

Critical Discourse Analysis of the Teun A. van Dijk Paradigm on the News Entitled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*" on Detik.com

Zidan Rizka Alhafidz

Universitas Tidar, Indonesia

Email: rizkazidane@gmail.com

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Abstract

This research focuses on the critical discourse analysis of Teun A. van Dijk's paradigm as applied to the news article published on Detik.com titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*." The study employs a qualitative descriptive method with techniques including observation and reading, data classification, analysis, presentation, and conclusion. The findings indicate that the news article aligns with the critical discourse analysis model, encompassing text structure (macrostructure, superstructure, microstructure), social cognition, and social context as outlined in Teun A. van Dijk's theory. This research contributes to discourse analysis scholarship by illustrating how van Dijk's theoretical framework can reveal the underlying structural and social dimensions of contemporary digital news media.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, News Media, Social Cognition, Social Context, Text Structure

1. Introduction

Discourse is a comprehensive unit of language, encompassing multiple sentences and clauses, and characterized by the interconnection of cohesion and coherence (Kristina, 2020). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is employed to analyze a discourse in relation to gender, political class, social class, race, culture, and hegemony (Mukhlis et al., 2020). The scope of CDA focuses on context, action, power, history, and ideology. Discourse analysis can be linked to ideology based on the object being described.

A discourse comprises three structural dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context. These components are closely aligned with Van Dijk's theory. The text component emphasizes a specific topic or theme based on text structure and discourse strategy. The social cognition component pertains to how the author acquires and processes information, which inherently involves knowledge (Pramitasari & Clarasida, 2022). The social context component relates to discourse that addresses an issue and evolves within the broader community, often tied to the practice of power.



Figure 1. The Dimensional Structure of Teun A. Van Dijk



Newspapers, currently evolving as print-based news media, do not always present content objectively. Bias and subjectivity are often encountered within their narratives. Journalists, influenced by differing perspectives and methodologies, often write articles based on personal interpretation and understanding. For instance, during an election accompanied by public demonstrations, Journalist A may frame the report from the public's viewpoint, Journalist B from the government's stance, and others might offer entirely different angles, resulting in varied interpretations of the same event.

With advancing technology, news is no longer confined to print but also exists in online formats, ensuring its relevance and accessibility. This transformation enables the audience to access a wide range of content, including viral topics, such as the story of a man in East Jakarta assaulted and dragged by a car after catching his wife cheating. While modern media provides entertainment, enriches knowledge, delivers the latest updates on events and social issues, and tracks global developments, it also has its drawbacks. These include one-directional communication, compromised accuracy, and occasional misinformation.

This research examines news coverage of an infidelity case in East Jakarta, specifically the article titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*," published on December 17, 2024, on detik.com. The focus lies on textual dimensions, given the study's reliance on online media. Using Van Dijk's discourse theory, the analysis explores three dimensions: macrostructure (the overarching theme or topic), superstructure (narrative structure such as introduction, body, and conclusion), and microstructure (linguistic elements like syntax, rhetoric, and semantics) (Palupi & Inayatillah, 2021).

Previous studies, such as Veronica & Pramitasari (2023) and Mukhlis et al. (2020), have similarly employed critical discourse analysis. Veronika & Pramitasari analyzed the news article "*The Importance of Digital Transformation in Education for Indonesian Children*" on detik.com, while Mukhlis et al. examined online news coverage titled "*A Look Back at Distance Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic*." These studies share similarities in using online media as the research object and applying Van Dijk's theory but differ in their specific news topics.

Given the prominence of Van Dijk's theory in discourse analysis, this research aims to 1) identify the structural elements in a news article using Van Dijk's framework and 2) describe the critical discourse analysis (CDA) embedded within the news.

2. Methods

This research applies a qualitative method to identify and describe the critical discourse analysis model by Teun A. Van Dijk on the detik.com news article titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*," published on December 17, 2024. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach. According to Sugiyono (2019), the descriptive method is a research approach used to analyze a study without forming conclusions. This method is applied to analyze the entire news text using Teun A. Van Dijk's model, which includes three parameters: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

Contrary to Sugiyono's perspective, Miles (1994) argue that qualitative data analysis must be implemented until the final stage. The strategy for such analysis involves processing information, presenting data, and drawing conclusions.

The research strategy in this study consists of:

- a) Carefully reading the entire text of the selected news article,
- b) Classifying data based on Teun A. Van Dijk's theory,

- c) Analyzing the data according to Van Dijk's framework, which includes three parameters: textual structure, social cognition, and social context,
- d) Presenting the data, and
- e) Drawing conclusions.

3. Results and Discussion

From the news article titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*" published on December 17, 2024, on detik.com, several findings related to the three dimensions proposed by Teun A. Van Dijk are as follows:

3.1. Discourse Structure in Teun A. Van Dijk's Theory in the News Text "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*"

The structure proposed in Teun A. Van Dijk's theory consists of three dimensions: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The digital news article presents these three components of dimensions as follows:

3.1.1. Macrostructure

Macrostructure refers to the main topic or theme discussed in the news text (Ella et al., 2024). The topic is typically outlined in the headline, which specifies the issue to be addressed. Based on the analysis, the theme of the news in this research is "*the assault on a husband who caught his wife cheating.*" The report includes a subtopic that the case was uploaded by Ahmad Sahroni, the Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives' III Commission. In his post, he captioned that the man was attempting to catch his wife in the act of cheating with another man. The husband was accompanied by his two children when the incident occurred.

The video published by Sahroni shows a scene where a man and a woman are holding hands. When the husband confronts them, he is dragged by the car driven by his wife, resulting in the husband suffering a broken leg on the side of the road. Nicholas, the Head of the East Jakarta Metro Police, revealed that the case is still under investigation by the police. The police have also sent a summons to the reported party for immediate execution. In the closing paragraph, the police stated that they would proceed with coercive measures if the reported party does not comply with the summons.

3.1.2. Supra-structure

Supra-structure refers to a scheme or framework that supports the overall meaning and serves as a supporting structure that organizes the content (Setiawan et al., 2022). The supra-structure dimension proposed by Van Dijk is the output or result of the entire content found within the macrostructure. This entire content includes the headline, the lead (introduction), the body of the news (main content), and the closing (conclusion) of the news. Below is the structure in the form of a diagram:

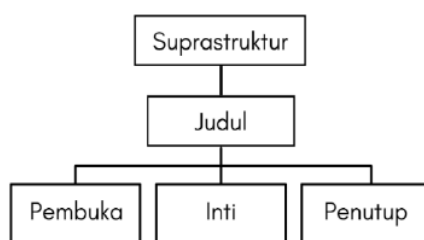


Figure 2. Schematic of the Superstructure

From the news article, four main components were found. First, the headline of the news is "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*". Second, the lead section discusses the incident where a husband is assaulted and dragged by a car while catching his wife cheating. The meaning of this part is still contained within the lead and has not yet addressed the underlying cause of the event. Third, the body of the article explains the incident in more detail. It describes how the husband caught his wife cheating while accompanied by their two children, and then was assaulted by being dragged by the car, resulting in a broken leg. The body also provides information that the case is being investigated by the East Jakarta Police Chief. Finally, the conclusion section (end of the news) discusses the next steps the police can take, stating that if the suspect does not surrender, a forced action will be carried out.

Table 1. Supra-structure News Elements

Structure	Element	Proof
Suprastructure	Title	"Viral Husband in East Jakarta Mistreated - Dragged by Car When He Caught Wife Cheating"
	Headline	"A man in East Jakarta went viral after sustaining injuries from being dragged by his wife's car. The victim was dragged by the car when he caught his wife cheating with another man. The case was shared on the social media account of the Deputy Chairman of Commission III of the DPR, Ahmad Sahroni. In the post, it was narrated that the father of two caught his wife in an affair with another man." (and so on.)
	Body	"Contacted separately, East Jakarta Metro Police Chief Commissioner Nicolas Ary Lilipaly stated that the case is currently under police investigation. The case has progressed to the investigation stage." (and so on.)
	Closing	"In essence, the case has reached the investigation stage. We have summoned the reported individual for the first investigation session. However, the individual has not yet appeared, and today we have issued a second summons for them. If they fail to appear for the second summons as well, we will take coercive measures, which involve an order to bring them in."

3.1.3. Micro structure

This structure refers to the context related to linguistics (Partawan, 2023). In this study, it is found that the news article used as the research object already aligns with Van Dijk's theory, incorporating aspects of syntax, semantics, stylistics, and rhetoric in the microstructure. The microstructure analysis of the news article titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*" is as follows:

1) Semantic Elements

The semantic elements in the theory declared by Teun A. Van Dijk refer to the meanings and intentions intended to be conveyed in the text. This element includes discussions on the background, details, intentions, and presuppositions. The implementation shows that the background, details, and intentions are related to a deep explanation (Afandi et al., 2023). Presupposition refers to an argument used to support the meaning.

Quote 1

"A husband with 2 small children caught his wife fooling around and became the victim of assault, dragged by his wife's vehicle, tragically resulting in a broken leg on the streets of East Jakarta. Not just one person, but the wife was fooling around with two other men. (It's quite creepy)," wrote Sahroni in his post.

From the background perspective, there are two types: social and psychological. The social background in this quote is related to a family conflict involving infidelity. The psychological background is related to the emotional tension caused by betrayal, where the husband and father feel hurt. The detail found in this caption is the conflict where the husband catches his wife cheating with two men. The consequence is that the husband becomes the victim, dragged by a vehicle and causing a broken leg. The intention behind this caption is that marital betrayal leads to potential violence as a reaction to the betrayal and illustrates disharmony in the family. Indirectly, the presupposition in Sahroni's caption suggests that infidelity could potentially lead to violence, and marital conflicts can trigger violent acts.

Quote 2

"In essence, the case has reached the investigation stage; we have called the reported party, the first summons during the investigation. However, the reported party has not attended, and today we are sending a second summons for the reported party. If the second summons is also ignored, we will carry out a forced measure, which is an order to bring them," explained Nicholas.

The social background found in Nicholas's statement depicts the legal process of handling the issue, with the East Jakarta Police Chief carrying out legal procedures. The detail relates to the investigation and forced measures against the reported party, with the force aimed at urging them to comply. The intention behind this statement emphasizes the importance of adhering to procedures and highlights the consequences of violating them. Indirectly, the presupposition is that there is a problem requiring legal resolution, and the absence of the reported party will lead to forced action.

2) Syntactic Elements

Syntax in Teun A. Van Dijk's theory focuses on the arrangement and structure of sentences in news or speech. Proper arrangement ensures that the meaning and intent are communicated effectively. This element concerns sentence structure, coherence, and pronouns. The news used for this research presents these three syntactic elements.

Quote 1

"A man in East Jakarta went viral after being injured when dragged by his wife's car. The victim was dragged when he caught his wife cheating with another man."

From the sentence structure perspective, this is an active sentence marked by the words "mengalami" (experiencing) and "memergoki" (caught), and a passive sentence with the word "diviralkan" (went viral). Additionally, the sentence is declarative, informing readers that a man went viral after being dragged by his wife's car when catching her cheating.

From the coherence perspective, the author uses the word "setelah" (after) as a connector to the next sentence. The cause-and-effect relationship is clear: the action of the husband catching his wife led to him being dragged by the vehicle. The pronoun "nya" in the word "istrinya" (his wife) refers to the third person, the husband.

Quote 2

"In essence, the case has reached the investigation stage; we have called the reported party, the first summons during the investigation. However, the reported party has not attended, and today we are sending a second summons for the reported party. If the second summons is also ignored, we will carry out a forced measure, which is an order to bring them."

Regarding sentence structure, the quote contains active sentences, with words like “memanggil” (called), “melayangkan” (sent), and “membawa” (bring). The quote also includes two syntactic forms: declarative and imperative sentences. The first and second sentences are declarative because they inform that the reported party has not attended the first summons. The third sentence is imperative, issuing a threat of force by the police if the reported party does not attend.

From the coherence aspect, the author uses the conjunction “namun” (however) before continuing to the next sentence, showing a clear cause-and-effect relationship: the reported party did not attend the first summons, so the police are sending a second summons. If the second summons is ignored, a forced action will be taken.

3) Rhetorical Elements

Rhetoric is a way to emphasize how a message can be delivered in a way that appeals to human reasoning. Emphasis on rhetorical elements is linked to techniques like hyperbole, alliteration, repetition, and others. From Van Dijk’s theory, rhetoric in a text is important because it prioritizes key elements like keywords, language style, and emphasizes certain phrases. This element includes three components: graphics, metaphor, and expression.

a. Graphics

This component looks at the visual forms used in the text to emphasize meaning, such as photos, tables, and letters that differ from others. In the news article used for this study, the presence of such graphic elements was also observed.



Figure 3. Action Photo

- Bolded Sentences

In the news, it can be observed that the writer emphasizes using bolded text, such as “sustained injuries after being dragged by his wife’s car,” found in the opening paragraph of the news article. This bolded sentence is intended to alert readers to the theme that will be discussed later in the article. Additionally, there is a second bolded sentence: “the victim sustained a broken bone.” This sentence informs the readers that the husband who caught his wife in the act was subjected to a violent act, resulting in serious injuries.

b. Metaphor

In this news, only one sentence uses a metaphor: “Today we also sent a second summons letter to the reported person,” said Nicholas. The word “sent” here is not to be taken literally, but is typically associated with the action of a bird’s wings. The term “sent” metaphorically refers to the act of delivering a letter. Therefore, the phrase spoken by the speaker contains a metaphorical meaning.

c. Expressive

An action taken to convey meaning can be in the form of graphics, images, or direct expression by the author or speaker. Expressive language is also used to convey impressions or judgments, such as scolding, criticizing, praising, etc. In this news article, there is one expressive action:

Quote 1

“Unfortunately, his leg was broken on the side of the road in East Jakarta. It wasn't just one person; his wife was fooling around with two men. (this is pretty creepy),” wrote Sahroni.

From the above quote, there is a judgment in the words “fooling around” and “this is pretty creepy,” which is a subjective negative judgment directed at the “wife.” This indicates that Sahroni feels somewhat scared by the action. Indirectly, Sahroni gives a moral or ethical judgment.

4) Stylistic Elements

Stylistics plays a key role in news writing. The words chosen by the writer serve to convey the intended message and create an impression. The writer uses the following word choices:

- a. **Catching:** This refers to an action undertaken to seek certain evidence through a concrete act. The word is used at the beginning of the paragraph, which helps the reader understand the direction of the article. The reader will have a strong desire to know what happened and how the event unfolded.
- b. **Investigation:** This refers to an action taken to address an issue, typically by an authorized party or institution. The word is used in the middle of the article so that the reader understands the status of the case.
- c. **Case:** This refers to an event or incident that requires specific handling. The writer uses this word to attract the reader's curiosity about the event discussed in the news.
- d. **Cheating:** This refers to a violation committed behind the back of a legitimate spouse. The writer uses this term to directly inform readers about the topic. The context in this article refers to physical infidelity, such as holding hands with someone else behind a legitimate spouse's back.
- e. **Victim:** This refers to someone who has been subjected to improper actions by another person. The writer conveys this to inform readers that the husband mentioned in the article suffered negative consequences for catching his wife cheating.
- f. **Chronology:** This refers to a sequence of events, including the order in which incidents occurred. The writer uses this term to help readers understand the order of events and the cause-and-effect relationship of the reported case.

3.2. Cognition and Social Context in the News Text *“Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating”*

In Teun A. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis theory, after understanding the text structure, there are two other dimensions, namely social cognition and social context. The news used as a source can contain both of these dimensions.

3.2.1. Social Cognition

Social cognition is one approach to how the producer/writer creates discourse and how the author expresses thoughts and understands the events to be written (Pramitasari & Khofifah, 2022). This aspect is often used to explore hidden meanings. Therefore, in Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis theory, it is not only the text structure that is emphasized. There are four schemas used by the media to produce a news story, such as person schema, self-schema, role schema, and event schema.

In the news article titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*" from the mass media detik.com, the most prevalent schema is the event schema, as the news tells a story of what happened. The article covers the events from the beginning, including Ahmad Sahroni's post that captured the incident where a husband was injured after catching his wife cheating, to the investigation conducted by the East Jakarta Police Chief. The writer of the news goes through a selection process by displaying Ahmad Sahroni's post to show the source, the event, and the information. During the reproduction stage, the writer only uses some information, without elaborating on every detail, while maintaining the context and space limitations for publication. The next stage is the conclusion, where the writer concludes that the news case was likely caused by marital disharmony due to infidelity. The final stage is local transformation, where the writer arranges the news flow well, with a chronological introduction → reporting to the authorities → followed by the investigation process.

The person schema refers to how the writer perceives and describes others. The article relates to a moral crime, specifically marital conflict due to infidelity. The writer adheres to journalistic ethics by not mentioning the names or identities of either the victim or the perpetrator. Therefore, from this statement, it can be concluded that the writer views the case as: a) in journalistic terms, the writer writes based on factual truth, maintaining neutrality and objectivity; b) in ethical terms, the writer respects the privacy of the victim and upholds integrity in a professional context.

The self-schema refers to how the writer is perceived and understood by others. In this article, the writer uses language that is easy for readers to understand. Additionally, the writer is perceived as normal in their environment. In the writing process, the writer fully understands the viral case and does not harm others for personal gain.

The role schema refers to how the writer is perceived and described in terms of their position and important role in society. The writer of this news article works for detik.com, covering legal and criminal issues. Another role is that the writer holds a neutral position in conveying information to the mass media. The writer includes quotes from sources such as Ahmad Sahroni and the East Jakarta Police Chief. The writer chooses non-provocative words and portrays the police chief as someone capable of handling the case, using a more formal writing style. In contrast, for the perpetrator, the writer uses neutral language and does not mention any names.

3.2.2. Social Context

In the social context of the news titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*," several aspects can be analyzed, including:

a. Power Practices

There are power practices present in the news. First, the presence of law enforcement officers processing immoral actions. It is known that the East Jakarta Police Chief has already initiated a summons for the accused to come and be processed for trial. Second, the husband also holds a dimension of power, as he has the right to confront his wife cheating. This proves that the husband plays the primary role as head of the family.

b. Access to Discourse

The media plays a role in spreading news or information. The mass media detik.com provides a platform for the latest case news. In this story, the case was initially filtered to ensure that the news being presented was accurate.

c. Dominance and Social Inequality

In this news, there is a dominant practice leading to an immoral crime, including dominance from a group using private vehicles to hit a man. The perpetrators are the wife and her lover. The victim is

the husband himself. Social inequality can be seen from the fact that the number of perpetrators is greater and stronger compared to the victim. The perpetrators use a vehicle as a weapon, while the victim has no weapon at all.

d. Ideology

The ideology of the news text is how the writer crafts the news to lead readers to support its content. Readers may trust the truth of the news through the case, supporting photos, and actions taken by the police chief. Furthermore, readers are likely to accept the legal actions and handling of the case against the perpetrators. Therefore, from this news, it can be inferred that infidelity causes family disharmony, which can lead to criminal acts.

4. Conclusion

In the analysis conducted by the researcher, it can be concluded that the news titled "*Viral! Husband in East Jakarta Was Assaulted and Dragged by a Car When He Caught His Wife Cheating*" from the mass media detik.com aligns with the approach of Teun A. Van Dijk's Theory. This study found elements of text, social cognition, and social context. The researcher identified macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure within the news article. Additionally, the critical discourse characteristics found include social cognition, which explains the four schemas in the media. These include the event schema, which contains the sequence of events, the person schema, which reflects the writer's perspective of others, the self-schema, which reflects others' perceptions of the writer, and the role schema, which describes the writer's position in society. Furthermore, the social context, including practices of power, access to discourse, dominance and social inequality, and ideology, was also identified. This research is expected to serve as a reference for other researchers, especially in the analysis of critical discourse based on Teun A. Van Dijk's theory.

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