Indonesian covid-19 issue on media: review on spiral of silence application theory

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Abstract Covid-19 has resulted in a global health and socioeconomic crisis that is still unprecedented in history. Since Indonesia confirmed its first Covid-19 case, UNICEF has led several pandemic response efforts in collaboration with the government, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners. This research discussed the process of handling the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. The theory used in this research was the Spiral of Silence theory, while the method used van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis. The object of research was articles on Kompas.com published from August to December 2020. We concluded that the government provides too much security through nonverbal languages, such as not providing examples of the health protocol implementation that should have been implemented during the

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Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, there is still a sense of security generated in the absence of compliance with policies and sanctions that should have been implemented. As a result, the public has become oblivious to the applicable regulations and believes that the pandemic is not a major issue. As a result, this condition has worsened the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Indonesia.

Keywords: indonesian; covid-19 issue; media; spiral of silence application theory

INTRODUCTION

The severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2 is the cause of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). The initial outbreak has quickly developed into a global pandemic (Zhang et al., 2020). The Covid-19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is still spreading worldwide nine months after the first case was recorded in November 2019 in China. Furthermore, The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Covid-19 a pandemic as confirmed cases approach 200.000 with over 8000 deaths in more than 160 countries (WHO, 2020b). People anywhere are infected with the Covid-19 virus, which generally attacks the respiratory tract. The symptoms can be mild, moderate, or even fatal if not treated properly (Zheng et al., 2020). The most challenging aspect of modelling the Covid-19 outbreak is that many patients are hidden in the general population and infecting others. Unfortunately, the number of positive daily new cases confirmed by PCR tests is the only observable metric on which estimates can be based (Odagaki, 2020). The public has been reported to be unsatisfied with the government's actions in handling the impact of Covid-19 and other related issues such as poverty and unemployment rates, which soared dramatically during the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia (Rahadian, 2020).

Covid-19 affects several countries, including Indonesia. On 2 March 2020, Indonesia reported its first coronavirus case (Nugroho, 2020). Due to large-scale restrictions, there are severe economic losses and industry and business disruptions at all levels of life during the Covid-19 pandemic (Caraka et al., 2020). The increased incidence of Covid-19 had a significant impact on the global economy, which may have harmed Indonesia's stability and affected the Indonesian economy. Transportation, tourism, trade, health, and other sectors have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but the economic sector most affected by Covid-19 is the household sector (Susilawati et al., 2020). The level of public anxiety in Indonesia is one of four elements that influence the psychological load. This includes factors such as age, gender, education, and occupation (Megatsari et al., 2020).

Nonetheless, professional collaboration, efficient preventive measures, and a positive attitude when dealing with the epidemic contribute to stress reduction (Windarwati et al., 2021). LAZISMU, as the national *zakat* institution, has participated as a community group with significant assets in Indonesia to help overcome the pandemic's impact in numerous ways, including offering scholarships, delivering

basic requirements, assisting orphanages, and distributing masks. Such efforts are made following the Blue procedure and health protocol standards (Mursal et al., 2021). The Indonesian government has implemented various policies to prevent the transmission of Covid-19, one of which is the Large-Scale Social Restrictions which urge people to maintain a minimum distance of two meters with each other, avoid direct contact with other people, and wearing masks. These restrictions are hoped to help reduce or even break the chain of Covid-19. According to CNN Indonesia.com, news about the Covid-19 pandemic is more than just government involvement in fostering good public perception. Meanwhile, tirto.id emphasises the function of medical personnel so that the public remains calm and alert (Naqqiyah, 2020).

So far, the government's policy response has been directed at improving facilities and responding to the needs of the poor and potentially poor (vulnerable). Covid-19 has not been overcome in Indonesia in any way until the time this article was written. As a result, the implications of Covid-19 on economic growth, jobs and well-being remain uncertain as policy discussions still focus on liberating the economy from the restrictions imposed by the virus across the country, dubbed the 'new normal' (Olivia et al., 2020). For example, early detection of patients through intensive surveillance and contact tracing around confirmed cases has helped limit the spread of the outbreak in Singapore. Singapore has proven that the Covid-19 pandemic can be controlled with minimal disruption to daily life when combined with other healthcare, border and community care interventions (V. Lee et al., 2020). Another example, in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Philippine government must prepare for another possible pandemic. Therefore, it is imperative to increase preventive measures and make real preparations (De Vero et al., 2021). Discriminatory social policies have a direct impact on people's livelihoods, so they need fast social support.

The Covid-19 crisis is also testing political leadership. Several state leaders proved to be unifying figures. Indeed, wide-ranging lockdowns and early commitments to social assistance require decisive leadership (Blofield et al., 2020). Thus, it is highly recommended and requested that everyone, regardless of affiliation, strictly adhere to preventive, management, and quarantine measures to worsen the pandemic situation. In addition, there is an urgent need to educate future generations in science and technology to combat similar disasters in the future. Thus, concerns can be reduced because early detection and treatment are critical in fighting disease (Ali & Alharbi, 2020). Inequality based on race and socioeconomic status also impacts infection and mortality rates and the actions required for recovery (Osofsky et al., 2020).

Furthermore, the media in Indonesia must also follow the latest developments from the Ministry of Communication and Information, the Ministry of Health, and the National Disaster Management Agency to

provide factual and useful information related to Covid-19 to the public (Pradana et al., 2020). The media play an essential role in providing accurate health information and keeping society clean. In addition, media coverage is critical because it determines the next steps in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

During these events, social media has increasingly become a means for users to disseminate useful public safety and emergency information. As a complement to operational planning and coordination, public information and warnings are an essential component of community disaster preparedness (Yang et al., 2019), and the news media plays an important role in shaping public reactions to disasters and connecting people and communities (Ewart & McLean, 2019). Moreover, even though a year has passed, the patient database is still not effective in dealing with the crisis and overcoming the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia (Kompas.com, 2021), So, the government's efforts to urge the public to use masks to maintain social distance in order to stop the spread of Covid-19 cannot be said to be successful. Based on this background, the researchers tried to find out the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia regarding applying the spiral of silence theory.

The public's assessment of the atmosphere of public opinion is influenced by the environmental monitoring process, both through open and indirect channels (Grimmelikhuijsen & Meijer, 2015; Li et al., 2019; Saidah & Rusfian, 2020). Means of direct contact include face-to-face meetings, communication, and other actions. The most significant indirect channel is the media that presents the results of opinion surveys, polls, general news mood, and so on (Ibrahim et al., 2016; J. R. Lee, 2017; Perbawani et al., 2018). The spiral of silence theory sparked some debate in academia and forced scholars from various disciplines to examine its key theories. A meta-analysis published in 1997 revealed that the environmental outlook of public opinion has a small but statistically substantial effect on the ability to share opinions (Hakobyan, 2020).

According to the spiral theory, people who believe that their opinions on various public issues are minority views are more likely to refrain from expressing their views, whereas those who believe that their views are minority views are more likely to express them to others. More media emphasises the majority viewpoint while suppressing the minority viewpoint. Those in the minority will be less assertive in expressing their opinions, contributing to the downward spiral of communication. On the contrary, the majority will feel confident about their influence and compelled to share it with others (Noelle-Neumann & Petersen, 2004).
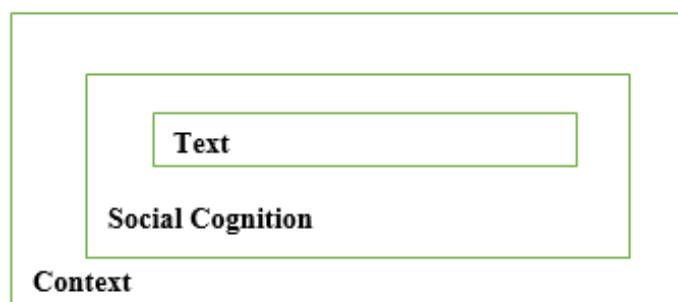
Following Hakobyan (2020) assumption, corporations have colonised digital material and commercialised online media, including the news. This paper discussed how the voice and opinion of the minority are 'blurred' and redefined by online news media. Those who did not have a significant voice (minority) are kept silent. Indeed, the divided

and homogeneous world fosters new ways of pluralistic ignorance (Hakobyan, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative approach that focuses primarily on applying test methods and describes the belief that some individuals or groups have emerged due to social or human problems (Creswell & Poth, 2017). Critical discourse analysis is a diverse research program (Wodak & Meyer, 2016), with no specific concepts or methods of analysis and a shared purpose of examining "means of abuse, dominance, and social power disparity." Furthermore, texts and speech in social and political situations impose, replicate, and reject (Van Dijk, 1993). Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis framework was used for this research because it related textual analysis in general, focusing not just on the text but also on a more systematic approach to how a document was structured, not only about individuals but also between cultures. As a result, an important point from this debate review is using these three dimensions as a unit to be integrated.

Figure 1. Discourse analysis framework model of Teun A. van Dijk

Source: Eriyanto (2001)

As shown in Figure 1, Van Dijk's model is sometimes referred to as 'social cognition.' This phrase is derived from the study of social psychology, and it is used to describe the structure and process of writing a book. According to van Dijk, discourse research cannot be based solely on text analysis because the text is merely the outcome of a production process that must also be observed.

One of the most important ways to think about discourse is to recognise that it is more than just a collection of signs or sections of a text, but a process that has been used systematically to construct an object that is addressed (Mills, 1997). Van Dijk divides the components of this theoretical approach into three stages in this method: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

As shown in Table 1, Van Dijk creates a discourse analysis that can be used. He notices that the text element of discourse comprises multiple structures or levels that support each other. The macrostructure of a text is a significant meaning that can be discussed in a document by the subjects or themes. The superstructure is a discourse feature that

refs to the context of a text in which other sections have already been retained and assembled. The microstructure is a meaningful discourse that can be interpreted as a phrase, paragraph, preposition, and images from a small section of a text.

Table 1. The components of van Dijk's analytical

Macrostructure
Global/general meanings of a text that can be observed in a topic/theme depart from a certain text.
Superstructure
The frame of a text, such as introduction, contents, closing remarks, and conclusion.
Microstructure
Local meaning of a text that can be observed from word choices, sentences, and word styling used in a text.

Source: (Eriyanto, 2001)

Table 2. Elements of discourse by van Dijk

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	ELEMENTS
Macrostructure	THEMATIC Theme/topic brought forward in a text	Topic
Superstructure	SCHEMATIC How a part and order of news are being schemed in an intact news text	Scheme
Microstructure	SEMANTICS Meaning that wants to be emphasised in a news text, such as giving detail on one side or making an explicit form of one side and reducing other sides.	Background, details
	SYNTAX How a sentence (form, arrangement) is being selected.	Sentence form, coherence, preposition
	STYLISTICS How a word is chosen as a part of news text	Lexicon
	RHETORICS How and in what way an emphasis is conducted.	Graphics, metaphor, expression

Source: (Eriyanto, 2001)

As shown in Table 2, in the macrostructure (global meaning), the discourse's thematic or themes and ideas are observed. In the superstructure, the schematic, that is, the collection of opinions, is compiled and arranged, such as the introduction, content, and conclusion is observed. Van Dijk includes a systematic scheme or plot in a discourse. In the microstructures, the observed are 1) semantics and the discourse elements, namely setting, detail, intent, presupposition, nominalisation; 2) Syntax with elements of discourse in the form of sentences, coherence, pronouns; 3) stylistic (lexicon), namely words

used in discourse texts; 4) rhetorical, namely graphics, metaphors, and expressions.

The unit of analysis in this study was the online news text from Kompas.com during August - December 2020. Kompas.com was chosen based on the release of Alexa.com, which states that Kompas.com is a global pioneer in the world of discourse analysis. Alexa.com ranks Kompas.com in the top 5 most visited sites. In data reduction, the selected items are related to the handling of Covid-19 in the Kompas.com news. Then the news on the handling of Covid-19 was mapped and analysed further using van Dijk's theory. Researchers used the Conscientization approach to test the validity of the data in this study. Conscientisation is a theorising activity, which means it has a substantial theoretical foundation. In this study, the awareness approach is a combination of theory and data in the form of a collection of news about the handling of Covid-19 in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers have obtained five selected reports on Kompas.com related to the handling of Covid-19 during August - December 2020.

Table 3. News analysis on 24 August 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Covid-19 cases in Indonesia are still increasing from day to day.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	The total number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia became 153,535 cases, with 107,500 people recovering and 6,680 dead.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	The government is considered less successful in handling Covid-19.
	SYNTAX	The appearance of the word 'consistent' word
	STYLISTICS	The constant use of the word 'consistent' and is mentioned four times
	RHETORIC	A patient lies on a bed dressed in white and flanked by two people dressed in white wearing masks.

Source: (Kompas.com, 2020d)

Based on table 3, it can be concluded that the government fail to implement the use of masks, social distancing, and washing hands to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in many events held by the central government. Masks should have been worn consistently by all government officials for society the function. This action leads to people imitating or doing the same thing, such as not wearing masks outside. Furthermore, the central government has failed to monitor and assist local governments in their dealings with Covid-19.

Based on table 4, the social contract between the government and the people of Sweden was built on a high level of trust. However, just

because a country wants to emulate Sweden does not mean it has to do the same thing. Sweden barred citizens over the age of 16 from attending colleges and universities. The school, however, remains open to younger students. Furthermore, Sweden has prohibited gatherings of more than 50 people and has urged those over the age of 70 and groups at risk of being exposed to Covid-19 to isolate themselves.

Table 4. News analysis on 26 September 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Several countries in Europe are still experiencing a spike in Covid-19 cases.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	Sweden is considered successful in adjusting its handling steps with the behaviour and background of its people. This is what makes the policies taken to be effective.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	Individuals have a responsibility to understand how to protect themselves, protect others, and contain outbreaks that occur through fast and efficient contact tracing.
	SYNTAX	The appearance of the 'obedience' word
	STYLISTICS	The choosing of 'obedience' and its mentioning as many as two times.
	RHETORIC	The atmosphere of Stockholm City, Sweden.

Source: Kompas.com (2020b)

Table 5. News analysis on 2 October 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Kompas Daily Senior Editor Ninuk Mardiana Pambudy assessed that government policies in handling the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) often change.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	This changing policy has exacerbated the pandemic conditions in Indonesia.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	Such fluctuating policies are considered to complicate the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.
	SYNTAX	The appearance of the 'capricious' word
	STYLISTICS	The choosing of 'capricious' and its mentioning as many as seven times.
	RHETORIC	Deputy Chief Editor of Kompas Daily Ninuk Mardiana Pambudy, representing Kompas Daily, received a bronze award for coverage of Coral Reef Exploration in the Asian Digita Media forum in Hong Kong.

Source: (Kompas.com, 2020e)

Based on table 5, changing policies may make dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic more difficult. An already complicated situation becomes even more complicated because the disease itself can become increasingly complex as policies change. The government is overjoyed at the prospect of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 6. News analysis on 2 December 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	Efforts to contain the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia - the most populous country in Southeast Asia - have not shown any signs of success.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	Indonesia again recorded a record number of daily cases, namely 6,267 cases. The record is only five days later than the previous record, 5,534 cases.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	The government needs to involve the community actively. Community systems can assist the government in identifying the special needs of local communities and vulnerable groups.
	SYNTAX	The appearance of the 'countermeasures' word
	STYLISTICS	The choosing of 'countermeasures' and its mentioning as many as seven times.
	RHETORIC	Health workers use personal protective equipment when giving Covid-19 patient files when they arrive at the emergency checkpoint for the Emergency Hospital for Covid-19 Handling, Wisma Atlet Kemayoran, Central Jakarta.

Source: Kompas.com (2020a)

Based on table 6, the three main flaws in Indonesia's efforts to combat Covid-19 are as follows: 1. Slow response Rapid response, particularly in the early stages of a pandemic, is effective in several countries. 2.Ineffective health resource mobilisation strategies the need for individual health services and public health efforts 3. Limited community involvement with a collective community structure, the role of the community is crucial in disaster management, including the Covid-19 pandemic for Indonesia.

Based on table 7, the public must follow health protocols to avoid endangering others, including those who continue to deny the existence of Covid-19. Furthermore, the government and health facility managers provide appropriate PPE for health workers. Meanwhile, private-practice health workers should continue to use PPE levels appropriate to the potential risks in treating patients. This is being pursued to reduce the number of victims who died because of the Covid-19 pandemic for civil society and medical personnel that continue to increase from time to time.

Table 7. News analysis on 6 December 2020

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE	OBSERVED MATTERS	INFORMATION
Macrostructure	THEMATICS	The death toll due to the Covid-19 disease among medical personnel continues to increase over time.
Superstructure	SCHEMATICS	The community needs to carry out health protocols so as not to endanger other people, including people who still do not believe in the existence of Covid-19.
Microstructure	SEMANTICS	Government support and health facility managers to improve the quality of medical examination equipment so that faster results can be obtained to reduce transmission rates.
	SYNTAX	The appearance of the 'run' word
	STYLISTICS	The choosing of 'run' and its mentioning as many as two times.
	RHETORIC	Several doctors and other medical personnel performed funeral prayers for the late Dr Zulkifli Sp.P. After being positive for Covid-19, this senior pulmonary specialist died during the final release of the body at the Zainoel Abidin Regional General Hospital (RSUD), Banda Aceh.

Source: (Kompas.com, 2020c)

The Covid-19 response discourse compares with other Southeast Asian countries

In terms of economic stimulation, each Southeast Asian country has presented the right package that will help support local companies and the long-term sustainability of the region's economy. Handling Covid-19 is the highest priority for all Southeast Asian countries. Even if economic growth slows, dramatic short-term cost containment strategies must be implemented. These cost-cutting measures must take into account all areas of public health, economy and welfare. One of the pressing issues that need to be addressed is the rapidly increasing number of cases, especially in some countries that have reached and may soon reach 30,000 cases, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, which have large populations and inadequate health facilities to serve all its citizens. While Singapore has also hit 30,000 cases, the country is almost a destination for expats. Although Singapore has surpassed 30,000 cases, the country is projected to contain the disease due to its excellent facilities and that it is a relatively small country that can implement a Covid-19 plan (Fauzi & Paiman, 2020).

So far, the efforts made by the Indonesian government in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic have focused more on meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable, potentially poor. This makes economic growth, employment, and welfare uncertain during the Covid-19

pandemic, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic has yet to be tamed in Indonesia. Indonesia's focus is also more towards applying the 'New Normal' to revive the Indonesian economy, which was paralysed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Singapore, health protocol laws include wearing masks, maintaining a safe distance, and limiting gatherings to no more than eight persons. If they break the rules, they will be penalised SGD 300. Not only that, but the fine is progressive, meaning that if additional health protocols are broken, the charge will continue to rise by double the amount that was previously paid (Dwianto, 2021). In addition, the Philippines took a number of steps, including establishing a community quarantine in Metro Manila that was later expanded to Luzon and other parts of the country; increasing testing capacity from one national reference laboratory with the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) to 23 licensed testing labs across the country; and working to ensure that its healthcare system could handle surges in demand; worked to ensure that its healthcare system can meet peak demand, including financing services and managing patients that require isolation, quarantine, or hospitalisation; and addressed the community's social and economic effect, especially by giving social assistance to low-income families (WHO, 2020a).

So that from the three Southeast Asian countries, Singapore and the Philippines are more focused on preventive measures and tracking Covid-19 cases so that the safety of their people. Indonesia is more focused on reviving the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic to save the middle and lower class. It turns out that Covid-19 instances are still on the rise in Indonesia. Furthermore, the government's policy on the Covid-19 epidemic is currently changing regularly. As a result, efforts in Indonesia to combat the Covid-19 pandemic have failed, and the number of deaths attributable to Covid-19 among medical workers continues to rise from time to time.

Weak response to covid-19 in Indonesia

Indonesia has not been successful in implementing rapid response efforts in the early phases of the pandemic. When various countries have implemented territorial closings and social restrictions since the beginning of the pandemic, the Indonesian government has chosen to ignore the threat of Covid-19. The Indonesian government has prioritised steps to save the economy. Furthermore, when many countries were preparing carefully to reopen themselves from the lockdown phase, the Indonesian government prematurely opened the economy by implementing new norms. The effectiveness of implementing lockdown policies in several countries is thought to be significant in reducing infection or spread of the Covid-19 outbreak. On the other hand, the lockdown has a negative impact on the economy in the short term.

Strategies for mobilising health resources that are ineffective the pandemic of Covid-19 have increased the demand for individual health services and public health efforts. The geographic condition of Indonesia as an archipelago, combined with the disparity in access to health services between the eastern and western regions of the country, makes allocating and distributing health resources extremely difficult. Personal protective equipment for health workers in eastern Indonesia cannot be provided in sufficient quantities in a timely manner during the pandemic. Because of this condition, health workers are a high-risk group for contracting Covid-19. In terms of test capacity, there are similar disparities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, health workers also experienced moderate burnout. Burnout is a psychological syndrome characterised by a chronic response to stressors or conflicts, with three common symptoms: emotional exhaustion, loss of empathy, and low self-esteem.

With a collective community structure, the role of community is significant in disaster management, including the Covid-19 pandemic for Indonesia. To date, the Indonesian government has failed to communicate risks and preventive measures effectively. The government is inconsistent in implementing policies at both the central and regional levels. In addition to involving local governments and the community, this collaborative policy includes the role of the private sector to synergise with each other. The core collaborative context must be completed to break the chain of Covid-19 spread. Furthermore, socialisation is ongoing in all areas, raising public awareness of the dangers of Covid-19. Then there is public education to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Judging from the spiral of silence theory, the media has silenced the public with news related to economic problems and health workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. This effort is seen as a strategy to decide the spread of Covid-19 through efforts made by the government, which will later return to the community. The community also actually considers that everyone's awareness is still lacking. The comments made are more encouraging to realise that Indonesia is a vast country. It is unfair to compare it to a smaller country, which will undoubtedly be easier to control. Community discipline and government firmness are expected to be a good synergy in handling Covid-19.

Indonesian government inconsistency during the covid-19 pandemic

The growing number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia increases by the day and raises concerns about the country's efforts to combat Covid-19. This demonstrates that the government has not been successful in dealing with Covid-19. For example, consider the lack of message delivery in the prevention of Covid-19. The government does send out messages encouraging people to wear masks, maintain social distance, and wash their hands as often as possible, but this is not reflected in the

central government's activities. The community undoubtedly interprets this behaviour as a message that the government will be acceptable even if health protocols are not implemented. As a result, people imitate or do the same thing as the government, such as not wearing masks and following health protocols as they should. The government is also flexible in enforcing regulations; however, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government is inconsistent in enforcing policies related to health protocols.

When compared to several European countries, for example, the handling of Covid-19 is still better than in Indonesia. Individual compliance and commitment to prevention protocols are currently required. Every country must take a unique approach. Sweden, for example, requires citizen participation and voluntary compliance when implementing policies made by the government. As a result, Indonesia should be able to implement policies that are consistent with the country's current circumstances—coupled with shifting policies that have exacerbated Indonesia's pandemic situation. For example, the Covid-19 Handling Acceleration Task Force (*Gugus Tugas Percepatan Penanganan Covid-19*) was renamed the Covid-19 Handling Committee (*Komite Penanganan Covid-19*), and the National Economic Recovery was renamed the Covid-19 Handling Committee (*Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional/PC-PEN*). Such erratic policies could make dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic more difficult. The public's lack of understanding of the government's considerations in making policy changes certainly piques the public's interest.

Many consequences continue to emerge because of the community's lack of adherence to health protocols in breaking the Covid-19 chain, such as casualties among medical personnel, which continue to rise over time. This is a compelling reason by governments for the public to continue to follow health protocols to avoid endangering others, including those who continue to deny the existence of Covid-19. Disobeying health protocols means sacrificing everyone's safety. Therefore, compliance is required to contain the pandemic by working together with everyone, including those who do not believe in Covid-19. The government's opinion that the public is obedient during the pandemic in carrying out health protocols by carrying strict sanctions cannot last long and cannot make people believe it for granted.

Based on the spiral of silence theory, the media reports on the government's inconsistent attitude in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. The government's efforts to deal with this pandemic were made less transparent, which eventually aroused public suspicion. The government only expects the public to be calm and obey the regulations even though the government does not fully provide the broadest possible transparency. So that this situation triggers the emergence of the confidence of minority groups in influencing other groups so that they do not easily believe the steps taken by the government just like that.

CONCLUSION

Based on an analysis of the data collected from Kompas.com regarding Indonesia's handling of Covid-19, the researchers conclude that government provides too much security through non-verbal language, such as not providing examples regarding the implementation of health protocols should have been carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic. Opinions obtained by the public easily through the media can meet the desired information needs. The silence formed through the government's information did not last long because it was cancelled by information that had stronger arguments through the media. So the opinions generated and distributed by the government are not able to build public trust. A sense of security continues to be generated without compliance with policies and sanctions that should be implemented. This has made the public indifferent to the applicable regulations and thinks that this pandemic is not a big problem. The government should have made the use of masks an obligation and fine anyone who does not use a mask. However, in practice, fines are not given to violators, and the community considers that the fine is not applied. This worsens the condition of Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic. Researchers suggest that further research should appear related to handling the Covid-19 pandemic should emerge from public opinion.

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