

# CITIZEN REPORTER SURYA'S PAGE AS A FORM OF EXISTENTIALISM OF EAST JAVA CITIZEN

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**Abstract**— At present the digitalization process is growing so rapidly. This era is an era of disruption. Disruption occurs in various parties including in the process of delivering information. Every citizen can make their own reportage and send it as happened on the Citizen Reporter Surya page. The desire to display identity through language skills and existentialism is a motive that is owned by citizen journalists. This study aims to find out the background of these citizen journalists to exist through language skills in written form in public spaces.

**Keywords**— *existensialism, journalistic activity, citizen reporter*

## I. INTRODUCTION

At present, technology is in an era of disorder. According to Clayton Christensen [1], distraction is an old innovation, technology, technology and innovation that are more efficient and comprehensive. It is destructive and creative. The era of disturbance is an era of innovation with the digitization process.

Information is very easy to buy and accessed by a split. All people who have an internet connection can also access information from anywhere. Recorded from 1980 to 2015, we have published the main responsibilities of five main things, namely (1) technology, (2) management, (3) economic screen, (4) global competitiveness, and (5) geopolitics [1].

Based on these findings, technology, especially the digitization process, is the main source of change. Through the digitization process, distance has died so that every day there is a multiplication of exponential data [1]. Exponential multiplication of data causes data to be used more and more quickly. The data can be changed, processed, and tabulated at that time. Communication expert, Tapscott calls this phenomenon a Net phenomenon. Generation. According to [2], the way to understand mass ahead is to understand Net Generation.

Along with the times, people also want to be involved in the process of providing information. Citizens' desire to take part in the information is increasingly massive. Information can be provided by many people and accessed by many people or stored for re-election individually [3]. Once again, technology is the main means that enables ordinary non-journalists to capture the moments or events

they encounter and spread them. The presence of technology greatly changes the way people interact [4].

When carrying out the process of disseminating information in this digital world, citizens actually have become citizen journalists or citizen journalism. The number of citizen journalism is getting more and more along with human desire to realize their identity. Identity refers to everything that is owned by a person, including the desire of the person to be seen in certain situations. According to [5], a person's identity in discourse can be known through sound interactions, facial expressions, words used, and all information disclosed. The realization of this identity is called existentialism.

According to [6] etymologically, existence comes from the Latin language that is *existo* and *exister* which means to stand, but existentialism means to exist or be. Kierkegaard [6] says that existence is acting in a concrete life, not just being thought objectively or formulated in systems and concepts, but rather internalized so that no one else replaces an individual to exist. This means that existence shows an original human identity. Human authenticity and wholeness will manifest through its existence. One of them is the writing or work made as a form of its existentialism.

Responding to this phenomenon, Surya Daily created a page for the writings of these citizens, namely citizen reporter pages. This page is intended for all citizens who want to explain the results of the report to their readers. This page also serves as an effort for citizens to show their identity. Previous research that focused on news on Surya's citizen reporter page was a study from [7] entitled *The Influence of Media Citizen Journalism on Student Productivity in Writing News: A Study on Citizen Reporter Surya Online January-February 2013 Edition*. Further research from [8] entitled *Student News Text Writing Style State University of Malang On Citizen Reporter Daily Surya Rubric January-February 2014 Edition*. The two studies discussed the level of productivity and writing style. Therefore, researchers want to deepen the focus of this research by discussing the existentialism of citizen journalists in writing news on the pages of Citizen Reporter Surya.

The purpose of this study is to find out the existence of Indonesian-language existentialism citizen journalists who are contributors to the Citizen Reporter Surya page. Through

this goal, it is hoped that this research will be able to contribute to literacy to support the community to be actively involved in using Indonesian in the public space through citizen journalism activities on a credible and responsible page.

## II. METHODS

The research method used in this study is a qualitative research method. The researcher conducted three stages, namely (1) interviews, (2) document study, and (3) literature study. The interviews were conducted on journalists who contributed to the Surya daily and the editorial team working in Surya's editorial kitchen. Citizen journalists interviewed were citizen journalists who contributed more than three years to sending their writing consistently in Surya's daily section. The citizen journalists interviewed on average have lived or come from East Java. Document study is carried out by examining the results of citizen journalism. The writing chosen is the one chosen by the editor of the citizen journalism page. The last stage is literature study by reading various literature or references that support the research process.

## III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### A. *Existentialism*

Existentialism is a branch of philosophy that views human existence through freedom of action. According to [9] humans are what they do. This act is free to show their identity. Man becomes there when he does what he wants [10]. When doing his desires, the human being has actually made a conscious decision.

The reason for someone to write according to [10] because someone wants to show his commitment to relate to the world. Writing cannot be separated from human consciousness and surrounding objects. Awareness relations and objects are represented in writing produced by humans.

A writer writes not for himself but for reading. It is true that in writing, someone will become authentic with each method of writing. But relations between writers and readers cannot be separated. Writing is a means to establish existence among human beings. Self-identification or self-identity manifest through the writing he writes. The form of this existence is the recognition of the reader. The Citizen Reporter page also has a way to acknowledge the existentialism of its authors. Various ways that will appear after the writer's writings are uploaded as a form of self existentialism.

### B. *Citizen Reportage Page History*

The Citizen Reporter (Cipo) page created by Surya daily is a news page focused on containing the posts of citizens who send to the page. The posts posted on this page will be published on Surya daily. Before realizing itself in the form of pages, Surya Daily initially caught the phenomenon of citizen journalism through a column titled Warteg (State Journalist). Dhimam Abror Djuraid, was the initiator of the Warteg column which was established in 2006. It was named Warteg because Djuraid was inspired by Jurgen Habermas who got the idea of a public space precisely from

a coffee shop. Based on that, the name of Warteg was chosen so that it seemed simple but had deep inspiration in every content [11].

As time goes by, the Warteg section is replaced with the Citizen Reporter (CiPo) section. The name change was also accompanied by one room on the surabaya.tribunnews.com page named the Citizen Reporter Surya room. The name Citizen Reporter itself departs from one of the journalistic genres that are rife towards the end of 2010, namely Citizen Journalism. Citizen Journalism is the activity of ordinary citizens who are not professional journalists to begin gathering facts in the field for an event, composing, writing, and reporting the results of their coverage on social media [12]. After a day, Surya Daily published about three citizen journalist writings named Citizen Reporter rubric. Tri Hatma Ningsih, editor of the page as well as the Cipo column, said that he had to select dozens of articles every day. The number of articles that entered the longer the number increased along with the interest of the people of East Java to share information. Tri Hatma also said that the writer who sent his article in the Cipo column varied, ranging from academics to housewives. Not even a few writers who come from or are abroad. Seeing the increasingly large conditions, Tri Hatma formed a community of Surya journalists with the name Cipoers. The latest breakthrough is done by creating a book published in November 2017.

The 196-page book contains 52 reportages filled by 28 citizen journalists. Fifty-two of the reportings contained were representations of thousands of citizen journalism works that filled Surya's online page every day. Tri Hatma Ningsih is an editor who chooses to sort and process the book so that it is suitable for publication, and given the title *Ini Baru Cipo*. The title is a form of existentialism that aims to strengthen the existence of citizen journalism with its uniqueness. This is in accordance with one of the effects of existentialism philosophy that is being able to place humans as themselves [10].

### C. *News Criteria*

Every day Tri Hatma receives five to twenty articles which must be selected into just three articles to be posted on the page or in the newspaper. The selection process carried out in the Surya editorial room is very tight. Articles that do not comply with the provisions will automatically not pass the selection and not be loaded. Tri Hatma admitted that he often returned articles that were not feasible and gave special notes to the authors if the articles were not feasible to load. This is one of the functions of the media, namely to educate the public.

There are five criteria determined by Surya so that citizens can be actively involved in journalistic activities. There are five criteria, namely (1) the reportage length should not be more than 350 words, (2) the title must be interesting, (3) write a brief description of the author at the end of the news, and (4) send the text in the format of Microsoft Word and the author's photo and the results of the coverage to the daily email.surya@gmail.com. The language used is a popular language that is easy to understand, not a scientific language. Even so, the author may not write in his own language. Rules in the EYD and the suitability of the

diction with the KBBI are still a top priority. Based on these criteria, not a few academics and even researchers are interested in educating citizens through writing in Surya. Even public education is one form of existentialism carried out by citizen journalists to educate the public.

When visited at the Harian Surya editorial office, Tri Hatma explained the process of entering the manuscript until the publisher, both online and in print. First, the text entered from the author is stored in a folder on the computer editor. The folder has been prepared and sorted by day and month. Second, after being entered in a folder, the editor checks every post. Writing that is not in accordance with the provisions will be returned or rejected. Third, the editor chooses an interesting title and content from the selected text. The title is the main key in covering citizen journalism because in the digital era the title influences the interest of readers. The more concise and interesting the title, the more interested the reader will be. Conversely, the longer and less interesting the title, the reader does not want to read the news. The title also relates to news content. There are two things that Tri Hatma prioritizes in executing news content, namely (1) novelty and (2) attractiveness. The more new and the more interesting the news, the more likely to pass and load. News pulling is not the subjectivity of news voters. This news appeal is based on news value, especially usability. Interesting news is certainly useful news and can educate the public.

Fourth, the selection of illustrations and photos. After selecting three suitable news to load, the next step is the selection of illustrations and photos. Illustrations are taken from repro on Google or made by illustrator Surya. While photos are photos sent by citizen journalists. There are two main types of photos sent by citizen journalists, namely self-photos and photos of activities. Photo of yourself is a half body photo with clothes and a neat free display. While the photo activity is a photo of the activities of the residents.

Fifth, upload. This upload process is the last process in the journey of citizen coverage. Before uploading, Tri Hatma often reads and re-confirms the writing to be uploaded. After uploading, Tri Hatma also linked the results of the upload to social media pages as well as to the profile page of the author using a social media account. Often the writers whose writings are uploaded will link their writing to other social media accounts as a form of their existentialism.

Existentialism of East Java citizen journalists who write this news is very diverse. This is not separated from the background of citizens involved in this citizen journalism activity. Even so, in general there are four genres of citizen journalism writing, namely (1) literacy, (2) history, (3) culinary, and (4) tourism. Literacy genre is indeed very broad. Nevertheless, this genre tends to be dominated by training activities, seminars, and other activities related to the world of literacy. Each genre has writers in their respective fields. The author's background and the underlying motives for carrying out existentialism are the main bases that make citizens write.

Existentialism carried out by these writers to produce journalistic work is very diverse. The author takes four examples of citizen writers (Cipoers) as research samples. The four are taken from each writing genre. The four authors who collected the data came from various backgrounds.

Nevertheless, the researcher has criteria in determining the research, namely (1) has written in the Citizen Reporter Surya rubric for at least three years, (2) is not a journalist in official mass media, (3) his professional background is different, and (4) the citizenship background different. These four criteria are expected to be able to represent the overall Cipoers studied.

The data that researchers took from the literacy genre was Priyandono. His profession as a teacher and his age more than head four did not stop the spirit of writing. The teacher of Gresik 1 State Senior High School routinely writes as citizen journalism in Surya Daily since the name of this rubric is Warteg or Warung Tegal. He has even produced two personal books namely *Educating Unlimited Space and Time* (2014) and *Light but Containing* (2015). His first book contained 30 articles about his experience for eleven years as a teacher. The second book contains 40 collections of citizen journalism that he has written in Surya Daily. This book is also the first book of a collection of citizen journalism in Gresik, the city where he teaches. His motive in writing was because he enjoyed the writing process.

In the field of history, researchers took samples of Rorani Johan Pradana. This researcher from Malang State University has been around cities in East Java for two years. In that long journey, about three to four places are visited each month. While doing research, the man who is familiarly called Joe-Joe by his CiPoers colleagues often takes the time to write reportages during research. The reportage he wrote was very diverse and often not found in any history book. Joe always presents different points of view when he becomes a citizen journalist. The scientific and idealistic way of working is held firm. However, he changed the total style of writing to become more popular so it is worth reading by anyone. When interviewed by researchers, Joe said that his main motive for writing in the Citizen Reporter column was to form historical awareness in the people of East Java. Joe knew very well that this Surya newspaper was enjoyed by the middle or lower middle class. The market share of this newspaper is society in general. That is why Joe really wants to educate his readers through historical writing.

In the culinary field, the author took a sample of research named Choirun Nissa Ristanty. The woman from Banyuwangi who is currently taking a scholarship in America is indeed her culinary hobby. He wants to cover culinary because he likes culinary. The strength of his writing is his ability to describe places. Choirun Nissa wants that the reader feels what he feels through the writing he has written. Even the last culinary coverage was published on Sunday (03/12/2017) about various snacks in Seattle, America.

In the field of tourism, the author took a sample of Maika Yoshinaga Janesi. This Japanese citizen journalist studied Indonesian while in Malang. During learning Indonesian, Janesi actively wrote. His writing is about tourism in Indonesia from a Japanese perspective. Self existentialism Janesi began to appear when she was invited and became a guest of honor in May 2017 in Surabaya.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Writing is a creative and imaginative work process. In the midst of this disrupted world, writing especially the desire to convey information is so great. That is why there is a new group called citizen journalists. Also in East Java, the phenomenon of Citizen Journalism was responded quickly by Surya Daily with a page titled Citizen Reporter Surya. On this page, the author who is actually a non-journalist, writes 350 words of news with simple provisions that must be obeyed. The news is then processed by the Surya daily editor to be eligible to be loaded or even returned to the author. The news contained more or less had an impact on the author. The impact certainly affects the existentialism of the author. Based on the results of research conducted by the author, it turns out that the impact obtained is very diverse.

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