

**THE REPRESENTATION OF PRABOWO SUBIANTO IN *THE NEW YORK
TIMES*: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**



An Undergraduate Thesis

**Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Sarjana Sastra Degree**

Rafi Kurnia Fahrezi

2009010047

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO
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2025**

APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that this undergraduate thesis entitled "THE REPRESENTATION OF PRABOWO SUBIANTO IN THE NEW YORK TIMES: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS" by Rafi Kurnia Fahrezi has been approved by the advisor(s) and the Head of the English Department to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

Purwokerto, 11 June 2025

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**THE REPRESENTATION OF PRABOWO SUBIANTO IN THE NEW YORK TIMES: A
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An Undergraduate Thesis

by

Rafi Kurnia Fahrezi

2009010047

**has been examined and approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the
requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* degree on August 4th, 2025**

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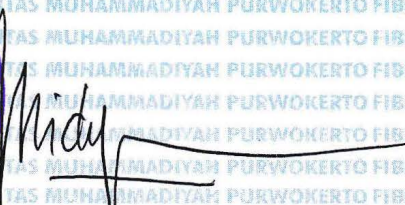
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Purwokerto, June 2025



Rafi Kurnia Fahrezi

DEDICATION

The writer dedicates this thesis to his parents and himself



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First, Praise and gratitude to Allah SWT, who has given us health, grace and guidance. Not forgetting the sholawat and greetings always bestowed on the Rasullah Muhammad SAW. So that I am still given the opportunity to complete this thesis. For the grace and ease that Allah gives, finally this simple thesis can be completed. Although far from perfect, I am proud to have reached this point, which finally this thesis can be completed at the right time.

With this, I would like to take this opportunity to dedicated this thesis to all of them who have prayed, supported, and motivated for me in completing this thesis to:

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Purwokerto, June 2025



Rafi Kurnia Fahrezi

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze how Prabowo Subianto is represented in The New York Times coverage of the 2024 Indonesian presidential election through the structural elements of news discourse. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method using Teun A. van Dijk's (1988) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework, which includes macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The data consists of two NYT articles, published before and after the election with titled "*Why This Presidential Front-Runner Is Stirring Fears of the 'Death of Democracy'?*" (January 21, 2024) and "*Which Version of an Ex-General Did Indonesia Just Vote For?*" (February 15, 2024). The macrostructure analysis reveals that both articles frame Prabowo's candidacy with suspicion and concern, highlighting themes of authoritarianism, political rebranding, and ideological inconsistency. At the superstructure level, the articles emphasize Prabowo's controversial background, military past, and his strategic alliances, while also incorporating various verbal reactions that express skepticism, fear, and cautious hope. The microstructure analysis, which covers semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric, demonstrates that NYT employs emotionally charged vocabulary, active sentence constructions, ironic contrasts and metaphors to construct a complex, often negative portrayal of Prabowo. The findings show that both articles predominantly portray Prabowo negatively, emphasizing themes such as questioning his democratic credibility and highlights his authoritarian legacy. This representation reflects broader ideological perspectives held by Western media when portraying non-Western political figures. The implications of this study highlight how international media outlets can shape global perceptions through linguistic strategies and discourse structures, contributing to critical awareness about media bias and power in shaping political narratives.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Representation, Van Dijk, Prabowo Subianto, News Discourse

INTISARI

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana Prabowo Subianto direpresentasikan dalam pemberitaan *The New York Times* terkait pemilihan presiden Indonesia tahun 2024 melalui elemen struktural dalam wacana berita. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menerapkan kerangka Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) dari Teun A. van Dijk (1988), yang mencakup tiga struktur: makrostruktur, superstruktur, dan mikrostruktur. Data dalam penelitian ini berupa dua artikel NYT yang diterbitkan sebelum dan sesudah pemilu, berjudul “*Why This Presidential Front-Runner Is Stirring Fears of the ‘Death of Democracy’?*” (21 Januari 2024) dan “*Which Version of an Ex-General Did Indonesia Just Vote For?*” (15 Februari 2024). Analisis makrostruktur menunjukkan bahwa kedua artikel membingkai pencalonan Prabowo dengan nada penuh kecurigaan dan kekhawatiran, dengan menyoroti tema otoritarianisme, pencitraan ulang politik, dan inkonsistensi ideologis. Pada tingkat superstruktur, kedua artikel menekankan latar belakang kontroversial Prabowo, masa lalunya di militer, serta aliansi strategisnya, sambil memasukkan berbagai reaksi verbal yang mencerminkan skeptisisme, ketakutan, dan harapan yang hati-hati. Analisis mikrostruktur yang mencakup aspek semantik, sintaksis, stilistika, dan retorika, menunjukkan bahwa NYT menggunakan kosakata yang emosional, konstruksi kalimat aktif, kontras yang ironis, serta metafora untuk membangun gambaran yang kompleks dan cenderung negatif terhadap Prabowo. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kedua artikel sebagian besar merepresentasikan Prabowo secara negatif, terutama dengan mempertanyakan kredibilitasnya dan menyoroti warisan otoriternya. Representasi ini mencerminkan perspektif ideologis yang lebih luas yang dipegang oleh media Barat dalam menggambarkan tokoh politik dari dunia non-Barat. Implikasi dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa media internasional memiliki peran dalam membentuk persepsi global melalui strategi linguistik dan struktur wacana, serta berkontribusi pada kesadaran kritis terhadap bias media dan kekuasaan dalam membentuk narasi politik.

Kata kunci: Analisis Wacana Kritis, Representasi, Van Dijk, Prabowo Subianto, Wacana Berita

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