

ABSTRAK

Araaf Fathun Najib: Representasi Jurnalisme Investigasi Dalam Film *Kill The Messenger* (Analisis Semiotika Charles Sanders Peirce)

Film *Kill the Messenger* mengangkat kisah jurnalisme investigasi yang berhadapan langsung dengan kekuasaan negara dan kepentingan politik. Dalam konteks masyarakat demokratis, jurnalisme investigasi memiliki peran penting sebagai pengawas kekuasaan dan penyampai kebenaran kepada publik. Namun, praktik jurnalisme investigasi sering kali dihadapkan pada berbagai risiko, seperti tekanan institusional, intimidasi politik, hingga ancaman terhadap keselamatan jurnalis. Oleh karena itu, representasi jurnalisme investigasi dalam media, khususnya film, menjadi penting untuk dikaji guna memahami bagaimana praktik tersebut dimaknai dan dikonstruksi dalam ruang budaya populer.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis representasi jurnalisme investigasi dalam film *Kill the Messenger*. Secara khusus, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi representamen jurnalisme investigasi yang ditampilkan dalam film, mengkaji objek yang dirujuk oleh tanda-tanda tersebut, serta merumuskan interpretant atau makna menyeluruh mengenai jurnalisme investigasi yang dikonstruksi oleh film.

Penelitian ini menggunakan paradigma konstruktivisme dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah analisis semiotika Charles Sanders Peirce. Unit analisis dalam penelitian ini adalah *scene-scene* terpilih dalam film *Kill the Messenger*, yang dianalisis secara sistematis untuk mengungkap tanda-tanda yang merepresentasikan praktik jurnalisme investigasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa film *Kill the Messenger* merepresentasikan jurnalisme investigasi sebagai praktik jurnalistik yang kritis, mendalam, dan berorientasi pada pencarian kebenaran. *Representamen* jurnalisme investigasi ditampilkan melalui aktivitas kerja lapangan, penelusuran dokumen, serta dialog konfrontatif antara jurnalis dan narasumber. Objek yang dirujuk meliputi praktik pengawasan terhadap kekuasaan negara, relasi antara media dan institusi politik, serta nilai-nilai profesional seperti kebenaran dan kepentingan publik. Sementara itu, *interpretant* yang dibangun film menunjukkan bahwa jurnalisme investigasi dimaknai sebagai praktik yang sarat risiko dan konsekuensi, namun tetap diposisikan sebagai panggilan etis yang esensial dalam masyarakat demokratis. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa film *Kill the Messenger* membingkai jurnalisme investigasi sebagai praktik yang penting namun rentan, yang dijalankan dalam relasi kuasa yang timpang dan minim perlindungan struktural.

Kata Kunci: Jurnalisme Investigasi; Representasi; Semiotika Charles Sanders Peirce; Film *Kill the Messenger*.

ABSTRACT

Araaf Fathun Najib: *Representation of Investigative Journalism in the Film Kill the Messenger (Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Analysis)*

The film Kill the Messenger portrays the practice of investigative journalism as a form of reporting that directly confronts state power and political interests. In democratic societies, investigative journalism plays a crucial role as a watchdog by uncovering hidden facts and holding powerful institutions accountable. However, investigative journalism often faces serious challenges, including institutional pressure, political intimidation, and threats to journalists' personal safety. Therefore, examining the representation of investigative journalism in film is important to understand how this practice is constructed and interpreted within popular culture.

This study aims to analyze the representation of investigative journalism in the film Kill the Messenger. Specifically, the objectives of this research are to identify the representamen of investigative journalism depicted in the film, to examine the objects referred to by those signs, and to formulate the interpretant or overarching meaning of investigative journalism constructed by the film.

This research employs a constructivist paradigm with a qualitative approach. The method used is Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic analysis, which emphasizes the triadic relationship between representamen, object, and interpretant. The unit of analysis consists of selected scenes from the film Kill the Messenger, which are systematically analyzed to identify signs representing investigative journalism.

The findings indicate that Kill the Messenger represents investigative journalism as a critical and in-depth journalistic practice oriented toward the pursuit of truth. The representamen of investigative journalism are shown through field reporting activities, document analysis, and confrontational dialogues between journalists and sources. The objects referred to include the oversight of state power, the relationship between media and political institutions, and professional values such as truth and public interest. Furthermore, the interpretant constructed by the film suggests that investigative journalism is a practice fraught with risks and consequences, yet it is portrayed as an ethical calling that is essential in democratic societies. This study concludes that Kill the Messenger frames investigative journalism as a vital but vulnerable practice, operating within unequal power relations and limited structural protection.

Keywords: *Investigative Journalism; Representation; Charles Sanders Peirce Semiotics; Film Kill the Messenger.*