

Framing Online Media on Agrarian Conflict in Wadas Village: Analysis on Vice ID and Detik.com

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Diterima	08	Desember	2025
Disetujui	15	Juni	2026
Dipublish	15	Juni	2026

Abstract

This study aims to find out how online media frames news about agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village, Purworejo, which occurred in February 2022. This case has become a national spotlight because it involves the rejection of the andesite stone mining plan for the construction of the Bener Dam, which is considered to threaten the sustainability of the environment and the social life of the community. Through the approach of Robert N. Entman's model framing analysis, this study seeks to identify the differences in the construction of reality formed by Vice ID and Detik.com in presenting the issue. This study uses a qualitative method with descriptive content analysis, where data is obtained through news documentation from both media in the period from February to March 2022. The results of the study show that Vice ID tends to frame the agrarian conflict of Wadas by highlighting the narrative of power inequality and partiality to citizens, while Detik.com emphasizes informative aspects by presenting the government's viewpoint proportionally. These differences in frames show the difference in ideological orientation and editorial policy between alternative media and mainstream media. These findings reinforce the view that the media does not just convey information, but also shapes public perception through the way they construct social reality.

Keywords: : Framing; Online Media; Agrarian Conflict; Wadas Village; Robert N. Entman

Introduction

Agrarian conflict is one of the social problems that is still a serious challenge in Indonesia. Inequality in land ownership, mismatches between development policies and community needs, and weak protection of citizens' rights often lead to clashes between the community and the government and the private sector (Satria, 2020: 15). One of the cases that has attracted national attention is the agrarian conflict in Wadas Village, Purworejo Regency, Central Java, which emerged in February 2022. This conflict

began with the plan to mine andesite rock as a material for the construction of the Bener Dam, designated as a national strategic project. The plan triggered resistance from the local community because it was considered a threat to the environment and residents' livelihoods. This dynamic reflects broader patterns of agrarian disputes in Indonesia, where land conflicts commonly arise due to overlapping claims, unclear land boundaries, and competing development interests. As noted by Lucas (1992), the complexity of Indonesian land regulation—marked by a proliferation of laws, administrative overlaps,



and inconsistent enforcement—has historically contributed to the persistence of land disputes across regions, making legal resolution difficult and often ineffective (Lucas, 1992: 79)

Moreover, the Wadas case also mirrors structural problems described in studies of land conflict resolution, where development-driven land acquisition frequently clashes with community rights. Research by Mesra et al. (2022) highlights that conflicts between landowners and state or private actors often escalate due to the absence of inclusive dialogue and the limited role of local authorities in early conflict prevention (Mesra et al., 2022: 789)

Similar to disputes in other regions, land-related tensions tend to intensify when infrastructure projects require land conversion without sufficiently involving affected communities in decision-making processes. This aligns with findings by van Leeuwen (2010), who explains that disagreements over land use—especially when linked to state-backed development—can evolve into open confrontation when communities feel excluded and threatened by external interventions (van Leeuwen, 2010: 753)

As the situation in Wadas unfolded, clashes between local residents and security forces became increasingly visible in national media coverage. Such escalation is consistent with Kusbianto's (2020) observation that agrarian conflicts in Indonesia frequently expand beyond administrative disputes and become social conflicts involving power imbalance, coercive enforcement, and heightened community resistance, especially in regions where land is tied closely to socio-economic survival (Kusbianto, 2020: 17644)

In the context of mass communication, the media has an important role in shaping public perception of an event. News is not just a representation of facts, but a social construction formed by editorial policies, work routines, and the ideological orientation of the media itself (Eriyanto, 2002: 3). Through the process of selecting, promoting, and emphasizing certain aspects, the media can lead the audience to understand reality in a certain way. Framing serves to define problems, interpret causes, make moral judgments, and recommend solutions (Entman, 1993: 52). Thus, framing analysis is a relevant approach to trace how the media constructs social reality through news texts.

The phenomenon of reporting on Wadas agrarian conflicts shows that there are differences in the construction of reality between online media. Vice ID, as an alternative media with a critical character and based on narrative journalism, tends to highlight the humanist aspect and citizens' resistance to state policies. Meanwhile, Detik.com, as a mainstream media, displays more factual aspects, emphasizes official government statements, and maintains a neutral position in news presentation. These differences illustrate differences in editorial ideologies and policies that affect the way the two media frame the same issue (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018: 44).

This research is important because online media has a great influence in shaping public opinion in the digital era. News that is framed with a certain point of view can affect the audience's interpretation of social, political, and environmental issues (McQuail, 2010: 24). This study aims to identify and compare the frames used by Vice ID and Detik.com in reporting the agrarian conflict in Wadas Village using Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model. This research is expected to



make a theoretical contribution to the study of mass communication, especially regarding the practice of constructing digital media reality on social issues in Indonesia (Shoemaker & Reese, 2014: 71).

Research Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a framing analysis method to understand how online media frames the news of agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village. The qualitative approach was chosen because it was able to provide a deep understanding of the meaning and social context behind the news text constructed by the media (Creswell, 2014: 9). Qualitative research does not focus on quantitative measurement, but on the interpretation of meaning that emerges from the process of discourse production. Thus, this study places news texts as the main unit of analysis to uncover the structure and framing patterns used by the media in shaping public perception.

The object of this research is news about agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village, Purworejo Regency, which was published by two online media, namely Vice ID and Detik.com. The selection of these two media is based on differences in characteristics and editorial orientation. Vice ID is known as an alternative media with a narrative journalism style that is critical of social issues, while Detik.com is a mainstream media that has high credibility and a wide readership reach in Indonesia. By comparing the two media, this study is expected to reveal the differences in news frames that emerge from different ideological backgrounds and media interests.

The data in this study is in the form of news text obtained through documentation from the official Vice ID and Detik.com websites. The data collection period was determined between February 1 and March 31, 2022,

coinciding with the peak of the conflict and intensive coverage of the two media. The selection of news is carried out purposively, namely only on news that directly discusses agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village. Each selected news story is then classified based on the publication date, theme, and focus of the news to facilitate the analysis process.

Data analysis was carried out using Robert N. Entman's (1993: 52) framing model which consists of four main elements, namely: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgment, and treatment recommendation. These four elements are analytical tools to identify how each media highlights, interprets, and frames the issue of agrarian conflict in Wadas Village. In addition, researchers also triangulated sources by comparing news content with official government statements, data from advocacy institutions, and field reports to ensure the validity and accuracy of the context (Moleong, 2019: 124).

All data were analyzed descriptively through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. Data reduction was carried out by selecting news texts that were relevant to the focus of the research, then each framing element was identified based on Entman's theory. The final stage was carried out by comparing the findings between the media to see the ideological tendencies and orientation of the news. This approach allows researchers to understand how online media plays a role in shaping social construction and public representation of agrarian conflicts in Indonesia.

To ensure the validity of the data, this study applied source triangulation by comparing the results of news content analysis from Vice ID and Detik.com with non-media data. This process involves (1) advocacy reports and legal documents from the Indonesian Forum



for the Environment (WALHI) of Central Java and the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) of Yogyakarta who assist Wadas residents in agrarian conflicts; (2) official statements and press releases from the Purworejo Regency Government, the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR), and the Serayu Opak River Area Center (BBWS) as the implementing institution of the Bener Dam project; and (3) field records of researchers as a result of observations and informal interviews in February-March 2022 in Wadas Village. This triangulative data is used to assess the consistency between news construction and factual reality on the ground and institutional narratives that develop during conflict periods (WALHI Central Java, 2022; LBH Yogyakarta, 2022; Purworejo Regency Government, 2022; BBWS Serayu Opak, 2022; Researcher's Field Notes, 2022).

Results and Discussion

The results of the study show that there is a significant difference between Vice ID and Detik.com in framing the issue of agrarian conflict in Wadas Village. These differences illustrate the ideological orientation, editorial values, and construction of social reality built by each media. Based on Robert N. Entman's (1993: 52) framing analysis model, there are four main elements used in analysis, namely define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgment, and treatment recommendation.

Table 1. Robert N. Entman's Framing Element Analysis on Vice ID News and [Detik.com](https://www.detik.com)

Framing Elements	Vice ID	Detik.com
Define Problems	Agrarian conflicts are seen as a form of power imbalance and violation of citizens' rights by the state. Focus on the suffering	Conflict is understood as a difference of opinion between residents and the government regarding mining policies. Focus

	of the community and the impact of the environment.	on the chronology and clarification of the government.
Diagnosis Causes	The roots of the conflict are caused by top-down policies without citizen participation and weak government public communication.	Conflicts arise due to citizens' misunderstanding of development goals and lack of government socialization
Make Moral Judgement	The government and the apparatus are considered repressive; Citizens are described as victims of unfair policies.	The government is considered to be acting according to procedures; Residents are expected to understand the benefits of development
Treatment Recommendation	The solution is in the form of stopping mining and involving citizens in public policy.	The solution is in the form of increased communication and re-socialization by the government.

Source : Processed By Researchers (2022)

1. Define Problems

In the first element, Vice ID defines agrarian conflict in Wadas Village as a form of power imbalance between the state and civil society. This media highlights the suffering of residents, rejection of mining activities, and the environmental impact of the dam construction project. Through an emotional and humanist narrative, Vice ID seeks to present this conflict as a representation of structural injustice and violation of human rights.

This narrative is in line with the findings of



WALHI Central Java and LBH Yogyakarta, which in their report documented the existence of repressive practices against residents and transparency issues in the land acquisition process (WALHI Central Java, 2022; LBH Yogyakarta, 2022).

Meanwhile, Detik.com frame conflict as a difference in administrative views between the community and the government. The focus of the news was directed to the chronology of events and official clarifications from the government, citing the official release of the Purworejo Regency Government and the statement of the Ministry of PUPR which emphasized that the Bener Dam project is part of a national interest program. This kind of framing shows that the definition of the problem in Detik.com is more representative of the government's institutional point of view than the social reality experienced by residents (Purworejo Regency Government, 2022; PUPR, 2022).

Conceptually, this tendency describes the character of the mainstream media that seeks to maintain the principles of balance, objectivity, and fact-checking as explained by Eriyanto (2002: 15) that media neutrality is often pseudo-natured, because the process of selecting news sources and viewpoints remains within the framework of the dominant ideology.

2. Diagnosis of causes

In the element of diagnose causes, Vice ID views that the root of the agrarian conflict in Wadas Village is sourced from top-down development policies without actively involving community participation. This media highlights the government's weak public communication as the main trigger for conflict, and illustrates the lack of dialogue space between citizens and policymakers.

This narrative is in line with the findings of the Central Java Indonesian Environmental Forum (WALHI) and the Yogyakarta Legal Aid Institute (LBH), which in their report emphasized that residents did not have access to adequate information and were not involved in the consultation process of the Bener Dam project (WALHI Central Java, 2022; LBH Yogyakarta, 2022).

In the aspect of moral assessment, Vice ID builds a message that is on the side of the community by using diction that evokes empathy, such as "arresting citizens", "refusing mines", and "community fear". This choice of language strengthens the image of citizens as victims of unfair policies. The framing illustrates Vice ID's position as a media oriented to advocacy journalism and critical of power. On the contrary, Detik.com assess that the cause of conflict lies in the residents' misunderstanding of the purpose and objectives of development. The government is portrayed as a party in good faith, while residents are considered to have not understood the long-term benefits of the dam project. This framing is in line with the official statement of the Ministry of PUPR and the Serayu Opak River Area Center (BBWS), which emphasized that the project is part of the welfare-based national development agenda (PUPR, 2022; BBWS Serayu Opak, 2022).

This news pattern shows that Vice ID is oriented towards a participatory perspective that is critical of state domination, while Detik.com tends to represent a pro-government development narrative. This confirms McQuail's (2010: 27) view that the mainstream media often positions themselves as an extension of institutional policies through the selection of news sources and frameworks that support the legitimacy of power.



3. Make Moral Judgement

In the element of moral judgment, Vice ID displays a moral assessment that is on the side of the community, by highlighting the suffering of citizens and the power imbalance between the government and the people. The writing style used is emotional and humanist, highlighting the values of social justice and the community's right to a safe living space. This narrative is in line with the findings of LBH Yogyakarta and WALHI Central Java which revealed procedural violations and repressive actions against residents during the land acquisition process (LBH Yogyakarta, 2022; WALHI Central Java, 2022). Thus, ViceID's moral framing shows an alternative media orientation that prioritizes humanitarian ethics and partiality for vulnerable groups.

On the contrary, Detik.com highlight administrative morality that views the government as a rational and legitimate actor in implementing public policies. The news tends to use neutral and formal language, emphasizing that the discipline of the apparatus is part of a reasonable legal procedure. This approach is consistent with the official release of the Purworejo Regency Government, which states that the steps taken by the apparatus are taken to ensure the safety and smooth running of national projects (Purworejo Regency Government, 2022).

This difference in moral perspective shows that there are ideological differences in the thinking framework of the two media. Vice ID uses humanistic morality as the basis for argumentation, while Detik.com adheres to an institutional morality that puts the legitimacy of the state above social conflict. As stated by Entman (1993: 55), the moral dimension in framing is an important instrument to build

public perception of who is right and who is wrong in an event. In this context, Vice ID forms the moral image of citizens as victims of structural injustice, while Detik.com produces moral legitimacy for state development policies.

4. Treatment Recommendation

In the *treatment recommendation* element, Vice ID emphasized that the resolution of agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village must be carried out through a participatory dialogue approach, not by coercive actions. This media prompted the government to temporarily stop andesite stone mining activities and evaluate development projects that cause social tensions. This attitude is in line with the advocacy call of WALHI Central Java and LBH Yogyakarta, which in their report and statement asked the government to review mining policies and prioritize ecological justice and the protection of citizens' rights (WALHI Central Java, 2022; LBH Yogyakarta, 2022). This kind of recommendation shows that Vice ID plays a role as an alternative media oriented to change public policy through community empowerment.

Instead, Detik.com display resolution recommendations that are more administrative and communicative. This media emphasizes the importance of further socialization between the government and the community to reduce misunderstandings, as stated in the official statement of the Serayu Opak River Area Center (BBWS) and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, which encourages the implementation of educational approaches to increase public acceptance of national projects (BBWS Serayu Opak, 2022; PUPR, 2022). Thus, the framing of recommendations on Detik.com places conflict as a technocratic communication problem that can be resolved through



increased information transparency.

The comparison of these two recommendation frameworks shows the difference in development communication paradigm between alternative media and mainstream media. Vice ID emphasizes a transformative approach based on citizen participation, while Detik.com emphasizes a bureaucratic approach that emphasizes policy legitimacy. This difference also proves that the function of the media in the context of agrarian conflict is not only as a conveyor of information, but also as a symbolic actor that determines the direction of public opinion towards the solution of a problem (Eriyanto, 2002: 18).

5. Interpretation

The overall interpretation of the results shows that the difference in the construction of reality between Vice ID and Detik.com is greatly influenced by the ideological orientation and information sources used by each media. Vice ID frames the agrarian conflict in Wadas Village as a representation of structural inequality and the state's failure to ensure citizen participation. This narrative is supported by the reports of WALHI Central Java and LBH Yogyakarta, which affirm that there is a violation of the principles of environmental justice and community land rights (WALHI Central Java, 2022; LBH Yogyakarta, 2022). On the contrary, Detik.com presents a national development discourse that emphasizes the importance of government stability and legitimacy, in accordance with the official statements of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, BBWS Serayu Opak, and the Purworejo Regency Government which assesses the Bener Dam project as a national priority program for public welfare (PUPR, 2022; BBWS Serayu Opak, 2022; Purworejo Regency Government, 2022).

Through the source triangulation approach, the results of this study show that the construction of news is not only influenced by editorial preferences, but also by the media's institutional position towards power. The researcher's field data (February-March 2022) reinforced these findings by showing the compatibility between the citizens' narrative and Vice ID's reporting that highlighted social tensions in the field. On the contrary, Detik.com news has proven to be more coherent with the government's narrative that emphasizes development stability and conflict mitigation efforts.

These findings confirm the view of Entman (1993: 52) that framing not only shapes public perception of an issue, but also determines the boundaries of meaning that society accepts. In this context, the media plays the role of an ideological agent who negotiates the reality between power and the public. Thus, the final interpretation of this study confirms that the practice of digital journalism in Indonesia is still strongly influenced by media ownership structures, political orientation, and limited access to alternative sources outside state institutions.

Conclusion

The results of the study show that the reporting of agrarian conflicts in Wadas Village by Vice ID and Detik.com represents two different ideological orientations in framing social reality. Based on Robert N. Entman's (1993: 52) framing model, the two media construct issues selectively through four main elements: *define problems*, *diagnose causes*, *make moral judgement*, and *treatment recommendation*. Vice ID builds a critical narrative that favors the community by highlighting power inequality, ecological injustice, and weak citizen participation. Instead, Detik.com presents a frame oriented towards the stability and legitimacy of



government policies, placing the Bener Dam project as part of the national development agenda.

Triangulation of sources through WALHI Central Java, LBH Yogyakarta, Purworejo Regency Government, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and BBWS Serayu Opak strengthens the conclusion that the construction of news is not only influenced by editorial preferences, but also by the media's relationship with power institutions. The researcher's field data (February-March 2022) shows that Vice ID's narrative has a high level of conformity with the social conditions of the community in the field, while Detik.com is more representative of the country's institutional perspective.

These findings confirm that the media has never been truly neutral in constructing public reality. Every choice of sources, language, and viewpoint is a form of ideological articulation that reflects certain interests (Eriyanto, 2002: 18). Theoretically, this research strengthens Entman's framing concept in explaining how the media becomes an ideological agent that directs public perception of strategic issues. Meanwhile, practically, the results of this research can be a reflection material for the mainstream media to prioritize the principles of participatory journalism and inclusive public communication in reporting on social conflict issues in Indonesia.

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