

**HOW THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR IS BEING
FOUGHT IN THE ONLINE NEWS MEDIA:
AN IMPLICIT IDEOLOGY TO WIN PUBLIC OPINION**

THESIS



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL
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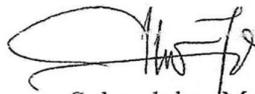
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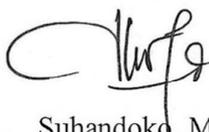
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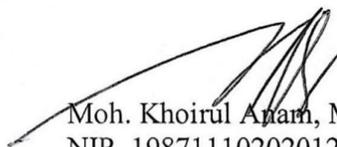
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ABSTRACT

Ananda, A. R. (2025). *How the Russia-Ukraine War Is Being Fought in the Online News Media: An Implicit Ideology to Win Public Opinion*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
Advisors: (I) Suhandoko, M.Pd.,

This study examines how online news media have become a discursive battleground in the Russia-Ukraine war through the construction of implicit ideological frameworks. Focusing on CNN and RT as two influential media outlets representing opposing geopolitical blocs, the study analyzes how they construct ideological representations through linguistic and discursive strategies. This study aims to answer: (1) how does CNN construct ideological framings of the Russia-Ukraine war through discourse strategies in its online news coverage; (2) how does RT construct opposing ideological framings of the Russia-Ukraine war through discourse strategies in its online news coverage.

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach, combining two approaches: micro and macro. Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) serves as the primary analytical framework (micro), combined with Chilton and Schäffner's strategic function theory (macro). Articles from CNN and RT published from the beginning of 2022 through 2023 were purposively selected. The analysis encompasses textual features, discursive practices, and social practices. This analysis is then continued using strategic function theory and synthesized to gain a comprehensive understanding.

The findings reveals that CNN constructed the Russia-Ukraine war based on an ideological framework that systematically portrayed Russian aggression and disinformation, portraying Russia as an untrustworthy actor while simultaneously legitimizing the Western diplomatic response and international pressure through authoritative sources and evaluative language. In contrast, RT constructed the opposite ideological framework by portraying the war as a result of US-led geopolitical and monetary ambitions. Dissimulation strategies and oppositional discourse were used to shift attention from military aggression to structural economic power, particularly US dollar dominance, delegitimizing the US and its allies while legitimizing Russia as a sovereign state resisting external coercion.

Finally, at the level of social practice, the discourses of both CNN and RT articles reflect larger ideological conflicts over legitimacy, power, and the global structures. This study suggests that internet news sources have a significant influence in shaping public perceptions of Russia-Ukraine war by creating ideologically motivated narratives rather than objective depictions of the truth.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, ideological framing, CNN, RT, Russia-Ukraine war, strategic functions.

ABSTRAK

Ananda, A. R. (2025). *Bagaimana Perang Rusia-Ukraina Dinarasikan di Media Berita Daring: Sebuah Ideologi Implisit untuk Memenangkan Opini Publik*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Suhandoko, M.Pd.,

Studi ini meneliti bagaimana media berita daring telah menjadi medan pertempuran utama dalam perang Rusia-Ukraina melalui konstruksi kerangka ideologis implisit. Dengan berfokus pada CNN dan RT sebagai dua outlet berpengaruh yang mewakili blok geopolitik yang berlawanan, studi ini menganalisis bagaimana kedua media tersebut membangun representasi ideologis melalui strategi linguistik dan diskursif. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menjawab: (1) bagaimana CNN membangun kerangka ideologis perang Rusia-Ukraina melalui strategi wacana dalam liputan berita daringnya; (2) bagaimana RT membangun kerangka ideologis yang berlawanan tentang perang Rusia-Ukraina melalui strategi wacana dalam liputan berita daringnya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif-tekstual kualitatif. Analisis Wacana Kritis (AWK) Fairclough berfungsi sebagai kerangka analitis utama, dilengkapi dengan teori fungsi strategis Chilton dan Schäffner. Artikel-artikel dari CNN dan RT terbitan awal 2022 sampai 2023 dipilih melalui teknik *purposive sampling*. Analisis mencakup fitur tekstual, praktik diskursif, dan praktik sosial. Kemudian dilanjutkan dengan analisis menggunakan teori fungsi strategis dan disintesis.

Temuan menunjukkan bahwa CNN membangun perang Rusia-Ukraina berdasarkan kerangka ideologis yang menekankan agresi Rusia dan disinformasi sistematis, menggambarkan Rusia sebagai aktor yang tidak dapat dipercaya dan destabilisasi, sambil melegitimasi respons diplomatik Barat dan tekanan internasional melalui sumber-sumber otoritatif dan bahasa evaluatif yang menaturalisasi interpretasi moral dari konflik tersebut. Sebaliknya, RT membangun kerangka ideologis yang berlawanan dengan menggambarkan perang tersebut sebagai akibat dari ambisi geopolitik dan moneter yang dipimpin AS, menggunakan strategi disimulasi dan wacana oposisi untuk mengalihkan perhatian dari agresi militer ke kekuatan ekonomi struktural, khususnya dominasi dolar AS, mendelegitimasi AS dan sekutunya sambil melegitimasi Rusia sebagai negara berdaulat yang menentang paksaan eksternal.

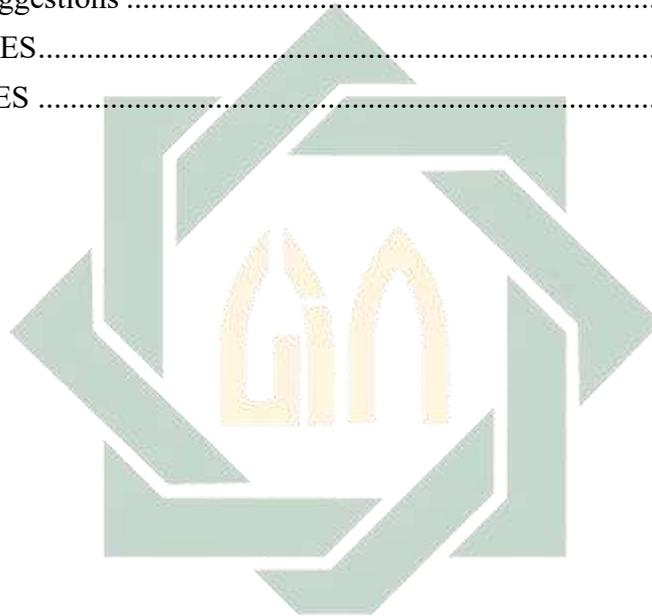
Pada tingkat praktik sosial, kedua wacana yang berlawanan ini mencerminkan konflik ideologis yang lebih besar mengenai legitimasi, kekuasaan, dan lanskap global. Studi ini menunjukkan bahwa sumber berita internet memiliki pengaruh signifikan dalam membentuk persepsi publik tentang konflik internasional dengan menciptakan narasi yang dimotivasi secara ideologis, bukan penggambaran objektif tentang kebenaran.

Kata Kunci: Analisis Wacana Kritis, pembingkai ideologis, CNN, RT, perang Rusia-Ukraina, fungsi strategis.

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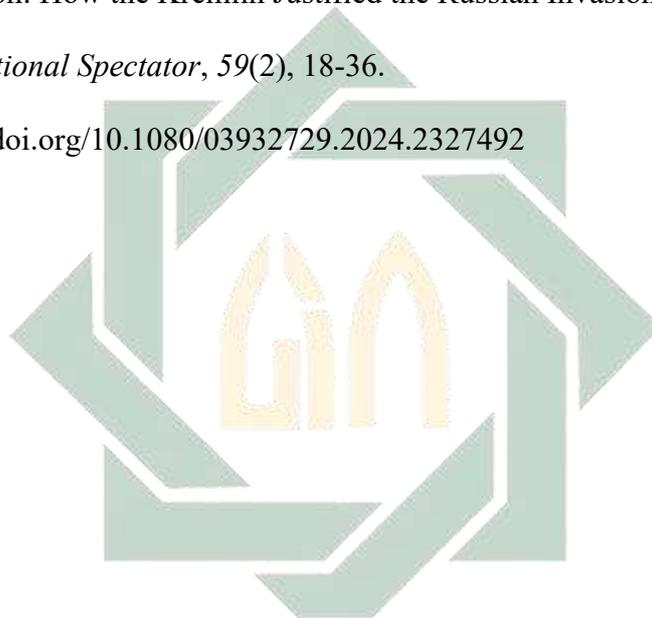
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