

## Corruption News in Two Local Newspapers in Indonesia

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### Abstract

This study aims to determine the role of a local newspaper in carrying out its oversight function of corruption in South Sulawesi province, Indonesia. The type of research used is the content analysis. The unit of analysis is two local newspapers namely Fajar Daily and TribunTimur Daily which are published in Makassar, the provincial capital of South Sulawesi. Data analysis used the Single Factor Analysis of variance (ANOVA) or one-factor ANOVA (One Way ANOVA) test. The findings of the study show that: (1) local newspapers published in Makassar are quite large in providing a portion of the coverage of matters relating to corruption, even though in the atmosphere of the Covid 19 pandemic that has hit almost all countries in the world. (2) There are differences in reporting techniques in reporting, the Fajar daily newspaper exposes more of corruption issues at the national level, while the TribunTimur daily newspaper raises many corruption problems at the regional level. (3) Coverage techniques, such as news length, news tone, and news objectivity, have similarities to pay equal attention. There has not been any significant data that shows that the closer the local media are to government managers at the regional level, the higher the level of media supervision, or the less corruption.

**Keywords:** Local newspapers, corruption, clean governance, regional autonomy

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### I. PRELIMINARY

Indonesia, which consists of 17,491 islands and stretches between two oceans (Pacific and Indian), and two continents (Asia and Australia) with a population of 265 million (the fifth largest in the world), realizes that controlling governance is impossible centered in the national capital, namely Jakarta. The difficulty is because this country is too large and has too many people, so it requires the delegation of authority to the regional government as representatives of the central government. The delegation of authority was carried out with the implementation of Law no. 32 of 2004 on Regional Government or called Regional Autonomy on the basis of the consideration of the need to grant more authority from the central government (centralization) to regional governments (decentralization) based on the empowerment of local communities and local governments.

According to Usman and Utomo (2006) Regional Autonomy is a political offer so that changes and development in society can accelerate towards self-determination or the sharing of power for governmental balance. Furthermore, Thoha (2012) states that: "The importance of government decentralization, apart from restoring power (empowerment) to the people, is also driven by the limitations experienced by the central government. This limitation causes the need for efforts to decentralize power.

The transfer of part of the central government's authority to regional governments was realized in the form of development from 27 provinces to 34 provinces as regulated in Law no. 32 of 2004 Article 5 paragraph 4. It states the basis for regional formation which includes factors of economic capacity, regional potential, socio-culture, socio-politics, population, area size, defense, security, and other factors that enable the implementation of regional autonomy. Furthermore, it was determined that matters relating to foreign policy, defense, security, justice, national monetary and fiscal, and religion remained under the authority of the central government (Article 10 paragraph 3).

Unfortunately, since the implementation of the regional autonomy law, not a few political officials (governors, mayors, leaders and members of parliament) as well as bureaucratic officials in various regions in Indonesia who are involved in corruption cases often covered by the mass media. Tens or even hundreds of billions of rupiah of public budgets (people's money) have been corrupted in congregation by political officials and bureaucrats. These corruption cases involving many political officials show a lack of clarity in the process of upholding the principles of accountability and transparency of local government. "Corruption destroys the market by increasing business costs, thus creating inefficiency," said US Secretary of State John Kerry during the 12th session of the APEC CEO Summit in Nusa Dua, Bali, Monday (7/20).

According to Minister of Home Affairs CahyonoKumolo, during the first period of President DjokoWidodo's Administration (2014-2019) there were 105 corruption cases involving regional officials, 90 of

which were regents or mayors, and 15 other cases involved governors. This condition is very concerning, therefore the Ministry of Home Affairs requested that the parliament, the judiciary, the police, the Corruption Eradication Commission, and also the role of the press, improve their supervisory function. The press, apart from having the function of providing information and education, also has a control function by reporting and tracking related to the rescue of state finances and assets.

The neat collaboration between the parliament, the judiciary, the police, the corruption eradication commission and the press in carrying out their roles - especially regarding supervision - is believed to be able to improve the quality of running the government. Which in the end will have a positive impact on society. M.Jasin - former Deputy Chairman of the KPK bid. Prevention. Therefore, the presence of local media is expected to play a greater supervisory function on matters that cannot be reached by the central media, both those published in provincial capitals and national capitals. The reason is that the central media has limited space to cover all news in the province or the state. Therefore, the hope of implementing the supervisory function in the regions lies with the local media published at the location of the incident.

## **II. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM**

Based on what has been described above, the formulation of this research problem can be structured as follows:

(1) How is the portion of the news about corruption committed by the local press in uncovering cases of corruption in the area. (2) Are there differences in the coverage of local press in exercising their control function over matters relating to abuse of power (corruption) in South Sulawesi. (3) Whether the press is closer to the target of the news, the local press can carry out their supervisory function against corruption in this regions.

### **Research purposes**

This study aims to find whether the role of the local press is still there in carrying out its supervisory function against corruption in Indonesia amid the growing role of social media.

### **Benefits of research**

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for: (1) the development of communication studies, (2) providing information about mapping corruption in South Sulawesi, (3) differences between local press in reporting corruption cases .

## **III. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Regional autonomy**

The definition of regional autonomy according to Mahwood is "a local government that has its own authority where its existence is separate from the authority submitted by the central government in order to allocate substantial material resources regarding different functions". There are also several notions of regional autonomy provided by some experts or experts. In the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, it is affirmed that Districts and Cities have the right, authority and obligation to regulate and manage their own government affairs and the interests of the local community.

### **Corruption in the Era of Regional Autonomy**

Since regional autonomy has been rolling out in 2004, corruption cases have befallen the Regents / Mayors and former Regents / Mayors, increasing every year. Data received by merdeka.com from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) states that currently there are 108 Regents and Mayors and 15 Governors included in the snare, and this figure is popular in 2014 and 2019, especially ahead of Regional elections and Governors directly elected by the community .

According to Isra (2010), the proliferation of corruption in the regions can be seen through three important issues. First, consciously or not, the regional autonomy program rolled out by the government only focused on delegating authority in policy making, finance and administration from the central government to the regions, without being accompanied by the distribution of power to the public. Second, there is no state institution that is able to effectively control the deviation of authority in the region. The regional autonomy program has cut the structure of the government hierarchy, so that central government control is no longer effective in the regions because there is no direct structural relationship that forces local government compliance with the central government. Third, the regional legislature failed to carry out its function as a control institution. On the contrary there is close collusion between the regional government and the DPRD so that control over the implementation of regional government does not occur, while controls from civil society circles are still weak.

### **Some Modes of Corruption in the Autonomous Region**

Corruption acts can be divided into 7 categories, namely: (1) State money losses; (2) Bribery bribes; (3) embezzlement in office; (4) Extortion; (5) Cheating actions; (6) Conflict of interest in procurement; (7) Gratuities/gifts. The Habibie Center study found that there were at least 20 forms and modes of corruption, ranging from Procurement Corruption, elimination of inventory items and state assets (land), extortion of employee receipts, salary payments, promotions, pension arrangements and delaying public services. ([www.tempointeraktif.com/hg](http://www.tempointeraktif.com/hg)).

The mode of corruption that occurs in many regions is as follows: Corruption of Procurement of Goods, Elimination of goods inventory and state assets (land). Extortion of employee receipts, salary payments, promotions, pension arrangements and so on, deduction of social assistance money, fictitious assistance, misappropriation of project funds, fictitious physical projects, manipulation of proceeds from receipts of taxes, levies and contributions, manipulation of physical projects, payroll or fictitious fees, manipulation of funds for physical maintenance and renovation, deduction of central government aid funds, fictitious human resource development projects, manipulation of land and building compensation, manipulation of facilities and transportation rental costs, fictitious payment of money for employees – soldiers - prisoners and others, licensing extortion, extortion of population and immigration, manipulation of people's economic development projects, corruption of working time.

In connection with that, former World Bank Deputy President Jean Michel Severino said that decentralization which gave central authority to the regions (districts / cities which number 514) would be fertile ground for corruption which was difficult to monitor.

### **Regional Autonomy and Efforts to Create Good and Clean Government**

There are three important things that must be done at the regional level in connection with good governance in the implementation of regional autonomy, First, policy transparency. This opinion arises because in the New Order era the bureaucracy's breath as a repressive tool of power was very prominent. Formulation of development and government policies that tend to be elitist, closed, and smelling nepotism. Therefore, in the era of regional autonomy, this condition is expected not to emerge again because the behavior of state administrators must prioritize the transparency of public policy. Second, community participation. Even though Law No. 22 of 1999 provides an opportunity for the DPRD to exercise control over the executive but this is felt to be insufficient because there are indications that the DPRD and the executive are "playing with the eye" in addressing strategic political policies in the region. Third, in order to prevent this optimal role from the community in exercising control over the implementation of government, the role of civil society and the mass media plays an important role.

## **IV. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is located in Makassar, the capital city of South Sulawesi province of Indonesia. Type of Research, which is used is Content Analysis with the aim of local print media published and circulating in Makassar. According to Holsti (1969) content analysis is a research technique for making inferences conducted objectively and systematic identification of message characteristics. While Barelson (1952) states that Content Analysis is a research technique carried out in an objective, systematic, and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication

Types and Sources data used are primary and secondary data. Primary data is derived from the results of newspaper coding. Secondary data is obtained from other sources that support this study. It comes from books, journals, newspapers, magazines, research reports and other significant documents for this study. Data collection techniques namely: (1) Coding sheet using coder services to the contents of the Fajar and TribunTimur daily newspapers that have the theme of corruption, (2) Library Studies, and (3) Documentation.

The Analysis Unit, is news of corruption that was published in the two local media. Thus, news selection will exclude matters that are not related to the misuse of authority or violations of financial governance Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) projects or blueprints funded by State money. In addition, there are also 9 items measured in this study, namely: (1) news themes, (2) news sizes, (3) news scope, (4) news themes, (5) news objectivity, (6) relevance news, (7) balance of news, (8) errors in writing and data, (9) Accuracy of photos with news content.

Analysis of the data to be used are: Frequency tables and graphs and Cross Tabulation using the Analysis of variance (ANOVA) Single Factor or one-factor ANOVA (One Way ANOVA) test.

**V. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

This research conducted for one year from January to the end of December 2020. When this research was carried out, corruption occurred in Indonesia. First, the arrest of businessman DjokoSoegiartoTjandra (TjanKok Hui) on July 30, 2020 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. DjokoTjandra is an Indonesian citizen of Chinese descent who embezzled Rp. 940 billion by dragging a prosecutor and two police generals.

Second, the arrest of the Indonesian Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, EdhyPrabowo, on November 25, 2020, by the KPK on his return from Hawaii USA. Edhy is suspected of accepting bribes in the export shipment of lobster seeds, which cost the state around Rp. 900 billion. Also arrested were twospecial staff to the Minister, two personal secretaries and two businessmen from PT Aero Citra Kargo and PT Dua Putra Perkasa.

Furthermore, Third, towards the end of 2020, the public in Indonesia was in shock with the appointment of the Minister of Social Affairs Juliari Batubara as a corruption suspect by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in the amount of Rp. 17 billion for food aid by the state to the community during the Covid 19 pandemic.

At the regional level, the South Sulawesi High Prosecutor's Office managed to complete 94 corruption cases throughout 2020. From this execution, the the prosecutor managed to save Rp. 3.3 billion in state losses, including the stipulation that the head of the Pare-pare Health Service was corrupt at Rp. 6 billion, the arrest of Oenardi (Ayong) who was corrupt in the construction of the Port of Barru after 9 years of being a fugitive. However, according to the Sulawesi Anti Corruption Committee (ACC) there are still 104 mandated acts of corruption, namely 53 cases at the , 51 in the Police that have not been resolved (Media Indonesia, 28 December 2020).

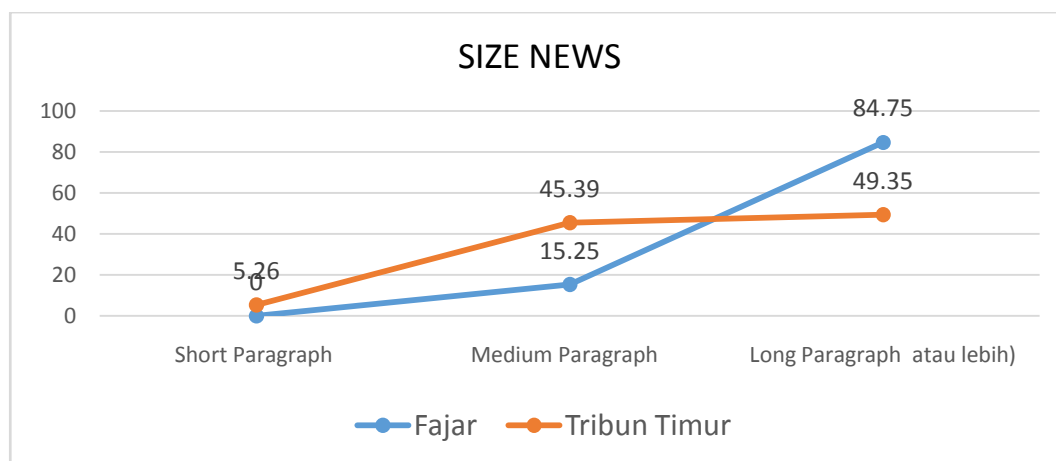
With many acts of corruption that have occurred during 2020, what is the role of the two local newspapers published in the city of Makassar (Fajar daily and TribunTimur daily) in reporting corruption problems in the two newspapers. There were 211 reports of corruption that were published in the two newspapers, namely Fajar Daily with 59 news and TribunTimurDaily with 152 news. For that we will try to raise the 9 items as follows:

1. News themes

The 2020 was marked by the outbreak of Covid 19 which hit all countries in the world, including Indonesia. Almost all sectors of life are disrupted, but the news about Corona does not interfere with the news about corruption in this newspaper. Fajar Daily published 57 news items (96.61%) and TribunTimur daily with 140 articles (92.11%).

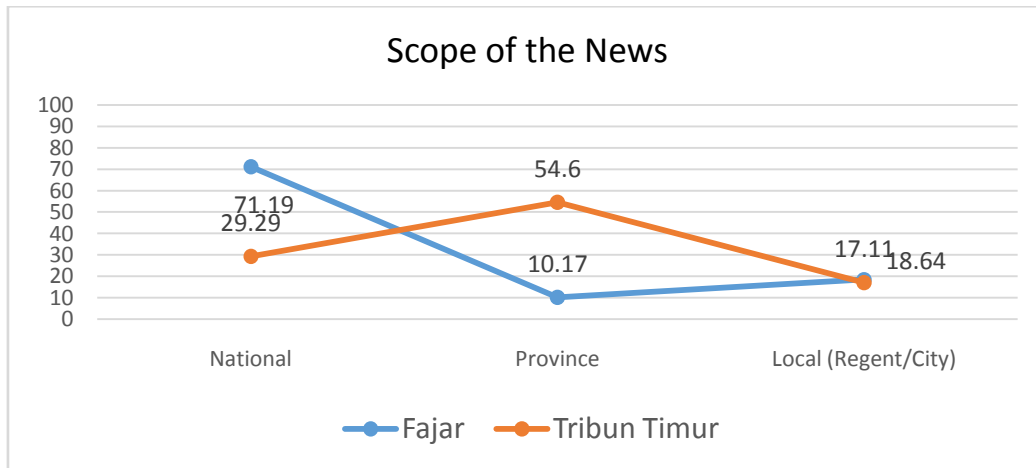
2. Size News

The importance of a story can also be seen in terms of the size of the news used. In this case, the size of the news is divided into three types, namely long paragraphs if the size is at least 8 paragraphs, medium size is between 4 to 7 paragraphs, and short sizes if it consists of 1 to 3 paragraphs. If the two newspapers are compared, then the size of the news published in the Fajar Daily has an average length of paragraph (84.75%) compared to the TribunTimurDaily, only 49.35% of which are long and 45.39% have less.



3. Scope of the news

To find out the contents of a newspaper in terms of news scope, this study divides 3 types of news coverage, namely national level news, province level news, and news at local level. From the results of the news coding, data shows that Fajar Daily newspaper has a higher national level coverage of corrosive news (71.19%) while the TribunTimur Daily has more coverage at provincial level (54.6%).

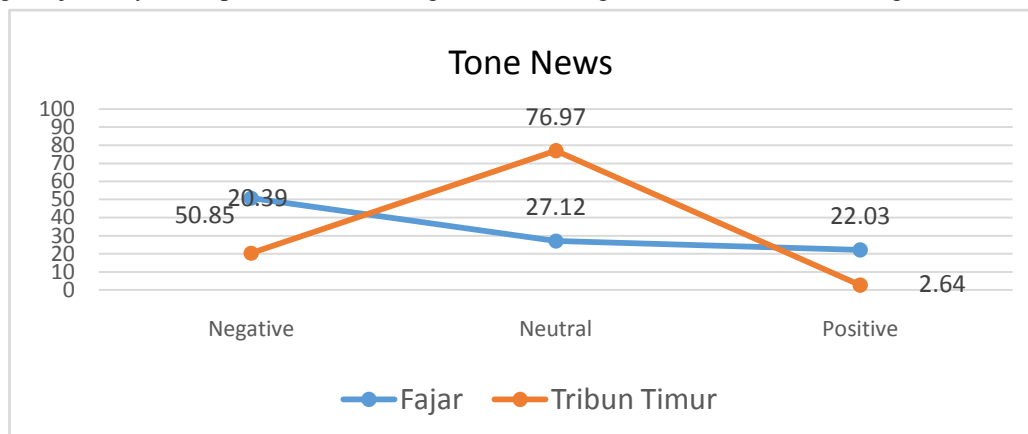


4. Tone News

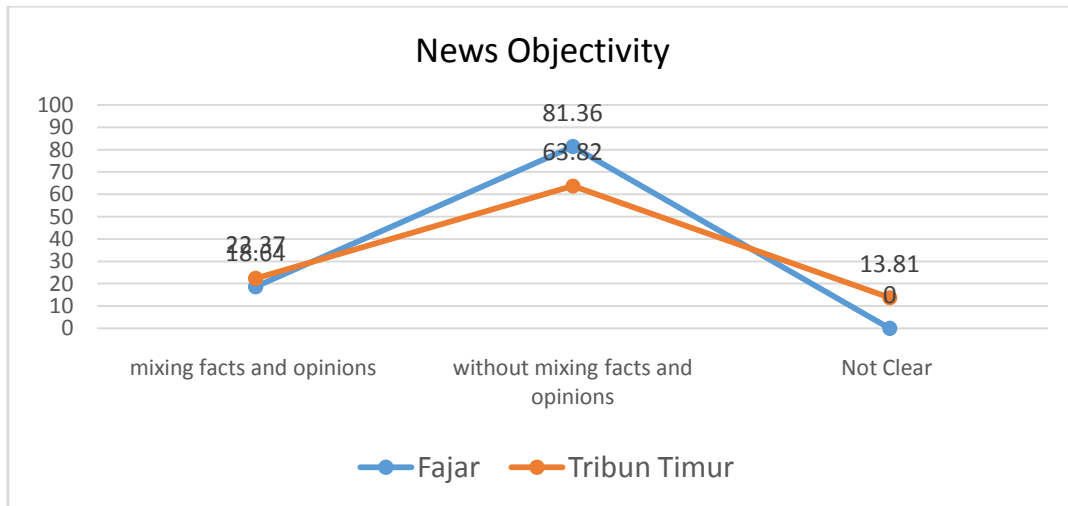
According to Eisenmann (2012) News tone is the tendency of news to be judged whether the news is positive, neutral / balanced, and negative. Based on the tabulated data, it was found that Fajar Daily was more likely to be negative with 30 news items (50.85%), while TribunTimurDaily was lower with 31 items covered (20.39%). The TribunTimur seems to be more neutral / balanced with 117 items.

5. News objectivity

Although objectivity is a topic that is still being debated among social scientists, according to Sambrook (2012)



objectivity - and also impartiality - is the norm for professional journalists to avoid bias or subjectivity and promote trust in the journalism profession itself (Sambrook, 2012) . From the tabulated data, the two newspapers show the principle of objectivity in reporting without mixing facts and opinions, namely Fajar Daily 81.36% and TribunTimur Daily 63.83%.

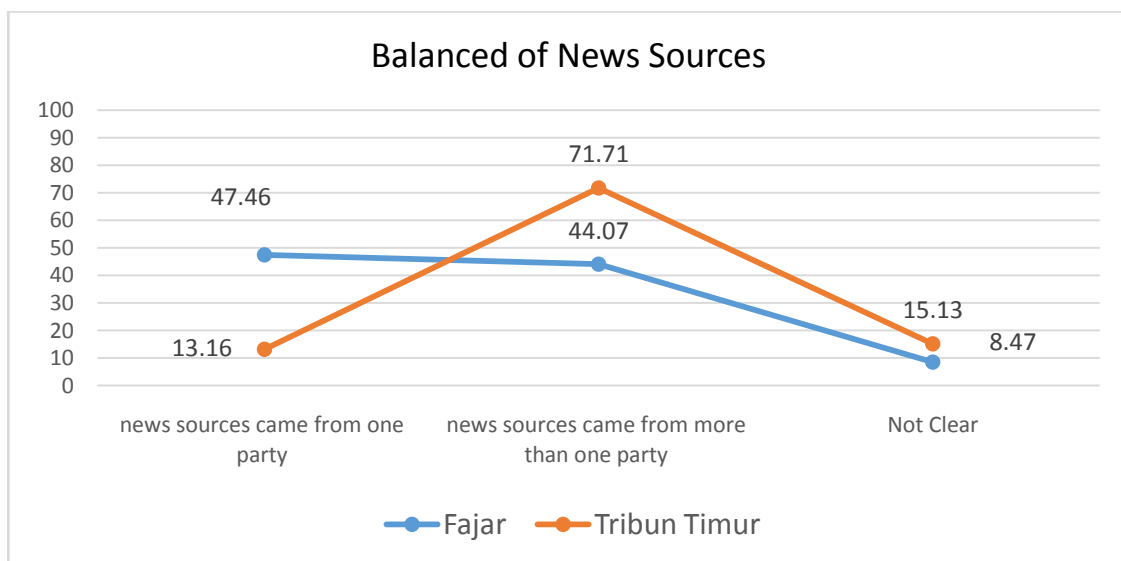


**6. News Relevance (Sensational)**

The news relevance is meant to be a frying of information which is commonly called "sensation news" which aims to attract attention, arouse the feelings and emotions of readers. Thus, sensational news should provide astonishment, awe, awe, or horror. The journalistic practices carried out by the two newspapers that were the object of this study, namely Fajar Daily and TribunTimur daily, showed that they were not included in the sensenual category, this was shown from 59 corruption news items published by Fajar Daily, there were 51 news items (86.44%) can be categorized as non-sensory news, while the TribunTimurDaily has 101 corruption news items published in the insensitive category (66.44%).

**7. Balance of News Sources**

The balance here means that the information sources of a news do not only come from one side but come from two sides (cover-both sides). In this way, reading is assured that what is being said does not come from one side only. In the journalistic practice carried out by Fajar Daily and TribunTimur Daily in disclosing corruption news, it shows that TribunTimur Daily scores higher with 109 items (71.71%) that news sources are balanced by more than one party, while Fajar Daily uses 2 categories of resource persons who only came from one party (28 items = 47.46%) and news sources came from one party (26 items = 44.07%). Thus, it can be interpreted that the TribunTimur Daily gives higher pressure so that news coverage is always based on a source that has an impact. This is also done by the Daily Fajar but the percentage is lower.



**8. Errors in writing**

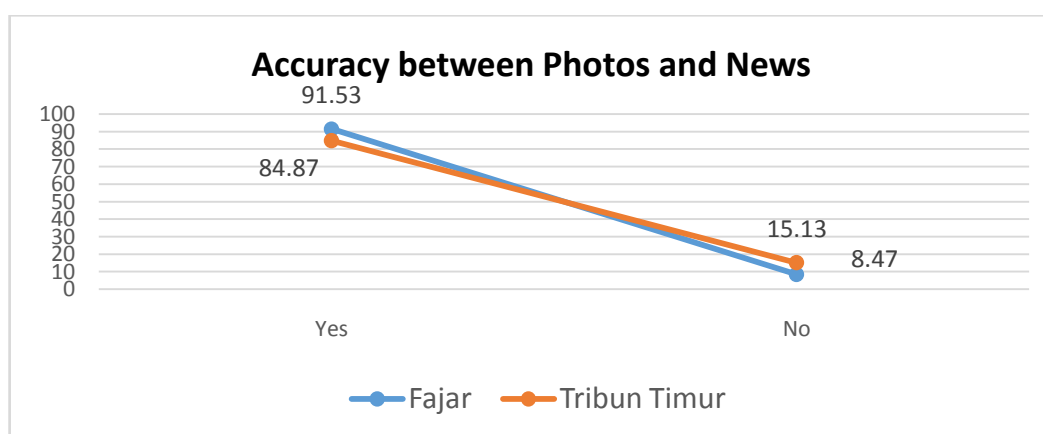
Writing errors, not only in terms of writing spelling, but also errors in terms of morphology, syntax, and semantics. Spelling errors often encountered until now are writing in, even particles, writing compound words, rewriting the word, using uppercase or capital letters, and using a period.

The research on the publication of corruption news in Fajar Daily and TribunTimur Daily which is the object of this research shows that there are no errors in writing errors in data, dates, names of resource persons, addresses and so on. Table 13 shows Fajar Daily 100.0% stated that there were no errors (N.59) and TribunTimur Daily 98.03% also stated that there were no errors (N.149), and only 3 items (1.97%) stated that there were.

**9. Accuracy between Photos and News**

Journalism is a professional field in presenting information, both about events and daily life to the public. The presentation is done by yourself using the publishing facilities available periodically. In other words, journalism is an activity that provides space for the press and mass media to work and has an existence recognized by the public.

From the results of data tabulation, it is obtained an illustration that the accuracy between the photo and the content (photos or images presented are related to and support the news content) on Fajar Daily was 54 items (91.52%), while in the East TribunTimurDaily there were 129 news items (84.87%). Thus both newspapers acknowledge that the accuracy between the photo and the content (the photo or image presented is related and supports the news content) is always prioritized. There are also irregularities or inaccuracies, but the percentage is not too big, namely 5 items (8.47%) in Fajar daily and 15.13% in TribunTimur daily. This means that both newspapers provide a portion of the accuracy between the news contained and the photos displayed.



**VI. DISCUSSION**

If we pay attention to the nine technical factors of news coverage published in the two newspapers published in Makassar, it can be seen from a theme perspective, this means that the two newspapers, namely Fajar Daily and TribunTimur d Daily, still pay attention to raising corruption cases without being affected by the spread of cases. Covid pandemic 19. In terms of news size, Fajar Daily is on average longer than the East Tribune Daily. It can also be seen that Fajar Daily still uses the old journalistic model, while the TribunTimur Daily realizes that readers prefer short news stories rather than long ones, which take up more time to read.

One thing that is quite important to assess whether these two local newspapers are oriented towards local matters, can be seen from the level or scope of their news. TribunTimur Daily in this regard has the characteristics of a local newspaper compared to Fajar Daily which has more news at the national level. In terms of news tone, both have a positive tone, which is lower on average.

In terms of news objectivity, the two newspapers still admit that there is still a mixture of facts and opinions, but in a lower portion, namely Fajar Daily 18.64% and Tribune Daily 22.37%. Likewise in terms of professional news, these two newspapers try to avoid sensational things. In relation to news objectivity, how to get information in a balanced manner (cover both sides) TribunTimur Daily gives higher pressure so that news coverage is always based on sources that have an impact, this is also done by FajarDaily but the percentage is lower.

Finally, in terms of errors in writing news and data, the two newspapers admit that they are always trying to be corrective, as well as in terms of the accuracy of the suitability of photos with news content, both of them also admit that they always try to maintain this so that the photos and contents contain conformity. As for the results of statistical testing using SPSS, the results are an average of 19.66667 for column 1 (Fajar daily), and 50.66667 for column 2 (TribunTimur Daily). Anova analysis results show the P-value is 0.201507 and the fiteria is 7.708647.

**Anova: Single Factor**

## SUMMARY

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
Column 1	3	59	19,66667	380,3333
Column 2	3	152	50,66667	856,3333

## ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	1441,5	1	1441,5	2,331267	0,201507	7,708647
Within Groups	2473,333333	4	618,3333			
Total	3914,833333	5				

**VII. CONCLUSION**

Based on what has been described above, it can be concluded that the local newspapers published in Makassar are quite large in providing a portion in reporting on matters related to corruption, even though in the atmosphere of the Covid - 19 pandemic that has hit almost all countries in the world. This is because the problem of corruption is a latent danger in impoverishing society, including corruption of food aid for Covid - 19 sufferers by the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

Regarding the difference in coverage between the two is not too different, Fajar Daily newspaper exposes more of corruption issues at the national level, while TribunTimur's Daily newspaper raises a lot of corruption issues at the regional level. Coverage techniques such as news length, news tone, and news objectivity have similarities to pay the same attention.

There has not been any significant data that shows that the closer the local media are to government managers at the regional level, the higher the level of media supervision, or the less corruption. This is due to the fact that corrupt practices among government bureaucrats are very shrewd and clever in avoiding the trap of corruption laws, and the media still have limitations in terms of resource capacity, especially in mastery of investigative journalistic methods.

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