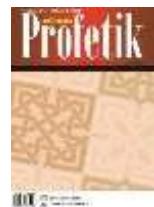




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Investigating Media Discourse on the Narrative Construction of Violence and Sexual Harassment in Islamic Boarding Schools

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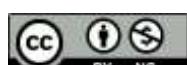
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ABSTRACT

This study examines how mainstream Indonesian media *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com*, construct narratives surrounding violence and sexual harassment in Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*), as well as the resulting public opinion in Bangka Belitung and institutional reputation management efforts. Using Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis, the research analyzes news texts at the macro, superstructure, and micro levels, along with journalist cognition and social context. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with parents, community members, and pesantren leaders, while secondary data consisted of 2022 news articles. The findings reveal competing media narratives: *Detik.com* employed a more aggressive framing by explicitly naming religious figures and institutions, reinforcing narratives of power abuse, whereas *CNNIndonesia.com* emphasized physical violence and law enforcement responses. These media framings generated public anxiety and a crisis of trust, compelling pesantren institutions to adopt proactive reputation management strategies. The study confirms the significant influence of media framing on public perception and emotional response.

Keywords:

violence; sexual harassment; public opinion; news coverage; islamic boarding schools



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INTRODUCTION

The issue of sexual harassment and violence has become a serious social problem in Indonesia, marked by a high number of cases publicly exposed throughout 2022. Disseminated widely through both mainstream and digital media, these cases possess high news value due to their alarming nature and profound social impact (Rakhmat, 2021). Media exposure of such incidents has triggered collective concern and functioned as an early warning for society, particularly given that sexual violence can cause deep and long-lasting psychological trauma for victims (Solikhin, 2023).

Alarmingly, during this period, a number of perpetrators were revealed to be affiliated with educational institutions, particularly Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*), which have long been trusted as safe environments for moral and religious education. These acts were committed not only by educators—who are expected to serve as moral role models—but also by senior students against their juniors, often justified in the name of discipline, self-defense, or misguided solidarity. Such incidents have severely damaged the reputation of pesantren institutions, distorted their educational mission, and raised broader concerns regarding institutional

management. Moreover, this phenomenon risks reinforcing negative stereotypes and potentially generating Islamophobic sentiments.

Within this context, mass media plays a central role not merely as an information channel but as a key agent in constructing public understanding of sexual violence in pesantren. Through narrative choices, headline framing, and selective emphasis, media coverage holds the power to shape public opinion, influence emotional responses, and reinforce particular ideological perspectives (Solikhin, 2023). Consequently, media discourse becomes a crucial factor in determining how society interprets responsibility, power relations, and institutional credibility.

Previous studies employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) have explored sexual violence issues from various perspectives. Pratiwi (2021), for instance, examined conflict management strategies in sexual violence cases at UIN Lampung, revealing a tendency toward avoidance and image repair by institutional leaders. Qisti (2021) analyzed media coverage in *Suryakepri.com* and found that female victims were marginalized, while perpetrators received dominant narrative space. Meanwhile, Fauziyah (2022) demonstrated that *Republika.co.id*



adopted a victim-centered framing in reporting sexual harassment cases at KPI, reflecting a social cognition that sexual violence can affect all genders.

These studies share a common methodological foundation in Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis. However, they remain limited in scope, often focusing on a single media outlet or internal institutional responses. This research addresses that gap by adopting a broader and more integrative approach. It compares the narrative contestation between two major national media outlets *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com* to uncover competing ideological constructions, while simultaneously linking media discourse to its social impact on public perception in Bangka Belitung and the reputation management strategies implemented by local pesantren.

To achieve this, the study applies Van Dijk's CDA framework, which conceptualizes discourse through three interrelated dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context (Dijk, 2015). At the textual level, the analysis examines linguistic structures, word choices, and discourse strategies used to emphasize particular meanings. At the level of social cognition, it explores journalists' interpretive frameworks and ideological assumptions in news production. At the contextual level, it situates media discourse within broader power relations, social structures, and cultural dynamics (Darma, 2014).

In addition, this research incorporates perspectives from communication psychology to analyze the affective and cognitive effects of mass media. Mass communication not only informs but also shapes emotional responses, perceptions, and social attitudes, potentially producing anxiety, distrust, or moral panic (Rakhmat, 2021). Factors such as emotional predisposition, cognitive schemas, and audience identification further influence how media messages are received and interpreted.

Despite the growing body of research on sexual violence and media discourse, studies that simultaneously compare competing mainstream media narratives, examine public emotional and cognitive responses, and analyze institutional reputation strategies within a single analytical framework remain limited. Therefore, this study aims to: (1) analyze mass media discourse strategies in constructing narratives of violence and sexual harassment in pesantren; (2) describe public perceptions and concerns in Bangka Belitung resulting from such coverage; and (3) identify communication efforts undertaken by pesantren institutions to maintain and restore their reputations. The novelty of this research lies in its scope, which goes beyond the analysis of news texts to examine community perception trends and the resulting impact on the reputation of Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*). In this study, the researcher

focuses on a sample of institutions located in Bangka Belitung.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research design using Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model. A qualitative approach was chosen because the research focuses on interpreting social phenomena specifically, how mainstream media construct discourses of violence and sexual harassment and how these constructions shape public perceptions and institutional responses. Such objectives require in-depth interpretative analysis rather than statistical measurement (Creswell, 2014). The research analyzed news texts from two major national online media outlets, *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com*, and collected primary data through in-depth interviews conducted in the Bangka Belitung region. Primary data consisted of interview transcripts from three key groups: (1) members of the general public, (2) parents or guardians of students, and (3) leaders of Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*) in Bangka Belitung, including representatives from Daarul Abror and Nurul Falah. Secondary data comprised news articles published by *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com* related to cases of sexual harassment and violence in *pondok pesantren*. The selection criteria focused on articles that explicitly mentioned the institutions or religious figures involved.

Van Dijk's CDA model served as the primary analytical framework, as it enables a holistic examination of the interaction between textual structures, social cognition, and social context in reproducing power relations and ideology within media discourse (Dijk, 2015). According to Van Dijk, discourse analysis must move beyond surface-level textual examination, as news texts are products of broader production processes and social practices. Therefore, this study adopts Van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Approach (SCA), which integrates three interconnected dimensions of analysis (Eriyanto, 2015, as cited in Rasyid, 2023).

The first dimension, text structure, examines the organization of news discourse at three levels: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The macrostructure identifies the overall topic or dominant theme of the news (e.g., sexual harassment as a crisis). The superstructure analyzes the schematic organization of news elements, including headlines, leads, and story development. The microstructure focuses on local meanings, such as word choice, metaphors, coherence, stylistic features, and pronoun use, which reveal implicit ideological positions.

The second dimension, social cognition, investigates the mental frameworks of news producers, including journalists and editors. This analysis explores how knowledge, beliefs, and socio-political perspectives influence the



selection, interpretation, and framing of events. The third dimension, social context, examines the broader social and political environment in which discourse is produced and received. This dimension is essential for understanding how media constructions generate social effects—such as public anxiety and crises of trust—and how they pressure pesantren institutions to respond within existing power relations and societal norms. By integrating these three dimensions, this study aims not only to describe media content but also to critically reveal the ideological strategies embedded in news discourse and their social impact on the Bangka Belitung community.

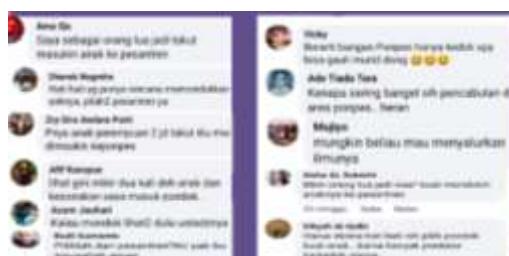
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Critical Discourse Analysis Teun A. Van Dijk

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a multidisciplinary approach to discourse studies that focuses on how discourse reproduces the abuse of power, including sexism, racism, and other forms of social inequality, as well as resistance to domination (Dijk, 2015). Based on the researchers' observations, *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com* frequently report cases of physical violence and sexual harassment in Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*). News headlines often explicitly mention the identities of individuals involved such as *kiai* and *ustadz* as well as the names of the pesantren, thereby clearly presenting the elements of "who" and "what."

Such reporting generates diverse public responses, which can be observed in the comment sections of online news articles, as illustrated in Image 1. These comments reflect widespread public concern regarding the safety of sending children to pesantren and express anger toward boarding school administrators, educators, and related institutions. This demonstrates the influential role of the media in shaping public opinion, as audiences form attitudes and judgments based on their interpretation of media content. Consequently, media-constructed discourse plays a significant role in influencing public attitudes and behaviors.

Image 1



Source : Public Opinion in the News Comment Section in Media Online
Detik.com (2022)

Discourse, as explained by Crystal (1987) and Fairclough (1995) (in Gazali, 2014), encompasses both spoken and written language. Crystal conceptualizes discourse analysis as the study of spoken language, such as conversations, interviews, comments, and utterances. In contrast, Fairclough emphasizes written discourse and defines discourse analysis as an effort to uncover the hidden intentions and ideological

positions embedded in texts. This approach requires positioning oneself within the perspective of the text producer in order to understand how ideology is produced and distributed (Gazali, 2014).

Van Dijk's discourse theory integrates these perspectives through three interrelated dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context. In the textual dimension, Van Dijk analyzes linguistic structures and discourse strategies, including sentence construction, word choice, metaphors, and stylistic elements used to emphasize particular meanings or themes. The social cognition dimension examines the mental processes involved in news production, focusing on journalists' knowledge, beliefs, and interpretive frameworks. Meanwhile, the contextual dimension explores how discourse develops within broader social structures and power relations in society (Darma, 2014).

Unlike other discourse approaches, CDA within Van Dijk's framework not only connects discourse to social structures but also employs a socio-cognitive perspective that links mental representations of events with communicative practices. Power is conceptualized as control over discourse structures such as context, text, and meaning which indirectly shapes human thought through language (Dijk, 2015). Van Dijk further categorizes textual analysis into three levels: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The macrostructure refers to the global

meaning or dominant theme of a text; the superstructure concerns the schematic organization of the text, such as introductions, bodies, and conclusions; and the microstructure focuses on local meanings revealed through word choice, sentence patterns, and stylistic features (Eriyanto, 2012, in Baiq Fahriatin Bakri, 2020).

Critical Discourse Analysis on News Narrative in Detik.com

One of the news articles analyzed from *Detik.com* is titled "*Kiai Reported to Police for Allegedly Molesting a Female Student in Jember, Ministry of Religious Affairs Steps In*" (*Detik.com*, 2022a). Based on Van Dijk's framework, the macrostructure of this news text centers on the issue of sexual harassment and violence within Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*). The macrostructure represents the global meaning or dominant theme of the text, which, in this case, emphasizes sexual violence allegedly committed by a religious authority figure within a pesantren. The headline itself explicitly identifies both the perpetrator (a *kiai*) and the institutional setting, immediately directing readers' attention to the seriousness of the case and the involvement of religious leadership.

At the superstructure level, the schematic organization of the news text follows a conventional hard news format. The headline introduces the allegation against the *kiai* and highlights the intervention of the Ministry of Religious



Affairs (*Kementerian Agama*). The lead elaborates on the report filed by the *kiai*'s wife regarding the alleged molestation of a female student in Jember. The body of the news describes the investigation process following the police report, while the conclusion presents the statement of Kiai Fahim, who denies the allegations and considers them defamatory. Overall, the news text fulfills the journalistic elements of 5W + 1H and applies an inverted pyramid structure, presenting the most important information at the beginning. This confirms the classification of the article as hard news, which prioritizes immediacy and public importance.

At the microstructure level, the analysis focuses on semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical elements. Semantically, the background element explains the reasons behind the police report, linking the alleged molestation and adultery to the involvement of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The detail element foregrounds Kiai Fahim's denial, framing it as a counter-narrative to the accusations. The element of intent implicitly legitimizes the intervention of the Ministry of Religious Affairs by emphasizing its authority and regulatory role in preventing and handling sexual violence in pesantren. The presupposition embedded in the text suggests that the Ministry holds special access and responsibility in responding to such cases within religious educational institutions.

Syntactically, the news text adopts a deductive pattern, presenting the

core allegation first and subsequently providing explanations and responses. In terms of coherence, there is a noticeable tension between the report of the alleged crime and the denial issued by Kiai Fahim, creating a conflicting narrative structure. The use of the pronoun *kiai* functions not merely as a personal identifier but as a symbolic reference to religious authority and pesantren leadership, which amplifies the moral weight of the accusation. Stylistically, the lexical choice of the word "*reported*" (*dilaporkan*) reinforces the legal seriousness of the case. Visually, the rhetorical or graphic element is represented by the image of the Ministry of Religious Affairs building, conveying institutional authority, formality, and state involvement in the case.

From Van Dijk's perspective, discourse analysis operates across three interrelated levels: text, social cognition, and social context (Darma, 2014). At the textual level, discourse strategies are employed to frame individuals and events in ways that may marginalize or highlight certain actors. At the level of social cognition, the journalist's perspective reflects an understanding that sexual violence can be committed by anyone, including respected religious figures. This cognitive framing challenges the traditionally positive image of *kiai* as moral exemplars. At the social context level, the discourse contributes to broader societal reactions, shaping public concern and distrust toward pesantren institutions,



as evidenced by interviews with parents and community members.

The prominent placement of the *kiai*'s name in the headline potentially corners the individual and influences public judgment. As noted by Eriyanto (2007, cited in Solikhin, 2023), word choice and sentence construction are not neutral but form part of a journalist's ideological strategy. In this case, the discourse constructs a message that perpetrators of sexual violence may include individuals with religious authority, prompting society to be more cautious in selecting safe and child-friendly educational institutions.

A second *Detik.com* article titled "*PWNU Jatim Urges Police to Thoroughly Investigate Allegations of Kiai Jember's Molestation*" (*Detik.com*, 2022c) similarly places the cleric's identity in the headline but employs a different narrative emphasis. While the previous article foregrounds state intervention through the Ministry of Religious Affairs, this article highlights the response of a religious mass organization, PWNU East Java. The superstructure centers on institutional concern and moral accountability, with the lead quoting PWNU leaders urging police to thoroughly investigate the allegations. At the microstructure level, the discourse conveys sadness, disappointment, and moral condemnation, reinforcing the seriousness of the alleged misconduct.

Another *Detik.com* article, "*Pemuda Muhammadiyah Condemns*

Two Pesantren Leaders in NTB for Raping 41 Female Students" (*Detik.com*, 2022b), further strengthens this pattern. The superstructure focuses on condemnation by a major Islamic organization, while the microstructure emphasizes irony and moral outrage. The metaphorical expression "*sex education class*" is particularly striking, as it exposes the manipulation of religious discourse to legitimize sexual violence, thereby intensifying the negative moral evaluation of the perpetrators.

Overall, *Detik.com* consistently constructs a discourse that explicitly names religious figures and institutions, framing sexual violence in pesantren as a severe moral and institutional crisis. Through its textual strategies, social cognition, and contextual framing, the media discourse not only informs the public but also shapes emotional responses, reinforces ideological meanings, and pressures religious institutions to address issues of accountability and trust.

Public Opinion Regarding Media Coverage of Violence and Sexual Harassment in Islamic Boarding Schools

News headlines reporting sexual harassment in Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*) often explicitly mention the names of the perpetrators as well as the institutions where the incidents occurred. Headlines also emphasize the involvement of organizations and institutions that



condemn and respond to the cases, thereby highlighting the severity of the issue. Such reporting can tarnish the reputation of pesantren, traditionally viewed as safe environments for religious education led by trusted figures like *ustadz* or *kiai*. By revealing that sexual offenses occur in these trusted environments, the news challenges long-held assumptions about the safety and integrity of pesantren.

Media coverage serves an important educational function by informing the public about the current state of Islamic boarding schools, while also prompting parents to critically assess where they entrust their children. Interviews with parents in Bangka Belitung indicate that some now prefer to send their children to pesantren only after they are capable of self-protection, typically after completing junior high school. Other parents continue to trust pesantren but emphasize the importance of thoroughly researching the institution to avoid potential incidents of violence or harassment. From a mass communication perspective, exposure to media reports shapes public attitudes and behaviors. The coverage of sexual harassment in pesantren has generated widespread public concern, leading to feelings of worry, anger, fear, and disappointment, and contributing to a negative perception of these institutions. Headlines that directly mention specific schools and individuals further associate the incidents with Islam itself, reinforcing negative stereotypes.

Cognitively, some academics in Bangka Belitung argue that emphasizing the names of schools, teachers, or caretakers in headlines violates the principle of presumption of innocence and risks damaging institutional reputations. Such reporting can create the impression that these cases are systemic, potentially resulting in sensationalism and biased public perceptions. Nevertheless, the general public largely accepts the media's framing, using the information to make more cautious decisions regarding their children's education and, in some cases, choosing not to send them to pesantren at all.

Overall, the media plays a critical role in shaping both affective and cognitive responses among the public. By highlighting individual cases within trusted religious institutions, coverage of sexual harassment influences societal attitudes, alters behavioral intentions, and affects the broader reputation of Islamic boarding schools in the community.

Critical Discourse Analysis on News Narrative in CNNIndonesia.com

News coverage of sexual harassment and violence in Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*) varies significantly between *Detik.com* and *CNNIndonesia.com*.

Detik.com frequently highlights the names of the perpetrators and the institutions involved, using terms such as *kiai* or *pesantren leaders*. Headlines often reference the involvement of organizations and authorities, such as



Pemuda Muhammadiyah, PWNU, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (Kemenag), emphasizing their responses and actions in addressing the cases. This framing not only portrays organizational concern and sympathy for victims but also indirectly critiques the parenting or disciplinary patterns within pesantren. By explicitly naming perpetrators and institutions, *Detik.com*'s coverage can corner religious leaders and highlight systemic risks, thereby shaping public opinion about the safety and governance of Islamic boarding schools.

In contrast, *CNNIndonesia.com* focuses more on general violence in pesantren, including brawls, physical abuse, and verbal harassment, often perpetrated by senior students against juniors. The coverage emphasizes the role of law enforcement in handling these cases, highlighting police investigations, procedural steps, and institutional accountability, thereby enhancing the public image of the police. For example: In the article "*Accused of Stealing Money, Student Allegedly Becomes Victim of Abuse at Islamic Boarding Schools*" (CNNIndonesia, 2022b), the superstructure frames the headline around the alleged theft and subsequent abuse. The lead explains the Malang Police investigation, while the body and conclusion detail the investigative process, including the victim's autopsy results. At the microstructure level, deductive sentence patterns, repeated statements by the Police Chief, and pronoun use (e.g., *we* for the police)

reinforce institutional authority and the thoroughness of the investigation

1. The article "*Series of Violence Cases in Islamic Boarding Schools Leading to Deaths in the Last 2 Months*" (CNNIndonesia, 2022a) narrates multiple violent incidents across Indonesia. The superstructure introduces the series of cases and the involvement of police in each investigation. The microstructure clarifies the sequence of incidents, identifies affected *santri* (students), and presupposes ongoing police efforts.
2. Similarly, "*Pesantren Student in Bangkalan Dies After Being Abused by Senior*" (CNNIndonesia, 2022d) focuses on the investigative actions of the Bangkalan Police Chief, detailing the chronology of events and police interventions. Microstructural elements, including repeated statements and use of the term *institution*, center the discourse on accountability rather than sensationalizing the perpetrators.
3. The report "*KemenPPPA: Gontor Student Dies After Being Kicked in the Chest Until Seizures*" (CNNIndonesia, 2022c) emphasizes institutional response from KemenPPPA (Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection), including appeals and procedural directions, highlighting systemic concern and safeguarding measures.

Overall, while *Detik.com* emphasizes perpetrators' identities,



institutional names, and social organizations' responses thereby potentially framing pesantren negatively. *CNNIndonesia.com* foregrounds institutional handling of violence, police accountability, and procedural investigation. This contrast illustrates how different editorial strategies can influence public perception: *Detik.com* frames pesantren as potentially unsafe and scrutinizes leadership, whereas *CNNIndonesia.com* reinforces trust in law enforcement and institutional oversight.

Community Perception and Reputation Management of Islamic Boarding Schools

Cases of physical violence and sexual harassment within Islamic boarding schools (*pondok pesantren*) have become a highly publicized issue, prompting media investigations to uncover the conditions of these institutions for public awareness. However, sensationalized reporting can generate negative perceptions, affecting even pesantren that are not directly involved in the incidents.

In addition to analyzing media reports, this study examined the psychological impact on the community, particularly parents who are considering sending their children to pesantren, as well as the response strategies of affected Islamic boarding schools in Bangka Belitung. Among the schools studied, cases of sexual harassment remain rare, while incidents of physical violence

between caregivers and students or among students themselves still receive special attention. For example, at Nurul Falah Islamic Boarding School in Central Bangka, cases of physical violence between caregivers and students were reported in the mass media, which subsequently shaped public opinion about the school.

To address the negative impact of media coverage, the head of Nurul Falah Islamic Boarding School implemented reputation management strategies, including engaging directly with journalists. By inviting the media to visit the pesantren and obtain complete, verified information, the school ensured more balanced reporting. This approach corrected earlier one-sided reports that had relied solely on the victim's parents' statements, ultimately resulting in follow-up news that presented a fairer perspective and mitigated negative perceptions.

In this context, media neutrality is critical. According to Eriyanto, neutrality entails balance, impartiality, fairness, and objectivity in reporting. Balanced reporting requires covering multiple perspectives and ensuring proportional access to all parties involved, as well as fact-checking information before publication (Nerone, 2018). In the case of Nurul Falah, initial reporting failed to meet these standards, disadvantaging the pesantren in public perception.

Other pesantren, such as Daarul Abror Islamic Boarding School, employed an emotional and relational



approach with stakeholders to manage reputation. When parents expressed concern over student safety due to reports of sexual harassment and violence in other schools, the leadership of Daarul Abror held direct meetings with parents to reassure them about the safety and governance of the school. The head of the pesantren also addressed specific concerns, such as parents' suggestions to restrict male teachers from teaching female students, emphasizing that internal policies and supervision mitigate the risks reported in sensationalized media coverage.

These examples illustrate how pesantren actively manage their reputation in response to media narratives, using both institutional communication with the press and direct engagement with parents to maintain trust. Such strategies help minimize the negative social and psychological impact of news coverage while reinforcing the school's image as a safe and trustworthy environment for religious education.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that mass media plays a decisive role in constructing, amplifying, and circulating narratives of violence and sexual harassment in pesantren, with significant consequences for public perception and institutional reputation. Drawing on Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis, the findings reveal that media discourse is not neutral, but ideologically contested and strategically framed in

ways that shape social meaning and authority relations.

First, the analysis confirms the existence of ideological contestation within mainstream media reporting. Detik.com employed a confrontational discourse that foregrounded the perpetrator's religious identity, reinforcing a critical narrative that links moral authority in pesantren with the potential for power abuse. In contrast, CNNIndonesia.com recontextualized the issue by shifting attention from sexual harassment to physical violence and legal resolution, positioning state institutions particularly law enforcement as the primary agents of justice. Despite these different emphases, both discursive strategies converge in producing a delegitimizing effect on pesantren as moral and educational institutions.

Second, the study highlights the affective dimension of media discourse and its role in generating a crisis of public trust. Media narratives triggered strong emotional responses among the Bangka Belitung community, including fear, anxiety, and suspicion, which in turn reshaped parental attitudes toward pesantren education. This finding reinforces the argument that mass media does not merely disseminate information, but actively constructs social reality by mobilizing emotions that influence decision-making in religious and educational contexts.

Third, the research shows that pesantren are not passive recipients of media narratives, but strategic actors



engaged in reputation management communication. The contrasting approaches adopted by Nurul Falah and Daarul Abror illustrate two complementary strategies: media engagement aimed at restoring narrative balance, and direct emotional communication with stakeholders to rebuild trust. These responses underscore the growing necessity for religious institutions to develop communicative competence, transparency, and crisis responsiveness in an increasingly mediatized public sphere.

Overall, this study contributes to communication and media studies by extending Critical Discourse Analysis into the domain of religious institutional reputation, demonstrating how media power intersects with morality, authority, and public trust. Practically, the findings suggest that pesantren must integrate proactive communication strategies into institutional governance, while journalists and media organizations should exercise greater ethical responsibility when reporting sensitive issues involving religious education. Future research may expand this analysis by incorporating audience reception studies or comparative cross-regional media analyses to further examine the long-term effects of media discourse on religious institutions.

CREDIT AUTHORSHIP

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Sekar Putri: Writing-Conceptual Draft, Methodology, Data curation,

Writing, Data curation, Draft Compilation, Investigation, Methodology, Yera Yulista: Data curation, Supervisions, Reviewing and Editing.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

We certify that there is no conflict of interest with any financial, personal, or other relationships with other people or organizations related to the material discussed in the manuscript.

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