

Communication Pattern of Indonesian Journalists with News Source in the Internet Era

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is one of the countries that cannot evade the development of digital communication enabling its society to access the Internet. As such, now people can get Internet access easier, so that they can connect to it anytime and anywhere. This advantage, to some journalistic platforms like newspaper, radio, and television, is used to run an online version of their services as well as to search, collect, process and publish news for the society. Yet, the development of online journalism becomes a threat and challenge for newspaper, radio, and television journalism consecutively. All journalism media that exist previously compete each other to become the first and foremost in providing information to the society, thus the competition among journalists cannot be avoided, especially in searching information from news sources. In responding to this, even some journalists are willing to violate the rules in order to get a reliable news source. From this, it emerges a question what are the communication patterns applied between Indonesian journalists and the news sources seen from the eyes of the journalists? To answer this question, the researcher conducted the present study applying the qualitative approach. The results demonstrated that the patterns of communication done can be included into five categories such as mutualism, parasitism, commensalism, epigonism, and neutralism.

Keywords: *Journalism, sources, mutualism, parasitism, commensalism.*

INTRODUCTION

After the fall of the New Order under Soeharto's leadership, the era of freedom begins to shine. This wind of change is not only affecting a single field, but it also affects the political landscapes in Indonesia. Since the reformation era, the press has been able to express the ideas freely in conjunction with it. According to Rasul, Rahim and Salman (2015), on 20th May 1998 the younger generation and the other civil societies carried out a victorious reform movement overthrowing Soeharto as the president. As the result, it altered the Indonesian political map and communication. Furthermore, the reform movement has changed several other aspects like the pattern of media use, the norm of citizenship and the system of political participation among the younger generation of Indonesia.

Nowadays, Indonesian society is getting more easily in accessing the Internet. This profit is used to spread online media journalism as practiced by newspaper, radio and television media platforms to search, collect, process and publish news for the public. The emergence of online media has become a threat and challenge to newspapers, radio, as well as television journalism. Newspaper, radio and television are racing to become the leading medium in fulfilling the needs of public information. Thus, the competition among their journalists in searching, collecting, processing and publishing a work of journalism such as news is inevitable.

Based on data from the Press Council (Dewan Pers, 2016), during 2015 the total sum of newspaper in Indonesia was 321 media, which consisted of 117 published daily, 112 published weekly and 32 published monthly. Whereas, the figures of radio were 674,

television were 523 and online media were 68. The intense competition among journalists in searching, collecting, processing and publishing news creates a room for journalists to violate their professional ethics. This happened because they want to be the first in finding, collecting, processing and publishing news consumed by the public.

One of the problems fought by fellow journalists is contacting and probing for information from news sources. Journalists are willing to wait in a long run just to get confirmation from the source of news. Sometimes they even sacrifice themselves for being abused and insulted or even breaking the rules just to get the info for the news written. Referring to Saad, Mustaffa, Ahmad and Hassan (2016), sources are used to prove that any news or information presented through printed and electronic media is credible and reliable. The news source for a journalist has a very important role in creating a good work of journalism. In this context, the news source is one of a determinant factor without which a reporter will not be able to write news. Departing from this phenomenon, the success of a reporter to get news directly from the sources turns to be one of the success indicators in presenting the information to the community as well as the sign in winning the competition among journalists from various media.

In responding to the above issues, a question need to be asked that is what are the communication patterns applied between Indonesian journalists and the news sources seen from the eyes of the journalists?

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this part, it will be described some related concepts and theories in conjunction to journalist, communication pattern, social action, phenomenology and symbolic interaction theory. Each one of them will be described thoroughly in the paragraphs to come.

Journalist

Journalists are needed by community as information collectors. They to some extent determine the quality of the mass media working for (Wibawa, 2012). Moreover, the level of credibility of media determined by the quality of the crew of journalists in the field. In other words, journalists act as one of the spearheads of paper, radio, television and online media. Journalists bring certain social recognitions when looking at a problem presented in the form of observable text. By this, all perceptions about phenomena affect the text created. Journalists have existed since the dawn of human civilization. Hamzah and Manali (1987) explain that:

... in Romans' era, the first generation of journalist was born. That initially they were consisted of slaves given the task of collecting information, news, or even attending senate sessions. They reported all the results to their masters either verbally or nonverbally. Even though, the slave owner was on duty in the far land, the slaves would send the news occurred. The news delivered usually came from the city of Rome, it would be reported with the intention that their master might follow the events happened in the city. Similarly, slaves who were on duty in the city of Rome, would report to the officers in the regions, then they would send news and events taking place to their master. Many of the slaves assigned as news collectors and they collaborated with each other in obtaining news and reporting to the person who commissioned him.

Journalist is no longer a slave but a person of equal value with the news source. For example, when a journalist is in charge of interviewing informants who are officials, the value and position are the same as the officials. On the contrary, if a journalist is in charge of interviewing a driver or beggar, his/her value and position are the same with a driver or beggar addressed. This role played in order to obtain reliable information which will be distributed to the community. The existence of a journalist often identified as two sides of a coin sometime they are needed but in another facet their present is hated because it is suspected that they will report negative things about the people near them.

Communication Pattern

According to the Law no. 40 year 1999 about the Press (Pemerintah Republik Indonesia, 1999), especially in General Provisions Article 1 point 4, journalists are people who regularly carry out journalistic activities. In the Household Regulation, especially article 9 of the Indonesian Journalists Association is mentioned that a journalist is a person doing journalistic work in the form of activities related to collection, processing and broadcasting news, opinions, reviews, and etc., in the field of mass communication. These two rules indicate that journalists are in charge of searching, collecting, processing and publishing journalistic work. Thus, in performing their duties, journalists need to interact with news sources. This means that journalists and news sources must develop a relationship or symbiosis that can complement each other.

If we see it from Biological Science, there are at least three patterns of interaction between organisms namely symbiotic mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism. According to Suktiyono (2006), symbiotic mutualism is a way of living together between two different types of organism and their relationship is categorized as benefiting one another. In reverse, symbiotic parasitism is a relationship between two types of organisms that portrays one party gets benefits while the other does not. Contrary to parasitism, symbiotic commensalism is a way of living together between two different organisms showing that one organism gets a profit while the other does not acquire either profit or loss.

Based on Suktiyono's opinion, three patterns of organism interactions are also in line with the communication patterns performed by humans. These three interaction patterns occurred in various fields of profession including the profession of journalists. Because journalist is a social being who personally has their own uniqueness, he or she is different with animals and plants. Therefore, the patterns of communication are more elaborated compared to animals and plants. Added to three patterns of communication mentioned earlier, two other dimensions are neutral and epigone patterns of communication.

Official Indonesian Dictionary defines epigone as a person who has no new idea and just follows the trail of thinkers who precede him or her. Based on the meaning presented by Official Indonesian Dictionary, if journalists do not have new ideas and just follow other journalist's paths when connecting with news sources, then the communication pattern occurred is considered as epigone. Whereas, if journalists have a stand-alone or an impartial attitude to the news source during the interaction, it can be categorized as neutral.

The journalist skills have a very important part in convincing news sources that information given can be clarified and at the end well produced. The ability to foster a good news source is perhaps the most important talent a journalist has. This talent is certainly important when journalists have to write more than just news presenting facts but they also have to interpret what lies beneath these facts. Related to this, Hikmat and Purnama (2005)

declared that a journalist needs to know a news source who has recognized the real facts. If a reporter cannot observe the facts from the primary sources, he will rely on other reporters or other references. These may be available in books, documents, archives or in just another person's mind.

Furthermore, they add that the best news source is someone who is knowledgeable in a certain field and has the same sharp feelings about the information needed to know by public. By this, the public will be enlightened and finally know what is going on actually. This kind of informant will even call the journalist if he or she knows about something importance to the public. Even he or she will understand what information asked by journalists. Journalists should be grateful if they know such informant and they must nurture a good relationship with him or her, so that the informant can be contacted if needed (Hikmat and Purnama, 2005).

Every news source has his or her motive when informing issue to the journalists. By the same token, he or she can object to inform something to journalists. Focusing on the motives and objections of news sources will help journalists to maintain good relationships with them. Basically, news sources can come from every walk of life. In relation to this, Hikmat and Purnama, (2005) asserted that news sources can be scientists, bureaucrats, politicians, people not satisfied of a certain policy, people chasing publicity, and public relations officer.

Social Action, Phenomenology, and Symbolic Interaction

Social action theory is proposed by Max Weber, one of the leading theorists in this study. Another theory is the phenomenology theory from Alfred Schutz. Both theories are used to analyze the reality of the behavior patterns of communication between news reporters and the news sources when they are interacting in an event forming a pattern of communication. Behavior that related to communication pattern between Indonesian journalists and a news source can be interpreted by social action theory from Max Weber. This emphasizes on subjective meaning happening in oneself. Weber (1864-1920) in Mulyana (2003) defined social actions as the subjective interpretation of individuality when he or she reacts to all human behaviors.

Another theory employed in this research is the phenomenological theory from Alfred Schutz (1972). This also discusses about the subjective meaning. In Schutz's perspective, the main task of phenomenological analysis is to reconstruct the world of real human life in the form of their own experience. To this end, the view of phenomenology is suitably applied to describe the communication patterns between Indonesian journalists and their news sources. Besides that, this study gives a lot of freedom for journalists to express his or her views based on the experience while working. According to Kuswarno (2009), the main purpose of phenomenology is to study how phenomena are experienced by a person e.g. in consciousness, mind, and action. This is the same as if they are valued or accepted aesthetically.

The behaviors of Indonesian journalists working in the field include interacting with news sources, can be viewed from the theory of social action triggered by Max Weber, a sociologist from the State of Germany. This approach is used because it focuses on the subjective meanings shown by the individual. Weber, who lived around 1864-1929, via Mulyana (2003) defined social action, as all human behaviors performed and how an individual gives a subjective meaning to those behaviors. Weber's statement gives an illustration that all behaviors expressed by journalists interacting with news sources provide

a subjective meaning. It occurred as long as the behavior mirrors a subjective meaning. If so, the action is a social action that can be explained by journalists openly or closely. The openness and concealment of the actions of Indonesian journalists while on the ground will be revealed after considering other people's perception. In this context, it is in accordance with the theory of social action because one of its concerns is the discussion related to the behavior of others.

Further Weber (1864-1920) in Mulyana (2003) said that meaningful social action is based on its subjective meaning given by individuals and as long as it considers the behavior of others it will be manifested in their appearance. Thus, the behaviors of Indonesian journalists are very ethical because their actions are meaningful, well judged, and purposive. Social action of Indonesian journalists is a purposive act done to their news sources and for them this interaction should be filled by active thoughts interpreting each other behavior, in other way communicating with each other according to its communication intentions.

Phenomenological theory can be regarded as a variant of social action theory because Alfred Schutz's influential phenomenological theory in Europe is still under the umbrella of social action theory (Mulyana, 2003). Similar to the theory of social action, phenomenological views are interested in subjective meanings. Therefore, for Schutz the main task of phenomenological analysis is to reconstruct the "real" world of human life in their own forms. The reality of the world is inter-subjective in the sense that members of society will use their basic perceptions as the basis to do the socialization, interaction or communication.

The social world according to Schutz (1972) must be seen historically. Therefore, he concluded that social action is an action oriented to the behavior of other people in the past, present and future. In the context of the phenomenological approach, Indonesian journalists are seen as the actors who interpret their environment freely and construct it according to their will.

As Weber pointed out that to gain a valid understanding about the subjective meanings of social action is not just to present an understanding of one's own motives but to give the empathy obtained through the process of symbolic interaction. Moreover, the essence of symbolic interaction theory proposed by Mead will help to explain how Indonesian journalists see themselves when interacting with news sources on the ground. The symbolic interaction theory will also explain how Indonesian journalists behave as journalists based on their own views and other people's views about them in relation primarily to news sources.

The symbolic interaction theory was not born in an empty space, but it was inspired by other intellectuals like Max Weber's social action theory. Mulyana (2001) explains that:

Some scholars argue that the theory of symbolic interaction proposed by George Herbert Mead, ethnomethodology from Harnell Garfinkel's which is very influential in America, and the influential phenomenology theory by Alfred Schutz in Europe are actually under the umbrella of social action theory proposed by the German philosopher as well as sociologist, Max Weber (1864-1920), one of the three main classical theorists besides Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx. Although Weber himself was not really a pure interpretivist.

The above statements imply that the theory of symbolic interaction was rooted from previous intellectuals yet it was developed and renewed by the other theoreticians. The symbolic interaction theory is inspired by the philosophy of pragmatism, behaviorism and Darwin's theory of evolution. Fisher said, symbolic interaction requires the internal social process (in person) in the form of self-appointment and interpretation. In other words, it is human beings who have the role to interact symbolically (Fisher & Katrine, 1994). Human can translate symbols, and the symbols are mutually agreed among them.

Symbolic interaction is a theory embedded by the perspective of phenomenology or interpretive perspective. Mulyana (2001) further declared that the perspective of a symbolic interaction is actually under a larger perspective called a phenomenological perspective or an interpretive perspective. Many scientists involve in bearing and developing the symbolic interaction theory particularly the students who learn it and adherents who love it. Scientists who follow the symbolic interaction theory asserted that symbolic interaction theory is the most appropriate tool to dissect social problems in that a particular condition perceived by the experience of the outsider or the researcher himself. To this aim, it is the subject that determines everything.

Referring to the theory of symbolic interaction the Indonesian journalist acts on the basis of the meaning possessed by the subject or object. In addition, these meanings or symbols are the processes resulted from the interaction that occurs to journalists interpreted by themselves and other parties in the society. Indonesian journalists are a thinking creature whose ability to think formed by social interaction in the community as well as by news sources. They usually learn something from the news sources and this ability to some extent will be used to interpret the meanings that surround them. The existence of meaning captured by them and their news sources can be continued in forms of direct action in society and the environment. Humans change the symbols and meanings that exist around them based on their own interpretations. Indonesian journalists are able to modify the changes because of the knowledge to think and interact through the stages which consider some factors related to the profits or loss of their action.

Theory of symbolic interaction is the basis to explain how the meanings or symbols understood and thought by Indonesian journalists in order to determine their actions. The meaning of the symbols understood will be more excellent when supported by results of interaction between journalists and their news sources or between journalists with journalists, or journalists with other community groups. The symbols created, thought, and understood by them are the binding language of activity among them and others outside their world. This symbolic interaction theory also helps to explain how Indonesian journalists see themselves especially when interacting with news sources. In addition, how Indonesian journalists perform their jobs as a journalist, including contacting news sources based on their views, as well as the views of others opposed them.

METHOD

This research uses descriptive method with qualitative as its approach. The essence of qualitative approach are to observe people in their environment, how they interact among them, and how to understand their language and their interpretation about it when living in the world around (Nasution, 1996). Basically, this study requires the description of facts and data taken in the fields holistically. This is not intended to generalize. Instead, the descriptive method used has a purpose to describe, systematically, factually and accurately about the facts of the nature associated with phenomena scrutinized. The qualitative

approach is used because this research reveals a phenomenon that related to the behaviors of Indonesian journalists when interacting with news sources.

Creswell (1998) defines qualitative as an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry to explore a social of human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports, detailed, views of informant, and conducts the study in natural setting. Creswell's opinion provides an understanding that a qualitative approach lies in the focus of the issues studied, thus, research related to the behavior of Indonesian journalists is more appropriate to be approached with qualitative research that allows researcher to obtain deeper understanding of the data by proposing not only to the research questions but also to the elements revealed. Whereas, Moleong (2005) in his book entitled *Qualitative Research Methodology*, said:

The qualitative research is rooted in the natural setting as a whole, relying on the researcher as a research tool, use the qualitative method, conducting inductive data analysis, directing the targets to find theories from the ground, the process more important than the results, limiting the study by focus, having a set of criteria for checking the validity of the data, temporary research design, and the results of the research agreed by both parties: researchers and research subjects.

In addition, Moleong (2005) asserts that the researcher himself is the main actor in collecting the data. If prepared in advance and using a nonhuman tool as commonly used in classical research, it is highly unlikely to make adjustments to the realities on the ground. In addition, only humans are able to understand the realities in the research fields. The data relating to this research are attained not only from informants but also from other sources, so that the information obtained can be checked and re-checked. This is known as a process of triangulation and done to increase the validity of data retained.

In this study, the author carries out an observation in accordance with what suggested by Creswell (1998) that is observing Indonesian journalists when interacting with news sources. Moreover, he also does participant observation, meaning that he does not just observe the participants but he joins them because the participant observation does not emphasize on what Indonesian journalists do, instead it tries to see how Indonesian journalists behave. According to Mulyana (2003), observation plays a significant role in forming the logic of discovery, a process aimed at suggesting concepts or constructing a theory based on human reality.

In this participant observation the researcher immerses himself in the informants' activities when communicating or interviewing the news sources or when gathering the materials for the news. According to Moleong (2005), as an observer, the author participates in the daily life of his her subject in every situation he or she wants to comprehend. Yet, not all of the participants' events need to be attended. In other words, there are certain sets of references that guide the researcher to participate. If he or she has been in that setting, he or she speaks with his or her subject, jokes with them, shows his or her sympathy to them and feels with what his or her subject feels. He or she also enters his or her subject experiences by experiencing what they experienced.

The way of communicating and the length of interacting with the subjects in certain situations provide an opportunity for researcher to view participants' habits, conflicts, and changes that occur within the participant and its relationship with the environment. According to Crane and Angrosino (1984), by becoming a "member" of the subject group the researcher is no longer seen as a foreigner, but he or she has become a trustworthy friend. Through such acts, regardless of what his or her subjects do, the researcher will gain firsthand experience of the subjects' activities. To shorten, in the present study, the researcher conducts participant observation as suggested by Creswell (1998), Mulyana (2003), Moleong (2005) and Crane and Angrosino (1984), meaning that he interacts with Indonesian journalists. Sometimes, he also makes long distance observations, with the aim that his existence unknown by the participants. By this, the researcher will not disturb the participants' activities, so they will not be felt intimidated. Although formally this research was done in 2015, in fact the process of observation to the life of a journalist has begun long before it. It started when the researcher became a journalist in 1993, and continued until the early 2017. This long process of observation has inspired the researcher to ask questions manifested into this study.

Technically, the implementation of participant observation can be done by the researcher simultaneously or individually. The participant observations were conducted simultaneously when the participants interviewing the news resources for the purposes of making news or when they were hanging out with each other in a formal or non-formal situation. Whereas, when the participant observation done individually, the researcher conducted it when participants did one on one interviewing process with the news source or when they were gathered with other fellow journalists.

This participant observation may also reveal the behavior of Indonesian journalists while doing interviews. Interview is applied as the instrument of data collection. An interview is understood as an activity to get information by doing question and answer with the informant. That is, the researcher conducted interviews with the informants. Lincoln and Guba (1995) explained that, interviews embrace constructing people, events, activities, organizations, feelings, motivations, demands, concerns, reconstructing the past, projecting the future, verifying, transforming and expanding the information obtained from others. In the similar lines, Mulyana (2003) argued that, an interview is a form of communication between two people, involving someone who wants to obtain information from someone else by asking questions based on certain goals. In this study, the researcher uses the unstructured interviews. This is applied because the researcher wants to explore what views and thoughts possessed by Indonesian journalists without overburdened their mind. It means that when doing the interviewing process, the participants will have the flexibility to structure the words and ideas in answering the questions given.

RESULT

Based on the opinion of more than 50 Indonesian journalists who became the informants in this study, the results showed that news sources seen from the participants' perspectives are all things that could be included in the work of journalism ranging from news to other journalistic products. According to Heryawan, one of the informants working in a *Media Online*:

Basically a journalist cannot live without news source. It means that everything can be used to support journalistic work like news, features, and other journalistic work forms.

EA Zall, informant from the *Galamedia Newspaper*, supported Heryawan's opinion. EA Zall argues that:

News source in journalistic activities could be in the form of living or inanimate objects, they can be used as long as they are related to journalistic work. The news source is everything that is available to serve as a source of information (EA. Zall, informant).

There are still many other definitions offered by interviewees regarding what news source is. Yet, in general, summarizing all informants' opinions, news sources can be categorized into three groups, namely: primary source, secondary source and specific source. According to some informants, primary news sources are all sources of news directly related to journalistic work made by journalists. According to the informant named Ayi Kusmawan from Spirit Newspaper, the primary source is everything that comes in the first circle of a problem. Meanwhile, Deddy Ruswandi from *Media Online* said that:

A secondary source is all of the news sources completely unrelated to the work of journalism being dealt by journalists, yet one day the news sources are needed with regard to the news made (Deddy Ruswandi, informant).

Unlike secondary source, special news source, according to the most informants, is a source that deliberately requested for his or her opinion although it is not directly related to the news made. A special news source is a resource related to the expertise he or she has.

Regarding the communication patterns, most informants confessed that the relation developed by Indonesian journalists and their news sources was very complex. This means that it was built by certain interests from both parties. Based on the interview results, it is suggested that the patterns of communication established between Indonesian journalists with news sources can be categorized into five patterns of communication, namely: mutualism, parasitism, commensalism, epigonism, and neutralism.

Communication Pattern of Mutualism

Journalists should do communication with all parties related to their news. This brings implication that in every communication produced there will always be a pattern which embraces it. They cannot avoid communicating because journalists and news sources need each other. This means that journalists need a source of news, as much as the news sources require the presence of journalists. In this respect, the pattern of communication between them considered as mutualism in which both parties are profited by communication performed. The mutualism communication patterns that occurred between Indonesian journalists with news sources more suited termed as partnership, so that they form a pattern of mutual tolerance, empathy, and understanding and have the same position in conveying positive information to the public.

According to Wida, an informant working at Seputar, Indonesia, the mutualism communication pattern suggests that there should be a necessary cooperation between reporters and news sources that emphasizes in positive side aspects. It means that the reporters possess no negative intention to undermine news source. On the contrary, they even support every step made by their news source. Similar to Wida's statement, Agus from *TVRI Jabar* stated that:

Mutual communication patterns built by reporters and news sources are based on the equality principle, so that the relationship between them will be harmonious. Wida and Agus argued that the relation of Indonesian reporters with their news sources inclines to develop a long term relationship with the purpose that the journalist can contact their news sources easily at anytime and anywhere. What is more, the news sources will also get society's positive image because the messages written by reporters are positive (Agus, informant).

In line with Wida and Agus's statements, Aceng Abdullah declares that:

A positive image appears because the message content is positive, and the person or institution is likely to be pleased if they are portrayed positively in mass media. Whereas, the negative image tends to be perceived negatively because people are reluctant being reported negatively (Abdullah, 2004).

Communication Pattern of Parasitism

According to some informants, the parasitism communication pattern is a communication pattern opposed to the pattern of mutual communication. If we take a closer look, mutualism communication patterns are coming from the harmonious relationship between Indonesian journalists and their news sources, inversely, the parasitism communication patterns emerged from the disharmony between them. Even so, both parties are still making the relationship because to some extent they cannot avoid communicating.

Parasitism communication patterns occurred when one of the parties feels disadvantaged. The losses can be experienced by journalists or their news sources or both simultaneously, resulting in negative communication patterns. According to Andre from Sindo Radio FM, patterns of communication between journalists and their news sources are not always located in the corridor desired by journalists and their news sources. The communication patterns are somewhat forced, so that one feels aggrieved.

On the same page, Haryawan from Online Media said that:

Patterns of communication happened between journalists and their news sources are sometimes guided by the inconvenience, thus it is difficult to reconcile. Yet, the acquisition of information from news sources must continue to meet the information needs of public (Haryawan, informant).

As depicted above, Andre and Haryawan argue that parasitism communication patterns take place when reporters and their news sources have a different conception about some information supporting the news or work of journalistic products.

Consequently, the journalists and their news sources have their own opinions about the addressed issue. This will have the implications to the pattern of communication done because the news sources think that the journalist will make a negative news about them, so that they will refuse if asked to confirm the addressed issue by the journalists.

Andre and Haryawan's statements to some extent are backed up by Aceng Abdullah who confirms that the news sources are not familiar with the journalists because they once feel dissatisfied by the negative news about them or their institution where the journalists work (Abdullah, 2004).

Commensalism Communication Pattern

Unlike mutualism and parasitism, commensalism communication pattern is a type of relationship that does not base on profits or losses experienced by its subjects. It means that both parties do not have advantages nor disadvantages while performing the relationship.

Some informants said that commensalism communication patterns identified when one party gets profit, yet the other is not harmed by the profit taken. It means that maybe a reporter to some extent gains advantage from his or her news source but at the same time his or her news source loses nothing. The reverse is also true.

In Adem's view, an informant from Garuda Radio, in the field, technically, commensalism communication pattern happened in a very tentative manner. This means that the relationship or patterns of communication built between journalists and their news sources is only temporary, not preceded by previous acquaintances so that the communication pattern occurred instantly. Adem's opinion is supported by Syarif, the informant from *Antara News Agency*, said that:

When reporters contacted their news sources, they did not think how to get a benefit from it. Their sole concern was how to get information from their news sources ready published for the public. The implication of reporting the information that turned out to be a positive effect for their news source is not a concern or an interest of the journalists (Syarif, informant).

According to some informants, journalists have a duty and responsibility to publish information for the public but they do not possess the task and obligation to make the news sources receive positive or negative assessments from the community. From this it can be implied that the judgments of the news and other journalistic works are totally the rights of the public. By this, it can be that news or other journalistic works have positive effects for the news source.

Epigonism Communication Pattern

When carrying out a task, a journalist usually has a goal to achieve. This is manifested when a journalist collects facts and data which have been planned in advance. Yet, many journalists often ignore this phase. Thus, they regularly rely on information instantly found in the field, even they sometime depended on their colleagues in gaining information for their news or other journalistic works. What is more, the jobs performed mostly do not base

on personal deep thought or on the basis of the assignment from the boss, but rather depending on many peer journalists. This action can be termed as epigonism.

Epigonism communication pattern developed by journalists and their news source is different from the communication patterns of mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism. Referring to some informants, in epigonism communication patterns the journalists do not have plans when performing their jobs. Moreover, they have no desires to maintain good relationships with their news sources, everything worked relies on their colleagues' jobs.

According to Ayi, an informant from Spirit Newspaper, planning is one of the most important factors in supporting the performance of journalists in the field. This happened because it directly influences the journalistic products created. Planning related to communication patterns built by journalists with their news sources, for the communication patterns conducted may determine how much information can be obtained from the news sources.

Indonesian journalists who practice epigonism communication pattern argue that the relationship with their source news is not really a major factor so that the pattern of communication made with news sources is tentative and ignoring harmony. Ayi statement is supported by Zelpi, a journalist from *Tribun Jabar*. Zelpi said that:

Every journalist has their own characteristics when communicating with the news source. There are journalists who maintain good relationships with news sources and there are also journalists who totally disregard harmony with the news sources. The most important point for a journalist is to get information from news sources by applying various ways, including relying on friends of the profession (Zelpi, informant).

Neutralism Communication Pattern

Neutralism communication pattern has distinctive characteristics compared to the patterns of mutualism, parasitism, commensalism or epigonism communications. Neutralism communication pattern is based on neutralism pillars, does not concern with profit or loss orientation, thus it is built from only professional act.

Indonesian journalists and the news sources think that it is necessary to build a relationship that can poster positive communication patterns. Yet, when done no sole meaning will dominate because each has its own limitations. Indonesian journalists and the news sources have different emphasizing points and methods in providing information to society, so that the position of the two is sometimes reversed.

In the neutralism communication patterns, the journalists described as the good, a hero who wants to liberate the masses in fighting for their rights when threatened and deprived, as well as assists people in finding clarity of information. Moreover, journalists and the news source should also take a neutral stance when press coverage filled by criticisms as well as when knowing that the sources of the news, especially coming from government described as ruler, was feared, with the power to do whatever they are pleases. All of these occurrences mean that the press must take care of themselves and be left to compete with the other press, while the government does not rely on the press to broadcast the results of development (Abrar, 1995).

According to Hilman, an informant from Bisnis Indonesia, journalists certainly require the presence of news sources because the news produced originated from news sources, so that the relationship between journalists and news sources is inevitable, but the patterns of

communication between journalists and news sources sometime occurred not in harmonious manners because reporters and news sources have a variety of different interests. In responding to this, each prefers to be neutral. Rais, the informant from *Galamedia* supports Hilman's statement. Rais said that:

Journalists will select a neutral relationship than to have a very close relationship with a news source because the closeness to news sources could interfere the neutrality of the performances of journalists (Rais, informant).

CONCLUSION

All in all, it can be concluded that the patterns of communication done between Indonesian journalists and their news sources are categorized into five variants namely: mutualism, parasitism, commensalism, epigonism, and neutralism. Mutualism communication pattern is a communication pattern built between journalists and their news sources based on mutual needs and benefits. The parasitism communication pattern is the pattern of communication occurred between journalists and their news sources that are not always profitable for one party. This can be explained when journalists feel benefited and the news source is harmed, and vice versa. Commensalism communication pattern is the relationship that happened between journalists and their news sources characterizing as flowing out natural, no gains nor losses experienced by both parties. The pattern of communication epigonism is the pattern of relationships built by journalists and their news sources which heavily depended on the journalist colleagues as the sources of news. Finally, the neutralism pattern of communication is a relationship form built by reporters and news sources based on their professionalism.

BIODATA

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