Islamic shariah, code of ethics journalist, Aceh*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Journalistic Ethics is an issue that is always discussed either by press practitioners or academics from Rosihan Anwar (1996), Ashadi Siregar (2006), Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel (2001), Zulkarimein Nasution (2015), and Alex Sobur (2001). Some names are intellectuals and press practitioners who spend a lot of time to pursue this theme. The practitioners' and academic papers except Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel are more at the level of ethical discussion and practice, not based on field studies and field experience, while Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel are summarizing their experience and some of the media practitioners in the United States they summarized so that it produces nine main things that must be held by journalists in doing their work in the field. The following research will enrich the perspectives of Bill and Tom, with the experience of journalists working in Aceh, a region that runs Islamic law and is recovering from long armed conflicts and tsunami disaster. The main argument put forward in this research is that although Aceh has now implemented the Islamic Shariah in *kaffah*, but the existing media landscape in Aceh is far from the Shariah of Islam, this fact is very ironic because the journalists write news that does not seem to educate and enlighten the reader it apparently bears the predicate of a Muslim. Their behavior is not to approach behavior according to the demands of Quranic attitudes, to meet the standard of elementary (general and basic) journalistic eligibility such as objectivity, neutrality, completeness, balance, fairness, impartiality, and accuracy much violated by journalists. That is, universally too, they violate conventional journalistic principles and professional integrity that absolutely must be met. To substantiate the proposed argument, the researcher will first explain the method used in the study. Furthermore, Journalistic sketches of journalists and ethics will be presented and discuss the experiences of journalists working in Aceh. The following two main themes are: [1] Becoming a Journalist In Aceh [2] Being aware of Islamic Shariah, The writing ends with a cover that contains relevant conclusions and recommendations with research findings.

This theme will be laid out in the discourse of psychoanalytic thought introduced by Sigmund Freud in particular with regard to the process of self-defense mechanisms of the ego which is known as sublimation: a condition where impulses or actions are not justified by the superego (with some considerations one of which is unacceptable in the society in which he is located) but still by that person by modifying the action in a form that

is more suited to the demands and rules of society so that he feels comfortable doing such a bad thing even when that he is in the midst of his society. The thoughts of Psychoanalysis will be enriched with Hierarchy Theory of Influence of Media Content, The theory was introduced by Pamela J Shoemaker and Stephen D. Reese. They explain the influence of the content of media coverage by internal and external influences.

Pamela J Shoemaker and Stephen D. share some level of influence that will lead to the content of the media to be published. The influence of media individual level, the influence of media routines level, the influence of media organizational level, the influence of outside media level, and the last is the influence of ideology level.

This research is based on the assumption that the media has the idealism to present to the right and responsible information audience, thus the existence of mass media will not only become a means of entertainment but the most important being the educational tool so that the audience will have critical attitude, independence and depth of thinking. Because the right information will enlighten life, it helps clarify considerations for being able to make the right decisions. Correct information avoids misunderstandings and becomes an important means of creating peace. The right to communicate in the public sphere is the most fundamental right, if the right is not guaranteed to castrate the mind or freedom of thought so that it is impossible that there can be human autonomy, because the right to communicate in the public space can not be separated from democratic autonomy based on freedom of conscience and freedom of to express.

The position of ethics for journalists is like a compass to show the right direction in doing activities, because it must be realized the work of journalists are full of decision-making, every event to be published, every sentence used in writing and assembling events so that the news, every photo chosen to be displayed. Even according to Zulkarimein, there is still a decision to be made to finish the writing that is whether the news has been written should proceed on the issue of the upcoming publication or just up there. For a journalist in making these decisions, the guidelines are the principles of journalist ethics that provide guidance for them in doing their work in the field and in the editorial space. But the reality in the field is much different that there are still many journalists who are not obedient the ethics so that the effect of news impacts are not only on the journalists and the media where he works but also the most fatal is the person who is preached. This fact is caught in the news conducted by one of the media published in Aceh in 2012 ago.

On 06 September 2012 the Aceh public was shocked by the news of the death of a teenage girl with initials PE (16 years) in Gampong (Desa) Aramiah Bireum Bayeun Subdistrict, East Aceh District, PE died by hanging herself. Some allegations appeared related to this angng motif, one of the PE could not stand herself embarrassed with the family and the neighbors in her village because of the report one of the local media caught by Shariah Police (Wilayahul Hisbah) Langsa in the early hours while sitting with her friend at Merdeka Square Langsa and it said that she was doing the prostitution.

For this case it is interesting to note what the Press Council declared in the Statement of Assessment and Recommendation (PPR) of the Press Council Number: 15/PPR-DP/ X /2012 on AJI Complaint between Indonesia and AJI Banda Aceh against *Harian Pro Haba*, decided in Jakarta, October 25, 2012 and directly signed by the chairman Prof. Dr. Bagir Manan, SH, MCL. In the ruling, the Press Council declared that the news of *Harian Pro Haba* as complained above was unbalanced and violated Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics (KEJ) which reads: "Indonesian journalists are always testing information, proclaiming it in a balanced way, not mixing judgmental facts and opinions, the principle of presumption of innocence". In the mediation of 15 October 2012 in Medan, *Harian Pro Haba* showed the evidence that PE, one of the people who was arrested by *Wilayahul Hisbah* (WH) Langsa and eventually died refused to be confirmed. However, the confirmation efforts of *Harian Pro Haba* should be communicated in the news so readers know that it has taken the confirmation procedure. *Harian Pro Haba* could also actually seek the confirmation from other relevant sources. The press council requested *Harian Pro Haba* to serve the Right of Reply and apologized to the family of the late PE and the reader community, at the first publication after they received the decision.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research that uses the phenomenology approach. The researcher tries to give descriptions of journalists' daily lives based on a phenomenological perspective. The phenomenological research normally the researcher are not in a position to provide the moral or legal justification for the work of journalists in Aceh, but only presents a description of the life experiences of journalists from the perspective of journalists themselves in the essence of the meaning of an experience experienced by some individuals.

The data collection was conducted through semi-structured interviews, observations and documentary studies during the second and third semesters of 2017. The researcher interviewed journalists who worked in Aceh that consisted of fifteen journalists in East Aceh, Langsa Town and Aceh Tamiang. The researcher also interviewed the experts, chairman of the professional organization of journalists (AJI and PWI). The interviews are designed with a primary focus on tracking their experiences in carrying out the news gathering and writing activities.

Related to the observation, the researcher during the data collection conducted a detailed and continuous observation of the daily life dynamics of fifteen journalists who became the informants of this research. For the documentation techniques, the researcher traced the news written by the informants. These data are very helpful information for the researcher to construct portraits of the life of journalists in Aceh.

The analyses started since the data collection. The interview results are cross-examined through different respondent's comments to ensure the accuracy of the data obtained. Therefore, the researcher sometimes interviewed more than three times with an informant. The aim is to strengthen and extend the evidence on which the work phenomenon of journalists in Aceh.

III. GETTING ACCESS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH JOURNALISTS

As a worker who often encounters different types of people in various situations forms a journalist to be a sociable person, having social skills, building and maintaining the network and lobbying is needed by a journalist in carrying out his work in the field, even the ability to build and maintain networking and lobbying becomes one of the competencies that a journalist must have. But the situation will be very different when the journalists who used to ask questions to the resource persons deftly and effortlessly became embarrassed and stuttered when answering some of the questions which are asked directly to them. Journalists are also a little closed and even seem to be avoided when the question leads to the work they are occupying. This is one of the reasons why researchers have to keep building rapport good for long time with journalists to avoid from being the halo effect .

Diagnostically it is not easy to distinguish an access with a rapport represented in time units or events, either at a time that is relatively short, or in other cases requiring several meetings and other approaches. This condition is what the researcher faced on the field. Although the researcher has long been a journalist, but the density of teaching activities and for the practical research of this research since the last few years, the researcher does not have a close relationship with the journalists who served in the location of the research.

This condition provides a distance between the researcher and the journalists, on one hand this situation is very detrimental to the researcher in collecting data in the field. It rarely happens to be a gap in relationships with journalists, let alone some journalists who became the informants without knowing the researcher, never in an incident interviews direct researchers came to a coffee shop in Langsa Town where the journalists usually gathered. The researcher used a straightforward way of setting informants at research sites, as the researcher approached a desk occupied by some journalists and introduced to them. Initially the conversation went smoothly, the researcher began to ask questions that lead to the research substance one by one journalists began to move the table. For this case, the researcher did not force to continue the interview and make efforts otherwise by rebuilding relationships in a more pleasant atmosphere while drinking coffee and eating snacks and paid for their meals and drinks.

At the next meeting, it was facilitated by one of the senior journalists who had long known, the senior journalist came and participated in the interview session with the researcher, the conversation became more fluent with the journalists with a more fluid and intimate atmosphere, for the purposes of this study the interview was conducted in several meetings in different places with the informants, even the interviews repeated when the researcher felt there were still questions that had not been answered, The researcher also participated with the journalists and close view of their activities during the news coverage process.

In accordance with the methodology of this study that brings the research with the tradition of phenomenology studies that require the researcher to do epoche this distance conditions actually benefit researchers, especially in the process of data collection so that the researcher was more pure in behaving and analyzing the data in the form of experiences told by the informants.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH THEME

Referring to the results of the interviews and observations that show the essence of the experience phenomena of each informant, the researcher performs decompose statements, details of statements (data horizonisation) are grouped into the meaning units that the result was put into several themes. Furthermore, the themes will be described to be analyzed, The description of the narrative of this theme with the intention to understand more closely and familiar themes that are certainly indispensable in order to interpret the various phenomena. The description of the narrative themes will be described according to the narrative the informants.

Theme I: Being a Journalist in Aceh

Of the 15 informants interviewed there were some similarities and differences in events or reasons that encouraged them to become journalists. Despite the socio-political and security conditions in post-peace Aceh yet but this situation did not dampen the intentions of the people to be journalists in Aceh.

Some journalists have found a variety of reasons why they become journalists, almost certainly all the informants interviewed did not mention just one reason, and one journalist with another have similarities.

As Cresswell suggests, some similar reasons from the informants will be made in one category, so that some categories were obtained. The category was as the first step of second-level construction. For the next stage after observing the general overview of the phenomenology study process is to observe the statement of the interview result and a subset of meaningful data was created.

Being a journalist means opening up opportunities to gain access to facilities and facilities as well as earning money. J1, one of the informants who worked in *Merdeka Bicara*, an online media, was originally a public transportation driver who daily serve the route Langsa to the city of Medan North Sumatra.

J1 told the beginning he invited his friends to become a journalist and started writing in *Citra Aceh* weekly published in Langsa Town since 2013. One of the reasons that encourage J1 to steady the invitation of his friends was because of the lack of income as a driver.

"The daily income as a driver is increasingly unclear, the competition between buses serving the Langsa-Medan route is increasing every week, while the number of passengers does not increase, I prefer to quit and be a journalist as a hobby in writing."

During doing his profession as a journalist J1 claimed his opinion began to be good, the money in J1 is all a gift from the sources he met, because from where he worked well while still working in *Citra Aceh*, then moved to *Kontras Riau* until finally at *Merdeka Bicara*, J1 never gets a fixed salary.

Being a Journalist like any other job has a working system. The work system of each journalist is different from other journalists. But this system of work is called a journalist to be a positive point in this profession. Here are the details:

1) Unlimited and Unrestricted Working Hours

After trying to work in the journalism, the choice to become a journalist has many reasons. One of them is flexible working hours. J2 says over time he can adapt to the work rhythm of journalists and can keep making news even though he is not in the location coverage. It was supported he who is a print media journalist so can call the speaker, not required to have a moving picture. "It's more relaxed work is important we still get the news, if not get to go to the field to help friends cover, later if the material is less than the source phone,"

As a contributor, J3 also said that unrestricted working hours kept him in the press as a journalist. This is due to his character who likes freedom, including in work.

2) Unrestricted Working Status

J3 judges his working hours as profitable. According to him, the contributor work system more comfortable than employees with the reasons tied so difficult to develop themselves. "Being a better and freer contributor, becoming an office employee is not as free as unconfirmed,"

The unbound work system is also concluded J4, after he compared his work with the work of his peers. It makes him comfortable and still survives with his current profession, especially Edy as a journalist since 2004 was appointed as a Civil Servant (PNS) so that the odd job of being a journalist makes him comfortable. "Having a nice work like this is not being chased time, if there are news writing, while sitting in office if there is material we make so news, "

3) Not Many Rules

J5 has a lot of experience. While being a journalist, he has time to discuss with many speakers, one of which is the work. According to him, from the discussion he also compares with his work to become a journalist and feels more fortunate because it is not bound by the rules. "If we become journalists, we are self-regulating, going anywhere and what we will do, which is important every day there are news reports to the editorial,"

4) Like to Read and Write

As a journalist, writing and reading became a basic need because journalists are required to write news and read news to get the latest issue developments. It is felt by J6 as what he said in his interview. "I like writing and reading, as well as watching a movie. The plot of the film is usually not resume anymore, make a story with my friends later. From there I learned to string words, sentences which are nice to read"

Furthermore, it is more than a hobby. The convenience of being a journalist arises because the assessment of professional informants in accordance with his talents and hobbies. With work that matches his hobbies and talents, it is steadily becoming a journalist until today.

5) As a Bridge of Information between Communities and Resources

The impact of being a journalist who has a relationship with the holder of power also if according to J7 can help directly complain the community. This is an important impact because not all citizens are able to

communicate or connect with people who have authority / officials. "It's nice we can build a network or our relationships work is meeting with the head of the region directly. The officials who can make direct policy can be said extension of the community, complaints can be submitted to the officials ". Similar to J1, the J8 who is currently working at Daily Online *Media Rakyat* has been writing since 2012 who is initially interested in being a journalist because he often reads his father's newspaper subscriptions. J8 also never received a salary as a journalist from where he worked; practically J8 only relies on his income from sources.

From the observation in the field there are three types of journalists viewed from how to get news: the first type is news awaiting journalist, this type of journalist spends all day chatting in a corner while waiting for their colleagues to come home from the field and ask for a cloned copy or wait for a press releases are often given by the public relations department. Unfortunately they will tend to write news in accordance with the contents of the press release, usually the contents of the press release summaries of official speech or information relating to the activities carried out dried from the facts that interest the readers, they are lazy to find additional information for complement the news written, this type of lazy journalists so they often miss information. The second type is news searching journalist; the journalist is actively looking for news by visiting various places and events. Sometimes as a journalist beat they not only rely on information from the inside which is generally dry but they are actively looking for information from outside related to beatnya to then make a confirmation to office or agency in the beatnya, news that they write tend to contain the latest and most complete information. The third type is the news digging journalist. In the world of journalism Indonesia knows the term of digging news. This is the practice of journalists in an effort to find or create news, this practice grows because in his job a journalist is required to always write the news so that for a journalist there is a day without writing a news, unfortunately not every day there are events or activities that deserve to be termed the term " mati angin (dead wind)" then digging the news way used the journalist to get a fact to be written into news. This type of journalist is not only good at looking for news but also creative in making news.

Being a journalist in Aceh is also complicated by having to deal with various parties, even though the armed conflict in Aceh has subsided, but there are times when the armed conflict is re-heated, as in the election of regional head, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) in the implementation of Aceh local elections in 2012 there were 12 people died due to friction between candidates during the campaign.

Journalists are asked to become peacemakers in these situations, The journalists' reporting is expected to bring a calm atmosphere of calm, to situations like this, to the skill and needed professional level.

Theme 2: Islamic Shariah Consciousness

The journalists who became the research informants admitted that the application of Islamic law is very good for the people of Aceh, they agreed the implementation of Islamic Shariah should be supported in various ways including in the news that was done.

It was also the hope of Muhammad Saman, the deputy chairman of the Caucus of Islamic Shariah Journalists (KWPSI), an organization concerned with the enforcement of Islamic Sharia in the mass media. Muhammad Saman said KWPSI members who already have branches in some areas in Aceh are determined to always give top priority about the news for Islamic Shariah.

It is not just about journalists who are the members of this organization who routinely observe the recitation every Wednesday night in Rumoh Aceh Kupa Luwak, Jeulingke, Banda Aceh. "We hope thzt from our regular recitation by inviting religious leaders from either the MPU or campus academics. The colleagues will be better understood how the true religion of Islam and can carry out in their daily lives so will also be practiced in their work as journalists".

At least what Muhamad Saman said that from a routine recitation will have an effect on the journalists' consciousness in the field, especially when covering news related to issues of Islamic Shariah in Aceh which is always negative in the eyes of outsiders,. He hopes with a friendly way of publishing about the enforcement of Islamic law in the media outsider view of the Shariah of Islam in Aceh can change. The informants said that Islamic Shariah becomes their guidance in carrying out the task, Munawar said that every writing news he tried to write is based on Islamic Shariah.

V. INTERPRETATION AND RESULTS DISCUSSION

1. The Experience of Journalists Implementing Tasks In Aceh

The experience of journalists who served in Aceh area that has been enforcing Islamic law in *kaffah* and comprehensive is an event of social interaction as well as communication events. The activities of these journalists are full of challenges they must work with two referees who always keep an eye on one side of Islamic Shariah on the other side of Journalistic ethics.

The journalists who became the research informants admitted that the application of Islamic law is very good for the people of Aceh, but in their daily activities such as forgetting the existence of Islamic Shariah law.

Muktaruddin Yacob, the former chairman of AJI Banda Aceh, said that although the journalists who work in Aceh understand and know how the Islamic Shariah is in regulating the life of the community, even some journalists in Banda Aceh are excited about the establishment of the Islamic Shariah Journalist Caucus (KWPSI). He hopes that this KWPSI presence will balance the news about the implementation of Islamic Shariah in Aceh to the international community. But again as Muktaruddin said the journalists said who joined in KWPSI did not realize they have made a news that is not in accordance with the rules of ethics Journalism which automatically also collided with the basic principles of Islamic Shariah.

"Let us consider some of the news made by our KWPSI friends especially crime news, they do not appreciate the source, let alone news about rape and prostitution they always put women as the object of news. This is not true, but because the habit and not get used to the right errors like this continue to happen".

Writing news that supports Islamic Shariah according to the experience conducted by Iranda Novandi, the Vice Chairman of Guiding and Recruiting of PWI Aceh is not necessarily to quote the Islamic sentences. They must see who to say and in what order is spoken, he exemplifies like writing news of speech or statements submitted by government officials sometimes often the officials say the words of God, the word is not directly quoted and included in the body of news, because it could be what the government officials are saying is not realized. Arismunandar's review in Hashim, reveals that a number of aspects such as religion, politics and socio-culture related to the application of Islamic Shariah in Aceh present particular complications on journalistic practices and press freedom. On the one hand, the media should be able to be a means of government oversight by exposing information in accordance with the existing reality, no matter how bad it is. But on the other hand, the freedom of the press by exposing the real reality can be considered as a counter to the government.

This condition also indirectly illustrates that the mass media who preach Islamic Shariah with a critical point of view, it could be offensive to certain parties, such as *ulemas* or even the Aceh Government itself. This will have implications on the image that will be attached to the media. The media that is critical of the Islamic Shariah policy will be regarded as a threat to shariah regulators, namely the Government of Aceh. The intention of being a journalist because of the difficulty of getting another job in Aceh is now a very dominant reason for the informants, but their reporters are not getting paid, not only are they not paid journalists' salaries nor are they covered with occupational safety, health insurance, old days, and social security for his family, only the daily Waspada that provides old age guarantees and Serambi Indonesia which provides health insurance and old age. "We the journalists remain in Serambi Indonesia in addition to getting a fixed salary every month, also get health insurance, but the reporter can only salary alone," With the situations like this, journalists are forced to seek other part time job by using their press cards, they are free to come to a source just to look for news besides seeking extra money, then the envelope journalist phenomenon is also seen in Aceh.

The low quality of journalists is one of the reasons for the fertile practice of cloning. The number of journalists born autodidactically strengthened Iranda Novandi, the Principal of Indonesian Journalism (SJI) Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI) Aceh, he said that 90 percent of journalists currently working in Aceh self or not born from a special field, for example as a college degree from a major in socio-political or undergraduate journalism. SJI itself is formed because of the concerns to see the condition of journalists in Aceh, PWI Aceh Board hopes SJI can be a place in forging journalists in Aceh to be a professional journalist, so that although it was born as an autodidact, but will be a professional journalist like journalism journalism scholar, because for PWI Aceh an intelligent journalist will give birth to quality work. The informants said that Islamic Shariah becomes their guidance in carrying out the task, Munawar said every writing news he tried to write in accordance with Islamic Shariah. Keeping the resources for journalists in Aceh is sometimes like keeping a rice barn, because a good resource is a resourceful person who gives money, not information, related to the issue of receiving money from resource persons as mandated in ethics Journalism article 6 which reads "The journalists of Indonesia not misusing the profession and not accepting bribes, in the interpretation of this article in letter b mentioned that Indonesian journalists do not accept bribes which are all gifts in the form of money, objects or facilities of other parties affecting independence.

In Husserl's view, the concept of transcendental ego phenomenology has a very important role, because the ego and super egoh that drive the intuition of the man who transforms the noema into noesis, thus transcendental phenomenology is the study of visions and phenomena as seen and arises in consciousness.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study gives us a picture of how the social and psychological conditions faced by the journalists who served in areas far from the editorial office, the welfare of journalists is an agenda that must be fought. This research also provides evidence that journalistic education is needed for people who will take part and work in this field, With the provision of journalism, they will understand the law and ethics while working so that ultimately can be expected products produced by these journalists will educate the audience. The theoretical implications of this research covers the principal thing in the context of communication science studies, related

to the routine work carried out by journalists as told by Pamela J Shoemaker and Stephen D. Reese. The direction of news and elements of news cannot be separated from a journalist, so the ideology and background of journalists are very influential on the production of news. The findings of this research reinforce the Hierarchy of Influence of Media Theory in which journalists who do not have the journalistic knowledge and do not receive adequate salary from their companies, prefer to defend people in this case the resource persons who give them welfare that they cannot get from their company. So the resulting news is also biased of interest.

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