

POWER RELATIONS IN JOKOWI'S FAKE DIPLOMA ISSUE: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The rumour that Joko Widodo, the former President of Republic of Indonesia, used a fake diploma to run for gubernatorial and presidential elections has long been a widespread national issue. This problem seems hardly resolved since the subject firmly refuses to show the document of his authentic diploma to public. He even preferred proving the availability of his diploma in different ways, such as frequently attending reunions, asking his classmates to demonstrate their identical diplomas, meeting his supervisor, showing some photographs of his student's activities, and creating various narrations to persuade people. This research aimed at revealing the power relations behind the narratives constructed to counter's Jokowi's fake diploma issue. It is particularly purposed to find out what authorities involved in the production of the discourses and how power relations present in the contents of the discourses. The method of this study is qualitative-descriptive with the data are in the form of texts constituting the statements from the authorities regarding the issue. The data were collected by documentation technique from three different online media which quote the statements. The selected data were then analyzed by using the three-dimensional model of critical discourse analysis from Fairclough (1992) with the process following interactive model of analysis from Miles and Huberman (1994). The result of analysis shows that the authorities involving in the counter-narrative productions of Jokowi's fake diploma issue are the lawyer, the rector, and the police. From particular words and expressions used in the statements, it is found that power relations contributed to the production of the discourses. All the statements were clearly attempted to persuade people on the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma even though there were not sufficient evidences had by the speakers compared to those belonged to the accusers.

Kata kunci: critical discourse analysis, fake diploma, Jokowi, media, power relation

ABSTRAK

Rumor bahwa Joko Widodo, mantan Presiden Republik Indonesia, menggunakan ijazah palsu dalam pemilihan gubernur dan presiden sudah berkembang luas menjadi isu nasional. Masalah ini seperti sulit untuk diselesaikan mengingat pelaku dengan tegas menolak untuk menunjukkan dokumen ijazah aslinya ke publik. Dia bahkan lebih memilih untuk membuktikan keberadaan ijazahnya dengan cara-cara lain seperti, berulang kali menghadiri reuni, meminta teman-teman sekelasnya untuk menunjukkan ijazah serupa, menemui pembimbing skripsi, dan menciptakan berbagai narasi untuk meyakinkan orang-orang. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap relasi kuasa di balik narasi yang dibangun untuk melawan isu ijazah palsu Jokowi. Secara khusus, penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menemukan pihak-pihak berwenang yang terlibat dalam produksi wacana dan bagaimana relasi kuasa hadir melalui isi pesan di dalam wacana. Metode penelitian ini deskriptif-kualitatif dengan data berupa teks yang mewakili pernyataan-pernyataan pihak berwenang berkaitan dengan isu tersebut. Data dikumpulkan melalui teknik dokumentasi dari tiga media daring berbeda yang mengutip pernyataan dimaksud. Data terpilih selanjutnya dianalisis dengan model tiga dimensi analisis wacana kritis Fairclough (1992) melalui proses model analisis interaktif Miles and Huberman (1994). Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa pihak berwenang yang terlibat dalam menciptakan narasi untuk melawan isu ijazah palsu Jokowi adalah pengacara, rektor, dan kepolisian. Dari kata-kata dan ungkapan tertentu yang digunakan dalam pernyataan, terlihat bahwa relasi kuasa berperan dalam produksi wacana terkait. Seluruh pernyataan secara jelas ditujukan untuk meyakinkan orang-orang mengenai keaslian ijazah Jokowi meskipun yang membuat pernyataan tidak memiliki bukti-bukti yang cukup sebagaimana yang dipegang oleh pihak yang menuduh.

Kata kunci: analisis wacana kritis, ijazah palsu, Jokowi, media, relasi kuasa

INTRODUCTION

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely”. This popular quote from Lord Acton (1887) reflects the characteristics of power or, to be precise, people who have power. The object to corrupt in this case is not restricted to financial matter only but also others, such as facts and realities. Those who have power, such as presidents, government officials, and heads of institutions or organizations may attempt to maintain their power by manipulating information on actual events or what really happen as long as it gives benefits to them. This can be done, among others, by reproducing discourses for the sake of their own interests and purposes.

There have been a lot of studies conducted to investigate the relation of power with discourse reproduction, distribution, and consumption, particularly under the field of critical discourse analysis. When examining symbiotic relationship between populist politicians and specific media outlets, Wodak (2021) identifies 'politics of fear' strategy through manipulation of immediacy, performative transgression, and strategic scapegoating. In addition, Vredenburg et al. (2020) investigate corporate communications (advertisements, social media posts, press releases) that engage with sociopolitical issues exposing how corporate power is exercised through the co-optation of social justice discourse. Then, Shamim et al. (2025) from their analysis of political speeches identifies discursive strategies, such as metaphor, repetition, presupposition, and pronoun usage, to legitimize authority, shape ideology, and marginalize dissent. Meanwhile, Parthama & Qomariana (2025) study how digital news discourse during the COVID-19 pandemic legitimized state power. They found ideological mechanisms embedded in media narratives of digital news that shaped public perception.

The main objective of this research is to unveil the falsehood of information in the discourses produced by those who have power regarding the issue of Jokowi's fake diploma. Specifically, this research is intended to answer the questions on what authorities stand against the accusation on the fake diploma and how they produce discourses to persuade people to disbelieve the issue and prevent it from spreading. The topic of this research has not previously been explored yet since the related issue remained in progress or had not been resolved yet up to the time this article was writing. Therefore, a range of possibilities may emerge from the phenomenon which is worth investigating.

The phenomenon underlying this research is a long time and widespread issue on the fake diploma belongs to Jokowi, the former president of Indonesia. There, have been at least two accusations of academic document manipulation addressed to Jokowi. The first one, conveyed by Bambang Tri Mulyono on Jokowi's high school diploma and the second one assumed by Rismon Sianipar, Roy Suryo, and dr. Tifa on Jokowi's undergraduate diploma and thesis. In the former, the accuser has been sentenced several years in jail by court for defamation case whereas the latter is an ongoing case both on courts and as a public discourse.

The case of fake diploma looks weird, since logically, the accusation could be easily rejected whenever the actual document is available. Simply, the accused only has to demonstrate the document to public. It takes only few minutes to do and, even, not a single word of discourse is needed to explain. Nevertheless, since the subject insistently refuses to do so, the issue goes viral and some parties of the subject's side have to do some actions to stop mass curiosities, among other by creating as many as counter narratives against the issue.

Literature Review

In contemporary politic, power relation can be understood as a relation between actors which involves asymmetry, legitimation, and obedience (Favre et al., 2019). Foucault (2020) stated that power relation can be define as a dynamic of relationship between social as well as political actor for the purpose of creating, defending, or challenging the truth through public discourse. In a political context, it means that, a particular narration might have legitimization, not from the support of formal authorities, but also from the discourse created to define and control the truth (Carlson, 2016).

Practically, a power relation is often mediated by a media that function as the arena for legitimation claims and this process influences public perceptions (Freedman, 2014). However, power relations tend to be dynamic and interactive since there remain open spaces for giving resistance by producing opposing discourse (Negm, 2015). Thus, power relations in politics are such continuous contestations between resistance and dominance.

Power relations, as a political aspect, have various forms and are intertwined one to others. Avelino (2021) stated that a power relation may emerge in the form of structural, relational, and discursive, each of which determines who has the control towards resources and decision making. Power relations are present as coercive power in which one party uses direct power, like security officials, to control the action or freedom of the others. Morris (2012); Scott (2018); and Cao et al. (2023) highlight the power relation as a relation network across actors which determine the effectiveness of a policy. There is a hegemonic power relation as well, that is a power relation that flows smoothly through the 'normalization' of a certain narration by the dominant group that makes the power relation look natural so that it can be accepted without any straight force (Gramsci, 2020; Hall, 2005).

Diploma forgeries have long been a problem in the academic environment all over the world, including Indonesia. In Indonesia, document forgeries are not only administrative violations, but these can also be categorized into criminal acts according to KUHP (Indonesian Criminal Code). The rise of

document forgeries is, among others, influenced by the advancement of digital manipulation technology and the existence of many online fake diploma vendors. This phenomenon does not only destruct the official or legal qualifications, but also gives social and economic effects as well as destroys the reputations of the employers and the authentic diploma holders (Grolleau et al., 2008). Carmichael & Eaton (2023) argue that the cases of fake graduates do not only indicate problems of morality but also represent the structural weaknesses in the management of education.

There are three main categories of fake graduates. First, those who purchase diplomas but have never studied at the related educational institutions. Second, the ones who change the texts or grades written on the authentic diplomas or academic transcripts issued by accredited institution. Lastly, people who buy the diplomas issued by fake universities. For the sake of their own credibility, often, fake diploma factories claim that they have been accredited by certain accreditation institutions which are actually illegal or not recognized (Børresen et al., 2020). Poor credential verification system and the availability for getting legitimation instantly are two factors that significantly contribute to the emergence of the problems (DeCoster, 2023). The practices of diploma forgeries by government officials may lead to the degradation of public trust toward the governmental institutions and cause political legitimation crises (Ro, 2024).

Critical Discourse Analysis helps to reveal power relations between the actors and the organs used as the media for legitimating the discourses they reproduce. This approach can elaborate how power relations used to reconstruct, defend, or even challenge discourse Fairclough (2013) stated that discourse is not only representation of reality but also a form of social practice that produce and reproduce power structure through languages, ideologies, and institutions.

In its implementation, Critical Discourse Analysis is employed to reveal how media narration or political discourse contains smooth and effective power biases (KhosraviNik, 2014). In the context of this study, Critical Discourse Analysis will be utilized to explore what are the forms of the actors' power relations attempt to grab political legitimation by controlling discourse and knowledge authorities.

According to Hart (2017), Critical Discourse Analysis can be categorized into three main dimensions, namely text (linguistics), discursive practice (production and consumption), and social practice (power structure). However, multimodal elements, such as visual, gesture, and material are also significant variables for understanding the reproduction of meanings and power in the digital era (Machin & Mayr, 2023). Meanwhile, Dijk et al. (2021) added social cognition variables, i.e. knowledge, faiths, and ideologies that shape and are influenced by political discourse as well. Another important aspect is the identification of discursive strategies used for building certain meanings, such as how the actors were named, what characteristics are attached, and how claims are allowed to legitimate actions. By using all the categories and actions above, the modern approach of Critical Discourse Analysis will not merely analyze written languages but also symbols, media, and visual representations that are "often intertwined to defend power relations.

For the purpose of revealing power relations behind discourse, three-dimensional model of analysis from Fairclough (1992) can be applied. This model of analysis consists of textual analysis, discursive practice, and social practice. Textual analysis is the microlevel analysis that focuses on the linguistic structure of the texts, such as vocabulary, grammar, and metaphors. Meanwhile, discursive practice emphasizes on the production, distribution, and consumption of discourse. Lastly, social practice is the macrolevel of analysis dealing with a broader sociocultural context. Each of the three elements represents the stage of description, interpretation, and explanation in the process of analysis.

METHOD

This study employed qualitative method with critical discourse analysis put as the approach. Aside the researcher as the main instrument, who is responsible for collecting and analyzing the data as well as drawing conclusion, the other instrument that supports the process of data analysis is three-dimensional model of critical discourse analysis proposed by Norman Fairclough (1992) that involves description (textual analysis), interpretation (discursive practice), and explanation (social practice).

The data are textual in the form of statements coming from three different authorities that indicate possessing power in regard with the issue. The sources of the data were selected online news media that publish or quote the statements, i.e.: Kompas.com, UGM, and TBNews. The data were collected by using documentation technique whose stages included accessing the webpages of the media, copying the news texts into document file, and selecting parts of the texts that constitute the data. These data, then,

underwent the process of analysis following Miles and Huberman (1994) interactive model of data analysis that consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

RESULTS

From the process of collecting the data, a lot of statements have been made by the authorities to counter the accusation of Jokowi's fake diploma. However, due to limited space for analysis, this study only picked three statements coming from three different authorities that significantly represent the power relations behind the counter arguments to the issue. The three statements that also become the discursive data of this research are as follow.

The first datum is the statement coming from Yakub Hasibuan, S.H., LL.M., the lawyer, of Jokowi. This statement is considered significant because it represents the argument of the subject in the purpose of rejecting the accusation. Considering that Jokowi was the former president of Indonesia, this statement has a power relation in its production.

*Kami tidak akan menunjukkan ijazah asli Pak Jokowi kecuali **berdasarkan hukum** dan dimintakan oleh pihak-pihak yang berwenang seperti pengadilan dan sebagainya. Itu **pasti** kami akan taat dan kami tunjukkan.* (Akbar, 2025)

(We will not show the original diploma of Mr. Jokowi unless it is **legally required** and requested by authorized parties such as the court and so on. If so, we will **certainly** comply and present it.)

The second datum is the statement of Prof. dr. Ova Emilia, M.M.Ed., Sp.OG (K)., Ph.D. as the rector of Universitas Gadjah Mada, the alma mater of Jokowi as well as the institution that issued the disputed diploma.

*Atas data dan informasi yang **kami** miliki dan terdokumentasi **dengan baik**, kami **meyakini** keaslian ijazah sarjana **Ir. Joko Widodo** dan yang bersangkutan **benar-benar** lulusan **Fakultas Kehutanan Universitas Gadjah Mada**.* (Nugraha, 2022)

(Based on the data and information **we** possess, which is **well**-documented, we confirm the authenticity of the bachelor's degree of Ir. Joko Widodo and that he is a **legitimate** graduate of the **Faculty of Forestry at Gadjah Mada University**.)

The third datum is a statement from the press release held by Polri (Indonesian Police Department). As the official law enforcer in Indonesia, Polri has an authority to make a decision whether a case is categorized as a crime or not. This makes the statement worth considering as containing power relations in the context of the issue.

*Ijazah asli SI dengan **nomor 1120** telah **diuji** secara forensik, dan dinyatakan **identik** dengan dokumen pembanding. Skripsi juga ditemukan dan **terbukti** dibuat dengan mesin ketik serta teknik cetak sesuai periode 1985. (Polri Tegaskan Ijazah Jokowi Asli Dan Sah, Tidak Ditemukan Unsur Pidana, 2025)*

(The original bachelor's degree certificate **numbered 1120** has undergone forensic **examination** and was declared **identical** to the comparison document. The thesis was also found and **proven** to have been produced using a typewriter and printing techniques consistent with the 1985 period.)

By three-dimensional model of critical discourse analysis, the textual data related to the issue of Jokowi's fake diploma can be described as follow.

Textual Analysis

In the first statement, the lawyer chose using personal pronoun in plural form *kami* (we). It indicates that he spoke on behalf of his client, Joko Widodo the seventh president of Indonesia, or not did it for a personal purpose. He informed to the reporters that his client refused to show his diploma to the public unless there is an order from the court. The use of the expression *kecuali berdasarkan hukum* (unless it is legally required) in his statement indicates an attempt to legitimize his decision. However, it goes against logic since diplomas are not secret documents and showing them to public is not prohibited. Even, it is an obligation for the holder of a diploma to show the original document or submit its legalized copy for proving his/her academic level of for certain purposes.

On the other hand, the use of the word *pasti*, which is a modal comparable to 'must', indicates a certainty to do an action as if the diploma is truly available as well as authentic. In reality, nobody has seen the original copy of the diploma except the claims of some parties preconditioned by Jokowi. Even

in the trial of defamation case in relation with the former accusation of Jokowi's high school fake diploma by Bambang Tri Mulyono and Gus Nur, no witness claimed having ever seen the original document being debated.

Meanwhile, from the second statement, there are at least four points indicating the presence of power relations. Those are the words *kami*, *dengan baik*, *meyakini*, and *benar-benar*. The strategy of nomination can be seen in the use of the pronoun *kami* (we). By using plural form, the rector identifies herself as the representation of the university. She spoke on behalf her institution, not personally, with a hope that her statement gives legal force as what institutional documents do. The assumption coming from the statement is that the rector positioned herself as the representation of the university that has the power to verify the availability or authenticity of all diplomas issued by the institution she leads. In other words, what the rector stated verbally is expected to have the same legality with the official documents issued by the institution.

In the next part, the adverbial phrase *terdokumentasi dengan baik* (well-documented) informs that the university archives all the documents related to the status of Jokowi as one of its students in the past. However, at the time of speaking, the rector did not bring any document as the evidence to support her claim. Therefore, in her utterance, she used a mental-process verb *meyakini* (feel sure), indicating that deep in her heart, she could not guarantee the truth of her statement. This verb form contrasts with the adverb and even weaken her statement.

Nomination also visible in the mention of the subject's name in a complete form with his title: *Ir. Joko Widodo* and the place *Faculty of Forestry at Gadjah Mada University*. The speaker intended to stress the availability and legality of the diploma by clearly mentioning the title attributed to the document holder, that is *Ir. (Insinyur/Engineer)*. She even made it bold by mentioning the name of the faculty from which the graduate got his diploma. The speech was delivered in a very formal way as if she read an official document text in order to persuade the audience.

The use of intensifier *benar-benar* (really/legitimate) is another attempt to assure people as the consumers of the discourse. From the perspective of modality, the meaning of *benar-benar* is comparable to 'must' reflecting a hundred percent of certainty. Instead of stating that Jokowi is a graduate only, the rector intensified it as if there are levels or continuum of graduate status from not graduate, not really graduate, really graduate and so on.

Next, in the third statement the indication of power relation can be seen in the words *nomor 1120*, *diuji*, *identik*, and *terbukti*. The reference of the diploma to its number (1120) is another nomination strategy. Like, proper names, numbers indicate uniqueness. A document number marks a distinction that makes it exclusively belong to one individual only. By specifically mentioning the number to refer to the diploma, the police implicitly send the message that the diploma is original as it has been registered and proven by the availability of the number.

Then, the use of the word *diuji* (examined) shows that the document has undergone an extraordinary action to check its authenticity by the process of testing. It resulted in the similarity between the verified document and the other diplomas issued from the same year as what it means by the word *identik* (identical). Therefore, the investigators dared to say that the diploma was authentic by using the word *terbukti* (proven). However, the reality is that the policemen did not hold the original document even though Jokowi claimed that he had handed in his real diploma to the police station. It is evident in the press conference in which the verified document displayed on the wide screen was exactly the same with the one broadly distributed on social media, a low-quality photocopied document only. Aside from that, the test did not involve the third party to assure that process had conducted in a fair way. The police have long been known to be on Jokowi's side in a lot of cases against him during his regime.

In brief, the statements indicating the authenticity of the diploma above are merely parts of a narrative from those have the power aimed at persuading people to not hesitate the availability of Jokowi's original diploma. It is because the document itself as the one and only valid evident remains invisible and was tried to cover through discourse.

Discursive Practice

Dealing with the discursive practice, or the production, distribution, and consumption of the discourses, it can be said that the statements were produced by the parties who have particular authorities either directly or indirectly from the government, namely the lawyer, the rector, and the police. Therefore, there is a strong indication that power relations involved in the production of the discourses.

The lawyer is the representation of the subject of accusation, Joko Widodo. As Jokowi was the former president of Indonesia, it cannot be neglected that there remains power brought by everybody who is on his side or on behalf of him as the lawyer was. The involvement of power relation in the discourse production lies in illogical behaviour demonstrated by Jokowi who refused to show his diploma except when requested by the judge on a court. This is uncommon for people in general.

Meanwhile, the rector is the representation of Universitas Gadjah Mada, the claimed university where Jokowi studied in the past. In this case, the power relations had by UGM is being the publisher of the diploma and a state-owned institution. The rector stood for Jokowi by giving a statement assuring that Jokowi is a graduate of the university and his diploma is authentic. However, the discourse produced by the rector is no more than a claim since no physical evidence was provided for supporting her argument.

Lastly, the power relations had by the police as the producer of discourse is, of course, as the law enforcer in Indonesia. As a law enforcer, this institution has to keep neutral, without a tendency to defend on one side, and makes decisions based on facts and evidences. Nevertheless, as can be seen from the press conference, the policemen narrated as if they had made a proper investigation to the disputed diploma with the result that gave advantages to Jokowi. Ironically, they did not hold the original version of the diploma at all as the key evidence. They just demonstrated secondary evidences that led to people curiosity of unavailability of the document instead.

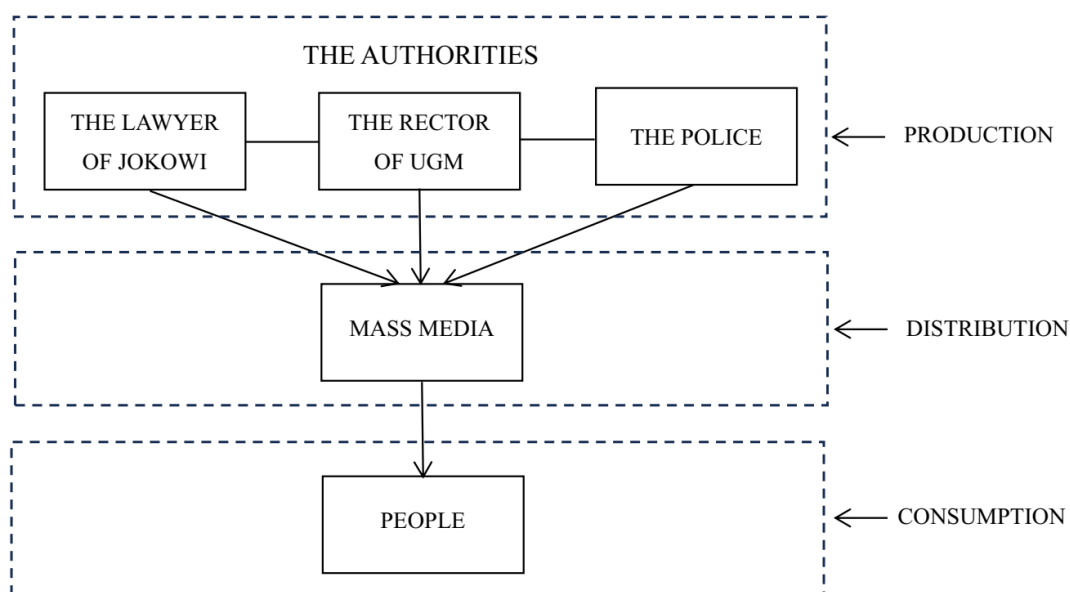


Figure 1. Power relations in Jokowi's fake diploma issue discourse

Those original statements from the authorities were distributed openly through different mass media. However, the media seemed not involving in the production or reproduction of the discourse as the messages were delivered in original form by direct quotes. In other words, the media merely act as the distributors of the discourse. From the perspective of Fairclough (1995), this can be categorized into intertextuality in the form of what Kristeva (1980) defined as quotation. The messages from the speakers are conveyed as they are without any modification and the texts are put between quotation marks.

Meanwhile, the consumers of the discourse are Indonesian people in general. Here, they were positioned by the discourse producers as the objects that must believe in the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma from the narratives built by the authorities without the possibilities to complain. The authorities forced people to voluntarily accept that Jokowi is a graduate of Forestry Faculty of UGM and hold the diploma without having to see the document themselves. This situation represents inequality between the producers and consumers in which the latter are obliged to accept the commodities offered by the former whatever the conditions of the objects. In other words, people as the costumers are the subordinates of the authorities who have power.

Social Practice

It has been clear that power relations did contribute in the production of discourse claiming the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma. The purpose, of course, to cover all the evidences that lead to fakeness, to reject the accusation, and to persuade people as the consumers of the discourses. All the three speakers evidently have close relationships with the power structure or government, each of which represents ex-president, the state-owned university, and law enforcer.

In relation with the ideology, from the statements made by the authorities, it can be concluded that their behaviours are close to authoritarianism by forcing their own intention without considering the rights of people to inquire their leader's capacity and the evidences demonstrated by the accusers. Authoritarianism is a political behaviour which stresses absolute obedience to the governmental authority and has the ultimate goal to keep control the society (Linz, 2000). This ideology is, of course, in contrast with the Pancasila democracy as the official governmental system applicable in Indonesia.

The impacts of the discourse production and distribution to society are, among others, creating a condition of no equality before the law and maintaining the status quo. With so much weirdness found from the copy of the diploma, the police tended to keep ignorant and even stand against the accusers. It exemplifies the metaphor of law enforcement as 'the law is sharp downward, but blunt upward'. Jokowi, as a retired president, has proven that he remains powerful among the ruling figures of the current government. Simply, he can defend his position as an influential person, even though the state leadership has been changed and he no longer has a significant position in the government structure.

DISCUSSION

Power relations do exist in the production of discourses to counter the issue of fake diploma belongs former president of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. It is evident from the positions of the producers of the discourses as well as the substance of the messages.

From the producers of the discourses, all the three parties who give statements can be traced to have relation with the government as the institution that hold the highest power in the country. The following are the positions of the parties that significantly contribute in the production of the discourses:

1. The lawyer

Yakup Hasibuan as the lawyer is the representation of the actor, Jokowi, who is accused to hold a fake diploma. What the lawyer stated is the representation of the actor's opinion, such when he would not show the original diploma, except in a trial, this was actually Jokowi's intention. All the lawyer's statements have power relations since his client was the former president of Indonesia.

2. The rector

The power relations had by Ova Emilia as the rector of UGM, lies in the status of university which has the authority to release the diploma. Thus, the authenticity of the diploma, if any, must be verified by this university. The status of UGM as a state-owned university also strengthen the existence power relation behind the statements conveyed by the rector.

3. The police

The police, as a law enforcer, should have been in neutral position. However, it unlikely happened. Even with minimum evidence from the results of examination they did autonomously, they dared to state that the diploma is identical to the other diplomas from the same period. Later, it was proven that the police did not hold the original document as can be seen on the wide screen during press release. It was only a copy of the diploma on display. In two periods of of Jokowi regime, the police were publicly criticized as the defender of the ruler as the compensation of the highest national budget given to the institution.

From the substance, the discourses produced clearly indicate narratives without factual bases.

Generally, the case of fake diploma is only a matter of document availability. It can easily be solved just by showing the document being disputed to public. Even a single word of discourse is not necessarily produced and distributed in this case. However, instead of choosing the simple way, the accused preferred creating counter narratives and even doing relevant activities, such as attending reunions or meeting with his supervisor. This phenomenon looks illogical and lead to curiosity that the diploma is actually not available. The messages brough by the discourse are merely persuasions

as there remains no empirical evidents that the diploma is available. This condition leads to invalidity of the statements ensuring Jokowi is a university graduate and his diploma is identical to others. This condition cannot be separated from the reality that those who made the statements about the diploma have authorities that created power relations in the discourse production.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the statements regarding the issue of Jokowi's fake diploma produced by the authorities, the words used indicates that the speakers stood for the availability and the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma. It can be seen from the word 'legally required', 'certainly' from the lawyer; 'well-documented', 'legitimate' from the rector, and 'examination', 'identical', 'proven' from the police. However, all these statements cannot be guaranteed to be true since the object matter itself, that is the diploma, has never been shown openly to public. This situation leads to the assumption of the existence of power relations behind the production of the discourses. It looks reasonable as all the statements were made by the authorities, i.e. the lawyer, as the representation of the accused as well as the former president of Republic of Indonesia; the rector, as the representation of the state-owned university from which the diploma was issued; and the police as the law enforcer.

However, the manipulation of the discourse or the attempts to cover the facts did not happen in the process of distribution whose role was played by mass media. From the persepective of intertextuality, the statements are delivered in the form of direct quote or the words and the structures of utterances were taken as they are, without any modification. Textually, it is proven by the used of quotation marks to the statements along with naming the speakers who made the statements.

By the time, this article was finished, the case of the fake diploma remained in progress and even the police has designated suspects to eight people who challenged the authenticity of Jokowi's diploma. The two opposite parties kept believe in the truth of their standings. Jokowi's sides are busy to make narrations, actions, and events for persuading the authenticity of the diploma, whereas the accusers keep making efforts to find out new evidents of the false diploma.

Thus, it is expected that there will be future studies to find the truth of the case based on the data that come afterwards. It is necessary to prove whether the power relations really played a role in hiding the truth or they just confirmed the facts against the wrong accusation.

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