

ABSTRAK

Naufal Zuhdi Sujatko, Representasi Jurnalisme Investigasi Dalam Film Drama Biografi (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes tentang Film "Spotlight" Tahun 2015 karya Tom McCarthy).

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi peran film sebagai medium representasi realitas sosial melalui film drama biografi *Spotlight* (2015) yang memotret kerja keras tim investigasi *The Boston Globe* dalam mengungkap skandal pelecehan seksual sistemik di Gereja Katolik. Tujuan utamanya adalah untuk membongkar bagaimana praktik jurnalisme investigasi dimaknai melalui elemen tanda sinematik guna memahami konstruksi identitas profesi di layar lebar. Fokus penelitian diarahkan pada penguraian tiga tatanan makna, yakni denotasi, konotasi, hingga konstruksi ideologis atau mitos yang tersirat di balik narasi film tersebut.

Metodologi yang digunakan adalah pendekatan kualitatif dengan paradigma kritis yang berfokus pada kedalaman makna dan pembongkaran struktur kekuasaan. Teknik analisis data menerapkan model Semiotika Kritis Roland Barthes yang membedah tanda melalui level denotasi (literal), konotasi (kultural), dan mitos (ideologis). Data primer dikumpulkan melalui observasi tekstual non-partisipan terhadap 14 adegan kunci yang dipilih secara *purposive* untuk menangkap detail praktik jurnalistik dan benturan kepentingan institusional yang direpresentasikan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara denotatif, jurnalisme investigasi direpresentasikan sebagai kerja intelektual yang prosedural dan manual, meliputi pelacakan dokumen (*paper trail*) dan teknik wawancara berbasis empati kepada penyintas. Secara konotatif, tanda-tanda visual dan naratif mengonstruksi makna profesionalisme yang tangguh serta independensi mutlak melalui objektivitas sosok "orang luar" (*outsider objectivity*). Karakter jurnalis dipotret memiliki keteguhan prinsip moral yang tinggi meskipun harus menghadapi tekanan diplomatik maupun hukum dari institusi hegemonik yang mapan.

Pada tatanan tertinggi, penelitian ini mengungkap terbentuknya "Mitos Jurnalisme Pahlawan Modern" yang menaturalisasi pers sebagai anjing penjaga (*watchdog*) dan Pilar Keempat Demokrasi. Film ini secara aktif memitologikan bahwa transparansi fakta yang dikumpulkan secara metodis mampu meruntuhkan tembok impunitas kekuasaan demi menegakkan keadilan bagi masyarakat luas. Temuan ini diharapkan menjadi referensi akademik mengenai kekuatan representasi media dalam membentuk wacana sosial serta memperkuat pemahaman tentang integritas dan etika profesi jurnalis di era kontemporer.

Kata Kunci: Representasi, Jurnalisme Investigasi, Semiotika Roland Barthes, Film *Spotlight*, Mitos Pahlawan Modern..

ABSTRACT

THE REPRESENTATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN A BIOGRAPHICAL DRAMA FILM (A Roland Barthes Semiotic Analysis of the 2015 Film "Spotlight" Directed by Tom McCarthy)

This research explores the role of film as a medium for representing social reality through the biographical drama "Spotlight" (2015), which depicts the investigation by The Boston Globe team in uncovering the systemic sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church. The primary goal is to deconstruct how investigative journalism practices are interpreted through cinematic signs to understand the construction of professional identity on screen. The study focuses on unraveling three orders of meaning: denotation, connotation, and the latent ideological constructions or myths behind the film's narrative.

The methodology employed is a qualitative approach within a critical paradigm, focusing on the depth of meaning and the dismantling of power structures. Data analysis techniques apply Roland Barthes' Critical Semiotics model, dissecting signs through denotation (literal), connotation (cultural), and myth (ideological) levels. Primary data were gathered through non-participant textual observation of 14 key scenes selected purposively to capture the represented details of journalistic practices and institutional interest clashes.

Findings show that denotatively, investigative journalism is represented as procedural and manual intellectual work, including paper trails and empathy-based interview techniques with survivors. Connotatively, visual and narrative signs construct meanings of resilient professionalism and absolute independence through "outsider objectivity". The journalists are portrayed with high moral principles, maintaining their stance despite facing diplomatic and legal pressures from established hegemonic institutions.

At the highest order, this research reveals the formation of the "Modern Hero Journalism Myth," naturalizing the press as a watchdog and the Fourth Estate of Democracy. The film actively mythologizes that factual transparency gathered through rigorous methodology can dismantle the walls of power impunity for public justice. These findings are expected to serve as an academic reference regarding the power of media representation in shaping social discourse and strengthening the understanding of professional journalistic integrity and ethics in the contemporary era.

Keywords: *Representation, Investigative Journalism, Roland Barthes Semiotics, Spotlight Movie, Modern Hero Myth.*