Constructions of Political Views on the Case of the Death Penalty of Bali-Nine Convicts in *The Jakarta Post*’s Editorials

Antonius Yogi Puguh Aristuta

**ABSTRACT**

People get information from mass media, especially newspaper. Technology makes people easily access newspaper by providing online newspaper. But sometimes in reporting news, news writers insert ideological stances in mass media to influence readers as their desires. Many researchers have conducted research on media representations of political figures, for example, Ahmmed (2014) and Zaher (2009). They found that people who have power in news reporting, play important role in manipulate and influence readers to support the writer ideas and beliefs. In my study, I conduct a research about media bias in Indonesian context. The object of the study is editorials about capital punishment for Bali Nine convicts in *The Jakarta Post*’s editorials. *The Jakarta Post* was chosen because it declared support to one of the president candidates who became the president of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. The purpose of the study is to reveal the ways of ideology is transferred into editorials and to find out whether *The Jakarta Post* is neutral or not in presenting capital punishment issue. The instrument of data analysis is Thompson’s theory of ideology. Thompson’s theory of ideology provide a great tools to analyze, they are, *legitimation, dissimulation, unification, fragmentation,* and *reification.* Seven editorials texts are analyzed and the findings are approximately 54% of JP’s stances indicated support to government, 16% of JP’s stances indicated criticize to government, and 30% indicated objective. It reflects that media bias to some extent exists in an Indonesian newspaper like the JP.

**Keywords:** Mass media, media bias, ideology, power, Thompson’s theory of ideology.