

Media Framing Analysis in News Making on the Case of Molestation at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency

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Abstract

This research is entitled "Analysis of Media Framing in Making News on the Case of Molestation at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency". The object of this research is news related to the case of molestation at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency. The news that became the subject of the research was the online media [viva.co.id](https://www.viva.co.id) entitled "Kiai Ponpes Pati Molested Dozens of Students. MUI Angry". This type of qualitative research is descriptive using the Framing Analysis Model of Zhondang Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki as an analysis technique. The results of this study indicate that the syntactic elements of the headline and lead in the news published by [viva.co.id](https://www.viva.co.id) are sufficient to show clarity. Which describes the content of the news related to the MUI's response to the case of molestation at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School. However, the word Kiai in the headline will potentially give rise to negative public perceptions of the title Kiai which allows the creation of stereotypes and reduces public trust and respect for the title Kiai. The script element found that [viva.co.id](https://www.viva.co.id) did not meet the 5W+1H news completeness criteria. The "where" section lacks detailed explanation. The thematic structure of the [viva.co.id](https://www.viva.co.id) news portal thoroughly describes the news and provides clear information. The rhetorical structure includes the word "alleged" in the first paragraph, suggesting that the news is not entirely accurate. However, in the headline, the author seems to assert that dozens of female students were sexually abused by a religious leader (Kiai). Furthermore, the headline "Kiai of Pati Islamic Boarding School Molested Dozens of Female Students" uses general language, potentially leading to the generalization that Islamic boarding school kiai in Pati Regency sexually abused female students. This would certainly mislead or misunderstand readers if they only read the headline.

Keywords

Framing Analysis, Kiyai, News



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INTRODUCTION

Education in Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) has long been the foundation for the character, spirituality, and intellectual development of young Muslims in Indonesia. As traditional Islamic educational institutions, pesantren are often perceived as sacred spaces that uphold moral values, etiquette, and protect their students. (Natasya Regina Putri, 2025) However, in 2026, the public was shocked again by a case of sexual abuse committed by the founder and administrator of the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency. This is a highly immoral act committed in the world of education, especially in Islamic boarding schools. Educational institutions, especially Islamic boarding schools, must guarantee the safety of their students (santri), especially as Islamic boarding schools are educational institutions that instill religious understanding oriented towards good manners and morals.

Etymologically, the word "pondok" comes from the Arabic word "funduq," meaning a lodging or temporary residence. "Pesantren" comes from the word "santri," which refers to someone studying Islam. Thus, a pondok pesantren is a place used for religious studies with the aim of educating students in religious knowledge and shaping their character. (Septia Ayu Wardani, 2024).

The case of sexual harassment of dozens of female students by the founder and administrator of the Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency has become a public spotlight because he used his authoritative position to commit sexual harassment against female students. Furthermore, the perpetrator of sexual harassment at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency also provided a doctrine of blind obedience and spiritual threats to silence and molest his female students. The perpetrator instilled the doctrine in his victims with psychological pressure, and if the victim denied or refused the perpetrator's invitation, the victim was afraid that she would lose the blessings of knowledge. Furthermore, the perpetrator often claimed that his depraved actions were orders from another dimension. (Mahardika, 2026).

The sexual harassment case at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency has captured national attention and become a hot topic in almost all Indonesian media outlets. However, it's unfortunate that some media outlets framed the news using the title "Kiyai" in their headlines. This raises concerns about the potential for negative public stereotypes about the title. The title Kiyai is a term typical of Javanese culture which means a respected person in society who always looks at people with loving eyes. The previous kiyai in his preaching viewed the people with compassion which was manifested through noble behavior such as helping others selflessly and truly using himself for society because the person he was following was the Prophet Muhammad. Moreover, Kiyai has the characteristic of not being able to bear to see the suffering of his people so he is willing to help with great compassion (Utomo, 2026) Therefore, if the perpetrator of the sexual abuse at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency is framed in a news headline

with the title of Kiyai, it feels inappropriate.

Framing is essentially a method for examining how the media tells a story about reality. There are two main aspects of framing. First, how events are interpreted. This relates to which parts are covered and which are not. Second, how facts are written. This aspect relates to the use of words, sentences, and images to support ideas. Framing analysis also focuses on the formation of messages from text. Specifically, it examines how messages or events are constructed by the media. It also examines how journalists construct events and present them to their audience.(Eriyanto, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Case study research seeks to examine as much data as possible regarding the subject being studied. Observations are conducted by systematically observing, scrutinizing, and recording behavior for a specific purpose. Observation is a data collection technique that involves systematic, logical, objective, and rational observation and recording of various phenomena. Essentially, the purpose of observation is to describe the observed environment, the activities taking place, the individuals involved in that environment, the behaviors they exhibit, and the meaning of events from the perspectives of the individuals involved.(Sugiyono, 2013).

In this study, observations were made by observing and recording media framing analysis in creating news on the case of sexual abuse at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Ndholo Kusumo Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency. The framing of several media in creating news titles on the case of sexual abuse at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Ndholo Kusumo Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency is quite worrying because the perpetrator of the sexual abuse is still given the title "Kiyai" by several media in creating news titles. This will certainly allow the emergence of negative stereotypes from the public towards the title of Kiyai. Data analysis was carried out by reducing data, namely summarizing, selecting the main things and focusing on important things and removing unnecessary ones. This aims to provide a clear picture so that it will make it easier for researchers to carry out further data collection. Data presentation is done in the form of a brief narrative description.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Title of Religious Figure (Kiyai)

According to Zamakhsari Dhofier, the term kiai in Javanese society can be used for three types of titles. First, it is a noble title for objects considered sacred. Second, it is an honorific title for elderly people in general. Third, it is a title given by the community to an Islamic scholar who owns and leads an Islamic boarding school and teaches classical Islamic texts to his students. In Indonesia, kiai is defined as a scholar, referring to a figure who is knowledgeable in the field of Islamic religious knowledge, because kiai come from Islamic boarding schools and are teachers of yellow books, founders of and masters of the Islamic boarding schools they have founded.(Fachrudin, 2020).

According to Munawar Fuad Noeh, the characteristics of a Kyai include: Diligent in worship (obligatory and sunnah and good), Zuhud (freeing oneself from worldly material

dimensions and interests), Having knowledge of the afterlife, religious knowledge, in sufficient quantities, Understanding the public interest, being sensitive to the public interest, Devoting all his knowledge to Allah SWT, having the right intention in acquiring knowledge and doing good deeds.(Munawar Fuad noeh, 2002).

Based on the various definitions of the term "Kiyai" above, the perpetrator of the sexual abuse of a female student at the Ndholo Kusumo Quranic Tahfidzul Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency is not worthy of being called a Kiyai because it does not reflect the behavior of a Kiyai as it should.

In the context of Islam in Indonesia, the terms "Ustadz" or "Kiyai" (a title for religious figures) hold a special place. They are not merely titles, but symbols of trust, role models, and moral authority. Ustadz are those who are respected and imitated, whose advice is listened to, and whose morals are emulated. This term has undergone a worrying shift in meaning as a result of a mistaken generalization. A number of immoral cases have surfaced in the name of "Ustadz," such as sexual harassment, fraudulent medical treatments, and deviant practices disguised as religious practices. Tragically, upon further investigation, it turns out that the perpetrators merely teach the Quran as a side activity, or are shamans who incorporate elements of the Quran into their teachings to appear religious. On the other hand, there are also hermitages (padepokan) with obscure ritual practices that attach the title "Ustadz" to their central figures. All of this causes public confusion and tarnishes the reputation of true preachers. This phenomenon demonstrates that the term "ustadz" has become a loose label without clear standards. Anyone who can recite the Quran or quote a verse or two, and wears a koko shirt and peci (traditional Islamic headgear), can be immediately called an ustadz by their circle. There is no verification process for knowledge, morals, or the chain of succession (sanad). This creates a loophole that is vulnerable to misuse.(Barsihannor, 2025).

In this case, the author interviewed Alviyan Badro Kamali, the head of the Santrinealis organization that oversees the development of human resources for students in the digital field and an activist at the Bogor Regency Islamic Boarding School. He stated that it is time for us to return the titles of religious figures such as Ustad, Kiyai, Syeikh and the like to their true meaning because these titles are not just titles, but have consequences for morality, public trust, and the credibility of the knowledge of those nicknamed Ustad, Kiyai, Syeikh and the like in order to maintain the honor of ulama and the safety of the community from fake religious figures. Religious titles should be attached to those who truly have proven scientific capacity and have commendable morals. With the phenomenon of recurring cases such as cases of sexual abuse committed by fake religious figures, it is hoped that society will no longer easily label someone ustad simply because they are good at talking about religion. Thus, scholars who are truly sincere in preaching and competent will be protected from the impact of such cases.

Media Framing Analysis in the Making of News on the Case of Molestation at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency

Framing refers to the way a news agency highlights the elements of an event that will become its news story. In the context of news, framing refers to the way an event or information is presented or depicted that can influence how readers understand or interpret it. Framing involves selecting certain aspects of an event for greater emphasis, while other elements may be ignored or relegated to the background. Perception, interpretation, and assessment of an issue or event are influenced by framing. Framing in news can play a significant role in shaping public opinion and the public's perception of a particular issue. Therefore, it is important to be a critical audience and understand the potential framing that occurs in news stories. To define a problem, framing elements can create moral choices that can be used to prove or present an argument. Reporters can determine what is desired by emphasizing the completeness of existing components, and the media can not only convey news, opinions, and overviews on various topics but can also function as institutions that can shape public opinion.(R, 2022).

Media, from the constructionist perspective, is not a free channel, and news is a construction of reality. The news presented to the audience is the result of packaging and framing by the media. This is what is called framing. Framing analysis is based on the idea that news is the result of a construction of reality carried out by journalists or media editors. Because it is a construction, the news presented is not necessarily 100 percent the same as the existing reality. From a communication perspective, framing analysis is used to dissect the methods or ideologies of the media when constructing facts. This analysis examines the strategies of selecting, highlighting, and linking facts into news stories to make them more meaningful, more interesting, more significant, or more memorable, to guide audience interpretation according to their perspective. In other words, framing is an approach to understanding the perspective or point of view used by journalists when selecting issues and writing news.(Sobur, 2018).

Religious issues, especially those related to conflict, scandal, polemic, or controversy, are hot topics for the media to report. In terms of news value, they fall into the category of high-value news. Religious issues are like magnets that attract many readers. Moreover, the case of the sexual abuse scandal that occurred at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency will certainly attract public attention. In this study, the author only analyzed one online news report representing several similar news reports related to the sexual abuse case that occurred at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency. The framing analysis in this study uses the framing model approach.Zhongdang Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki.

The framing analysis model developed by Zhongdang Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki. This analysis model includes four analytical structures:

- a. Syntactic Structure: The way media organizes facts, including elements such as headlines, leads, background information, source quotes, statements, and closings.
- b. Script Structure: Presentation of facts based on the 5W+1H elements (What, Who, When, Where, Why, and How).

- c. Thematic Structure: The pattern of presenting facts to build a news theme.
- d. Rhetorical Structure: Emphasis on facts through particular word choices, graphics, or metaphors.

In the framing model of Zhongdang Pan and Gerald Kosicki, the unit of observation of the text is more comprehensive and adequate, because apart from covering all aspects contained in the text (words, sentences, paraphrases, labels, expressions), the device also considers the structure of the text and the relationship between sentences or paragraphs as a whole. (Nurazizah, 2025).

News Analysis

News Title : Pati Islamic Boarding School Cleric Molests Dozens of Female Students: MUI Furious

Date of issue : May 5, 2026

Table 1. News 1 Pan and Kosicki Framing Analysis News 1 (Case of Molestation of Female Students at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, Pati Regency)

Framing Devices	Observation Unit	Observation result
Syntactic Structure	Headline	Pati Islamic Boarding School Cleric Molests Dozens of Female Students: MUI Furious
	Lead	The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) is paying serious attention to the alleged molestation case against dozens of female students at an Islamic boarding school (ponpes) in Pati Regency, Central Java.
	Background Information	This case came to light after dozens of female students were allegedly victims of sexual violence by a pesantren caretaker. The victims' attorney, Ali Yusron, stated that a report had been filed with the Pati Police in 2024. However, he assessed that the case had taken a long time to handle, despite the presence of substantial evidence, including a post-mortem examination. This incident also sparked public outcry. A mass demonstration reportedly took place on Saturday, May 2, 2026, as a form of outrage over the alleged

		incident involving the female students.
	Source Citation	Ali Yusron, Attorney for the Victim - The report was filed with the Pati Police in 2024. However, he assessed that the case handling process took quite a long time despite being accompanied by a number of pieces of evidence, including the results of a post-mortem examination. Cholil Nafis, Deputy Chairman of the MUI - The role of supervisory institutions such as the Majelis Masyayikh under the Ministry of Religion to be more active in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of education in Islamic boarding schools to ensure that it remains in accordance with regulations and ethics.
	Statement	Cholil Nafis, Deputy Chairman of the MUI We ask that this be followed up as a preventive measure by the relevant institutions regarding supervision of educational institutions to intensify the implementation of good education and to be aware of any deviations in the implementation of education.
	Closing	The MUI also encourages the public to play an active role in monitoring educational environments and reporting any indications of irregularities. With stronger oversight and the involvement of various parties, it is hoped that

		educational institutions can become safe havens for students.
Script Structure	What	MUI Angry
	Where	An Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency
	When	Tuesday, May 5, 2026
	Who	• Cholil Nafis (Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council) • Ali Yusron (Victim's Lawyer)
	Why	Alleged case of molestation at one of the Islamic boarding schools in Pati Regency
	How	A religious teacher at one of the Islamic boarding schools in Pati Regency committed sexual abuse against dozens of female students.
Thematic Structure	• Paragraph • Proposition • Sentence • Relationship between sentences	First Paragraph, explained that the MUI was paying special attention to the case of alleged molestation of dozens of female students at an Islamic boarding school in Pati Regency, Central Java. Paragraph 2, explained that the Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), KH. M. Cholil Nafis, emphasized that any violations, especially those occurring in educational settings, must be dealt with firmly in accordance with applicable law. He called this step crucial to maintaining public trust and preventing the emergence of vigilante action due to slow case handling. Paragraph 3 Ali Yusron (the victim's lawyer) stated that the report had been filed with the Pati Police since 2024. However, he assessed that the process of handling the case took quite a long time even though it was accompanied by a

		number of pieces of evidence, including the results of the autopsy. Paragraph 4, explaining that this incident also sparked public reaction. A mass demonstration reportedly took place on Saturday, May 2, 2026, as a form of outrage over the alleged incident involving the female students. Paragraph 5, explaining the statement of KH. Cholil Nafis (Deputy Chairman of the MUI) "We ask that this be followed up as a preventive measure by the relevant institutions on how there is supervision of educational institutions to intensify the implementation of good education and be aware of any deviations in the implementation of education. Paragraph 6, explaining the statement of KH. Cholil Nafis (Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council) who highlighted the role of supervisory institutions such as the Majelis Masyayikh under the Ministry of Religious Affairs to be more active in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of education in Islamic boarding schools to ensure it remains in accordance with regulations and ethics. Paragraph 7The MUI also encourages the public to actively participate in monitoring educational environments and reporting any indications of irregularities. With stronger oversight and the involvement of various parties, it is hoped that educational institutions can become safe havens for students.
Rhetorical Structure	Say	• Kiai • Islamic boarding school • MUI

	Idiom	
	Image/Photo	• Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI): Cholil Nafis • The gate of the Islamic boarding school is sealed by the community (Surya Aditya/viva.co.id)
	Chart	

Analysis :

a. Syntactic Structure

The syntactic structure of the headline written by the news writer in this case, "Kiai of Pati Islamic Boarding School Molests Dozens of Female Students. MUI is Angry," sufficiently explains the content of the news. However, the word "Kiai" in the headline has the potential to create a negative public perception of the title "Kiai," which could create stereotypes and reduce public trust and respect for the title.

b. Script Structure

The structure of this news article illustrates the MUI's decisive response to cases of sexual abuse in education, particularly in Islamic boarding schools. However, the 5W+1H element of journalistic writing is deemed incomplete at the "Where" point, as the name of the Islamic boarding school is not clearly stated. The author also does not name the perpetrator of the sexual abuse, only referring to "the caretaker" in the fourth paragraph of the article.

c. Thematic Structure

The thematic structure in the news in the 2nd paragraph, 5th paragraph, 6th paragraph, 7th paragraph contains a statement from the Deputy Chairman of the MUI KH. M. Cholil Nafis and in the 4th paragraph contains a statement from Ali Yusron as the victim's lawyer.

d. Rhetorical Structure

The rhetorical structure of this news, the news writer uses the word "alleged" in the first paragraph which means that the news is not entirely true. However, in the headline, the writer seems to emphasize that there has been a practice of molestation against dozens of female students carried out by a Kiai. Furthermore, if seen in the headline sentence "Kiai Ponpes Pati Molested Dozens of Female Students" uses a general sentence that has the potential to give rise to the generalization that the Kiai of the Islamic Boarding School in the Pati Regency area committed molestation against female students. In this case, of course, it will make the reader confused or misunderstood if the reader is limited to reading the headline alone.

The photo in this news shows that the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency has lost the trust of the surrounding community through a

banner made by the local community and displayed on the fence of the Islamic boarding school.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the news coverage (framing) of the molestation case of female students at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Ndholo Kusumo Islamic Boarding School on the online media *viva.co.id*. Using the Zondan Pan and Kosicki model which includes 4 structural dimensions, namely syntactic structure, script, thematic and rhetorical in 2 news items, including. First, the syntactic elements of the headline and lead in the news published by *viva.co.id* are sufficiently clear in describing the content of the news regarding the MUI's response to the molestation case at the Ndholo Kusumo Tahfidzul Qur'an Islamic Boarding School. However, The word Kiai in the headline has the potential to create a negative public perception of the title Kiai, which could create stereotypes and reduce public trust and respect for the title Kiai. Second, based on the script elements, it was found that *viva.co.id* did not meet the 5W+1H news completeness criteria. The "where" section lacked detailed explanation regarding the name of the Islamic boarding school. The news writer also did not mention the name of the perpetrator of the sexual abuse, the news writer only mentioned "the caregiver" in the 4th paragraph of the news.

Third, the thematic structure of the *viva.co.id* news portal is sufficient to describe the news expressed through statements by figures and sources of information clearly and accurately. Fourth, rhetorical structures are found. The word "alleged" in the first paragraph implies that the news is not entirely true. However, in the headline, the author seems to be asserting that a Kiai (Islamic scholar) has sexually abused dozens of female students. Furthermore, the headline "Kiai of Pati Islamic Boarding School Molested Dozens of Female Students" uses a general sentence that has the potential to lead to the generalization that Kiai of Islamic Boarding Schools in Pati Regency have sexually abused female students. This will certainly mislead or misunderstand the reader if the reader only reads the headline. The photo published in the *viva.co.id* news is quite prominent and can explain the situation that occurred at the Tahfidzul Qur'an Ndholo Kusumo Islamic Boarding School in Pati Regency.

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