Mediatization of Bribery at Sukamiskin Correctional Prisoner in Comics Journalism in Tempo Magazine Edition February 12th, 2017

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Abstract

The verdict of the judges against the defendants in the corruption case did not deter some of the grafter who had been thrown into The Sukamiskin Correctional Prisoner in Bandung. Even though they have held prisoners' status and are in prison, they are still trying to commit corrupt behavior by, among other things, bribing officers to the Head of the Prison, so they can get out of the place and enjoy free air even if only for a moment. This case became news in a number of mass media, especially mainstream media, through their journalistic products. Referring to the mediatization theory of Stig Hjarvard complemented by the mediatization of journalism from Kammer, this short article attempts to unravel how corrupt behavior in the form of bribery carried out by grafters in Sukamiskin Prison was constructed into news in the comics journalism format in Tempo Magazine February 12, 2017.

Keywords: comics journalism, corruption, mediatization, media logic

Introduction

The issue of corruption in Indonesia has been deeply rooted with diverse patterns. So many corruption cases in this country that the Deputy Chair of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) Laode M Syarif described the term "Country Corruption". The term presented by Laode in the discussion on Reflections on the Anti-Corruption Movement, Answering the Challenges of the 20 Years of Reform, Jakarta, May 18, 20018 refers to the planned corruption since the budget planning was carried out.

In the past year, the pattern of corruption that attracted enough public attention was bribery carried out by corrupt prisoners at the Sukamiskin Prison in Bandung, West Java. Various mainstream media, both print, electronic, and online (network) reported events that not only involved officials and officials, but also from a number of entrepreneurs and even artists. As a result of this bribe, in July 2018, the Corruption Eradication Commission arrested the Head of the Sukamiskin Bandung Prison, Wahid Hussen. This number one person in a special prison for corruptors was arrested for allegedly accepting bribes and gratuities in the form of money and other items from a number of prisoners of corruption cases. This bribery was a form of compensation to Wahid for giving permission to install luxury facilities in the detention room and giving extraordinary prisoners permission to leave Sukamiskin Prison. In December 2018, this case has entered the trial at the Bandung Corruption Court.

Corrupt behavior by bribing this officer has actually happened for quite a long time. Two of them are bribery cases committed by corrupt inmates from the former Palembang Mayor Romi Herton and Anggoro Widjojo businessman. Romi Herton and his wife were convicted by the court after being proven to have bribed a dispute over regional head elections (pilkada) against the Chair of the Constitutional Court (MK), Akil Muchtar worth Rp. 17.9 billion. At the Corruption Court, Romi was sentenced to 6 years in prison and Masyitoh was sentenced to 4 years in prison. They then appealed, but at the DKI Jakarta High Court level, the judge aggravated the sentence against the married couple to 7 years for Romi and 5 years for Masyito. Romi and
Masyito also have to pay a fine of Rp 200 million each for two months in prison. Not only that, PT DKI also revoked its political rights for five years. After the verdict was legally binding, they were imprisoned in Sukamiskin.

This event attracted the attention of mainstream media in Indonesia, including Tempo Magazine. However, unlike other media, Tempo Magazine reveals the corrupt behavior of these inmates with investigative methods and presents the results not only in the form of written narratives accompanied by photographs, but also with comic journalism. The narrative of the corruptors was constructed by TEMPO magazine on the 12 February 2017 edition. As a result of the acts of corruption constructed in Tempo Magazine, Minister of Law and Human Rights Yasona Laoly transferred them to Gunung Sindur Lapas, Bogor, West Java.

This news can be interpreted as the role of Tempo Magazine as a media institution in encouraging socio-cultural change. This is in accordance with the concept of mediation, which Krotz and Schulz put forward related to the role of media in social change in the broadest sense. Winfried Schulz identifies four types of processes by which media change human communication and interaction. First, the media expand (extend) the ability to communicate human, whether it's a matter of space and time. Secondly, the media substitutes for the social activities that were originally carried out directly. Third, the media encourage an amalgamation of activities, direct communication combined with the communication provided, and the media penetrate into daily life. Fourth, actors from different parts can adjust their habits to provide (accommodate) various assessments, forms and routines of the media (Hjarvard, 2008: 110).

Mediatization itself became a term popularized by several scientists from German-speaking countries, from the original word mediatisierung. Everything is mediated, all things mediated. Media has become an integral part of everyday life. Various social practices and relations are built and carried out through the media. Mediation is a process in which people become more submissive and dependent on the media. Based on the background description above, the author formulates the problem of this research is How is the mediation of bribery in Sukamiskin Prison in comic journalism in Tempo Magazine February 12, 2017.

Method

The material object of this study is Comic Journalism in Tempo Magazine on February 12, 2017. Data was collected in the form of images and narratives, namely scenes, dialogues on comic, color, and other elements representing bribery by corrupt inmates to answer research problems. The secondary data or supporting data are taken from library materials and other materials from various sources such as print media, online media, books and other sources. Observation of the data will be used to analyze the narratives constructed in comic journalism in Tempo Magazine on the February 12, 2017 edition. In accordance with Eisner’s statement, the elements observed included three things, namely Mining, Timing, and Frame.

Result and Discussion

This research tries to identify and review the news of bribery in Sukamiskin Prison constructed in comic journalism in Tempo Magazine February 12, 2017. In this edition, Tempo Magazine presents two news stories about bribery in Sukamiskin Prison in journalism comics.

Anggoro Luxury Break (First Comic)

First comic Journalism in this article is presented on page 58 of Tempo Magazine February 12, 2017 under the title ‘Anggoro Luxury Break’. As mentioned in the introduction in this article, Anggoro Widjojo is an inmate who inhabited the Sukamiskin Prison after being found guilty of a bribery case for the revitalization of the Integrated Radio Communication System (SKRT) project in the Ministry of Forestry in the 2006-2007 budget worth Rp 180 billion. Had been a fugitive since it was set on the People Search List (DPO) on July 17, 2009, the owner of PT Masaro Radiokom was arrested in Shenzhen City, China in January 2014. The Anggoro case began to spark public attention when tension between the KPK, National Police Headquarters, and the Attorney General's Office. This is because Anggodo Widjojo, the younger brother of Anggoro, tried to influence the investigator and criminalize the KPK leadership at that time, Chandra Hamzah and Bibit Samad Rianto. The crisis was known as the Iak-Buaya conflict volume I. After being sentenced to five years in prison by the Corruption Pindana Court, Anggoro then began to inhabit the Sukamiskin Prison.
This first comic was presented with eight panels. The first panel is filled with pictures and writing. At the top of the panel is written 'Anggoro Luxury Break' with capital letters which also functions as the title of this comic. Under the title, there are two balloons containing the words "Sukamiskin" on the first balloon, and the text "Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 6:00". This text wants to confirm the construction of the time the story begins in this comic. In a journalistic context, the texts in these two balloons emphasize the "Where" ("When") and "When" elements which are two of the five elements "W" which complement a news item. Besides the written text, this panel presents a white-haired figure wearing a hat. Visually the body shape of this figure is more directed at a man even though only his back is shown, his left hand is opening the car door, and is about to step into the car. At the back of the car the letter "AMBU" is written which can be interpreted as a letter piece from AMBULANCE / AMBULANS. In the Indonesian Large Dictionary (KBBI online) ambulances are translated as vehicles (cars and so on) equipped with medical equipment to transport sick people, accident victims, and so on.

In the second panel, Tempo presented a picture of someone sitting on a motorcycle, complete wearing a helmet and a dark jacket that was seen holding a smartphone in his right hand. There is text poured into four separate balloons, which show the communication form of virtual conversations. In the first text that says "Tempo on The Road" (all in capital letters), the second text says "Mr. A has gone by ambulance", the third balloon contains the words "Tempo HQ" which can be translated as "Tempo Head Quarter" or Tempo Headquarters, in this case the editorial address of Tempo Magazine on Jalan Palmerah Barat No 8 Jakarta. While the fourth balloon in this panel contains the words "Follow ..." which represents the contents of the conversation between the figure on the motorcycle and the other person through the device (smartphone) in his hand.

In the third and fourth panels, there are sequences of the same time as four balloons. The first balloon contains the words "6.30" which shows the time has been running 30 minutes since the time that began in the first panel. The panel also placed a white car in front of a multi-storey building with the words "GATEWAY". Whereas in the next three balloons, a conversation between the figure of the helmet and the other person on the smart phone is shown:

- Balloon 2 (helmeted figure): "Mr. A arrived at Gateway, Emerald Tower"
- Balloon 3: "Don't lose track"
- Balloon 2 (helmeted figure): "Wow, get away! Enter a special card."

This activity illustrates that a person who uses a helmet is in the same space and time as the white "ambulance" car.

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Figure 1. Comic of Anggoro Luxury Break

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Yogyakarta, 14-16 April 2019
In the next panel, the comic shows a balloon that says "17.30" with three other balloons, each of which contains writings similar to the previous panel:

- Balloon 2 (helmeted figure): "Mr. A comes out with a woman!"
- Balloon 3: "Who is he?"
- Balloon 2 (helmeted figure): "I don't know, they look familiar ..."

To distinguish the sound source in a conversation, balloon 2 on the panel is colored blue, while balloon 3 is white. This panel shows a picture of a man wearing a hat, a short-sleeved white shirt, dark-colored long pants and carrying a bag that hangs on his right shoulder. Next to him, a long-haired woman with a black shirt was walking together. They seemed to be heading for a white car with a police number "D 1308 AEO". Then in panels 6 and 7, filled with four balloons too. One balloon in panel 6 reads number ".10 .10" with the image of the car going forward. Whereas the remaining 3 balloons were stored in panel 7, with the text still in the form of a conversation between a figure in helmet and a Tempo office:

- Balloon 2 (white-colored base): "Target home home"
- Balloon 3 (colored blue): "Can you follow it inside?"
- Balloon 2 (colored white base): "There is an officer!"

In the 7th panel there is a picture of a white car with a background of a dark building with white writing: "LAPAS SUKAMISKIN".

The comic titled "Anggoro Luxury Break" was then closed with the eighth panel containing 3 balloons. The first balloon read "A month later", the second balloon contained the words "Wednesday, December 14, 2016, Mr. A without escorting back to Emerald and had time to shop at the convenience store. He returned to Sukamiskin with White Avanza B 1791 PRX at 7:30 p.m.

Romi Herton Comes Home (Second Comic)

The 2nd Comic in this paper is presented on page 59, Tempo Magazine, same edition. With the title "Romi Herton Coming Home," this comic journalism consists of seven panels in it. Romi Herton is a former Mayor of Palembang who was sentenced by his wife to the court after being proven to have committed bribery over a regional head election (Pilkada) against the Chair of the Constitutional Court (MK), Akil Muchtar worth Rp. 17.9 billion. At the Corruption Court, Romi was sentenced to 6 years in prison and Masyitoh was sentenced to 4 years in prison. They then appealed, but at the DKI Jakarta High Court level, the judge aggravated the sentence against the married couple to 7 years for Romi and 5 years for Masyito. Romi and Masyito also have to pay a fine of Rp 200 million each for two months in prison. Not only that, PT DKI also revoked its political rights for five years. After the verdict was legally binding, they were imprisoned in Sukamiskin.

In the 1st panel of this comic, in addition to the caption with capital letters, a white airplane with the Garuda Indonesia logo is displayed on the left side near the passenger entrance. Then in panel 2, you can see two yellow balloons with the words "Friday, October 28, 2016, at 5:25 a.m." and "GA 100 from Soekarno Hatta Airport". These two balloons show the elements 'When' (when) and 'Where' (where) which are both important elements in compiling a story. In addition to this text, depicted in the second panel, two figures are one with a mustache and a woman wearing a blue veil. This figure represents Romi Herton with his wife, Masyito.

In the third panel, Tempo presented three balloons containing the text "Tempo Informant", "Romi Herton and his wife are in Palembang", and "Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin Palembang Airport". Also depicted was the figure of a man who was holding a smartphone in his right hand. The text "Tempo Informant" wants to emphasize the existence of this male figure without mentioning the identity further "who is actually the Tempo informant". The text "Romi Herton and his wife in Palembang" represents the contents of the message contained in the smartphone in the man's grasp. While the text "Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin Palembang Airport" shows the element "Where" (which) is a place as an important element in a news.

In the fourth panel, there was only one balloon with writing explaining the existence of Tempo journalists. The text reads: "Tempo with Batik Air from Halim Perdanakusuma Airport flew to Palembang following Romi and his wife". This text seems to confirm the image of an airplane that is visible from a distance, which is placed in the same panel. This is different from the text shown in the fifth panel. On this panel there are four balloons containing the text: "Saturday, October 29, 2016, at 7:00", "Informant Tempo" attached to a balloon that read "Romi and Masyito visit his son, Aroon Ceto, at Charitas Hospital", and "After we check , there is no patient named Aroon Ceto". The picture shown on this panel is a multi-storey building representing Charitas Hospital.
The sixth panel describes the same day with the fifth panel, but the location setting (Where) has changed. The similarity of the day can be seen in the text in the first balloon that reads "October 29, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.". Whereas the location depicted in this panel is explained in the text "The House of Romi Palembang". Whereas the third text, which is described as coming from a cellphone, reads "Strange, this house is usually quieter". This text relates to the image displayed on this panel, which is a magnificent two-story white. In front of the fence the house is depicted by several four-wheeled vehicles (cars) that are lined up neatly. The seventh panel closes the comic on this page with five balloons, each of which contains a short text: "Sukamiskin" attached to a balloon that reads "Sunday, October 20, 2016, around 9:00 pm", "Informant Tempo" attached to "Romi and Masyito back" and "Tamat".

The comic journalism examined in this paper is an art to display facts and data into a news (journalistic work). This art is inseparable from the elements and values of journalism itself. Whereas according to McCloud (1994: 9), comics are a series of images that are aligned with other images in a deliberate sequence, intended to convey information and / or to produce an aesthetic response from the audience. By combining both theories, the author tries to analyze comic journalism as representation of the role of Tempo as a media institution on socio-cultural changes, in this case the discourse of corruption, more specifically bribery carried out by corruption prisoners in Sukamiskin Prison.

In an effort to construct the issue of bribery in Sukamiskin Prison, Tempo is still trying to follow journalism practices. As a media institution that still holds to the norms, ethics, and rules of journalism. This can be seen in the construction carried out by Tempo on three elements of Eisner’s comics:

- Mining

In this element, the comic composer is in charge of conveying the story to the people by trying to create a gestalt, coherent language, as a vehicle for the expression of the complexity of reflection, sound, action, and ideas in structuring sequences separated by panel boxes. In the first comic entitled "Anggoro Luxury Break" and the second comic entitled "Romi Herton Returning to Village", Tempo tried to present the cohesiveness of the language, the voice of the figure (in this case news sources and journalists covering the investigation into Sukamiskin Prison). But it is quite visible that the effort to construct the event cannot be carried out in its

entirety. This is because there are two steps to the construction of events. First, when events are constructed by journalists on the ground, they become temporary reports submitted to the system within Tempo institutions as media. After that, the construction results of the journalist are reconstructed by illustrators or composers of comics to suit space and time. At this stage the practice of journalism has adjusted to Tempo's logic as media.

- **Time Management**

  The time presented in the Tempo comic journalism relates to the duration or limited space in this case the page where the comics are poured. According to Eisner, the context of timing is related to trying to capture conversations seen by framing utterances in this case seen from the balloons that are in each panel. In the two comics above, framing the utterances is emphasized by the element "W" which has become a necessity in a news: 5 W which is What, Who, Where (Where), When (when) and Why (Why ) This distinguishes comic journalism from comics originating from the imagination of the author or composer. Tempo, in this matter, wanted to emphasize the accuracy and the existence of journalists in carrying out their roles as media. Thus, other social institutions are expected to adjust to the logic of the media set by Tempo that the comic journalism presented in this edition is a form of Tempo's role in the irregularities committed by corruptors in Sukamiskin Prison. If drawn further, this comic also shows that other institutions, such as the government, legal institutions (courts, police, and of course the apparatus in the correctional institutions themselves) should also help correct irregularities that occur due to this corrupt behavior.

- **Frame.**

  There are a number of elements in this frame. But the most holding role is a panel that separates space - one time with another space - time without releasing the link between the panels. From the two comics presented in this paper, it appears that there are limitations to the panel. Framing is a way to align images in sequence, but without removing the essence of the issue of bribery in Sukamiskin Prison.

**Conclusion**

in simple terms it can be concluded that Tempo constructed the news about bribery carried out by corruptors in Sukamiskin Prison through elements of comics based on journalistic practices. The construction effort is carried out at least in two stages, namely by journalists in the field who see the corruptors directly get out of prison after bribery occurs and the next construction stage by the writer or composer of the comic. All this construction process is inseparable from adaptation and the insistence on mediation which Tempo journalism adapts to the logic of the media which seems not too difficult to do considering historically, journalism has developed in the context of the media and has been formed and influenced from the start by the principles of media operations.

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Tempo Magazine
Reference


