COVID-19: WHAT ARE THE JOURNALIST'S STRATEGIES IN COVERING THE NEWS

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the journalist coverage strategy of Palu City during the Covid-19 by using journalist and journalistic theory, news theory, and the concept of coverage guidelines issued by press organizations. This research method is descriptive and qualitative with an action research approach. The data collection techniques were observation and interviews with four journalists from Palu City. The informants selected through the purposive sampling technique are informants who had been exposed to Coronavirus, have coverage of Covid-19, and have a minimum service period of five years. The study results show that the coverage strategy is divided into three stages. In the first stage, there are two strategies: online research and editorial meetings. In the second stage, the strategies are the technology utilization in communication applications form, the close relationship between journalists and fellow journalists and resources, and utilizing citizen journalism. In the last stage, the strategy generally applies technology because there are no significant obstacles. Of these three stages, there are five coverage strategies, and the most dominant strategy applied during the Covid-19 pandemic is the use of WhatsApp and Zoom Meeting. Furthermore, straight news dominates the Covid-19 news writing model because the rules limit the interview duration.

Keywords: Coverage Strategy, Covid-19, Journalists

INTRODUCTION

Health is a complicated issue because it is not only related to the problem of spreading disease and its treatment for the community but also related to cross-sectoral policies. One of the health issues currently the focus of discussion both locally and globally is Coronavirus Disease 2019 or Covid-19. The spread and transmission of this virus have changed how people live worldwide. The determination of the Covid-19 pandemic as a national disaster for reasons including the spread of Covid-19 has led to increased casualties and property losses. Also, an increase in the coverage of areas affected by the disaster. It has implications for the broad socio-economic aspects of Indonesia.

Health cases caused by non-natural disasters of the Covid-19 pandemic in various parts of the world can get a faster response if reported by the mass media. According to Maftuchan (2016:3), the role of journalists is essential to convey various innovative information in the health sector because the results of the coverage of health journalists will be a reference for the community to straighten out information related to hoaxes and monitor the development of knowledge and research on Covid-19 such as about viruses and their mutations, vaccines, drugs, breaking the chain of transmission, and others. Journalism's dependence on journalists is very high because it is journalists who seek, collect and write news. The more objective and accurate a journalist is in presenting news, the better the media quality.

Nowadays, reporting on health issues does not mean that journalists need a medical or nursing background, but adequate knowledge of medical knowledge will help in writing journalism. In addition to medical knowledge, skills in sorting and summarizing appropriate data, as well as the ability to bring humanitarian elements into it, will maximize the role of journalists in conveying a sharp and touching portrait of reality (Maftuchan, 2016:16-17).

2020 is a dark year for the press in Indonesia because the Covid-19 pandemic has put economic pressure on the press, threats to freedom and violence, and adverse regulations. The fluctuating Covid-19 situation and regulations related to Covid-19 have created a dilemmatic situation for journalists. The challenges facing the dilemma include: First, maintaining independence when the only source is the government. Second, journalists cover without face-to-face and legwork. Third, the complexity of the Covid-19 disease and few references to the disease caused by this virus, how journalists do reportage to reveal the truth about Covid-19. The other challenges are the observation

process in the field and journalists who risk their lives while in the crowd, coverage at Covid-19 referral hospitals and its consequences, and access to coverage at unique burial places for Corona sufferers, so journalists do not have enough scientific journal references or a list of experts, who are competent about the Coronavirus (dewanpers.or.id, 2020).

Following up on this dilemmatic condition, several local and international press organizations and one of the photography journalists issued a protocol for reporting security for journalists. However, even though the coverage guidelines are supported, they have not yet become the attention of all parties, especially the government as a policy maker for handling Covid-19, as was the case with AJI Jakarta and AJI Lhokseumawe. They criticized the face-to-face press conference held by the government and the Covid-19 task force in their respective regions because they were deemed to have violated the rules for handling Corona. Thus, the General Chairperson of the Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI), Atal S Depari, states that there are many methods of reporting can be done without having to take risks by crowding the field, for example, through television pools, streaming television, cell phones and others (Antaranews.com, 2020).

Especially in Central Sulawesi. Referring to the Central Sulawesi Covid-19 Disaster Information Data Center (Pusdatina) data, out of thirteen districts/cities, Palu City is one of the highest distribution areas in Central Sulawesi for several reasons. First, as the capital city, Palu City is an industrial, service, and educational area that attracts newcomers. Second, the population density level in Palu City is the highest in Central Sulawesi at 932/km², while the population density level in the other twelve districts in Central Sulawesi is below 100/km². Third, Palu City is a transit location for transportation modes, both land, sea, and air, thus enabling high mobility of people in and out (Jamaluddin and Phradiansah, 2020:37).

It is pretty different from the reporting conditions in Jakarta and Lhokseumawe. According to the Chairman of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Palu, Yardin Hasan, when the Covid-19 case was first detected in Palu City, journalist reporting activities were immediately diverted using technology in the form of communication applications. Media companies made the switch to protect their journalists from being exposed to the Coronavirus. Yardin gave an example of the media company Radar Sulteng which, at the beginning of Covid-19, did not allow its journalists to cover face-to-face. Furthermore, Radar Sulteng enforces a Work From Home (WFH) policy for its employees. However, the WFH policy and maximizing the use of technology relaxed in the form of communication applications after the positive case data in Palu City touched zero based on data from the Palu City Covid-19 Task Force as of 2 August 2020. As a result, journalists from Radar Sulteng returned to reporting in the field. Still, in Yardin's narrative, journalists from Radar Sulteng and other journalists from Palu City returned to the area to cover the news because they needed to be close to news sources. Yardin gave an example of the case of photojournalists who had no choice but to go to the field to cover Covid-19 events.

Following up on this situation, although it did not issue an official and open stance, in 2020, AJI Palu highlighted the issue of PSBB rules and the lockdown in Palu City. AJI Palu advised the journalists of Palu City to do their coverage from home. However, the suggestion above cannot be fully implemented when media companies want their journalists to continue to do a face-to-face range. In addition, according to the chairman of AJI Palu, the issue of PSBB rules and lockdown in Palu City has presented a complex mechanism in the reporting process, including when journalists cover government agencies, swab tests are mandatory.

For the record, in 2020, some health facilities charge IDR 2.5 million for a swab test, with the results coming out in one day. The cheapest is Rp 1.5 million, but the results are known two days later. Apart from the relatively high price, the long queue for the swab test is also a significant consideration. Moreover, after queuing for the swab test, they are still queuing up to interview officials. So that the chairman of AJI Palu considered that it took quite a lot of time, while news also had a deadline for collection. Based on this, AJI Palu stated that the issue of the PSBB rules and the lockdown, which creates a complicated mechanism in the reporting process, does not restrict press freedom and access to information to the government and the public.

Furthermore, the chairman of AJI Palu said that obstacles are still found, although technology could help to report activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Such as several cases of telephone calls from journalists from the City of Palu to sources who were not picked up or telephone numbers of informants who were not active, so there were problems in processing data. Thus, it can be said that a strategy is needed as a solution to deal with various problems and dilemma situations in the journalistic activities of Palu City during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the end,

the journalists' reporting activities condition, which is in a dilemma during the Covid-19 pandemic, has impacted the psyche of journalists.

A virtual discussion entitled "Mental Health of Media Workers During a Pandemic" organized by AJI Indonesia revealed together with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) that one of the causes of journalists experiencing stress and anxiety during direct reporting in the pandemic era is a changing work system that affects wages and expenses (ganto.co, 2020).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Journalists dan Journalism

In the theory of journalists and journalism, Kusumaningrat (Kusumaningrat 2006:15) writes that MacDougall mentions journalism is the activity of gathering news, finding facts, and reporting events. Journalism is an activity carried out by a journalist.

A journalist is a person whose job is to find, collect, select, process news, and present it as soon as possible to the public through mass media, whether printed, electronic, or online. Another term for a journalist is journalist, which means someone who performs tasks in the press field, someone who is in charge of finding, compiling, and editing news that will be published in the mass media, and someone whose job is to edit, (summarize) write news, articles, and news material. Others to be published regularly: including weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines (Ginting, 2020:22).

Journalists are said to have competence if they are armed with the ability to understand, master, and enforce the journalism or journalism profession, as well as the authority to determine (decide) something in the field of journalism. The press council compiles the competence of these journalists using models and categories of competence, namely awareness, knowledge, and skills.

In Law Number 40 of 1990 concerning the press, journalists have a role, namely fulfilling the public's right to know, upholding the fundamental values of democracy, encouraging the realization of the rule of law and human rights, respecting diversity, developing public opinion based on accurate, accurate information. Moreover, correctly carry out supervision, criticism, correction, and suggestions on matters relating to the public interest.

News

According to Willard G. Bleyer, the news is anything that grabs the attention of a large number of readers, and the best news is news that interests a large number of readers. According to Prof. Mitchel V. Charnley that news is the fastest report on a fact or opinion that contains matters of interest or importance or both for a large number of people (Daulay, 2016:18). So that news can be defined as reports of events that have journalistic value or have news value which includes actual, factual, meaningful, interesting for a large number of readers.

News is also called "latest information." New information can be called news if it contains what, who, where, when, why, and how. Roy Peter Clark's language simplified the term to 5W + 1H (Herman, 2018:43-44). To write a news story, a press worker only needs to have the skills to gather information materials, determine points of view, observe common threads, master the structure of writing, and create a framework and verification discipline.

The ability to explore the journalistic value of information absolutely must be owned by every press member. Nine things are classified as having essential values in the news: magnitude, approach, actual, impact, extraordinary, character, humanity, surprise, and sex.

In addition to the news value that is the basis for a piece of information to be made into news, other things must be considered, namely the element of news. News elements include conflicts, disasters, progress, discoveries, and famous, odd, and human interest.

Reporting Guide For Journalists

In the Covid-19 coverage guidelines, the main elements of media responsibility are to provide training, safety equipment, social support (such as health services and life insurance), and adequate salaries to journalists working in challenging environments (Paul and Ian, 2020:60). The sources of reporting guidelines for journalists used in this research are coverage guides issued by local and international press organizations to photographic journalists.

METHOD

As a reference, the researcher saw several studies in line with the title used in this study, including the research conducted by Dede Suprayitno with the title "Changes in TV Reporter Coverage Patterns During the Covid-19 Pandemic". This study uses mass communication theory with a qualitative approach and descriptive case study research methods. The findings of this study are that reporters are required to maximize digital technology further to obtain information in the form of images and audio (Suprayitno, 2020:143).

Then the research was conducted by Aursely Liando with the research title "Safety of Journalists Covering Outbreaks: A Case Study of Covering the Covid-19 Pandemic". This research uses journalist duty theory and journalist safety concepts from various journalism organizations with a case study research method. The results of the study explain that in the process of producing Covid-19 news, journalists are required to divide their focus into two things, namely the results of the news that will be published and their safety. In addition, journalists and media companies already have a good understanding of the safety of journalists in covering Covid-19, although it is not yet maximal (Liando, 2020:47).

The following research was conducted by Andini Nur Nabila with the research title "Media Understanding of Journalists' Safety Standards When Covering Natural Disasters: A Case Study of Inews Editorial Understanding." The type of research used in this research is qualitative with a case study research method. The result of this study is that the Inews editor has understood the safety standards of journalists when covering disaster coverage. However, even though they understand, the Inews editor has not implemented these safety standards properly (Nabila 2019:56).

Furthermore, to focus this research, two questions were formulated (1) How is the reporting strategy for journalists in Palu City during the Covid-19 pandemic? (2) How is Palu City journalists' Covid-19 news writing model?

The research data were obtained from qualitative descriptive methods with an action research approach. The data collection techniques are observation and interviews with four journalists from Palu City. The informants selected through the purposive sampling technique are informants who have been exposed to the Coronavirus, have covered Covid-19, and have a minimum working period of five years.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The long and massive Covid-19 pandemic has changed how journalists work. Palu City occupies the second highest Covid-19 positive area on the scale of Central Sulawesi province after Buol Regency (BNPB and University of Indonesia, 2020:239).

Based on this, the Palu City government issued various strict regulations to overcome the spread of the Coronavirus because Palu City ranks first in the population density level in Central Sulawesi, which is 932/km2. Palu City also is a transit location for land, sea, and air transportation modes, thus enabling high levels of population density mobility of people in and out (Jamaluddin & Phradiansah 2020:37).

Table 1. Circular Letter by Mayer (publish in 2020)

Circular Letter	Contents	Publish
Mayer	State of Emergency Non-Natural Disaster Covid-19 as a National Disaster.	May 27, 2020

Mayer	Control of People's Travel at the The Entrance to Palu City specifically for Logistics Transportation to Prevent Covid-19.	September 28, 2020
Mayer	Anticipating the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Palu City on Public Holidays and Leaves in 2020.	October 26, 2020
Mayer	Control of the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) in Palu City.	December 23, 2020

The table above shows that the rules for preventing the spread of Covid-19 do not contain rules regarding Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) because the situation of the spread of the Coronavirus in Palu City has not met the criteria required by the Minister of Health Regulation number 9 of 2020 for the determination of PSBB. The intended criteria concern the spread level, the number of positive cases based on the period, and the level of local transmission. It can be said that the spread of the Coronavirus in the Palu City area from the March to May 2020 period is still under control, so the PSBB rules are not needed (Voaindonesia.com 2020).

However, the Palu City journalist said that the rules for preventing the spread of Covid-19 did not have a dominant influence on the news reporting process. The thing that has the most influence on the journalist's reporting process in Palu City is the Covid-19 condition itself. The fluctuating and unpredictable condition of Covid-19, when it will end, and who and when it will be exposed, has made Palu City journalists face a dilemma of reporting conditions. However, to keep providing information and educating the public regarding the development of the Covid-19 case in Palu City, Palu City journalists then implemented five reporting strategies.

Strategy Before Coverage

In general, journalists carry out the process before reporting to seek and obtain information on events/cases. To seek and obtain information, journalists apply the strategy of editorial meetings and online research because of the high risk of exposure to Covid-19 for journalists in Palu City. So, several media companies issued Work From Home (WFH) policies for their employees/journalists.

The first strategy is to attend editorial meetings. In the 2020 Covid-19 situation in Palu City, the only media company in Palu City that applies regulations related to Covid-19 is PT Radar Sulteng. One of the policies implemented by PT Radar Sulteng in 2020 is WFH for its employees, including journalists.

Not only affecting its employees but the WFH Radar Sulteng policy also changed the editorial meeting model at Radar Sulteng. During the Covid-19 pandemic, journalists from Radar Sulteng attended editorial meetings on the WhatsApp group. The editor determines the theme and direction of the journalist's coverage. It is also essential to hold this editorial meeting before the coverage is done because it is a warm-up place for journalists to carry out journalistic activities.

In an editorial meeting, journalists must know two crucial things: the theme and the source of the news. These two things are crucial because knowledge of the coverage theme serves as a guide for journalists working on the news. There is also a vital thing in a media publication because it will determine the direction of writing (angle) of news by journalists and the content of the media. After knowing and understanding the theme of the coverage, the next thing that deserves the attention of journalists is determining the news source. Journalists must be selective in determining news sources because public trust in mass media reporting is closely tied to the values contained in the news.

In line with this, according to Rolnicki etal. (2008) that in news gathering, there are things that need to be considered, namely primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are eyewitnesses to an event, and secondary sources are people who have some knowledge but are not personally involved or a published work that quotes

words from other works. In addition, for a professional journalist, the position and credibility of the news source are vital.

The TVRI Central Sulawesi editorial meeting was held online. However, the TVRI Central Sulawesi editorial meeting during the Covid-19 period was also held alternately, namely offline and online meetings. The change in the meeting model was carried out by adjusting the development of the Covid-19 situation in Palu City. This online editorial meeting model also results in the high expenditure of Palu City journalists in purchasing internet data packages or subscribing to Wi-Fi. Even though there is a high level of spending to buy internet packages, like it or not, Palu City journalists have to do it because the results of the editorial meeting will serve as a guide for journalists during their coverage.

The second strategy is the online research. This strategy was implemented due to the lack of maximum health protection for each media company for its journalists. As is known, Palu City journalists have high mobility to seek and obtain information. However, during Covid-19, the mobility of journalists from Palu City decreased.

The massive spread of Covid-19 that has claimed millions of lives has changed the field coverage conditions. Palu City journalists are wary of being exposed to the Coronavirus. So that at the beginning of Covid-19, Palu City journalists rarely went directly to the field to look for data and information because they avoided the risk of exposure. As a solution, Palu City journalists actively monitor the development of information in WhatsApp groups of fellow Palu City journalists and WhatsApp groups with the Central Sulawesi Provincial government and the Covid-19 Task Force to obtain information. Moreover, the information obtained in the group allows journalists to have an overview of the situation they are reporting to prepare for maximum self-protection.

Despite helping Palu City journalists find information on events/cases, the online research strategy has weaknesses. In the development of the Covid-19 issue in various media, there is often a lack of synchronization of data from the government. For example, in searching for data and information regarding the Palu City Covid-19 case on an online site, it can be seen that the data is not synchronizing. However, cases of data asymmetry, such as the example above, have not become the focus of the attention of Palu City journalists because in covering Covid-19, some Palu City journalists are more interested in covering their policies.

Strategy During Coverage

At this stage, the process carried out by Palu City journalists is to go out into the field to obtain, possess and store information. The process was passed through direct interviews with resource persons. However, Palu City journalists faced three obstacles, namely the limitation of the duration of the interview, the policy for the Enforcement of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM), and the fluctuating conditions of Covid-19, which made it difficult for journalists to meet with sources, and the health condition of Palu City journalists decreased due to exposure to the Coronavirus.

The first obstacle is the limitation of the duration of interviews in the red zone or through telephone calls. The red zone area in question is a hospital. When covering the hospital, the interview duration with the interviewee is limited, between twenty to thirty minutes. This period can be used mutually by journalists who come to cover the news together with journalists from other media. Palu City journalists must collect complete and distance information within thirty minutes.

Each Covid-19 referral hospital has different policies in terms of duration and methods of reporting carried out by journalists. For example, at Undata Hospital, the interview duration was 30 minutes, while at Anutapura Hospital, the time limit was only 20 minutes, and through a monitor screen.

In addition, journalists have the right to decide whether they want to continue reporting or not if the conditions in the coverage area can endanger health. In covering the Covid-19 case, journalists from the City of Palu also conveyed the need for preparation before interviewing sources. Not only are references honed by journalists, but also security and guarantees for the safety of coverage. However, in obtaining security and safety coverage during this pandemic, not all Palu City journalists have received maximum assistance from the company where they work. Thus, the strategy applied close relations with resource persons as a solution to the shortage of personal protective equipment.

Wahono's close relationship with the director of Anutapura Hospital has encouraged smooth reporting, even though Wahono does not quickly obtain the availability of PPE, and he needs to go through a process that takes time for reporting.

The second obstacle is the PPKM policy and the fluctuating conditions of Covid-19, which make it difficult for journalists to meet with sources. Especially in the interview process related to the Covid-19 case, where the only news source is the government as a policy maker and doctors as crucial experts for information about Covid-19. Several journalists revealed that there are often sources who do not want to meet in person.

To overcome the problem, journalists from Palu City apply a strategy to use technology in the form of telephone calls. This is done in conjunction with the increasingly sophisticated technology and the widespread launch of communication applications in the community. However, when making phone calls, the resource persons often do not provide time for good questions and answers or deepening through special interviews. In addition, telephone interviews were limited in duration of the interview which resulted in the lack of information obtained by journalists from the City of Palu. In addition, interviews by telephone make it difficult for Palu City journalists to know the body gestures of their sources, which journalists need to pay attention to because body gestures can signal to journalists whether the source is still enjoying the interview process or vice versa.

The rhythm of readiness and time synchrony between journalists and resource persons is very much needed. Otherwise, the interview process will not take place. However, even so, when the resource person still does not want to be found, the strategy applied by the journalist is again the close relationship with the resource person in collecting data and information. Meanwhile, to overcome the problem of the lack of visual sources, journalists from Palu City coordinated with the editors. The result of this coordination is that it gives birth to relief in field coverage in the form of being allowed to interview via telephone only and not being forced to get visuals in the form of videos.

In addition to utilizing relationships with resource persons and technology, there is also a third strategy applied by television journalists, namely utilizing the role of citizen journalism to support the needs of news visualization. The presence of citizen journalism has succeeded in providing multimedia data which helps the news reporting process when television journalists cannot reach the coverage area. As for the visual quality of news sourced from citizen journalism, the editors can still understand because of the limited conditions and the high number of Covid-19 cases. Then, the visual quality of news from public relations agencies displayed to the public is considered sufficient to meet the standards.

Along with the development of Covid-19, which is getting more massive daily, several journalists from Palu City are still conducting doorstop interviews. When conducting doorstop interviews, journalists apply a strategy of closeness with fellow journalists, namely by entrusting the voice recording of the cellphone to one person. This recording of voice recordings from cell phones does not apply when asking questions to informants because journalists keep asking questions from a distance. However, unlike the results of observations, Ikram journalists can still approach the prosecutor to ask for information on the case being covered regardless of distance. This condition shows that the presence of Covid-19, which Ikram feared, no longer has an effect, so the restrictions made are relaxed. Journalists describe that journalists who conduct doorstop interviews do not keep their distance behind the scenes.

The third obstacle is the health condition of journalists in Palu City due to exposure to the Coronavirus. Even though they are in an unhealthy condition, journalists still do coverage during the quarantine period. During quarantine, the strategy in the data collection process is to utilize close relationships with resource persons. However, it is still necessary to re-verify as Ikram does not just give up when he finds information that is not clear but returns to contact the source of information so that the news conveyed is factual and accurate.

From the informant's narrative, it can be seen that one type of coverage that can be done during the self-quarantine period is proper coverage because it is easier to cover when carried out online. After all, it does not require journalists to ask questions directly to sources. The remarks of guests and event organizers obtained information on ceremonial activities.

Thus, the strategies applied by Palu City journalists during their coverage were

- the use of technology in the form of video conferencing (Zoom Meeting),
- utilizing close relationships with resource persons and fellow journalists, and
- utilizing citizen journalism.

Strategy After Coverage

The strategy applied after the coverage was the use of technology. This strategy is applied to process information and interview results into the news. The process passed in processing information and interview results includes sorting and selecting. In processing information and interview results, journalists from the City of Palu found no significant obstacles encountered. Furthermore, using technology is also applied to delivering news scripts because writing news scripts during the Covid-19 pandemic is carried out at home and/or in a safe place, according to journalists. The use of technology can help Palu City journalists in sending news remotely.

From the description of the strategy before, during, and after the coverage mentioned above, it can be seen that the most widely used strategy for reporting is the use of technology in the form of communication applications, and the most widely used communication applications are WhatsApp and Zoom Meeting. Furthermore, the lessons learned after all the reporting processes were that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the coverage carried out by journalists from the City of Palu had to use technology a lot because the disease caused by Covid-19 was different from other diseases where this disease was not allowed to exist direct contact between individuals.

Then based on the exposure of the research results above, the researchers found the supporting and inhibiting factors felt by the four journalists during their reporting activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Supporting factors include the presence of technology and communication applications that assist the reporting process. Journalists feel helped by the existence of communication technology and applications because from communication technology and applications, Wahono can get information quickly. In addition to technology and communication applications, relations between professions also help the reporting process during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Press organizations in Palu City synergize with each other to build relationships to provide moral support to journalists who do coverage during the Covid-19 pandemic. This moral support is considered necessary because, during the Covid-19 pandemic, some journalists who had been exposed to the Coronavirus and ended up reporting from home felt bored. In addition to supporting factors, some factors hinder the reporting of journalists from Palu City during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Network problems are often an obstacle for informants in the reporting process, plus additional costs for paying for a Wi-Fi network. In addition, the lack of knowledge about Covid-19 and media companies that have not fully prepared personal protective equipment or self-protection for their journalists are obstacles to reporting. Journalists who cover Covid-19 news do not receive personal protective equipment from the company. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of press organizations in Palu City was huge in helping to provide personal protective equipment for journalists.

Covid-19 News Writing Model

News writing is the next stage of journalistic activity. So that after the news coverage, the following process carried out by the journalists of Palu City is to write news material. At this stage, news script writing will refer to the techniques and styles determined by each media, starting from writing the title, dateline, lead, content, and closing.

In addition, news also has a structure that journalists must follow. The structure in question is an inverted pyramid. The inverted pyramid shape presents facts in descending order, from the most important to the least important. The definition of an *inverted pyramid*, according to Zaenuddin (2011:135), is the most basic structure of writing or presenting news that is commonly used by journalists, especially to write straight news and features.

In addition to the inverted pyramid structure, ideally, news also consists of the 5W + 1H elements discovered by Rudyard Kipling. In the study results, the news model journalists most widely use in Palu City is the straight news

model because during their coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic, the limitation of interview duration resulted in the deepening of information with the informants was not optimal.

The style of language used in reporting on Covid-19 is a straightforward and clear style of language so that readers easily understand it. Also, in writing the Covid-19 news script, the journalistic code of ethics was considered. For example, in mentioning the names of Covid-19 patients, journalists will keep the identities of Covid-19 patients confidential according to their approval. If the patient's identity is without a substitute editor, it will cause panic in the community.

As journalists who have never written on health issues before, the four journalists from Palu City admitted that in writing Covid-19 news, they read much literature via the internet and diligently asked apt sources such as doctors. So the public can easily understand the news journalists write.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study results, it can be concluded that in reporting on journalists from the City of Palu during the Covid-19 pandemic, journalists in the City of Palu applied two strategies before reporting, namely, online research. The second is the editorial meeting. Three strategies during the coverage, namely, first, the use of technology in the form of communication applications. This strategy has been quite effective and supports the reporting process. They see the achievement of the goals that have been achieved by interviewing the interviewees. Second is the close relationship with the resource person and professional colleagues. This strategy succeeded in supporting the reporting process by observing the smooth running of journalists in obtaining data and information in the field. Third, take advantage of the role of citizen journalism. This strategy has also been quite helpful, especially for television journalists who cannot reach the coverage location due to regulations related to Covid-19. Furthermore, the strategy after the coverage is to use technology because there are no significant obstacles. Of the five strategies mentioned above, the strategy that has helped the most journalists in Palu City is the use of technology.

The straight news model dominated the journalistic news writing model for Palu City during the Covid-19 pandemic because in collecting data and information from sources, Palu City journalists were given a limited duration of interviews, so the information obtained was not in-depth.

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