

Discourse Analysis Political News in News Paper

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ABSTRACT: The aim of this study is to describe the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure of political news discourse in one of the province in Indonesia (Harian Rakyat Bengkulu in short RB) newspaper. This research employs a descriptive qualitative design, with data sources derived from the RB daily newspaper (editions from November 2023 to February 2024), focusing on the phenomenon of the 2024 presidential election. The research data consist of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Data were collected using documentation techniques. The data analysis protocol includes (1) observation, (2) note-taking, (3) classification, (4) tabulation, (5) analysis, (6) interpretation, and (7) conclusion. The results indicate the following tendencies: (1) Thematic aspects, encompassing topic and subtopic elements, are evident in the macrostructure. The topic is presented inductively in the news lead and supported by subtopics that elaborate on the main information. (2) In terms of superstructure, the schematic structure is fixed and systematic, consisting of a summary (including headline and lead) and the story (comprising situation and commentary from sources or editorial voice). (3) At the microstructure level, the semantic aspect conveys the meaning of political news through elements such as background, detail, intention, presupposition, and nominalization. The syntactic aspect includes sentence structure, coherence, and the use of pronouns. The stylistic aspect reveals that RB employs refined, polite, and universally acceptable word choices. The rhetorical aspect includes the use of visual elements and metaphors to make political news more engaging for readers. Recommendations: (1) Prospective news writers are encouraged to enhance their understanding of news discourse structures to improve their writing practices. This research may also serve as a learning resource for writing and analyzing newspaper discourse. (2) Mass media institutions are urged to reflect critically in order to improve the quality of news discourse production; and (3) future researchers are encouraged to compare regional newspapers with national ones to expand the scope of the study.

KEYWORDS: Discourse Analysis, News, Macro Structure, Superstructure, Micro Structure.

I. INTRODUCTION

The evaluation of previous studies reveals that newspaper journalism continues to attract public interest [1], [2], [3], as the news content remains up-to-date and fact-based. News coverage is generally categorized into regional, national, and international domains. As a regional newspaper, Rakyat Bengkulu (hereinafter abbreviated as RB) has expanded its reach through nine subsidiary publications across Bengkulu Province, namely Bengkulu Ekspres, Curup Ekspres, Radar Bengkulu, Radar Pat Petulai, Radar Selatan, Radar Kepahiang, Radar Seluma, Radar Utara, and Rakyat Benteng. In response to the growing competition, RB has developed a hybrid newspaper system—an innovation introduced by media companies in the digital era—allowing readers to access a wide variety of news (covering political, economic, social, cultural, defense, and security affairs, or *ipoleksosbudhankam*) via mobile devices. However, the present study focuses specifically on political news.

This focus is grounded in the fact that from November–December 2024 to January–February 2025, political news dominated media discourse due to the rising political tensions surrounding the presidential and vice-presidential elections, as well as the legislative and local elections across Indonesia (KPU RI, 2024). Political news is a compelling area of study because politics functions as a vehicle of power, while language serves as a reflection of thought, emotion, and action—particularly among election participants [4], [5]. As a regional newspaper, RB has, based on preliminary observation, played an active role in reporting its perspectives on various developments and challenges occurring during this political phenomenon—from campaign activities to voting day. Therefore, the news articles produced must adhere to sound discourse structures, especially in terms of cohesion and coherence, to ensure clarity and public comprehension.

Discourse structure in news reporting is essential for constructing logically connected ideas and producing cohesive narratives. Teun A. van Dijk (1980) proposed three levels of text structure in discourse: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure [6]. The macrostructure concerns the global meaning of a text, especially its thematic aspects, including topics and subtopics. The superstructure refers to the schematic framework of the text, divided into two main categories: the summary, which

consists of the headline and lead, and the story, which includes the situation and commentary. Meanwhile, the microstructure analyzes the detailed meaning in smaller parts of the text, focusing on four aspects: semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical. The semantic aspect includes background, detail, intention, presupposition, nominalization, and negation. The syntactic aspect involves sentence structure, coherence, and the use of pronouns. The stylistic aspect relates to lexical choices. The rhetorical aspect encompasses visual elements and the use of metaphors.

Previous studies have critically examined online news [7], [8], [9], [10], revealing that elements of discourse structure within the texts partially fulfill aspects of macrostructure and microstructure. Suparman's study, for instance, analyzed the discourse structure of political news in Palopo Pos and found that journalists tend to support the discourse conveyed in the news text by utilizing textual elements. Journalists implicitly or explicitly embed their ideologies in order to guide public opinion in a desired direction [11].

Several studies have shown that critical discourse analysis (CDA) of online news reveals that discourse structures—particularly macro and micro structures—are often only partially represented in the text, while ideological distortion and social impact remain prominent. A comparative study of news coverage on the Palestine–Israel conflict by NBC News and Liputan6 using van Dijk's framework highlighted that macrostructure elements, such as main themes and subtopics, appeared consistently, whereas micro rhetorical expressions like metaphors displayed inconsistency in media ideological framing [12]. A study of online media coverage of COVID-19 further supported this finding, with macro and micro structures largely present but lacking in-depth explanation of the ideological functions of specific micro elements [13]. In addition, research on Turkish media framing revealed that while macrostructure was consistently present, microstructure—especially rhetorical and visual expression—was dominant only on certain platforms [14].

These studies also emphasized the dimensions of social cognition and social effects, where media bias toward particular actors emerged through thematic selection, perspective, and presentation style, which potentially influenced public perception and behavior. Thus, although discourse structures in online news may appear formally intact, ideological and social dynamics remain a critical domain within digital discourse analysis.

Based on these relevant critical findings, it is evident that Teun A. van Dijk's (1997) critical discourse analysis framework has mostly been applied to national and international newspapers, while research focusing on regional newspapers remains scarce. In fact, regional newspapers play a significant role in shaping public opinion at the local level. Meanwhile, existing studies on Rakyat Bengkulu (RB) have only explored limited aspects such as cohesion and coherence in sports sections [15], phrase analysis [16], conjunction usage [17], and critical discourse analysis of crime news [18]. As such, the discourse structure of political news in RB has not been previously investigated, prompting the present study to focus on analyzing the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure of political news in this regional newspaper.

Ontologically, this research leads to the following question: (1) How are the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure realized in the political news texts published in Rakyat Bengkulu on 6 November 2023, 6 December 2023, 12 January 2024, and 15 February 2024? Accordingly, the objective of this study is to describe the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure of political news in Rakyat Bengkulu editions published on those specific dates.

This research is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically to the advancement of knowledge in the field. Theoretically, it aims to enhance understanding of the discourse structure of political news in RB and to contribute to the broader field of critical discourse studies. For future researchers, the results of this study may serve as a reference for further exploration—particularly in conducting wider critical discourse analyses at the national level using alternative theoretical frameworks such as those proposed by Norman Fairclough, Sara Mills, Ruth Wodak, Roger Fowler, and others. Practically, the findings may benefit mass media institutions by encouraging self-reflection in the production of news discourse. In the field of education, this study can be utilized as a learning resource and as a means to foster critical thinking. Additionally, the results of this research may serve as a guide for students of the Indonesian Language Education Program in analyzing discourse, particularly in the Discourse Analysis course.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research design. Qualitative research is a naturalistic inquiry that investigates phenomena in their natural settings without manipulation by collecting descriptive data [19], [20]. A descriptive qualitative approach was used to accurately portray the characteristics, traits, and overall depiction of the data [21], [22]. To describe the discourse structure of political news in Rakyat Bengkulu (RB) editions dated 6 November 2023, 6 December 2023, 12 January 2024, and 15 February 2024, this study applied Teun A. van Dijk's model of critical discourse analysis.

The data sources for this research were the political news texts published in the aforementioned editions of Rakyat Bengkulu. The data themselves consisted of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences extracted from the political news sections, which represented the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure elements.

The data collection technique used in this study was documentation. Documentation is the process of collecting written data to obtain the necessary information. This technique involved gathering issues of Rakyat Bengkulu published on 6 November

2023, 6 December 2023, 12 January 2024, and 15 February 2024. The research instrument used was a document recording sheet, which served to record data related to the discourse structure of political news in RB. We qualitatively analyzed the data [23], [24], and [25] through the following six stages: Observation and note-taking; Categorization of data; Tabulation; Analysis/Interpretation of findings; and Drawing conclusions.

III. HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

A. Result

The results of the analysis on the discourse structure of political news in Rakyat Bengkulu (RB) indicate that the political news articles fulfill the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure components as proposed in Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework.

The macrostructure addresses thematic aspects, which include the topic and subtopic elements. Overall, the central topic presented in RB's political news is the 2024 presidential election phenomenon. Within the political news texts, the macrostructure is reflected in the news leads. Each article contains a clearly identifiable topic that presents a general overview of the political discourse. To support the main topic, RB includes several subtopics to elaborate and contextualize the information.

The superstructure concerns the schematic organization or structural flow of the text. In RB's political news articles, the texts are consistently and systematically structured following a summary and story schema. In the summary schema, the news begins with a headline—serving as a concise representation of the content—followed by a lead paragraph that summarizes the article. In the story schema, RB utilizes a situation element to present a detailed narrative that expands upon the lead, along with a comment element that provides opinions or statements from sources or the editorial voice.

The microstructure covers semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects. The semantic aspect of RB's political news consists of background, detail, intention, presupposition, and nominalization elements. The background includes, for example, (1) early campaign activities in DKI Jakarta (abbreviated as DKI) by the Community Information Group (Kelompok Informasi Masyarakat, or KIM); (2) the arrival of Anies Baswedan (Presidential Candidate No. 1) in Bengkulu; (3) the enthusiastic campaign of Prabowo Subianto (Presidential Candidate No. 2) in Bengkulu; and (4) the quick count results of the 2024 presidential election. Each news item provides specific details to offer a clearer understanding of the election phenomenon. RB explicitly states intentions when the information is favorable and implies them when the information is less favorable. The articles also contain presuppositions, often in the form of expectations or assumptions yet to be proven. Several instances of nominalization—the transformation of verbs into nouns to omit the subject—are also identified. However, the negation element is absent, as there are no indications that the writers explicitly deny any facts.

The syntactic aspect consists of sentence structure, coherence, and pronoun usage. Most of the political news articles employ active voice constructions more frequently than passive ones, which emphasizes the subject of the sentence. Additionally, RB constructs coherent sentences and paragraphs to ensure clarity and cohesion throughout the news. The use of pronouns includes both first-person and third-person forms. First-person pronouns such as *kita* (we) are used, while third-person pronouns include *dia* (he/she), *-nya* (his/her), *mereka* (they), and *beliau* (a respectful form of 'he/she'). The stylistic aspect involves lexical choice. RB tends to use polite, refined, and universal word choices. Furthermore, the rhetorical aspect consists of graphic and metaphorical elements. In terms of graphic features, similarities were found in the editions published on 6 November 2023, 12 January 2024, and 15 February 2024. These similarities include (1) bold and enlarged headlines, (2) the first word of the lead paragraph printed in bold, and (3) the inclusion of photographs accompanied by captions. However, the 6 December 2023 edition slightly differed in that it lacked visual imagery, making it less visually informative compared to the others. Finally, the study identified the use of metaphors in several political news texts, which served to enhance reader engagement and make the news more compelling.

B. Discussion

Based on the findings from the analysis of political news in Rakyat Bengkulu (RB) from the editions on November 6, December 6, January 12, and February 15, 2024, there seems to be a noticeable bias in how political news is reported. Judging from the intensity and frequency of the news articles, RB tended to publish more reports on Candidate Pair No. 1 (Anies Baswedan–Muhaimin Iskandar, hereinafter abbreviated as AM) and Candidate Pair No. 2 (Prabowo Subianto–Gibran Rakabuming Raka, hereinafter abbreviated as PG) compared to Candidate Pair No. 3 (Ganjar Pranowo–Mahfud MD, hereinafter abbreviated as GM). This disparity is somewhat understandable, as Ganjar (the presidential candidate for Pair No. 3) was the only candidate who did not visit Bengkulu, unlike the others. Looking at how often and how much news was published, RB published more articles about Candidate Pair No. 1 (Anies Baswedan–Muhaimin Iskandar, or AM) and Candidate Pair No. 2 (Prabowo Subianto–Gibran Rakabuming Raka, or PG) than about Candidate Pair No. 3 (Ganjar Pranowo–Mahfud MD, or GM). This disparity is somewhat understandable, as Ganjar (the presidential candidate for Pair No. 3) was the only candidate who did not visit Bengkulu, unlike the others. Ganjar was represented by his running mate Mahfud, who attended a religious event in North Bengkulu. Consequently, RB only published two news articles related to Mahfud's visit on behalf of the GM pair. This significant difference in coverage likely affected the electability of the GM pair in the region. It also shaped readers' perceptions, suggesting that RB showed a tendency to

favor Candidate Pairs No. 1 and 2.

According to Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework, macrostructure refers to the thematic aspect of a text [26], [27], [28]. The theme is the core idea, the most emphasized summary, or the main assertion of a discourse [29], [30]. One cannot separate it from the topic. Furthermore, van Dijk (1997) defines the topic as the overall representation of the discourse content by the writer or speaker [31], [32]. Therefore, macrostructure analysis helps uncover the general meaning and the main message that the writer intends to convey in the text. In a discourse, the topic is typically supported by several subtopics, which serve to elaborate and develop the main theme into a coherent narrative. This is in line with previous studies that argue that the topic of a news article can be identified in the lead paragraph, which summarizes the key content before moving into the body of the text [33], [34], [35]. In other words, the first paragraph typically contains the topic, with subsequent paragraphs presenting subtopics.

In RB's political news articles, topics are generally presented inductively in the lead section, followed by subtopics that serve to develop and expand the main information. The topic presented in the 6 November 2023 edition was "The political strategy of the Advanced Indonesia Coalition (Koalisi Indonesia Maju, hereinafter abbreviated as KIM) in DKI Jakarta." To support this topic, RB introduced two subtopics: "KIM holds a victory consolidation meeting" and "Golkar's strategy to support Prabowo–Gibran in DKI Jakarta."

The topic of the 6 December 2023 edition was "Anies' campaign agenda in Bengkulu." This topic was supported by three subtopics: "Anies to hold dialogue with local merchants," "Anies to meet with university students across Bengkulu," and "Anies to present his vision and mission during the campaign climax in Bengkulu." The topic in the 12 January 2024 edition was "'Gemoy' cheers during Prabowo's campaign in Bengkulu." To elaborate on this topic, five subtopics were provided: "The lively welcoming ceremony for Prabowo," "Prabowo's plans for policy continuity," "Prabowo prefers action over words," "Prabowo's commitment to eradicating poverty," and "The intersection of regional elections and the 2024 general elections." Finally, the topic of the 15 February 2024 edition was "Prabowo–Gibran's victory based on quick count results." We developed this topic through four subtopics: "Prabowo–Gibran meets supporters at Istora Senayan after leading in the quick count," "Prabowo pledges inclusivity," "Anies awaits the official KPU vote count," and "Ganjar questions the credibility of the quick count results."

Based on the analysis, the four news articles examined presented different topics, yet all revolved around the same overarching theme: the 2024 presidential election. Rakyat Bengkulu (RB) reported on events surrounding the election, starting from the campaign period to voting day and the vote-counting phase. All subtopics in these four political news articles served to elaborate on the main topic in a more specific manner, allowing readers to better grasp the issue being discussed in depth.

In Teun A. van Dijk's critical discourse analysis, the superstructure refers to the schematic framework of the text, which examines how the structure and elements of discourse are systematically arranged [36], [37], [38]. Van Dijk further explains that news discourse typically contains two main schematic components: the summary and the story [39], [40]. The summary consists of a headline and a lead. The headline is a brief phrase that encapsulates the content of the news, while the lead introduces it by offering a concise summary. Meanwhile, the story consists of a situation element and a comment element. The situation conveys information in a chronological and structured sequence of events, while the comment provides evaluations or opinions expressed within the news.

The analysis of the political news in RB reveals that the schematic structure of all four articles was consistent and systematic, adhering to the summary and story format. Each article began with a headline followed by a lead. RB selected headlines that reflected the core of the news and composed leads that briefly summarized the content before moving on to the body of the article. In other words, readers could grasp the essential information even before reading the entire article. This structure further encouraged readers interested in the headline to continue reading the full article after engaging with the lead.

Subsequently, the political news articles included both the situation and comment elements. RB presented information in a coherent and orderly fashion, creating logical connections between paragraphs and enhancing textual cohesion. RB also included the comment element, which took the form of direct statements from news sources or editorials. Most of the comments were sourced from quoted individuals rather than editorial opinion, ensuring that the news did not appear to be driven by the editor's personal views. An example of a source-based comment found in RB's political news is as follows: "Prabowo stated during the campaign and consolidation event that he intends to continue President Joko Widodo's programs, which he considers beneficial." (D110/12-01-2024)

This comment originates from Prabowo himself, expressing his intention to continue Jokowi's programs if elected president. He added that these were programs he deemed effective. Consequently, readers in Bengkulu who benefited from Jokowi's initiatives might feel reassured, knowing that Prabowo would not terminate those efforts. Moreover, Prabowo also pledged to complete the unfinished programs initiated by Jokowi in the region. An example of an editorial comment from RB is as follows: "In Jakarta, Prabowo's challenge is not easy, given that he is facing Anies Baswedan, the former Jakarta governor with high electability." (D16/06-11-2023)

Through this comment, RB highlighted Anies' electability advantage over Prabowo in Jakarta, clearly informing the reader of Prabowo's potential difficulties in securing votes in the capital city. This comment implicitly favors Anies, as it emphasizes his strong public support. High electability may also enhance readers' trust in Anies due to his perceived success during his

gubernatorial term. At the very least, the comment may influence some readers to agree that Prabowo would indeed face significant challenges in Jakarta.

In van Dijk's critical discourse analysis, the microstructure concerns the finer components of a text, namely semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects [41], [42], [43], [44], [45]. Semantics is the study of meaning and is closely related to pragmatics. While semantics deals with utterance meaning, pragmatics focuses on speaker intent and how messages are interpreted by the receiver. Semantic analysis includes elements such as background, detail, intention, presupposition, nominalization, and negation [46]. Van Dijk defines background as the contextual information that underlies a writer's construction of meaning [47].

RB's political news frequently featured background elements in the lead section. For instance: "BENGKULU—Presidential Candidate No. 02, Prabowo Subianto, was enthusiastically greeted with chants of 'Gemoy' during a grand campaign and volunteer consolidation event at Balai Buntar Hall, Bengkulu, Thursday morning (11/1). Prabowo's arrival was welcomed by the Regional Winning Team (TPD), the Advanced Indonesia Coalition (KIM), as well as volunteers and supporters." (D127/12-01-2024)

This background provides context about the festive atmosphere surrounding Prabowo's campaign event in Bengkulu. RB highlighted the "Gemoy" chants—an affectionate nickname given to Prabowo by his supporters for his charming and jovial demeanor—before elaborating on the content of the campaign itself. RB's use of the viral "Gemoy" narrative served to draw readers' attention and enhance interest in reading the full article.

Furthermore, according to Teun A. van Dijk, the element of detail is closely related to the writer's tendency; diverse and explicit details will be presented if they support the writer's stance [48], [49]. In political news, RB provides detailed information to clarify and elaborate on the presented facts, as in the following example: "Given that Prabowo is facing Anies Baswedan, the former governor of Jakarta with high electability" (D23/06-11-2023).

This detail supports the editorial opinion expressed in the previous sentence, namely, "In Jakarta, Prabowo's challenge is not easy," implying that Prabowo is expected to face significant difficulties in securing votes in Jakarta. RB further clarifies this by citing Anies's strong electability as the former governor. This detail benefits the Anies-Muhaimin pair, as RB reinforces Anies's popularity in Jakarta. Next, the element of intention, according to Teun A. van Dijk [48] and the same author in [50] and [51], states that information may be conveyed explicitly or implicitly. In its political reporting, RB presents both types of intentions. Favorable and supportive information is conveyed explicitly, such as "In Jakarta, Prabowo's challenge is not easy. Given that he will face Anies Baswedan, the former governor of Jakarta with high electability" (D26/06-11-2023).

In this case, RB conveys its point clearly and firmly. RB asserts that Prabowo will face a difficult challenge in Jakarta because Anies, as a former governor, has strong public support. Through this information, RB seems to validate surveys showing Anies's high electability. On the other hand, unfavorable or critical information is conveyed implicitly, as in: "Arsjad also stated that the public obviously cannot ignore reports and evidence indicating that candidate pair 03 has become the target of various forms of fraud and intimidation" (D229/15-02-2024).

Here, RB presents vague information, suggesting that candidate pair 03 experienced fraud but without specifying the forms or perpetrators. This ambiguity may lead readers to perceive the pair as lacking sportsmanship. Therefore, it can be concluded that explicit intentions are more effective than implicit ones, as clarity prevents misinterpretation and potential negative perception of the news subjects. Regarding the element of presupposition, several sentences reflect assumptions, such as "With the high enthusiasm of the Bengkulu people, it is hoped that this campaign will have a positive impact on the electability of Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar in Bengkulu Province." (D69/06-12-2023).

This quote contains the presupposition marked by the words "it is hoped," indicating that the statement is still a hope and not a proven fact. RB hopes the campaign will enhance the electability of Anies-Muhaimin in the region. Furthermore, Teun A. van Dijk in [52] defines nominalization as the transformation of verbs into nouns. In the political news analyzed, several instances of nominalization were found, such as "He called for all acts of fraud to be thoroughly investigated, as they are indicated to have been carried out in a structured, systematic, and massive manner" (D234/15-02-2024).

The term "fraud" illustrates nominalization, where a verb becomes a noun and the subject is removed, thus obscuring who committed the act. As a result, candidate pair 03 may be perceived as unsportsmanlike in accepting defeat due to the lack of clarity on the alleged fraud.

The final element in the semantic aspect is negation. According to Teun A. van Dijk (2006) and the same author in [53], negation is a discourse practice whereby the writer hides a message implicitly. It allows writers to seemingly agree with a statement while actually conveying the opposite. However, no instances of negation were found in the political news texts from RB, indicating no signs of the writer denying any facts.

According to Chaer, syntax refers to the study of how words are arranged into larger units. The syntactic aspect consists of sentence structure, coherence, and pronouns [54]. In terms of sentence structure, RB predominantly uses active voice over passive voice. Active constructions place the subject before the predicate, which shows RB's tendency to emphasize the subject as the focus. Teun A. van Dijk in [55] defines coherence as the unity of meaning between words, sentences, and paragraphs. RB ensures coherence in its political news by using cohesive devices and logical paragraph connections, which enhance the overall flow and clarity of the discourse.

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Regarding pronouns, Teun A. van Dijk in [56] considers them a tool for writers to indicate their position and attitude. RB uses both first-person and third-person pronouns. An example of a first-person pronoun is “For Ganjar-Mahfud, according to Arsjad, the presidential election is not about winning or losing, but about ensuring that our election is held constitutionally, fairly, and justly” (D277/15-02-2024).

The use of “our” indicates inclusivity between the writer and reader, reinforcing a sense of shared national identity and public solidarity. Meanwhile, third-person pronouns like “he,” “they,” “his,” and “her” are used to avoid repetition and maintain sentence clarity.

Stylistics is the study of linguistic style. It focuses on lexical choices. Teun A. van Dijk in [57], [58] states that lexicon concerns how writers choose their words. In RB’s political news, it can be concluded that the newspaper uses refined, polite, and universal language. “Refined” means the language is soft and not harsh, “polite” refers to respectful diction, and “universal” means that the vocabulary is general and easily understood by a broad audience. These choices signal the formal nature of political reporting in RB.

Rhetoric refers to stylistic devices used to emphasize the topic of a text. According to Teun A. van Dijk and the same author in [59], rhetorical aspects include graphical/expression elements and metaphors. Graphics, as explained in [60], serve to differentiate text and highlight certain words, often directing readers’ attention and prompting reflection. In RB’s political news from 6 November 2023, 12 January 2024, and 15 February 2024, similarities in graphical elements were found, including 1) headlines printed in larger, bold fonts; 2) the first word of the first paragraph printed in bold; and 3) photographs accompanied by captions. In contrast, the 6 December 2023 edition lacked images, which may limit reader visualization of the news content. Finally, metaphors, as described by Teun A. van Dijk and the same author in [61], are used to make the text more engaging. For example: “Prabowo-Gibran’s dominance in the ‘bull’s cage,’ according to Burhan, cannot be separated from President Joko Widodo’s (Jokowi) influence.” (D291/15-02-2024).

In this case, RB uses the metaphor “bull’s cage” to refer to the stronghold of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), particularly Central Java, known for its loyalty to the party. Thus, the study of political news discourse in RB supports and reinforces Teun A. van Dijk’s theory of critical discourse analysis.

CONCLUSIONS

At the macrostructure level, the thematic aspect of political news discourse in Rakyat Bengkulu comprises topic and subtopic elements. Overall, the main topic of political news discourse in Rakyat Bengkulu is the phenomenon of the 2024 Presidential Election (Pilpres 2024). The topic is presented inductively in the lead paragraph, followed by several subtopics that serve to elaborate and support the main idea.

In terms of superstructure, the schematic structure of political news in Rakyat Bengkulu is found to be consistent and systematic, following the summary and story scheme. Each political news item begins with a headline, followed by the lead. Rakyat Bengkulu selects headlines that reflect the overall content of the news and composes leads that briefly present essential information before moving on to the main body of the text. As a result, readers are encouraged to engage with the full content of the article. The body of the news is then structured with situation elements and commentary. The information is delivered in a logical sequence, creating coherence between paragraphs. Commentary is presented both from news sources and the editorial team; however, source-based commentary is more frequently used than editorial commentary, ensuring the news does not appear as merely the opinion of the editors.

At the microstructure level, the semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects are fully represented. The semantic aspect reveals the meaning behind the political news reported by Rakyat Bengkulu. The newspaper conveys meaning through elements such as background, detail, intention, presupposition, and nominalization. The syntactic aspect demonstrates the form and structure of the sentences used in the political news. This includes sentence types, coherence, and the use of pronouns. The stylistic aspect highlights the lexical choices found in the political news, with Rakyat Bengkulu opting for refined, polite, and universal vocabulary. The rhetorical aspect is reflected in the use of graphic elements and metaphors. In political news articles, similarities and variations in graphic elements were observed. Additionally, several metaphors were employed by Rakyat Bengkulu to make the news content more engaging and appealing to readers.

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