

## Indonesian Criminal Code Draft (RKUHP) Objectivity on Tirto.id

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### Abstract

*This research aims to determine the tendency of Tirto.id as one of the cyber media to present news on the Indonesian Criminal Code Draft (RKUHP). This research uses Westerståhl's objectivity framework to measure Tirto's objectivity in presenting coverage of the RKUHP. Westerståhl divides objectivity into two large dimensions, namely factuality and impartiality. The factuality dimension consists of aspects of truth and relevance, while the impartiality dimension consists of balance/non-partisanship aspects. The primary data for this research is news published by Tirto.id which discusses the RKUHP in the period May-September 2019 with a total of 118 news. News is searched using the keyword "RKUHP 2019". The news was documented and samples were drawn using total sampling, so that the population is the sample for this research. The news was then analyzed using the content analysis method. This research shows that Tirto.id generally tends to report on the RKUHP objectively. Tirto.id fulfills the aspects of truth, relevance and neutrality with a very high percentage of all criteria in each of these aspects. Meanwhile, the balance aspect tends not to be fulfilled by Tirto.id in terms of equal or proportional access criteria. However, Tirto.id tends to present news from various sides of reporting (positive, negative and neutral) which are contained in two-sided criteria (even handed) in a balanced aspect.*

**Keywords:** *objectivity, news, RKUHP, Tirto.id, Westerståhl*

### INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of the internet today supports the presence of various news platforms, one of which is online media or cyber media. This type of media has become very accessible because of its easy access from anywhere by simply using a device connected to the internet. This is also supported by the tendency to search for information carried out by the public, which has now shifted from conventional media to the internet (Mawarni, Kusbandrijo, & Putri, 2017). The media is

currently increasing the use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube (Hendrickx, 2021; Kencana, Situmeang, Meisyanti, Rahmawati, & Nugroho, 2022, p. 137)

News coverage in the media, including online media, is certainly inseparable from the ideology of the media, which is certainly related to the objectivity and neutrality of news. Palupi & Irawan (2020, p. 10) mentioned that media neutrality is very difficult to see because the media has its ideology and interests. However,

the presence of precision journalism based on scientific research and data can increase the credibility and validity of information from the media. Widiántara (2021, p. 124) mentions that through data, the validity of a mass media's information can be tested.

Tirto.id is one of the online media, or also referred to as online media, that applies the precision journalism method. According to Ayudya (2018, pp. 45–46), the application of precision journalism at Tirto.id is in the form of collaboration between field journalists and the research team from Tirto.id. Journalists will get support from the research team in processing information that will later be turned into news. In addition, the data obtained by journalists will be processed by the research team, which will then be displayed in the form of infographics.

In the end, Tirto.id, which applies this journalism method, utilizes various kinds of data such as photos, quotations of recorded events, and statistical data displayed directly or through infographics (Aisyah, Fadilah, & Sjafráh, 2020, p. 210; Indriyani, Bambang, & Hapsari, 2020, p. 159; Widiántara, 2021, pp. 120–121). Even in reporting events, Tirto.id can be said to be thorough, and it is also not difficult to make corrections and apologize if there are publication errors. What Tirto.id has done is in line with the Guidelines for Cyberspace Media News Article 4 issued by the Press Council or *Dewan Pers* (Dewan Pers, 2020, p. 3).

Precision journalism prioritizes the accuracy and precision of information, even using scientific data collection through statistics, as well as facts reported in the news (Latief,

2018; Widiántara, 2021, pp. 120–121). Kurnia (2017, p. 53) further reveals precision journalism as a journalistic activity that emphasizes the accuracy of information. Journalists will use a social science approach in their work process.

In line with what Kurnia explained, Ayudya (2018, pp. 3–4) revealed that in carrying out precision journalism, Tirto.id created a team consisting of experienced and skilled practitioners in the fields of social science, journalistic writing, research, and statistics. This indicates that Tirto.id does not only rely on the ability of journalists but also the research team in the news reporting process (Ayudya, 2018, p. 4).

In its journey, Tirto.id has reported many events and also from various perspectives, including the Indonesian Criminal Code Draft (*Rancangan Kitab Undang-undang Hukum Pidana – RKUHP*). Indeed, in 2019, the RKUHP became very hot news and became a national issue. The RKUHP does touch many aspects of life and becomes a discourse until various actions in the form of demonstrations appear to reject the revision of this RKUHP.

In connection with what has been explained above, Tirto.id with its precision journalism has indeed been widely studied from various sides and aspects. These sides and aspects are both related to the news carried out by Tirto.id regarding an issue and the editorial performance of Tirto.id itself. However, there is still a lack of research related to objectivity that uses the content analysis method to see the tendency of news in Tirto.id.

This research makes a significant

contribution to the development of science, especially in the field of media studies and journalism, by filling a research gap that is rarely discussed, namely the objectivity of digital media in covering critical legal issues such as the RKUHP. Through an in-depth content analysis approach, this research uses methods that can be used to assess media bias or tendencies more systematically, so that it can be used as a foundation for developing objectivity evaluation models for journalism studies in Indonesia.

In addition, the topic of the RKUHP is important to research considering that the Criminal Code touches many aspects of society in general. The RKUHP, which is a revision of the Indonesian Criminal Code (*Kitab Undang-undang Hukum Pidana – KUHP*) that has been in effect for decades in Indonesia, also has significant legal changes. This research not only contributes to journalism studies but also contributes to the realm of legal science by examining how media such as Tirto.id represent these crucial legal issues.

Thus, this research can enrich the understanding of the relationship between media and law in Indonesia, especially how the media influences public perceptions of legal changes that have a major impact. Considering Tirto.id as one of the media with a good reputation, this research will reveal the extent to which objectivity in the Indonesian Criminal Code Draft news is carried out by Tirto.id, and the results can be material for reflection for media activists to improve objectivity standards in reporting.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Online Media News*

The word news in Indonesian comes from the Sanskrit term *vrit*, which means to exist or occur. This term was later pronounced as *vritta* and finally adopted as *berita* (news) in the Indonesian Language (Inung S., 2018). Based on this explanation, the word news can be interpreted as something that exists or has happened.

In its presentation, news must contain information about something –usually an event or incident– that is real, factual, and not fabricated or fictional. The facts presented in the news must be based on actual events and can be accounted for.

News presentation or reporting is based on at least two types of facts, namely psychological facts and sociological facts (Amal, 2021). Psychological facts are facts that come from a person's statement about something, while sociological facts come from events that occur factually.

In addition to facts, relevance related to news is also important in presenting news. This relevance is often referred to as news value. News value can be at least significance, timelines, proximity, magnitude, prominence, human interest, and uniqueness (Kurnia, 2017; Wahjuwibowo, 2015).

Furthermore, news reporting today can be said to tend to prioritize the speed of news reporting (Muliawanti, 2018, p. 88). In addition to serving as a platform for disseminating additional information, social media is also

utilized as a tool for finding information. As a result, this creates bias and further blurs the line between professional media and social media (Muliawanti, 2018, p. 88).

### ***Westerståhl Objectivity Model***

Objectivity in reporting by McQuail (1992, p. 183) is called ambiguous by media observers because of its vagueness and consistency. Objectivity in reporting can be easily understood into six elements, namely balance and uniformity presenting different points of view of an event, accurate and realistic, presenting relevant facts, separating facts and opinions, minimizing the subjectivity of the author, and avoiding false goals (Boyer in McQuail, 1992, pp. 184–185)

Research on objectivity generally uses the Westerståhl model, which is the foundation of the concept of objectivity in media reporting. Westerståhl developed the concept by investigating the extent to which public broadcasting media in Sweden fulfill their legal obligation to be impartial. His research was based on the assumption that impartiality in news can be achieved and measured by comparing neutral reporting on controversial issues (McQuail, 1992, p. 196).

In Westerståhl's objectivity scheme, there are two main topics, namely the cognitive aspect and the evaluative aspect (McQuail, 1992, p. 196). The cognitive aspect deals with empirical observation and reporting, while the evaluative aspect includes neutrality and balance in the selection and presentation of news. The separation of these two aspects allows for the

distinction between values and facts, and supports value-free observation.

### ***Content Analysis***

Content analysis is a research method used to understand and analyze text. Krippendorff (2004, p. 18) defines content analysis as a research technique that produces replicable conclusions from text in the context of its use.

Similarly, Kerlinger in Wimmer & Dominick (Kerlinger in 2011, p. 156) describes content analysis as a systematic, objective, and quantitative method for studying communication to measure variables. Neuendorf (2002, p. 1) also characterizes content analysis as a systematic, objective, and quantitative analysis of message characteristics, which requires careful examination.

Eriyanto (2011, p. 15) adds that content analysis is a technique in scientific research that aims to identify the characteristics of content and draw inferences from its content. Content analysis fundamentally has the characteristics of being objective, systematic, replicable, looking at what is visible, summarizing, and generalizing (Eriyanto, 2011; Krippendorff, 2004; Neuendorf, 2002; Wimmer & Dominick, 2011).

## **METHODE**

This research is descriptive quantitative research. The research primary data was collected using the documentation method sourced from the Tirto.id website and is news that has been published or published on the Tirto.id news portal regarding the Indonesian

Criminal Code Draft (RKUHP). Tirto.id became the object of research because Tirto.id is one of the online media that uses the precision journalism method. Based on SimilarWeb (2024), Tirto.id has the 15th website ranking in Indonesia in the news and media publisher category below Suara.com and above news.detik.com.

The data collected were news texts related to the RKUHP in the May-September 2019 reporting period. The news search was conducted directly on Tirto.id on July 21, 2020-July 22, 2020 using the “RKUHP 2019” keyword.

From the search results, 37 search result pages were found with a total of 326 news articles. However, not all news found were used as population in this study. This study only uses news that is suitable from May 8, 2019 to September 30, 2019.

In addition, the news taken is news that discusses the RKUHP. So the total news that became the population in this study amounted to 118 news. The sample withdrawal uses total sampling with the number of news equal to the population, namely 118 news.

**Table 1.** RKUHP News Distribution on Tirto.id

No.	Month	Frequency
1	May	0
2	June	2
3	July	7
4	August	8
5	September	101
<b>Total</b>		<b>118</b>

Source: Research data processing result

The data obtained were analyzed using the quantitative content analysis method using

Westerståhl’s objectivity scheme as the basis for compiling the research coding sheet. Quantitative content analysis itself is a systematic technique for analyzing the content of messages and processing messages or as a tool for observing and analyzing the content of visible communication behavior of communicators (Budd in Kriyantono, 2014, pp. 232–233).

The documented data was tested using a coding sheet. This study used printed coding sheets considering that the use of printed coding sheets would reduce errors in coding and copying data into the computer. The coding sheet has been tested for inter-coder reliability using the Holsty formula with the following formula (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011, pp. 172–173).

$$\text{Realibility} = \frac{2M}{N_1 + N_2}$$

Description:

M = Number of questions agreed by two coders

N<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> = Number of questions coded by the first and second coder

The minimum reliability score that must be met in the reliability test in the Holsty formula is 0.7 or 70% on a scale of 0-1 or 0%-100%. Reliability above 0.7 or 70% indicates that the coding sheet is reliable and ready to be used for the next stage. If the number is below 0.7 or 70%, it indicates that the coding sheet is not reliable and it is necessary to compile guidelines and coding sheets again until the reliability test shows that the coding sheet is reliable.

In this coding sheet, the researcher selected two coders who were trained to pretest

the coding sheet provided.

After the reliability test, the researchers coded the news samples using the reliable coding sheet. The results of this coding sheet are quantitative data that are calculated and analyzed using quantitative content analysis techniques. This analysis technique is defined as a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from text or other material that has meaning to the context of its use (Krippendorff, 2004, p. 18).

In explaining the objectivity of Tirto.id's reporting, this research uses Westerståhl's objectivity scheme. Westerståhl (McQuail, 1992, p. 405) divides objectivity into two major dimensions with the following details:

1. The factuality dimension relates to the quality of information that has the potential for readers to recognize reality. This dimension is divided into:
  - a. The truth aspect is the conformity between reality and the facts reported in the news. This aspect has three criteria, namely:
    - 1) Factualness is the separation between facts and comments or opinions.
    - 2) Accuracy is the correspondence of reports and reality, a more trustworthy version of reality, especially on facts or quantities.
    - 3) Completeness is the inclusion of all the facts in the news reported by the media.

- b. The relevance aspect is the correspondence of the news to the reader's standard of significance. This aspect is divided into four criteria, namely:
  - 1) Normative relates to the suitability of the focus and other information in the news.
  - 2) Journalistic relates to the value of the news presented.
  - 3) Audience, relating to the importance of the information to the public.
  - 4) Real life relates to the source of the news, such as interviews, press conferences, press releases, live coverage, quotes from other media, or other relevant sources.
2. The impartiality dimension relates to the media's impartiality in the news reported to the public. This dimension is divided into:
  - a. Balance or non-partisanship where the media presents all sides and perspectives in news reporting. This aspect is divided into two criteria, namely:
    - 1) equal or proportional access is the provision of equal access to each party reported in the news.
    - 2) Even-handed relates to the presentation of all facts related to the issues presented in the news.
  - b. Neutrality is the media presenting events as they are without presenting partiality on the side presented. This aspect is divided into two criteria, namely:
    - 1) Non-evaluative, i.e. no judgment or justification of the issues reported.

- 2) Non-sensational, i.e. no exaggeration of the facts reported with the aim of sensationalizing the news.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Reliability Test*

This research uses a coding sheet to find trends in the objectivity of the news reported by Tirto.id. The coding sheet used was tested for reliability to determine the level of consistency of the coding sheet used. The coding sheet was tested for reliability using the Holsty formula with a minimum threshold of 0.7 and tested through two coders.

**Table 2.** Realibility Test Result

Criteria	Indicator	R
Factualness	Facts and opinions are clearly separated	0,86
	News sources are clear	0,97
	Type of facts presented (sociological facts or psychological facts)	0,91
Accuracy	Confirmation of the information presented in the news	0,97
	Conformity of title and content	0,94
	Suitability of the source with the topic discussed	1
Completeness	Completeness of 5W + 1H elements (who, where, when, what, why, and how)	0,77
Normative	Suitability of focus and other	0,97

	information in the news	
Journalistic	Dominant news value (significance, timeliness, proximity, magnitude, prominence, human interest, or unique)	0,8
Audience	Promotes public interest	1
	Point of view that the public needs to know	1
Real world	News source (interview, press conference, press release, live coverage, quoting other media, or other sources)	0,77
Equal or proportional access	News coverage (one-sided coverage or two-sided coverage)	0,91
Even handed	News is impartial (positive, negative, or neutral)	0,77
Non-evaluative	The news does not give judgment on the reported party	0,91
Non-sensational	News does not contain sensational elements (figurative or exaggerated language)	0,94

Source: Research data processing result

Based on the table, the reliability test results show the degree of reliability ranging from 0.77 to 1. Based on the reliability test results, the coding sheet used in this study is reliable.

*Tirto.id in Four Aspects of Westerståhl's*

### *Objectivity*

Today's mass media, which develops along with technological advances, faces a variety of new problems, challenges and limitations. These challenges are very different between mass media that use new media compared to old media. Today, limitations such as the number of papers, the number of paragraphs, the duration of videos, and so on are no longer relevant. The new limitations that arise in online journalism include the time and cost required for research, writing and publishing news.

In addition, the speed of news presentation in online journalism sometimes comes at the expense of accuracy. Often, mass media prioritize speed and freshness of news, neglecting the accuracy of information. Furthermore, competition for keywords and search engine rankings to attract traffic or visits to news portals often encourages journalists to present information that only aims to lure readers.

It is not uncommon for online news titles to use provocative language, exaggerate events, and even clickbait. This can certainly affect the objectivity of the news on the news portal. Online news portals such as Tirto.id are also involved in this competition that occurs in cyberspace.

Tirto.id in reporting the Indonesian Criminal Code Draft (RKUHP) gives gradual emphasis. This can be seen from the increasing frequency of RKUHP coverage in each month from May to September 2019.

From May to August 2019, Tirto.id has not paid special attention to this issue. This indication is shown in the low number of news coverage, namely zero news and a maximum of eight news in each month. In the span of May to August 2019, Tirto.id even only reported four to five news stories every month. In fact, specifically Tirto.id reported on the RKUHP issue not starting in May, but in June 2019.

However, Tirto.id began to give. Its focus and attention in September 2019. This focus is in line with the end of the service period of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah – DPR-RI) for the 2014-2019 period. In September 2019, Tirto.id reported up to 101 news. The significant difference in the number of news shows the attention and emphasis on the RKUHP issue in September 2019. Emphasis in September 2019. Along with the peak of the RKUHP rejection, which was also the end of the DPR-RI's term of service.

The media agenda that has been compiled by Tirto.id since June 2019 has slowly begun to influence the public agenda, which is either directly or indirectly influenced by the media agenda. The public responded with rejection of the RKUHP discussed by the DPR-RI. The response to these various rejections, which even triggered demonstrations in various regions that claimed lives, finally led President Jokowi to ask the DPR-RI to postpone the ratification of the RKUHP.

The DPR RI finally issued a policy –which can also be referred to as a policy

agenda– not to ratify the RKUHP during the 2014-2019 period of service of the DPR RI and carry over the bill. This is in line with Griffin, Ledbetter, & Sparks (2019, p. 368) statement regarding the agenda setting hypothesis which states that the media agenda will shape the public agenda.

Furthermore, this study will look at the coverage of the RKUHP issue reported by Tirto.id in four aspects of Westerståhl’s objectivity scheme as follows.

### 1. Truth Aspect

**Tabel 3.** Findings of the Truth Aspect Tirto.id on the RKUHP Issue

Criteria	Indicator	F	%
<b>Factualness</b>			
Separation of fact and opinion	Yes	109	92,4
	No	9	7,6
Clarity of news sources	Yes	106	89,8
	No	12	10,2
Types of facts presented	Psychological Fact	99	8,9
	Sociological Facts	19	16,1
<b>Accuracy</b>			
Confirmation on the information presented in the news	Yes	109	92,4
	No	9	7,6
Appropriateness of headline and news content	Yes	117	99,2
	No	1	0,8
The suitability of the source with the topic discussed	Yes	118	100
	No	0	0
<b>Completeness</b>			
Completeness of 5W + 1H elements (who, where, when,	Complete	104	88,1
	Incomplete	14	11,9

what, why, and how)			
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Source: Research data processing result

The separation between facts and opinions in the presentation of information carried out by Tirto.id is at a percentage of 92.4%. Tirto.id based on this data has a very high level of separation of facts and opinions. This indicates that Tirto.id in reporting the RKUHP issue has consistently separated information in the news presented based on facts and opinions.

In the news source criteria, Tirto.id presents news with clear sources of information with a percentage of 89.8%. This shows that Tirto.id significantly presents RKUHP news using clear sources of information.

News presentation is dominated by news that uses psychological facts. As much as 83.9% of the news is classified as news that uses psychological facts in its presentation. Tirto.id in reporting the RKUHP issue uses more subjective interpretations. This is related to the type of news facts that mostly come from interviews (Figure 1).

Tirto.id journalists have confirmed 92.4% of the news published. This is indicated by the inclusion of names, sources, locations, and clear times. Based on this data, Tirto.id has verified the information reported before presenting the news to the public. This strengthens the news source criteria that Tirto.id has fulfilled in the previous explanation.

The news presented by Tirto.id also has a very high conformity between the title and content of the news, which is 99.2%. The headline on Tirto.id accurately reflects the

content of the news presented.

In choosing sources, Tirto.id does not immediately ask people for information without seeing the relevance of the issues presented. In reporting on the RKUHP issue, Tirto.id even uses sources that are truly appropriate, which is indicated by the fulfillment of this indicator by 100%.

Then, as a basic thing in news reporting, the 5W + 1H element is a very basic element and a measure of the completeness of the news presented. In the news presented by Tirto.id, most of the news, namely 88.1% percent of the news has complete news elements. Tirto.id has presented news with complete and comprehensive information in presenting the RKUHP issue.

In general, in this aspect of truth, Tirto tries to fulfill the ideal standards of Kovach & Rosenstiel (2014) which are referred to as journalistic elements. The fulfillment of the criteria contained in the aspect of truth with each other shows the consistency that Tirto.id does in presenting news that is true and based on, based on facts, clear, and appropriate.

In addition, the fulfillment of responsibility as mass media is also carried out by Tirto.id by carrying out press functions in the theory of social responsibility (Triyono, 2013, p. 197). One of these functions is Tirto.id's effort to present information, discussion, and debate about public events, in this case the RKUHP issue.

Overall, Tirto.id succeeded in carrying out its function as a responsible and objective mass media in reporting on the RKUHP issue, by

fulfilling the criteria promoted by Westerståhl's objectivity model and the principles of content analysis.

Thus, Tirto.id not only contributes to the understanding of legal issues in society, but also strengthens the position of the media in carrying out its role as an independent and informative pillar of democracy.

## 2. Relevance Aspect

**Table 4.** Findings of the Relevance Aspect Tirto.id on the RKUHP Issue

Criteria	Indicator	F	%
<b>Normative</b>			
Appropriateness of focus and other information in the news	Yes	118	100
	No	0	0
<b>Journalistic</b>			
Dominant news value	Significance	114	96,6
	Timelines	3	2,5
	Proximity	1	0,8
<b>Audience</b>			
Elevating the public interest	Yes	118	100
	No	0	0
Raises a point of view that is important to the public	Yes	118	100
	No	0	0

Source: Research data processing result

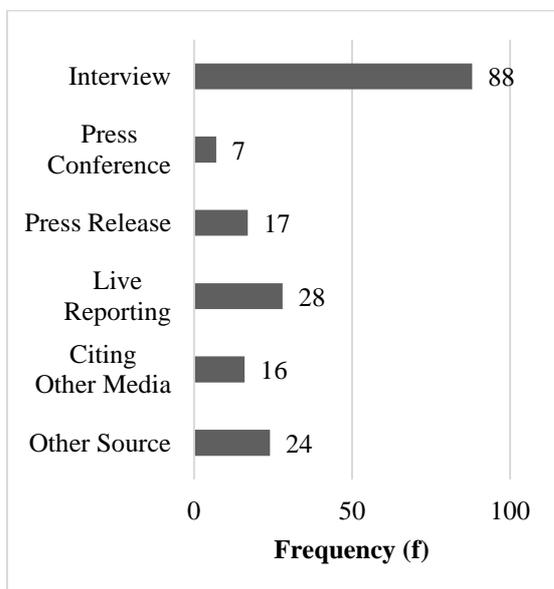
Tirto.id in reporting the RKUHP issue meets the normative standards of news presentation by not mixing up some news focuses with others.

For journalistic criteria, it is known that there are three types of news values used in the presentation of news on the RKUHP issue, namely significance, timeliness, and proximity. The significance news value is the most dominating news value with a percentage of 96.6%, which shows that Tirto.id highlights

more news that has an impact or has a great importance to the public.

Then the timeliness news value of 2.5% shows that Tirto.id makes the timeliness factor in reporting no more important than the significance of the news issue to the public. The news value of proximity with a percentage of 0.8% is very small and is only used in one news story. based on this data, Tirto.id does not really consider the geographical proximity of readers to the issues presented, considering that the RKUHP issue has a big impact on the public.

In line with the dominant news value used by Tirto.id, the issue reported in this case is the RKUHP issue presented by raising the side of public interest and perspectives that are also important to the public. Furthermore, the emphasis on significance news value above shows Tirto.id's efforts in presenting information that is important and also relevant for the public to know.



**Figure 1.** Source Distribution Tirto.id News on the RKUHP Issue  
Source: Research data processing result

In Figure 1 above, the distribution of news sources used by Tirto.id shows that interviews are the dominant source as much as 74.6%. The use of interviews as a news source indicates Tirto.id's efforts to maintain the accuracy and credibility of the information presented as fulfilled in the normative criteria above.

The relevance and validity of information obtained through interviews is also stronger due to direct interaction with the source of information. In addition to interviews, sources from press conferences, press releases, live coverage, quoting other media, and other sources were also used. The sources used vary, such as documents, pdf files, books, and other sources that are also relevant to the topic discussed in the news.

In this aspect of relevance, Tirto.id presents news reporting that is comprehensive and relevant to the community. Not only is the RKUHP an issue that has a significant impact on the public, but the point of view raised by Tirto.id is also important for the public to know. This shows that Tirto.id fulfills at least the function of the press in social responsibility theory (Triyono, 2013, p. 197) and also the main principles of the press in social responsibility theory (McQuail, 2005, p. 172).

It can be concluded that Tirto.id not only acts as a news deliverer, but also as a responsible entity in providing accurate, relevant, and useful information for the community. Tirto.id has succeeded in meeting the standards of objectivity in reporting according to the Westerståhl model and the principles of content analysis, while strengthening its position as a responsible mass

media in educating the public about important issues such as the RKUHP.

### 3. Balance/Non-partisanship Aspect

**Table 4.** Findings of Tirto.id's Balanced Aspects on the RKUHP Issue

Criteria	Indicator	F	%
<b>Equal or proportional access</b>			
News coverage	One-sided reporting	82	69,5
	Two-sided reporting	36	30,5
<b>Even handed</b>			
News presentation	Positive	44	37,3
	Neutral	38	32,2
	Negative	36	30,5

Source: Research data processing result

The level of cover both sides or reporting news from two sides is still relatively low, at 30.5%.

Most of the news still presents news with one side only. This is actually a consequence of the freshness aspect that characterizes online media. Freshness is a big concern, especially to compete in search engines. Thus, the information presented in the news is mostly from one side only.

However, in overall reporting, Tirto.id presents other news with sources that contradict the previous news. This is one of the methods in dealing with competition in search engines. Instead of presenting information all at once, the news is broken down into several specific focuses but by raising the same issue.

Then, it is known that Tirto.id reported the RKUHP issue with various sides and did not overemphasize each side reported. This can be seen from the percentage of each side that is not too far away, namely the positive side of 37.3%, the neutral side of 32.2 percent, and the negative side of 30.5%. Tirto.id still tries to provide facts from various sides while still trying to maintain its balance.

Based on this explanation, Tirto.id still does not fulfill one of the journalism elements proposed by Kovach & Rosenstiel (2014), Tirto.id tends not to report RKUHP news proportionally on one news. However, Tirto.id provides a report on the other side in the next news which still discusses the RKUHP issue. Strictly speaking, it can be said that Tirto.id does not fulfill the cover both sides aspect in reporting the RKUHP issue.

In addition, it can also be seen that there is a shift in the practice of proportional reporting and balanced reporting. Tirto.id, which is also a cyber media, tends not to cover the RKUHP issue in one news product. In practice, news reporting is done by breaking the news into several parts with a specific focus.

News is not presented by reporting all sides in just one news story. This certainly makes the news presented more concise in one news report and the number becomes more overall. The proportionality and balance of Tirto.id's coverage of the RKUHP issue can also be seen from the overall coverage of the RKUHP issue which is used as a media agenda by Tirto.id.

From the discussion above, Tirto.id can be seen as a media that seeks to identify the

characteristics of news content even though it does not always succeed in providing balanced reporting in one news product. Although reporting is not always proportional, Tirto.id still tries to present facts from various sides and maintain balance in overall reporting.

Thus, although Tirto.id has weaknesses in proportional reporting in one news story, efforts to provide information from various points of view and maintain balance in overall reporting show the media's awareness of its journalistic responsibilities.

#### 4. Neutrality Aspect

**Table 5.** Findings of Neutrality Aspects Tirto.id on the RKUHP Issue

Criteria	Indicator	F	%
<b>Non-evaluative</b>			
The news does not pass judgment on the reported party	Yes	17	14,4
	No	101	85,6
<b>Non-sensational</b>			
News does not contain sensational elements (figurative or exaggerated language)	Yes	7	5,9
	No	111	94,1

Source: Research data processing result

It can be seen that most of the news, 85.6%, did not provide an assessment of the RKUHP issue or news from one perspective. Tirto.id tries to remain objective by using data such as interviews, press conferences, press releases, and so on.

So that the information conveyed tends to be more objective about the events being reported. Tirto.id tends not to direct readers to

one particular view or opinion and only presents the facts of the news. However, sometimes journalists also incorporate their subjective views into the news presented. This is shown by the presence of 17 news articles that provide an assessment or justification of the party reported in the news.

In addition, most of the news presented did not use sensational or excessive language in expressing facts, which amounted to 94.1%. Tirto.id shows its commitment to the presentation of objective and factual information. Sensational language in news reporting practices is often used. To attract readers' attention, but can sacrifice the neutrality of the news.

Tirto.id still maintains the quality of the news delivered despite the competition on search engines which is very tight. Based on this data, Tirto.id also tries to maintain an image in accordance with a precision journalistic style that prioritizes accuracy, verification, and clarity in news reporting. This shows Tirto.id's commitment to presenting news that is neutral and impartial.

Through this explanation, although Tirto.id has a tendency not to cover the RKUHP in one news product proportionally, Tirto.id still tries to fulfill its responsibility in this aspect of neutrality. Although it does not always feature all perspectives in one article, Tirto.id strives to provide balanced coverage through a series of articles that raise different sides of the same issue. This approach helps ensure that readers get a complete and unbiased picture of the issues being reported.

It is important to note that in maintaining news quality, Tirto.id applies a precision journalistic style that prioritizes accuracy, verification, and clarity. This shows Tirto.id's commitment to presenting neutral and impartial news in accordance with the main principles of social responsibility theory (McQuail, 2005, p. 172).

## CONCLUSION

Tirto.id is known to tend to try and strive to remain objective on issues that are considered important to report to the public. It can be seen from the fulfillment of aspects of truth, relevance, and neutrality from all criteria contained in these aspects.

However, in the aspect of balance or non-partisanship, only the even handed aspect tends to be fulfilled by Tirto.id. by presenting RKUHP news from the positive, negative and neutral sides proportionally. Meanwhile, the criteria for equal or proportional access, Tirto.id tends to present one-sided coverage so that it is not balanced and does not fulfill the cover both sides principle.

In the midst of the vortex of keyword competition in search engines, Tirto.id has at least performed media functions. At least, Tirto.id has carried out two mass media functions, namely observing the environment and presenting a correlation between the data obtained and the needs of the audience.

Apart from carrying out media functions, Tirto.id also carries out the main principles of social responsibility of the press. Tirto.id tends

to show its responsibility for reporting the RKUHP issue to the public by presenting fairly honest and fair news (in the context of presenting various sides of the RKUHP issue as a whole and not in one news product). In addition, Tirto.id also tends to be objective in reporting the RKUHP issue and only publishes information that is relevant to what is needed by the public.

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