



Unveiling Political Bias in English Newspapers of Indonesian News Portal: A Critical Discourse Analysis Approach

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Abstract

English language news portals have become important sites where political narratives are built for both local and global viewers as press freedom wanes in Indonesia and media ownership grows more concentrated. Although Indonesian media has seen increasing academic attention, few studies using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) have looked at how pro-government bias works linguistically in English-language political coverage during electoral cycles. Using Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA model on 25 news articles from four Indonesian online news portals such as, The Jakarta Post, Tempo English, Republika, and Antara News published during the 2024 presidential election, this study addresses that gap. A 16-point instrument assessing source selection, lexical choices, framing techniques, and information balance was used to judge articles. Results show that 56% of articles showed pro-government bias, with an average score of 4.52/16. During pre-election and election month times, bias levels were much greater than those in the post-election period. Pro-government bias was purposely created by means of partisan evaluative language, calculated source quoted, and strategic headline framing. The manifestation and intensity of bias were determined by contextual variables like temporal proximity to the election, issue sensitivity, law enforcement climate, and media channel attributes. The research shows how English language Indonesian political news systematically creates ideological positioning using language and frame strategies, therefore helping to explain bias mechanisms more generally in non-Western, EFL media environments.

1. Introduction

As the largest democracy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia uses a complex media ecosystem whereby English-language news outlets simultaneously inform local audiences and project Indonesia's political image to foreign investors, diplomats, and observers (Rodrigo-Ginés et al., 2024). Indonesia's media scene, which has more than 270 million people and a fast-increasing digital news readership, is crucial in guiding public debate on democratic rule. Political prejudice in English-language online media in Indonesia reveals a systematic bias toward or emphasis of particular groups, political parties, or beliefs (Lazaridou & Krestel, 2016), therefore generating severe doubts regarding the caliber of democratic information available to domestic and foreign audience.

However, advances in digital media have raised concerns about the potential for political bias that could threaten the functioning of democracy (Klepka, 2019). As fewer media outlets and members of the public are willing to be open to different perspectives, political bias has become a major obstacle to the functioning of democracy. This problem is even more apparent in the digital age, where misleading information spreads widely not only through fake news, but also through bias in the selection of issues and portrayals that are not entirely untrue.

Political reporting in English language online media in Indonesia shows a structured tendency to under or over emphasize certain groups, political parties, or ideologies (Lazaridou & Krestel, 2016). Understanding these various types of bias is crucial because they can influence how democracy works at the national level and also Indonesia's image in the eyes of the world (Domingos de Arruda et al., 2020) If news portals systematically portray government activities positively while suppressing oppositional voices, they risk creating an information climate that undermines active public engagement in the democratic process.

Media bias analysis is particularly relevant in the context of the 2024 Indonesian presidential election. Three presidential candidates are competing in this election. One of the pairs, number 02 Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the son of President Joko Widodo, has emerged as the frontrunner amid fierce debate over Gibran's eligibility as a presidential candidate. Jokowi's support for his son's candidacy has sparked issues regarding the development of a political dynasty and the autonomy of state institutions from the control of the ruling government. This election cycle offers a crucial test to see whether the Indonesian media, especially English-language websites aimed at international consumers, can maintain editorial independence under intense political pressure.

Three types of media bias as highlighted in studies, include coverage, gatekeeping, and statement bias, which influence how politics is framed in news reports (Baly et al., 2020). Political bias can be practically defined as systematic departure from impartial reporting resulting from preferential emphasis, source imbalance, or evaluative language favoring a certain political actor. Pro-

government bias particularly refers to editorial trends wherein government voices are consistently amplified, critical opinions are minimized, and government activities are framed favorably independent of actual worth.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offers a theoretical framework for analyzing how word choice and linguistic style shape ideological views in political writings (Morstatter et al., 2018). Recent research reveals that CDA bridges the use of highly specific language (micro) with broader power dynamics (macro), explaining how the media uses discourse to justify power and social injustice (Chen & Liu, 2024). Research combining CDA with computational linguistics shows that automated systems have the potential to detect bias through discourse patterns while maintaining depth of interpretation (Spinde et al., 2021). However, most existing methods rely on the political context of Western countries, making them less relevant when applied outside that context (Dezhkameh, 2021).

Research using CDA in Indonesia has shown that political coverage reflects ideological prejudice in rhetorical methods, yet these are usually confined to certain times or campaign years (Ahmed, 2021). Additional studies show that rigorous media rules have caused media freedom to decline, hence affecting journalistic independence (Ness et al., 2023). Concentrated oligarchic ownership of the Indonesian media scene affects political affiliations and editorial policy (Hamborg et al., 2019). The four news portals examined in this study illustrate this structural diversity. Antara News operates as a state news agency under direct government oversight. The Jakarta Post and Tempo English are independent private media with reputations for investigative journalism. Republika serves a dual constituency of Islamic voters and Islamic political interests. These structural differences make comparative bias analysis particularly valuable. This emphasizes the need of knowing how English language media negotiate political influence and ideological pressure in their reporting activities.

However, three gaps remain visible in the literature. First, current studies are largely based on Western linguistic and ideological systems, so that non-English native media have largely been unexplored (Amenah Hussein Ali, 2025). Second, analyses of Indonesian political media often focus on specific events, thereby hindering generalizations about routine coverage (Lestari et al., 2024). Third, automated bias detection models have not been systematically tested in contexts where English functions as a foreign language integrated into local political discourse (W. Chen et al., 2021).

As a result, little is known about how pro-government bias manifests linguistically in English language coverage produced under Indonesia's media oligopoly (Seinsiani et al., 2023). Crucially, English-language Indonesian political reporting during election cycles has rarely been examined using CDA, leaving significant gaps in our understanding of how hybrid discourses combining local ideological pressures with global communication norms construct political bias (Ismail Ahmad Simo & Ali Ahmed, 2023).

This study addresses two research questions: (1) How do English newspapers in Indonesian news portals construct pro-government political bias through linguistic choices and framing strategies? (2) What contextual factors (political pressures and audience considerations) influence the manifestation of pro-government bias in Indonesian news portals? Accordingly, this study has two objectives. First, to analyze how pro-government bias is produced linguistically and discursively using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Second, to identify and explain the contextual factors that contribute to the formation of pro-government bias in Indonesian news portals (Reddy et al., 2019).

What distinguishes this study from prior Indonesian CDA research is its comparative cross-portal design, its focus on the 2024 election cycle as a particularly high-stakes political context, and its systematic application of a structured bias evaluation instrument alongside qualitative CDA (Yu et al., 2021). It contributes to a broader understanding of ideological construction in the global media system and reveals how linguistic strategies maintain pro-government narratives in non-Western democracies (Imani & Wahyudi, 2025).

2. Method

This study employs a qualitative research design using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). According to (Fairclough, 1995) CDA views discourse as a form of social practice that is both shaped by society and shapes society. CDA is better suited than content analysis or frame analysis alone for this study because it integrates micro-level linguistic features with macro-level ideological structures, enabling analysis of not only what is said, but how linguistic choices construct and legitimate power relations (Creswell, 2018). Fairclough's three-dimensional model operationalizes this through three analytical levels: textual analysis of language features, discursive practice analysis of production and consumption processes, and social practice analysis of ideological and institutional contexts.

The data corpus consisted of English-language political news articles from four prominent Indonesian online news portals: The Jakarta Post, Tempo English, Antara News, and Republika. These four gateways were chosen since they together reflect the structural variety of Indonesian English-language media a government agency (Antara), independent investigative news sources (Jakarta Post, Tempo English), and a media company specific religious political audience (Republika) and because they possess the highest editorial reputation and browsing traffic among English-language portals in Indonesia. 25 news articles published within three electoral phases of the 2024 presidential election cycle pre-election (November 15–January 29, 2023), election month (February 2024), and post-election (March 19–August 22, 2024) were chosen using purposive sampling.

Articles were chosen for their variety in possible direction toward government or opposition (Palinkas et al., 2015), their information-rich nature, and direct relevance to political reporting. With 8 articles from the pre-election

period, 5 from the election month, and 12 from the post-election period, the distribution was: The Jakarta Post (9 articles), Tempo English (4 articles), Antara News (4 articles), and Republika (8 articles).

The data was collected by directly accessing and archiving articles from the official Indonesian news portal websites. Every article was recorded systematically with publication date, title, authors and word count, and screenshots were taken to retain the original layout along with its visual context. The study instrument was designed based on the two primary research questions, using structured codes from four variables: (1) lexical choices assessing positive or negative adjectives applied to government versus opposition actors; (2) source selection, comparing frequency and prominence of government versus opposition sources; (3) frame-level analysis, examining headline and lead paragraph focus and voice construction; (4) global bias evaluation through qualitative assessment.

Each item was scored on a scale where positive values indicated pro-government bias, negative values indicated pro-opposition orientation, and scores near zero indicated balance. The instrument was reviewed by two independent experts in media discourse analysis for content validity before application. Contextual factors including publication timing, political sensitivity, media ownership, and intertextuality were also considered during analysis.

The data analysis process employed (Fairclough, 1995) three-dimensional CDA model, which includes textual analysis (micro level), discursive practice analysis (meso level), and social practice analysis (macro level). At the textual level, syntactic structures, modality markers, lexical choices, and rhetorical techniques indicating potential bias were identified. Analysis at the level of discursive practice concentrated on intertextual links, source choice trends, and framing strategies that build ideological points of view.

Findings at the social practice level were contextualized inside the wider Indonesian media-political terrain, taking into account structural elements like media ownership, legal systems, and political economy influences (Van Dijk, 2008). The investigation developed in three stages; first highlight linguistic indications of prejudice using a color-coded system, second grouping detected characteristics according to recognized classifications of media bias, and third interpreting the results through the prism of Indonesia's sociopolitical context, hence connecting micro-level linguistic phenomena with macro level ideological frameworks.

These steps were used to improve the dependability of readings: an audit trail recording every analytical choice was kept throughout the investigation, negative case analysis was done by deliberately looking for publications challenging developing patterns, and interpretations were thoroughly cross-checked against both the textual evidence and more general contextual literature. The absence of formal inter-rater reliability testing is a restriction of the present investigation as the conclusion notes. Future versions should include methods for intercoder agreement to improve analytical accuracy.

The researcher holds an insider position as an Indonesian investigator studying Indonesian media, which provides contextual awareness of the political scene but also runs possible interpretative bias. Through reflexive journaling throughout study and overt application of Fairclough's structured analytical categories as an anchor framework to minimize subjective drift, this positioning was tackled. Ethical concerns include publicly accessible journalism papers; article authors are only known by their institutional affiliation in the study, consistent with established media research methodology.

3. Result

Distribution of Political Bias

Of 25 articles analyzed, 14 (56%) exhibited pro-government bias, while 6 (24%) were balanced and 5 (20%) showed pro-opposition orientation. Bias intensity varied across election periods: the pre-election period produced an average score of 5.5/16, the election month produced 5.2/16, and the post-election period produced 3.58/16 a 35% decrease.

Table 1. Bias Distribution and Temporal Variation

Period	n	Average Score	Range	Strong Pro Government (10-16)	Moderate Pro Government (5-9)	Balanced (0-4)	Pro Opposition (below 0)
Pre-Election (2023-January 2024)	8	5.5	-4 to 12	2 (25%)	3 (38%)	2 (25%)	1 (12%)
During Election (February 2024)	5	5.2	-4 to 10	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)
Post Election (March-September 2024)	12	3.58	-3 to 10	1 (8%)	5 (42%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)
Total	25	4.52	-4 to 12	5 (20%)	9 (36%)	6 (24%)	5 (20%)

Although post-election coverage fell to 3.58 (a 35% decrease) the pre-election season and Election Month showed comparable levels of bias (5.5 and 5.2 respectively). This shows that strategically biased implementation strengthens during electorally significant events then eases off afterward. While strong pro-government news articles fell from 25% to 8%, the proportion of pro-opposition articles rose from 12% pre-election to 25% post-election, indicating consistent temporal change rather than homogenous propaganda.

Linguistic Systems that Shape Bias

Three main linguistic mechanisms that produce pro-government bias: biased evaluative language, source allocation imbalance, and strategic framing of headlines.

Table 2. Linguistic Patterns in Key Articles

Article	Date	Topic	Positive Adj. (Gov)	Negative Adj. (Opp)	Government Words	Opposition Words	Headline Frame	Score
A16	November 21, 2023	Hoax warning during election	3	12	88	0	Pro government	12/16
A21	February 6, 2024	Minister Erick Thohir campaigns	10	0	154	0	Pro government	10/16
A18	December 2, 2023	Data breach	7	0	82	0	Pro government	10/16
A07	May 7, 2024	Lunch program Prabowo	8	0	138	0	Neutral	7/16
A11	February 12, 2024	Voting overseas went smoothly	5	0	100	0	Neutral	7/16
A05	May 8, 2024	Mahfud said about cabinet corruption	4	0	39	55	Pro opposition	-1/16
A09	August 22, 2024	Emergency warning on social media	0	0	0	61	Pro opposition	-3/16
A12	February 15, 2024	Election issues on vote counting process	0	0	118	0	Pro opposition	-4/16

Biased evaluative language appeared prominently in Article A16 (November 21, 2023), employing 12 negative terms for opposition activities ("provocation," "propaganda," "hate speeches," "divide," "polarization," "smear campaigns") versus 3 positive government terms ("wisely," "positive information," "continuity"). This 4:1 negative to positive ratio established the government as stability protector and opposition as chaos agent. The article's headline read: "Ministry warns public of hoax spread during election campaign period." The security ministry official's 88 words warning received no opposition response, pre-emptively delegitimizing future criticism.

Article A21 (Republika, February 6, 2024, score: 10/16) exemplified explicit propaganda through evaluative language. The article's headline "Erick Thohir Prays Prabowo-Gibran to win the 2024 election" openly transferred incumbent authority. The article provided 154 words of uncritical coverage with 10 positive adjectives including "sustainable leadership," "capable of maintaining stability," and "same as Jokowi" explicitly transferring incumbent authority. Zero opposition voices appeared.

Source allocation imbalance systematically amplified government voices while excluding opposition. Articles A21, A07, A11, and A04 allocated 154, 138, 100, and 105 words respectively to government sources with complete opposition exclusion. Article A07 gave President-elect Prabowo 138 words to explain his controversial school lunch program, noting "critics mentioned but not quoted," allowing complete narrative control through positive framing: "landmark program," "growth driver," "Golden Indonesia."

Pro-opposition articles reversed this allocation. Article A09 (constitutional crisis) featured 5 opposition sources (61 words) using strong language "constitutional robbery," "led by criminals" with zero government sources. Article A12 allocated 165 words to election watchdog Bawaslu detailing 19 electoral problems including fraud and intimidation with no government defense, demonstrating how official sources legitimize critical coverage.

Strategic headline framing exploited cognitive primacy effects. Article A18 headlined "KPU Assures 2024 Election Voter Data Is Safe" despite confirmed breach of 204.8 million voter records. The headline emphasized reassurance ("Assures," "Safe") while evidence appeared in later paragraphs. The article used "alleged" six times despite confirmed breach, provided 82 government source words with zero independent experts, and employed 7 positive adjectives ("safe," "uninterrupted," "handling"), prioritizing government image over public information. Article A11 (February 12) used "Overseas Voting Proceeding Smoothly" two days before voting, with 100 government words emphasizing "smoothly," "properly," "success," even "Praise be to God," legitimizing the election without independent verification.

Contextual Factors Shaping Bias

Temporal proximity to election, topic sensitivity, enforcement climate, and media platform characteristics significantly influenced bias manifestation.

Table 3. Variations of Bias Patterns in Indonesians News Portals

News Portals	Type	n	Strong Pro Government (10-16)	Moderate Pro Government (5-9)	Balanced (0-4)	Pro Opposition (below 0)	Pattern
Jakarta Post	Independent	9	1 (11%)	5 (56%)	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	Moderate pro-government with critical capacity
Tempo English	Independent	4	0 (0%)	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	1 (25%)	Balanced or neutral tendency
Republika	Islamic Media	8	3 (38%)	1 (12%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	Significant variance
Antara News	Government/state agency	4	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)	Consistent pro government orientation

The timing of the election emerged as the strongest contextual factor shaping the intensity of bias. The pre-election period and election month maintained consistently high levels of bias (5.5 and 5.2), decreasing by 35% after the election (3.58). The pattern is most evident in Antara news Article A16 (November 21, 2023, score 12/16), the highest-scoring article in the dataset, published one week before the official campaign period. The Ministry of Security described potential opposition activities as “provocation,” “propaganda,” and “hate speeches” using 12 negative terms versus 3 positive terms for the government, thereby establishing the government as the arbiter of information before the election competition heated up.

Similarly, Republika Article A21 (February 6, 2024, score 10/16), published eight days before the vote, gave Minister Erick Thohir 154 words, uncritical platform to explicitly campaign for the Prabowo-Gibran at *Pondok Pesantren*, demonstrating how the proximity of the election allowed for maximum bias. In contrast, post-election articles shifted toward accountability: Jakarta Post Article A09 (August 22, 2024, score -3/16) covered the constitutional crisis with five opposition sources using the term “constitutional theft,” and Tempo English Article A12 (February 15, 2024, score -4/16) published 19 election issues from Bawaslu the day after the second vote, showing how the reduced stakes in the election allowed for previously suppressed critical journalism.

The sensitivity of the topic and government enforcement further modulate the manifestation of bias. Controversial topics handled under high law enforcement pressure produce maximum pro-government bias, as shown by Republika Article A18 (December 2, 2023, score 10/16), which carried the headline “KPU Assures 2024 Election Voter Data Is Safe” despite 204.8 million records being compromised, used the word “alleged” six times, and relied entirely on government sources to protect the legitimacy of the election ten weeks before the vote. Conversely, critical coverage emerged when official sources provided criticism rather than opposition politicians.

Tempo English's Article A12 published a comprehensive list of election problems from Bawaslu because institutional sources legitimized criticism, avoiding the impression of political partisanship. Routine administrative topics generated balanced coverage regardless of timing, such as Jakarta Post's Article A08 (July 1, 2024, score 2/16) on inauguration logistics and Tempo English's Article A13 (March 19, 2024, score 2/16) on the vote counting schedule both use minimal evaluative language with brief factual sources, confirming that low-risk topics avoid political manipulation while sensitive election topics attract maximum bias under law enforcement pressure.

Media platforms exhibited distinct patterns. Republika showed widest variation (scores -4 to +10), oscillating between extreme pro-government (A21: 10/16, A18: 10/16, A22: 10/16) and pro-opposition (A19: -4/16, A25: -3/16), reflecting dual constituency service government campaign platforms when

mobilizing Islamic voters, opposition platforms when serving Islamic party bases. Antara News as state agency maintained consistent pro-government orientation with zero pro-opposition articles, employing subtle bias through information imbalance: Articles A14 and A15 allocated Prabowo Gibran "30% more coverage with 12 specific programmes" versus "2-3 programmes" for opposition, and strategically quoted President Jokowi exclusively with Prabowo, transferring presidential authority.

4. Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that political bias in English-language Indonesian news portals during the 2024 presidential election was not random but systematic, shaped by specific linguistic mechanisms and influenced by contextual factors. The following discussion interprets these results in relation to existing literature and theoretical frameworks.

Pro-Government Bias and Linguistic Mechanisms

The systematic pro-government bias with an average of 4.52/16 recorded in this study is in line with the framework of (Hamborg et al., 2019), which identifies coverage bias, filtering bias, and statement bias as the main mechanisms of systematic deviation from objective reporting. This study confirms that these mechanisms operate in English-language portals in Indonesia, but reveals more nuanced manifestations than those previously documented in Western contexts. At Fairclough's textual level, the 4:1 ratio of negative to positive evaluative language found in Article A16 supports (Fairclough, 2013) argument that linguistic choices serve ideological positions.

At the discursive practice level, the strategic omission of sources observed in several articles extends findings on how constructed discourses present distinctive portrayals of socio-political events. Notably, the phrase "critics mentioned but not quoted" in Article A07 suggests that bias in these portals operates through active editorial control rather than passive omission, indicating a deliberate decision to acknowledge critical perspectives while denying them a substantial platform. At the social practice level, findings connect to Indonesia's concentrated media ownership structures and the political economy pressures that identify as structural determinants of bias patterns.

Time Variation in Bias Intensity

The 1.92 points difference between pre-election and post-election bias scores indicates that proximity to the election significantly influences the manifestation of bias. Pre-election coverage applied maximum bias through a strategic framework that established government authorities as the determinants of information (A16), minimized security crises (A18), and provided an explicit campaign platform (A21).

This contrasts with post-election coverage, where critical reporting emerges on topics such as cabinet corruption (A05) and constitutional crises (A09). This temporal pattern suggests that the stakes in the election reinforce editorial pressure towards pro-government framing, while reduced political sensitivity after the vote allows for greater editorial independence. These findings expand on (Rodrigo-Ginés et al., 2024) observations regarding increased media significance during politically sensitive periods by showing that increased significance does not necessarily result in more balanced coverage.

Contextual Factors Affecting the Manifestation of Bias

In addition to temporal variations, this study identifies topic sensitivity, law enforcement climate, and media characteristics as significant contextual factors. Critical reporting emerges primarily when crises become undeniable or when official supervisory bodies, rather than opposition parties, offer criticism, for example, the Bawaslu election issue in A12. These findings support (Chekalina et al., 2022) that discourse analysis must consider broader socio-political structures when interpreting discourse patterns.

The law enforcement climate, characterized by the repeated use of language such as 'alleged' even when facts have been confirmed and preventive 'hoax' warnings, is consistent with (Scheufele & Iyengar, 2019) analyses of how information warfare and media lobbying exacerbate self-censorship of the press in Indonesia. Indonesia's declining press freedom rankings (Reporters Without Borders, Freedom House) provide the structural context in which these linguistic choices acquire their full ideological significance.

Variations in bias among Indonesian news portals

Various forms of bias on Indonesian news portals depend on the structural position of each media source. Independent private media such as the Jakarta Post and Tempo English demonstrate the ability to engage in critical reporting in some circumstances, while state institutions such as Antara News maintain a consistent pro-government orientation without any pro-opposition articles. Given its dual constituency among Islamic voters and the Islamic political base, Republika shows the widest variation in its coverage, ranging from strongly pro-government to pro-opposition.

These results indicate (Kim et al., 2022) that internal media variation can be significant, especially for media serving diverse political constituencies, and expand the study of media bias classification. This pattern implies that media pluralism alone does not guarantee fair coverage when structural forces consistently support the ruling party's narrative.

The EFL Dimension: Impacts of English-Language Reporting

One dimension not thoroughly covered in earlier Indonesian CDA studies is the importance of English as a foreign language (EFL) medium for these political debates. Rather than the bulk Indonesian-language audience, English-language coverage in Indonesia mostly targets global audiences of foreign investors, diplomats, international media companies, and the Indonesian diaspora. This targeting biases the formation of bias in different ways: Pro-government framing in English-language pieces is calibrated to help create a certain international image of democratic stability and governance quality.

English-language publications' use of epistemic hedges like "alleged" and neutral sounding bureaucratic vocabulary ("assures," "smooth") might be meant to purposefully preserve international respect while concealing negative information, a form of prejudice working unlike that seen in Indonesian-language political journalism. Directly comparing Indonesian-language and English-language versions of the same articles in future studies would shed light on how bias is adjusted for several audience targets.

This study is subject to several limitations. First, the six-month analysis window may not fully capture long-term patterns, and the 25-article sample limits statistical generalization. Second, the absence of formal inter-rater reliability testing reduces the precision of the bias scoring. Third, purposive sampling targeting articles with potential pro-government bias may overrepresent bias in the overall corpus. Fourth, concentrating on clear political material may undercount more sophisticated kinds of ideological positioning. Fifth, the lack of a comparable Indonesian-language corpus hinders conclusions on whether seen patterns are particular to English-language targeting or mirror more general editorial policies.

Future research needs to address these limitations by employing a number of approaches. First, increasing the sample size and including material from the same source in both English and Indonesian would facilitate comparative studies on whether bias patterns change predictably depending on the target audience. Second, a hybrid approach using transformer-based automatic detection and manual content analysis (CDA) can allow large scale bias analysis while preserving contextual sensitivity. Thirdly, ethnographic research examining editorial decision-making and newsroom practices will expose the causal processes connecting structural elements like ownership, rules, and the enforcement environment with particular coverage choices.

5. Conclusion

This study aimed to analyze how pro-government political bias is constructed through linguistic choices and framing strategies in English-language Indonesian news portals, and to identify the contextual factors that contribute to its manifestation during the 2024 presidential election. Political tendencies in

English newspapers of Indonesian news portals during the 2024 presidential election were found in this study to be a systematic phenomenon shaped by specific linguistic processes.

The results, which were evident through Critical Discourse Analysis of 25 news articles across four Indonesian news portals with 56% of articles exhibiting pro-government bias, 24% balanced, and 20% pro-opposition, with an overall average bias score of 4.52/16 demonstrate that such bias constitutes a systematic phenomenon constructed through specific linguistic mechanisms rather than incidental journalistic failures, with intensity varying significantly depending on the election period, topic sensitivity, and news portal characteristics.

Pro-government policies were largely constructed through partisan evaluative language, deliberate source selection, and disaster-mitigating headline framing. Bias intensity varied significantly across election phases, with pre-election coverage reaching maximum levels (5.5/16) before declining post-election (3.58/16), and across media platforms, with the state affiliated Antara news maintaining the most consistent pro-government orientation. These results confirm that the current CDA framework, although largely developed in a Western context, can be significantly adapted to analyze bias in non-Western English-language media environments.

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