



## A Comparison of Pan & Kosicki's Framing Syntactic Structures in Reporting on the Fake Joko Widodo 2025 Diploma Case in Electronic Media

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to compare the syntactic structures of Pan & Kosicki's framing in reporting on the fake Joko Widodo 2025 diploma issue on Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com. The research was conducted online from April to May 2025 through access to both media sites. The study population was all news articles related to the fake Joko Widodo 2025 diploma issue, with a sample of eight articles (four articles per media) purposively selected based on the following criteria: thematic relevance, balance in quantity, and publication timeframe. The research instrument was a framing analysis sheet based on the Pan & Kosicki model, which focuses on five elements of syntactic structure: headline, lead, background information, source quotations, and conclusion. The data analysis technique was carried out by adapting the Pan & Kosicki framing model with the following steps: reading techniques, note-taking techniques, identification of syntactic elements, categorization and interpretation, and comparative analysis between Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com. The results of the study show that Kompas.com tends to build legal-formal and pro-legitimacy framing with the following characteristics: informative-procedural titles (the word "make sure"), leads sourced from institutional authority, systematic and legal process-oriented background information, dominance of quotes from officials and Jokowi's attorneys, and a closing that emphasizes the legal process. In contrast, Tribunnews.com tends to build conflictual and semi-neutral framing with the following characteristics: dramatic-sensational titles (the phrase "ternyata"), leads that vary and do not fully represent the content, background information that expands the conflict, providing space for the reported party (Roy Suryo, Eggi Sudjana), and a hanging and multi-interpretable closing.

*Keywords: pan & kosicki, framing syntactic structure, reporting, electronic media*

## Perbandingan Struktur Sintaksis Framing Pan & Kosicki dalam Pemberitaan Kasus Ijazah Palsu Joko Widodo 2025 di Media Elektronik

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan struktur sintaksis framing Pan & Kosicki dalam pemberitaan isu ijazah palsu Joko Widodo 2025 pada Kompas.com dan Tribunnews.com. Penelitian dilaksanakan pada bulan April-Mei 2025 secara daring melalui akses ke kedua situs media. Populasi penelitian adalah seluruh artikel berita terkait isu ijazah palsu Joko Widodo 2025, dengan sampel delapan artikel (empat artikel per media) yang dipilih secara purposive berdasarkan kriteria: relevansi tematik, keseimbangan jumlah, dan rentang waktu terbit. Instrumen penelitian berupa lembar analisis framing berdasarkan model Pan & Kosicki yang berfokus pada lima elemen struktur sintaksis: judul, teras berita (lead), latar informasi, kutipan narasumber, dan penutup. Teknik analisis data dilakukan dengan mengadaptasi model framing Pan & Kosicki dengan langkah-langkah: teknik baca, teknik catat, identifikasi elemen sintaksis, kategorisasi dan penafsiran, serta perbandingan analisis (comparative analysis) antara Kompas.com dan Tribunnews.com. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Kompas.com cenderung membangun framing legal-formal dan pro-legitimasi dengan karakteristik: judul informatif-prosedural (kata "pastikan"), lead bersumber otoritas institusional, latar informasi sistematis dan berorientasi proses hukum, dominasi kutipan aparat dan kuasa hukum Jokowi, serta penutup yang menegaskan proses hukum. Sebaliknya, Tribunnews.com cenderung membangun framing konflikual dan semi-netral dengan karakteristik: judul dramatis-sensasional (frasa "ternyata"), lead bervariasi dan tidak sepenuhnya mewakili isi, latar informasi yang memperluas konflik, pemberian ruang bagi pihak terlapor (Roy Suryo, Eggi Sudjana), serta penutup yang menggantung dan multitafsir.

*Kata kunci : struktur sintaksis, framing, pemberitaan, media elektronik*

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## INTRODUCTION

In the era of digital democracy, the mass media no longer plays a mere neutral channel of information, but rather a key actor in constructing social reality through a framing process. Every reported event undergoes a series of selections, simplifications, and emphasizing certain aspects aligned with each media outlet's editorial interests (Entman, 2023:4). In the context of controversial reporting involving national-level public figures, the media's role becomes even more crucial as it can influence public opinion and even policy direction (Shoemaker & Reese, 2021).

One controversial issue that rocked the Indonesian political landscape in 2025 was the accusation of a fake diploma leveled against the 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. Joko Widodo's response to reporting the perpetrators of the accusations to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police on April 30, 2025, followed by a forensic laboratory test by the National Police Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim Polri), which declared Joko Widodo's bachelor's degree from Gadjah Mada University to be genuine on May 22, 2025, makes this case interesting to study from a mass communications perspective.

Two mainstream online media outlets that intensively covered this issue were Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com. These two media outlets have different characteristics and audience bases. Kompas.com is known for its cautious, procedural approach to journalism, and its close ties to the elite and bureaucracy. Meanwhile, Tribunnews.com, as part of the Jawa Pos Group, has a more populist, fast-paced, and dramatic approach to news presentation. These differences are strongly suspected to have influenced how the two media outlets framed the issue of Joko Widodo's fake diploma in 2025.

Extensive research has been conducted on the framing of controversial news in Indonesia. For example, research on student demonstrations on Detik.com and Tirto.id (Oktavianti et al., 2026) demonstrates that mass media not only serves to

convey information but also plays a role in shaping social reality and influencing public opinion on an event. Another study, conducted by Anshori et al. (2022), compared the framing strategies used by Kompas.com and CNNIndonesia.com in reporting on the Job Creation Law policy in Indonesia. This study demonstrated that media framing strategies significantly influence how the public understands public policy.

Of these two previous studies, the study specifically highlights syntactic structure as the primary unit of analysis in Zhongdang Pan & Gerald M. Kosicki's framing model. Syntactic structure, which includes the headline, lead, background information, source quotes, and conclusion, is the first "gateway" for readers to understand the meaning of an event (Eriyanto, 2019). Thus, research on syntactic structure is important because it determines the audience's initial interpretation of the news.

Based on the above problems, this study will address two issues. First, what is the syntactic structure of the news coverage of the fake Joko Widodo 2025 diploma issue on Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com, in terms of the headline, lead, background information, source quotations, and conclusion? Second, how do the differences in syntactic structure reflect the framing strategies of each media outlet?

Based on this background, this study aims to describe the differences in the syntactic structure of the news coverage of the fake Joko Widodo 2025 diploma issue between Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com and interpret these differences as their respective framing strategies. Specifically, this study focuses on five elements of syntactic structure: headline, lead, background information, source quotations, and conclusion. Thus, this study not only describes technical journalistic differences but also interprets them as ideological practices that have implications for the formation of public opinion.

The benefits of this research are helping to understand how headlines, leads, background



information, source quotes, and closing statements are used to construct news framing. Furthermore, this research is also expected to demonstrate how syntactic structure and lexical choices in the media can influence the formation of meaning, perspective, and public opinion regarding certain events.

## METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach that focuses on the use of words as the primary data source, allowing researchers to describe their findings in detail. (Adlini et al., 2022; Razak, 2017). This research design focuses on the Pan & Kosicki framing model, which focuses on syntactic structure. The research location was virtual through online access to the Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com websites. Data collection was conducted on news articles published in April-May 2025.

The data and data sources in this study are qualitative data, consisting of quotes, sentences, and paragraphs from a news article published online through Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com. The unit of analysis includes five elements of syntactic structure: the title (headline), the news lead (lead), background information, source quotes, and the conclusion.

The data sources consist of primary data (news text downloaded from the official websites of both media outlets) and secondary data (academic literature and previous research). The data collection technique in this study was carried out using library research techniques. Zed (2014) states that library research is not only limited to reading and recording literature sources or books, but is a series of activities that include systematic collection, reading, and processing of library data. The data analysis technique adapts the Pan & Kosicki (1999) framing model with the following

steps: data reduction, identification of syntactic elements, categorization and interpretation, and comparative analysis between Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com.

## RESULTS

This study analyzed eight news articles published by Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com between April and May 2025 regarding the issue of Joko Widodo's fake diploma. Each media outlet contributed four articles, representing four key events in the chronology of the case: (1) the chronology of Jokowi's report to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police, (2) Jokowi's direct report, (3) the National Police Criminal Investigation Agency's statement regarding the authenticity of the diploma, and (4) Roy Suryo's questioning.

Overall, the syntactic structures of the two media outlets consistently demonstrate different characteristics. Kompas.com tends to construct news with a hierarchical, procedural, and institutional legitimacy-oriented structure, while Tribunnews.com tends to use a looser, more dramatic, and conflictual structure. These differences are evident in every syntactic element analyzed.

### 1. Comparison of Headline Elements

#### 1.1 Kompas.com News Article Title

Kompas.com used headlines that tended to be informative, procedural, and outcome-oriented. These characteristics were present in all four articles analyzed.

Table 1  
Titles of Kompas.com News Articles

Code	Title	Characteristics
K-1	“Chronology of Jokowi Reporting Allegations of a Fake Diploma to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police”	Focus on the sequence of events (the word "chronology")
K-2	“Jokowi Takes Down the Mountain, Directly Reports the Spreader of the Fake Diploma Rumor”	Use of metaphor; Jokowi as a proactive actor
K-3	“National Police Criminal Investigation Agency Confirms Jokowi's Bachelor's Degree from UGM is Genuine”	The word "pastikan" emphasizes certainty and finality
K-4	“Questioned in Jokowi's Fake Diploma Allegation Case, Roy Suryo Refuses to Address Events Beyond March 26th”	Focus on Roy Suryo's attitude; the word "ogah" has a negative connotation

The findings show that Kompas.com uses titles to direct readers to a specific meaning from the outset. In Q-1, the use of the word "chronology" suggests that the news will present a systematic sequence of events. In Q-3, the word "pastikan" carries a confirmatory force that closes off any room for doubt. Meanwhile, in Q-4, the phrase "agah jawab" conveys a negative connotation regarding Roy Suryo's stance—which is actually his legal right to limit his answers.

## 2. Title of Tribunews.com Newspaper Article

In contrast, Tribunews.com uses titles that tend to be dramatic, cliffhanger, and sensational.

Table 2  
Tribunews.com News Article Titles

Code	Title	Characteristics
T-1	““Police Reveal the March 26, 2025 Incident in Joko Widodo's Fake Diploma Case, Turns Out to Be a Chronology Matter””	The phrase "apparently" creates a dramatic effect; the word "reveal" suggests hidden information.
T-2	“Jokowi's Reason for Reporting Allegations of a Fake Diploma to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police”	Focus on the "reason" (not the action itself); explanatory-personal.
T-3	"BREAKING NEWS: National Police Criminal Investigation Unit Declares Joko Widodo's Diploma is Genuine"	The label "BREAKING NEWS" attracts attention; the word "state" is less forceful than "assure."
T-4	"Roy Suryo Questioned by Police for 2 Hours Regarding Allegations of Jokowi's Fake Diploma"	The emphasis on duration ("2 hours") emphasizes the intensity of the process.



In T-1, the phrase "ternyata soal chronologi" serves as a hook that arouses the reader's curiosity. In T-3, despite using the label "BREAKING NEWS," the confirmatory power of this title is weaker than Kompas.com's because it uses the usual declarative word "nyatakan" instead of the confirmatory-final "pastikan."

### 3. Comparison of Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com Titles

Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com have quite significant differences in the selection of news titles, these differences are as follows.

Table 3  
 Comparison of Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com News Article Title Usage

Comparative Aspect	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Primary Orientation	Informative-procedural	Dramatic-sensational
Confirmatory Power	High ("make sure")	Moderate ("stated")
Use of Evaluative Diction	Yes ("refuse to answer", "rumor spreader")	Existing but more neutral ("silent")
Effect on the Reader	Immediately understands the point of view	Curiosity, unclear direction

## 2. Comparison of News Lead Elements

### 2.1 Kompas.com News Article Lead

Kompas.com, in composing its news lead, directly conveys the core information, prioritizing sources with institutional authority. This pattern is consistent across all four articles:

- 1) K-1: "JAKARTA, Kompas.com -- Head of Public Relations for the Jakarta Metropolitan Police, Senior Commissioner Ade Ary Syam Indradi, revealed the chronology of the 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo (Jokowi), reporting the fake diploma allegation to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police...", First source: Police.
- 2) K-2: "JAKARTA, KOMPAS.COM -- The Seventh President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo (Jokowi), went down the mountain directly to report the fake diploma allegation to the Jakarta Metropolitan Police..." First source: Jokowi as the main actor (without mediator).
- 3) K-3: "KOMPAS.COM -- The Indonesian National Police Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim Polri) stated that the Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Forestry at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) belonging to former President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) is genuine." ? First source: Bareskrim Polri (the highest authority in this case).
- 4) K-4: "JAKARTA, KOMPAS.COM -- Former Minister of Youth and Sports (Menpora) Roy Suryo refused to answer questions from Jakarta Metropolitan Police investigators regarding the events of March 26, 2025...", First source: Roy Suryo (the highlighted subject).

The function of the lead on Kompas.com is to serve as a gateway to meaning, directly directing the reader to a particular point of view. When the lead begins with a statement from the police or Bareskrim, the reality being constructed is one that has been validated by official authorities.

## 2.2 Tribunnews.com News Article Leads

Tribunnews.com structures leads in a more varied style, but they tend not to fully represent the entire content of the news:

- 1) T-1: "TRIBUNNEWS.COM, Jakarta -- Police revealed an incident that occurred on March 26, 2025, related to the issue of the 7th President Joko Widodo, or Jokowi, having a fake diploma." This is clear enough, but the focus shifts to Roy Suryo's stance in the next section.
- 2) T-2: "TRIBUNNEWS.COM, Jakarta -- The 7th President, Joko Widodo (Jokowi), has completed filing a police report regarding the defamation case at the Jakarta Metropolitan Police regarding the fake diploma allegation..." This is clear, but the entire content focuses solely on Jokowi's reasons, not the process.
- 3) T-3: "The Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police has completed a forensic laboratory test (Labfor) on the Bachelor of Forestry (S1) diploma from the Faculty of Forestry, Gadjah Mada University, the 7th President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo (Jokowi). Factual information, but continued with a long narrative about Eggi Sudjana in the next section.
- 4) T-4: "TRIBUNNEWS.COM, Jakarta -- For approximately two hours, former Minister of Youth and Sports Roy Suryo was questioned by the police today, Thursday (May 15, 2025).", Emphasis on duration (2 hours) as the main attraction.

## 2.3 Comparison of Tribunnews.com & Kompas.com Leads

Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com differ in their lead presentations, which have a specific effect on readers as the initial news source. These differences are as follows:

Table 4  
Comparison of Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com Leads

Comparative Aspect	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Primary Source of Lead	Authorities (police/Criminal	Varies, tends to emphasize the dramatic aspect
Lead Function	Investigation Agency) or main actor (Jokowi)	Attention-grabbing, does not fully represent the content
Pattern Consistency	Establishing the dominant point of view	Low (flexible, depending on the issue)
Content Representation	High (hierarchical) Lead represents the entire content	Lead only represents one aspect (usually the most dramatic)



### **3. Comparison of Background Information for News Reports from Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com**

#### **3.1 Background Information for Kompas.com**

Kompas.com provides systematic background information oriented toward the legal process. This background information serves to explain why the incident occurred and legitimize Joko Widodo's actions:

- 1) K-1: Explains the initial incident (March 26, 2025), when Jokowi learned of a video on social media alleging his diploma was fake, and the steps taken to gather evidence. This background information establishes the understanding that Jokowi's reporting was a reasonable response to slander.
- 2) K-2: Explains why Jokowi only recently filed the report (because he was still in office and thought it was over) and presents the original diplomas from elementary school to undergraduate level. This background information justifies Jokowi's "delay."
- 3) K-3: Describes detailed forensic laboratory testing (paper, ink, stamps, signatures) and the chronology of the diploma submission. This background information establishes the impression that the Criminal Investigation Agency's decision was based on scientific procedures.
- 4) K-4: Explains that Roy Suryo was questioned based on Jokowi's report. This background information connects Roy Suryo's questioning to the larger framework of the case.

#### **3.2 Tribunnews.com's Background Information**

Tribunnews.com presents more diverse background information and often expands the context in a way that maintains the conflict dynamics:

- 1) T-1: Explains the initial chronology and also includes Roy Suryo's attitude during the questioning. This background information covers both directions simultaneously.
- 2) T-2: Explains why Jokowi only recently filed the report. It is relatively simple and does not expand on other contexts.
- 3) T-3: In addition to explaining the laboratory testing process, this background information also elaborates on Eggi Sudjana's report at length, including the legal basis (Election Law) used as the basis for the report. This background information keeps the conflict narrative alive even after the test results are out.
- 4) T-4: Explains that Roy Suryo was questioned in connection with a podcast on the Sentana TV YouTube channel, and includes his alibi (breaking the fast together). This background information provides Roy Suryo with room to defend himself.

#### **3.3 Comparison of Background Information on Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com News**

Based on the previous analysis, the two media outlets have significant differences in presenting background information in their reports. The comparison is as follows:

Table 5  
Comparison of Background Information on Tribunnews.com News Articles

Comparative Aspect	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Primary Function of Setting	Legitimacy of the legal process and justification for Jokowi's actions	Provides context for the conflict and space for various parties
Depth of Detail	High, especially in procedural aspects	Varied, tends to expand into other narratives
Orientation	Pro-Jokowi and pro-authority	Multi-perspective, tends to maintain the balance of the conflict
Presentation of the Opposing Party	Minimal, only as context	Quite large, sometimes shifting the main focus

#### 4. Comparison of Source Citations from Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com

##### 4.1 Source Citations from Kompas.com

Kompas.com predominantly quotes parties supporting Joko Widodo's legitimacy, primarily the police and Jokowi's legal team. The following summarizes the dominant sources.

Table 6  
Source Citations from Kompas.com

Article	Dominant Sources	Quote Content
K-1	Ade Ary Syam Indradi (Head of Public Relations, Jakarta Metropolitan Police)	Chronology, number of witnesses, and evidence
K-2	Joko Widodo & Yakup Hasibuan (attorneys)	Reasons for reporting, certificate submission, and assessment of the charges as "extremely cruel"
K-3	Djuhandhani Rahardjo Puro (Director of General Crimes, Criminal Investigation Agency)	Forensic laboratory test results; supported by quotes from Yakup Hasibuan and Jokowi
K-4	Roy Suryo (defendant) & Yakup Hasibuan	Roy Suryo's refusal to answer questions; contextual reinforcement from attorney



In K-2, Yakup Hasibuan's quote is not only informative but also evaluative, stating that the accusation of a fake diploma is a "very cruel slander" that damages Indonesia's reputation. This strengthens Jokowi's position as the victim.

In K-4, although Roy Suryo is the main source, the quote presented emphasizes his "reluctant to answer" attitude, which is considered uncooperative—rather than the substance of his defense.

#### 4.2 Quotes from Tribunnews.com Sources

Tribunnews.com presents a greater diversity of sources, including giving space to those who oppose Joko Widodo:

Table 7  
Quotes from Tribunnews.com Sources

Article	Dominant Sources	Quote Content
T-1	Ade Ary Syam Indradi & Roy Suryo	Chronology of the police and Roy Suryo's strict approach to the summons
T-2	Joko Widodo & Syarif Muhammad (adjutant)	Reason for reporting and information on attendance at the SPKT
T-3	Djuhandhani Rahardjo Puro, Yakup Hasibuan, Eggi Sudjana	Forensic test results, diploma submission, and background to Eggi's report
T-4	Roy Suryo, Yakup Hasibuan, Joko Widodo	Roy's explanation regarding the limitation of answers, attorney's statement regarding the "good name of the country"

At T-3, the presence of Eggi Sudjana's (the initial reporter) quote demonstrates that Tribunnews.com did not close off the possibility of those accusing Jokowi of forging a fake diploma, even though the Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim) had declared it authentic. This strategy kept the conflict alive.

At T-4, Tribunnews.com used a longer quote from Roy Suryo and gave him space to explain his reasons for refusing to answer investigators' questions.

#### 4.3 Comparison of Source Quotes from Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com

Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com differ significantly in the way they present their sources in their reports, corroborating the information contained in their reports. The choice of sources has a certain dominating effect on the reporting. The comparison is as follows.

Table 8  
Comparison of Syntactic Framing of Kompas.com & Tribunnews.com

Comparative Aspect	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Source Dominance	Authorities (police/Criminal Investigation Agency) & Jokowi's legal team	More diverse, including the reported parties
Space for Opponents	Minimal, only for context	Quite large, equal portions
Evaluative Content	Yes (statement "very cruel slander")	Existing, but spread across various parties
Quotation Function	Strengthening Jokowi's legitimacy	Maintaining narrative balance

## 5. Comparison of Kompas.com & Tribunnews.com News Closings

### 5.1 Kompas.com Closing

Kompas.com's news closing tends to emphasize the ongoing legal process or the final outcome:

- 1) K-1: Explains the progress of the investigation, the evidence gathered, and the witnesses questioned. This closing suggests that the case is moving toward clarity.
- 2) K-2: Explains that Jokowi's report has been received and is still under investigation. This closing does not provide any new conclusions, only confirms the status.
- 3) K-3: Explains that Jokowi underwent questioning and was asked 22 questions. This closing reinforces the impression that the verification process was thorough.
- 4) K-4: Explains the legal articles Jokowi used in reporting the case. This closing confirms that the incident falls within a formal legal framework.

### 5.2 Tribunnews.com's Closing

Tribunnews.com tends to close its news with information that leaves room for interpretation:

- 1) T-1: Explains that Roy Suryo chose not to provide further explanation to the media. This closing leaves readers in the dark.
- 2) T-2: Explains that Jokowi was accompanied by four attorneys. It does not provide a substantive conclusion.
- 3) T-3: Explains the background to Eggi Sudjana's report and its political-legal rationale. This closing reinforces the narrative of the conflict, not the final outcome.
- 4) T-4: Explains Jokowi's statement that the report was made to resolve the controversy. This closing is relatively neutral.

### 5.3 Comparison of Closings between Tribunnews.com & Kompas.com

The following is a comparison of Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com's closings, which have a specific effect on readers.



Table 9  
 Comparison of Closings between Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com

Comparative Aspect	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Closing function	Confirming the legal process or final outcome	Leaving issues open to multiple interpretations
Orientation	Certainty, eliminating any room for doubt	Leaving issues open to other interpretations
Relationship to the title	Consistency (headline and closing are in the same direction)	Sometimes branching out into other issues
Effect on the reader	Confidence in the direction of the case	Still asking questions, feeling the issue is unresolved

#### 6. Comparison of News Framing of the Issue of Joko Widodo's Fake Diploma on Kompas.co and Tribunnews.com in Terms of Syntactic Structure

Based on the analysis of the five elements of syntactic structure, the following is a summary of the comparison between Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com.

Table 10  
 Comparison of Syntactic Framing on Kompas.com & Tribunnews.com

Syntactic Elements	Kompas.com	Tribunnews.com
Title	Informative-procedural; strong confirmation ("make sure")	Dramatic-sensational; hanging ("turns out," "breaking news")
Lead	Source of authority; represents the entire content	Varied; not fully representative of the content
Background Information	Systematic; legitimacy of the legal process	Varied; expanding the conflict
Quotes	Dominance of Jokowi's side and the authorities	Varied, including the opposing party
Closing	Emphasizes the legal process; final	Hanging; open to multiple interpretations
Overall Framing Direction	Pro-legitimacy of Jokowi	Semi-neutral, conflictual

## DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of the syntactic structure of news coverage of the fake Joko Widodo 2025 diploma issue on Kompas.com and Tribunnews.com, significant differences were found in how the two media outlets construct reality through news syntax elements. These differences are not coincidental, but rather reflect ideological interests, editorial strategies, and each media outlet's position within the Indonesian digital press industry landscape.

More broadly, these findings align with the statement of Oktavianti, Gumilar, & Hartoyo (2026) that mass media not only convey information but also shape social meaning through the framing process. In the context of controversial news reporting, each media outlet tends to highlight certain aspects that align with the interests and segmentation of its audience.

### Implications of Differences in News Headlines

Regarding the title elements, Kompas.com tends to use informative, procedural, and outcome-oriented titles (the word "make sure"), while Tribunnews.com uses dramatic, cliffhanger, and sensational titles (the phrase "turns out"). According to research by Bramantyo, Alida, & Pratiwi (2025), the use of diction in news headlines is an effective framing strategy for building legitimacy or public resistance to a policy or event. A similar trend occurs in this report, where Kompas.com uses the word "pastikan," which rhetorically carries confirmatory and final force, while Tribunnews.com uses the word "nyatakan," which is a simple declarative without strong affirmative pressure. Entman's framing theory (1993) asserts that framing operates through two primary mechanisms: selection and prominence; in this case, Kompas.com emphasizes certainty and finality, while Tribunnews.com emphasizes dramatization and mystery.

### The Role of the News Lead as a Gateway to Meaning

Regarding the news lead element, Kompas.com consistently begins its news with an

authoritative institutional source (the police or the Criminal Investigation Agency), while Tribunnews.com presents its lead in a more varied style and tends not to fully represent the entire content of the news. This finding reinforces the concept of the "inverted pyramid" in journalism, where the most important information is placed at the beginning of the story. Kompas.com applies this principle more strictly, while Tribunnews.com tends to sacrifice completeness of information for dramatic effect.

### Dominasi Narasumber sebagai Strategi Legitimasi

One of the most striking findings in this study is the difference in source dominance. Kompas.com consistently quotes law enforcement officials (the National Police, the Criminal Investigation Agency) and Joko Widodo's attorneys, while Tribunnews.com gives more space to the reported parties, such as Roy Suryo and Eggi Sudjana. This finding aligns with research by Nita & Setiawan (2022), which states that using a variety of source quotes is necessary to increase news objectivity. In the context of controversial reporting, source selection is not a neutral act. As explained by Wibisono (2025), the process of selecting facts is related to how the facts are selected. Tribunnews.com focuses more on individuals involved in the conflict. This choice of sources reflects the practice of source selection in journalism: Kompas.com builds "institutional validation," a claim to truth based on formal authority, while Tribunnews.com attempts to establish a "false balance" that can actually prolong the conflict's existence in the public sphere.

### Background Information and Causal Construction

In terms of background information, Kompas.com tends to present a systematic, legal-process-oriented context, while Tribunnews.com presents a more diverse background information and broadens the context in a way that maintains the dynamics of the conflict. Auwaliah's (2025) research found a similar pattern: Kompas.com



tends to present information in a neutral and factual manner, while *Tribunnews.com* presents a more sensational and speculative narrative. In reporting the Criminal Investigation Agency's statement regarding the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma, *Kompas.com* focused on the forensic laboratory testing process and legal procedures, while *Tribunnews.com* devoted a significant portion of the background to Eggi Sudjana's report and its political and legal arguments. This phenomenon can be explained through the theory of second-level agenda setting, which states that the media not only tells the public what to think, but also how to think. By broadening the background information to the reporter's narrative, *Tribunnews.com* framed the issue as an "ongoing conflict," rather than a "settled case."

### News Closings and the Recency Effect

In closings, *Kompas.com* tends to emphasize ongoing legal proceedings or final results, while *Tribunnews.com* tends to close with information that leaves open the door to further interpretation. In communication psychology, the concept of the recency effect—the tendency for individuals to remember information at the end—is recognized, which *Kompas.com* exploits by placing information about the ongoing legal process or the final result at the end. Conversely, *Tribunnews.com*'s closing with a cliffhanger creates an "unfinished story" effect that encourages readers to continue following developments. *Tribunnews.com*'s strategy can be understood within the context of the political economy of digital media, where audience engagement and retention are metrics of success; news that concludes with a final conclusion discourages readers from seeking further news, while news that leaves a cliffhanger encourages readers to continue following developments.

### Strengths and Limitations of the Study

This study's strength lies in its in-depth analysis of syntactic structures, systematically encompassing five elements, providing a

comprehensive overview of the framing practices of both media outlets. Furthermore, the specific timeframe (April-May 2025) allows for a comprehensive chronology of news reporting. This study also contributes theoretically to Pan & Kosicki's (1993) framing model, particularly in the syntactic structure dimension, by demonstrating that syntactic structure is not merely a neutral and technical domain; the selection of titles, the construction of leads, the selection of sources, the presentation of background information, and the placement of closings are discursive practices fraught with ideological interests.

### CONCLUSION

Based on an analysis of eight news articles using the Pan & Kosicki framing model, it is concluded that *Kompas.com* and *Tribunnews.com* construct significantly different realities in their coverage of the fake diploma issue surrounding Joko Widodo's 2025 candidacy. *Kompas.com* constructs a legal-formal and pro-legitimacy framing that positions the issue as a structured legal event with a final direction. In contrast, *Tribunnews.com* constructs a conflictual and semi-neutral framing that frames the issue as a dynamic, unresolved polemic. This difference reflects the ideological characteristics and business strategies of each media outlet: *Kompas.com* is close to the elite and prioritizes narrative stability, while *Tribunnews.com* prioritizes audience engagement through sensationalization of the news.

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