

Construction of Media Reality: Analysis The Journalists Affecting Factors in Reporting Environmental Climate Change Issue

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Abstract

Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues, yet its complexity often presents challenges for journalists in constructing accurate and compelling narratives. This study uses Berger and Luckmann's theory of the social construction of reality to understand how journalists shape climate change narratives in their journalistic practice. As an initial step, researchers distributed questionnaires to 30 environmental journalists, followed by in-depth interviews with five key informants. The study identified key determinants such as curiosity, professional experience, and critical reflection, as well as organizational factors including editorial support, access to training, and newsroom dynamics. The findings highlight the transformative role of journalists in shifting from traditional reporting to solutions-oriented journalism, which aims to inspire hope, motivate action, and support societal responses to climate change. The findings reveal that journalists with broader networks and stronger newsroom interactions tend to develop more in-depth narratives, contribute to solutions-based storytelling, and mobilize public awareness. An editorial environment that fosters autonomy and collaboration helps sustain journalistic engagement with environmental issues long-term. This study underscores the importance of micro-level interactions in shaping macro-level social narratives about climate change, highlighting journalists not only as conveyors of information but also as active agents of social transformation.

Keywords: media construction; environmental communication; environmental journalists; newsrooms; media coverage.

Abstrak

Perubahan iklim merupakan salah satu isu global yang paling mendesak, namun kompleksitasnya seringkali menimbulkan tantangan bagi jurnalis dalam membangun narasi yang akurat dan menarik. Studi ini menggunakan teori konstruksi sosial realitas dari Berger dan Luckmann untuk memahami bagaimana jurnalis membentuk narasi perubahan iklim dalam praktik jurnalistik mereka. Sebagai langkah awal, peneliti menyebarkan kuesioner kepada 30 jurnalis lingkungan, diikuti dengan wawancara mendalam terhadap lima informan kunci. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi penentu utama seperti rasa ingin tahu, pengalaman profesional, dan refleksi kritis, serta faktor-faktor organisasi termasuk dukungan editorial, akses pelatihan, dan dinamika ruang redaksi. Temuan ini menyoroti peran transformatif jurnalis dalam beralih dari pelaporan tradisional menuju jurnalisme berorientasi solusi, yang bertujuan untuk menginspirasi harapan, memotivasi tindakan, dan mendukung respons masyarakat terhadap perubahan iklim. Temuan ini mengungkapkan bahwa jurnalis dengan jaringan yang lebih luas dan interaksi ruang redaksi yang lebih kuat cenderung mengembangkan narasi yang lebih mendalam, berkontribusi pada penceritaan berbasis solusi, dan memobilisasi kesadaran publik. Lingkungan editorial yang mendorong otonomi dan kolaborasi membantu mempertahankan keterlibatan jurnalistik dengan isu-isu lingkungan jangka panjang. Studi ini menggarisbawahi pentingnya interaksi tingkat mikro dalam membentuk narasi sosial tingkat makro tentang perubahan iklim, dengan menyoroti jurnalis tidak hanya sebagai penyampai informasi tetapi juga sebagai agen aktif transformasi sosial.

Kata kunci: konstruksi media; komunikasi lingkungan; jurnalis lingkungan; redaksi; liputan media.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is considered to be the most serious environmental problem in the 21st century. There have been many media coverages on the impacts of climate change such as increasing tropical storm cyclones, droughts, the change in seasonal patterns, rising temperatures, loss of polar ice caps and rising sea levels (Bayes et al., 2023).

Within the area of environmental issues, media and its framing play a role as a disseminator of discourse on climate change (Kunelius & Roosvall, 2021). The media also becomes the center of scientific, political and public discourses, which playing a role in building the awareness narratives that can be read and understood by the wider public, including through global digital outreach (Theodora & Prestianta, 2022).

The media coverages often also include reports on various events and public debates about climate change (Y. Chen et al., 2022). In framing these issues, the Conference of the Parties (COP) forums of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—and other top-level decision-making forums such as Forum for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which connects sustainable development, economy, and environmental issues—have often become source of inspiration for media news writing (United Nations, 2023).

On the other hand, the issue of climate change, --in some terminology has been called as the climate crisis, has involved the cognitive side, emotional feelings and interests of action from communities from local, national and global levels (Banchero et al., 2021). This thought process requires a deep understanding and mind-shaping reality that this issue is a become common issue that needs to be understood in the context of existing social processes and interactions (Eise et al., 2020).

Berger & Luckmann (2023) in "The Social Construction of Reality", explain social reality is constructed through social processes and interactions. Social reality is not something that exists objectively outside the individual, but is constructed through social interactions and social processes. Social reality is seen as the result of a construction process involving individual actions and ongoing social interactions. Social reality is flexible and can be changed over time and through continuous social interaction.

Thus, social reality is not something fixed and objective, but is the result of a social process involving interactions between individuals, the internalization of social norms, and an objectivation process involving collective recognition. This provides theoretical justification that will be utilized in this research (K. Chen et al., 2023; Y. Chen et al., 2022).

The construction of social reality is also known in the work carried out by a journalist. By selecting, compiling and presenting news. A journalist shapes society's perception, knowledge and understanding of relevant social issues. A journalist also has a responsibility to consider the ethical values by building an accurate and balanced narrative of a story (Yang et al., 2020). In creating news and framing, journalists play an important role in choosing the narrative flow, determine which news is considered important, provide context, emphasis and point of view that will be given to the reader or audience (Zhao, 2020).

Journalists grant priority to certain stories or issues, by choosing one topic over others so that it will influence people's attention and emotional feelings towards the issue (Stecula & Merkley, 2019). This can also be done by choosing the right point of view, characters, information sources and plot, journalists can form perceptions and provide emotional pressure related to the story (Nurhaifa, 2023).

In relation to the issues related to the environment, journalism's work is to build awareness among the public through intensive reporting (Painter et al., 2022). From rigid ethical principles that place limits on impartiality and objectivity, in the last few decades journalistic narratives on environmental issues have evolved into reflection and advocacy (Seyranian et al., 2022).

Covering climate change itself and building a compelling narrative for the public is a complex challenge (Harris, 2020). Unlike conventional coverage which is based on general knowledge (answering 5W+1H). Climate change is a developing issue and originates from scientific studies (Painter et al., 2022).

Furthermore, journalists not only explain the phenomenon of damages that occur to the environment, but also bring to the public on what parties or policies are driving this damage (Ruiz et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020). The issue of climate change is much more developed as an impact and consequence of the greenhouse effect, global temperature changes, rising sea levels and other influential biophysical factors (Medranda-Morales et al., 2022). This complexity is related to an individual's cognitive ability to digest and construct appropriate coverage framing.

In Indonesia context, despite the growing importance of climate change coverage, journalists and media institutions face significant challenges in consistently producing high-quality and impactful reporting on this

issue. Schäfer & Painter (2021) explained this situation has common happened by environmental journalists in the Global South who systematically examine how internal interactions within newsrooms and professional networks influence the processes of objectification and internalization among journalists in constructing media narratives.

This condition, according to Schäfer & Painter (2020), is due to the fact that journalists often lack access to sufficient time, funding, or training to investigate and contextualize climate stories in a meaningful way. Moreover, climate issues frequently require scientific literacy and long-term commitment, which can conflict with the fast-paced, event-driven nature of many newsrooms. This tension limits journalists' ability to follow up on climate-related developments in a sustained and narrative-driven manner.

This research seeks to examine and analyze the factors that motivate journalists to engage with environmental issues, particularly climate change (Mah et al., 2020; Schäfer & Painter, 2020). Using Berger and Luckmann's framework of social construction, the study explores the factors that influence journalists in shaping their stories and how these dynamics operate within newsroom settings, even in the face of various challenges.

According to the previous research, this research aims to identify: (1) To discover the extent of which individual objectification can encourage journalists to produce a story, (2) How individuals internalize adopting social objects to understand the social world and build story narratives, (3) Analyze how interactions in the media and newsrooms encouraging journalists to produce news, (4) Constructing the meaning of the goals of social change to be achieved by the media and journalists.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Environmental journalism is defined as a branch of journalism that focuses on reporting, analysis and investigations related to environmental and sustainability issues. Environmental journalism aims to provide accurate, in-depth and balanced information about environmental issues to the public (Wang, 2021; William, 2022).

In its development, organizations such as the Society of Environment Journalists (SEJ), a global journalist organization, have consistently developed the quality of coverage and understanding of environmental issues through journalism. Some issues that are relevant in environmental coverage include climate change, ecosystem degradation, pollution, sustainability, environmental policy, and nature protection efforts (Guenther et al., 2023).

In its development, organizations such as the Society of Environment Journalists (SEJ), -a global journalist organization, have consistently developed the quality of coverage and understanding of environmental issues through journalism (Appelgren & Jönsson, 2021). They attempt to convey important and complex information in language that can be understood by a wide range of readership (Maran & Begotti, 2021). The main goal of environmental journalists is to present accurate, balanced and relevant news about environmental issues to the public. They attempt to convey important and complex information in language that can be understood by a wide range of readership.

On the issue of climate change, figures such as Bill McKibben, a writer, journalist and activist, have written numerous books and articles about the environment. "The End of Nature" (1989) was influential and introduced the importance of fighting for and the need for action to overcome climate change which encouraged global awareness of environmental issues (Wu et al., 2022).

Another figure Lynas (2008), a journalist and environmental activist who wrote the book "Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet" (2007) which is based on scientific data compared to the impacts that occur when planet Earth heats up. Another name is Klein (2015), a journalist, writer and political activist who links climate change and the capitalist economic system. In her book "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" (2014), she argues for the importance of radical social and economic change in confronting the climate crisis.

In the era that the awareness of environmental issues have increased, environmental journalists have gained important position (Maibach et al., 2023). They contribute to provide the necessary information for readers and the public to understand the consequences of environmental damage, encourage positive change, and convey the impact of environmental complications to society (Weitkamp et al., 2021). Environmental journalists also play a role in exposing issues that may be hidden or overlooked, as well as influencing public awareness and action regarding environmental protection (Stecula & Merkley, 2019).

In constructing reality, a journalist is influenced by empirical experience and knowledge of the facts shown. As an individual, this is done by interpreting the symbols and norms within the social institutions that

shape them Nabi et al. (2018). In the internalization process, the objectivation factor is revealed in the perspective of the problem that supports the views formed, as well as interpreting the reality presented by a journalist. See Figure 1.

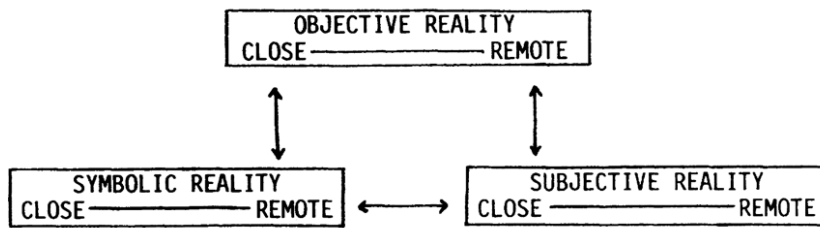


Figure 1. The world of objective, symbolic and subjective reality
Source: (Adoni & Mane, 1984)

There are several approaches in writing viewpoints that are usually utilized by journalists in their coverage of climate change issues (Seyranian et al., 2022), namely: (1) **scientific based**, which is based on causes, impacts and solutions, journalists use data and quote reports from international bodies and the results of scientific-based research; (2) **social based**, which is based on social phenomena associated with climate change, this topic explores human behavior, climate justice, impacts and inequality resulting from climate change; (3) **political based**, an approach that analyzes international, national and local policies related to mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The role and interaction of political actors, including states, international institutions, and interest groups in shaping policies and actions related to climate change; (4) **communication and awareness**, which uses effective communication strategies, narratives and approaches in public campaigns, the importance of education in building public awareness and participation; and lastly (5) **Solutions and actions**, based on examples of concrete actions in overcoming climate change, including green technology, renewable energy, adaptation of initiatives and the role of individuals and collaboration between sectors in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Almiron & Xifra, 2020; K. Chen et al., 2023; Eise et al., 2020; Okoliko & de Wit, 2021; Pong, 2021).

Table 1. Key concepts that shape and work in individual's influencing

Concept	Existing Process	Action, Manifestation
Formation of social identity	Individuals internalize norms, values and expectations and develop a sense of belonging and identification with their social group	Influences behavior, attitudes, and affiliations that lead to group norms and compliance with social roles
The reproduction of social order	Individuals perpetuate existing norms, practices, and power relationships.	The maintenance of social hierarchies and inequalities, as individuals conform to and reinforce the dominant social order.
Socialization and social control	Individuals learn the customs, values, and behavior of society which will support in the transmission of cultural knowledge and ensure the continuity of social norms between generations.	Individuals internalize societal expectations by regulating their own behavior, thereby reducing the need for external enforcement of norms.
Influence on social interactions	Internalized norms and values shape individual perceptions, judgments, and expectations in social situations and influence how individuals interpret and respond to social interactions.	Guiding individuals in determining appropriate behavior, evaluating the actions of others, and forming social judgments.
Resistance and change	Individuals engage in critical reflection and challenge ingrained norms, thereby leading to social change by questioning and challenging existing beliefs and values.	Individuals contribute to the transformation of social structures and the emergence of new norms and practices.
Cultural belief system	Religious, philosophical and moral frameworks that serve as moral guidelines and standards that individuals internalize and use in social interactions.	Individuals internalize religious teachings and principles, which shape behavior and moral decision-making

Source: Authors compilation from (Berger & Luckmann, 2023; Seyranian et al., 2022; Stecula & Merkley, 2019)

In the process of their work, journalists are involved in media organizations, which have their own way of working, certain constructing views of the world, and how daily interactions are carried out between media

staff, including journalists and their editors (W.-Y. Chen et al., 2017). The idea that the media is an agent of social change that drives public and policy change, makes journalists oriented towards an ideal form of the future that is driven by an understanding of existing concepts, symbols, norms and social institutions. (Ballantyne, 2016). Systematically, Table 1. explains the key major concept areas in The Social Construction of Reality theory.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted by distributing an online questionnaire via Google Form to media professionals during the period of July–August 2023. The primary objective was to obtain an initial overview of processes related to objectivation, internalization, legitimacy, behavioral control, and social transformation as experienced by journalists.

The participants consisted of 30 environmental journalists who had worked for more than five years across various media platforms, including online, print, and electronic (TV and radio), and who were based in different regions of Indonesia. Their roles in environmental news production varied, including positions as field journalists, correspondents, news presenters, and editors.

The responses collected from the questionnaire served as the basis for selecting five key informants who were then interviewed in depth to obtain more detailed insights. Through this method, this research aims to explore how individuals internalize and adapt to cultural norms, particularly in the context of interpersonal relationships, organizational culture, and work ethics. These factors collectively shape journalistic behavior and underpin patterns of social interaction within media work environments.

Table 2. Operational dimensions in research questionnaires

Concept	Definition	Manifestation
Objectivation	Objectivation occurs when something subjective or individual becomes perceived as something objective and independently by the individual whose experiencing it, which is real and exists outside the individual	In the form of concepts, symbols, norms and social institutions created in social interactions
Internalization	Internalization is the process by which individuals adapt and adopt social objects produced through objectivation. Individuals learn and internalize the social norms, values, and expectations that exist in the society in which they live.	An individual's way of understanding the world, acting, and interacting with other individuals
Legitimacy	Legitimacy refers to collective acceptance and recognition of the constructed social reality.	Continuous social interaction and consensus among members of society regarding how the reality is defined and maintained.
Behavior regulation	Norms and values serve as internal guidelines for individuals, influencing their choices and actions.	Internalized norms regulate behavior, encouraging individuals to act in ways that are considered socially acceptable and appropriate.
Social transformation	Social change refers to when individuals and social groups modify, replace, and recreate the existing constructs of reality.	Dynamics in social interactions that occur over time regarding concepts, symbols, norms and social institutions.

Source: Authors' compilation from (Berger & Luckmann, 2023)

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Result

From the results as collected in this research, there were 30 environment journalists from 11 cities in Indonesia. Based on the average score, they had worked as reporters, journalists, news contributors, presenters, and editors for 8.3 years. The most senior journalist that was interviewed for this research had worked for 29 years as a reporter, with the youngest journalist working for a period of 5.5 years. There were 3 subjects in this research, who worked simultaneously as journalists and also as editors in the media.

Of the 14 individuals, 14 worked or were affiliated with national media outlets, while the rest worked in local media outlets at the provincial level. These media outlets were categorized as mainstream media, covering a range of topics including social, economic, political, and legal issues. In three of the outlets, the environmental desk operated as an independent bureau, while in the others, it was integrated into different editorial sections.

The subjected journalists on the survey generally reporting for environmental and climate change news in hard news, soft news, in-depth writing, investigative, data journalism and interview columns. Jakarta greater area is the area with the most residents (13 people), followed by Surabaya (4), Yogyakarta (3), and Makassar (3), with the remainder spread across other cities in Indonesia.

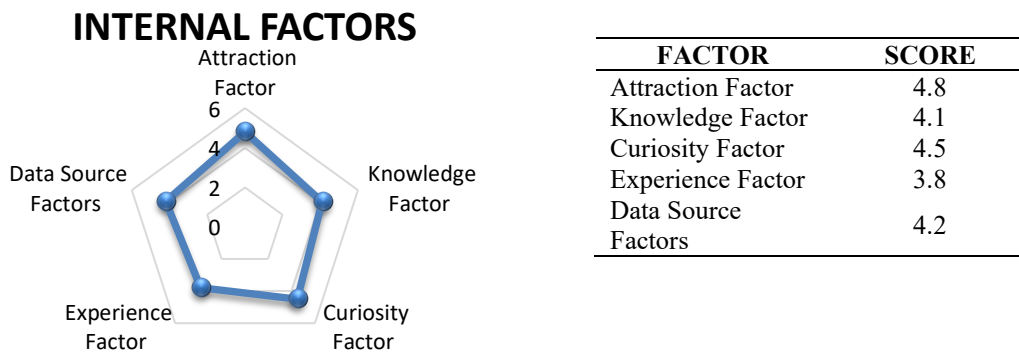


Figure 2. Finding of the research. internal factors that influence journalists in covering climate change

The subjected journalists worked on assignments given by editors, through daily assignment or special tasks which were generally carried out in in-depth coverage format. In carrying out their duties, they can work individually or in teams consisting of several people, with final manuscript editing processed by the editor at their desk. The main task of journalists in their assignments is to connect fragments of information, draw out common threads of problems, and inductively work to build interesting and relevant narratives (Weitkamp et al., 2021).

Several journalists on special assignments, working according to editorial direction (Wu et al., 2022). This type of journalist works in a looser time with a data orientation. They build narratives based on resource interviews combined with findings and secondary data mining, as a source of comparison and confirmation of validation. Compared with journalists who work as daily reporters, their writing is more in-depth and longer (William, 2022).

This research found that the responding journalist considered that environmental issues, especially climate change in the context of Indonesia, are currently important issues that are relevant to public needs (score: 4.8 out of a maximum 5). The key issues of climate change that are often raised are the phenomena that are related and relevant in the environmental context in Indonesia.

The interview findings revealed that the journalists' main motivation was a sense of responsibility to create public awareness and concern for climate change through powerful stories. This includes reporting on the impact of threats and impacts of disasters, to building narratives that can inspire readers, through adapting ways to reduce the impacts of climate change (Sakellari, 2022; Stammen & Meissner, 2022).

Among these topics, including the impact of land and forest fires which release carbon and greenhouse gases, the impact of pollution on particle releases, the threat of rising sea water levels on the coastlines, the erosion and sinking of small islands in Indonesia, low-carbon friendly lifestyles, issues of energy transition, the transition to carbon fossil-based energy policies that is carried out by the government, to the impact of environmental changes at the grassroot level for farmers, fishermen and housewives (Treen et al., 2020).

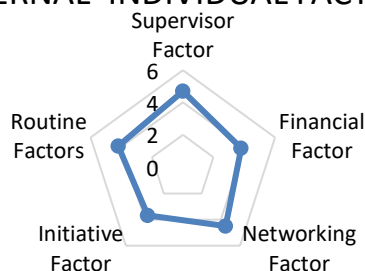
They stated that as journalists, environmental topics are the topics that must be studied and comprehend (score: 4.1). Journalists also understand that the issue of climate change is an issue that does not stand alone, but is related to other topics, such as economic, social, policy making on the landscape, spatial planning and national policy strategies (Sakellari, 2022; Stammen & Meissner, 2022).

Individual understanding and experience, as well as social cognition which is the resultant of social interactions are considered as the main capital for gaining understanding of problems. Curiosity is also an important factor that encourages journalists to work and raise this issue (score: 4.5). Curiosity is also connected

to increasing knowledge. Knowledge is obtained from various interactions carried out by journalists in their reporting experience (Tavakolifar et al., 2021). In writing process, journalists are influenced by their news sources (Barkemeyer et al., 2017). Sources are an important part of reporting in order to build a narrative (Agin & Karlsson, 2021; Schneider et al., 2021).

The experience factor of individuals, event thought no the most influential factor, also the important driving force in building reports on climate change issues (score: 3.8), which related to the how longer duration of work of a person as a journalist to compile data from the source persons or secondary data (score: 4.2).

EXTERNAL INDIVIDUAL FACTORS



FACTOR	SCORE
Supervisor	4.7
Financial	3.8
Networking	4.5
Initiative	3.7
Routine	4.2

Figure 3. Finding of the research. external of individual factors that influence journalists in covering climate change

Finding spot that reports on climate change made by journalists are often encouraged at the outset by assignments from editorial staff to report or assignments to attend training (Canon et al., 2022). Journalists say that they have the opportunity and independence to further develop writing topics, developing the findings they encounter in the field (Maibach et al., 2023).

This argument is connected to two factors, first: internal factors, namely work routines which usually cause pressure and boredom for journalists, driving them to attempt to explore and cover for different aspects of reporting; and external factors, namely encouragement and assignments from the editorial team (score: 4.7). Editorial staff that are more open-minded and could be invited to discuss and to provide opportunities for the development for journalists, which ultimately will give journalists the confidence to craft their work (Sakellari, 2022).

This priority is to develop journalists' abilities to better understand and comprehend the issues that will be highlighted (Supran & Oreskes, 2021). Based on the results of interviews, several journalist associations in Indonesia, such as the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) and The Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists (SIEJ) and several other networks, conduct regular programs to increase the capacity of media journalists. Several NGOs that have similar concerns about the topic of climate change in recent years have also been active in offering training and reporting scholarships and fellowships for journalists.

For journalists, networking also means opening up access outside the routine in the media office (Guenther et al., 2023). Apart from that, it will increase their insight and open up to new opportunities to access funding opportunities from other sources (such as reporting scholarships), continue to explore stories from additional information, as well as insight angle ideas for stories that they aim for (Maibach et al., 2023).

The results of the interviews show that journalists who possess wider network will usually are more insightful in producing written work, and not just using the standard of writing news on existing events (Canon et al., 2022). Result of the questionnaire data shows this to be important for journalists (score: 4.5).

For journalists who work in the media, funding support is an important factor to create more in-depth and comprehensive reporting. The issue of climate change is a topic that requires journalists to go into the field. Journalists must set aside special time to meet with the public, policy makers, NGO groups and academics to weave the stories they create.

The strategy for obtaining funding is obtained from internal sources from the media where they work, as well as from external sources that can be provided by work partners as approved by the editorial team (score: 3.8).

From interviews conducted in this research, editors in media generally allow journalists to take part in training organized by partners, as long as the training is deemed to be in line with the media's objectives (Pong, 2021). For the media, this is considered an effective way to provide journalists with additional experience and knowledge to improve the quality of their journalistic skills.

The editors in this study stated that journalists who had received education and training generally demonstrated improved understanding and were more likely to develop critical perspectives on issues, rather than merely highlighting surface-level phenomena. Such training enables journalists to become more accustomed to analyzing information, verifying facts, and developing critical thinking skills in news coverage (Stammen & Meissner, 2022).

On the other hand, journalists use the opportunity to report on climate change to build individual skills. Routine journalist reporting work for senior journalists (working duration for more than 5 years) is starting to be considered routine work that does not intrigue challenges (score: 4.2). Numbers of journalists are starting to include a solutions journalism angle in their coverage. In the media business, sensational news is starting to be balanced with the media's responsibility as agents of change, through the solution journalism genre.

In the work process, assignments and directions from the editor as well as interactions in the newsroom are important factors that will encourage the quality of news coverage. Journalists who work in one media tend to be more comfortable if the editorial team is able to understand and provide support for their personal capacity (score: 3.7).

For example, journalists who have specialties, such as photojournalists and straight news reporters, will be sharper in their writing skills, if they have mentors and clear direction from their superiors. In work interactions, editors who understand journalists' needs will usually be more valued and establish enthusiastic spirit for journalists on their work.

4.2. Discussion

That findings of this research have affirmed that the theoretical proposition proposed by Berger and Luckmann take a role of internalization and social interaction in shaping journalist as an individual's to understanding and construction of the reality. Through critical reflection, investigative effort, and narrative framing, this research envoy that journalists' work help shape public consciousness and mobilize collective attention toward pressing environmental issues. In doing so, the reality is socially constructed, and that media professionals, as both individuals and institutional actors, continuously reproduce and reconfigure that reality in response to evolving societal challenges.

Journalists who engage in broader networks and take part in training programs exemplify the process of internalizing social norms and professional values through exposure to external actors such as NGOs, policy stakeholders, and fellow journalists. These interactions act as mechanisms for adopting shared symbolic universes, which then influence the way journalists interpret issues like climate change and reconstruct them into narrative forms. In essence, the dynamic newsroom culture, combined with professional training, facilitates the transmission and stabilization of objectified meanings within the journalistic field.

Continuous social interaction with other parties, both internal and more specifically external, will bring individuals to a deeper understanding of a more complete context. This can be manifested when assignments are given by the editor, reading press releases, attending conferences, attending training and taking part in writing competitions.

Moreover, the objectification process is evident in the way journalists reproduce issues when reporting on climate-related topics. The use of consistent patterns in constructing climate narratives reflects a shared symbolic structure, such as emphasizing adaptation, policy critique, or scientific evidence, which in the process occurs individually in writing a report of climate change issues is looking for interesting reporting angles (Yang et al., 2020). This can be understood through the internalization stage, which occurs when an individual recollects memories that can emerge when interacting with key sources.

This corresponds with Berger and Luckmann's notion of objectivation, where subjective experiences become socially acknowledged "truths" through routine practices. The more experienced and networked journalists, therefore, are not merely conveyors of information, but will emerge journalist as the agents of institutionalized knowledge, as well as reinforcing and sometimes challenging dominant climate discourses.

In the midst of limited time, limited financial support and human resources, coverage of climate change is a coverage that must be worked on in particular approach. As a result of working partially, in the end the report result may be incomplete, biased (misquotes), a loophole for misunderstandings and controversy among the public (Treen et al., 2020). In this situation, the role of editorial staff, as highlighted in the findings, further supports the idea of institutional mediation in the construction of reality has needed.

Editors not only assign topics but also act as gatekeepers who validate and legitimize the news frames that enter public discourse. In this context, the newsroom becomes an organizational site where individual agency is both enabled and constrained.

The support or lack thereof from editors, especially in facilitating journalist participation in climate training or investigative projects, plays a crucial role in shaping how journalists internalize certain values, such as critical thinking, data verification, and commitment to public-oriented journalism.

The newsroom, in intensive interaction with journalists, is important to provide direction for journalists in assort themes, topics, points of view, and priorities for reporting related to this issue. The news produced will include innovations, programs, policies and actions that have been proven successful and have the potential to overcome problems. This study lies in showing how micro-level interactions; between journalists, editors, and external actors, accumulate into macro-level social constructions that influence how societies perceive and act on climate change.

In an individual context, further interest in the issue of climate change is related to the key concept of understanding the social world. This finding of the research reveals that values and beliefs about climate change issues will shape journalists' views in building narratives about what they believe. Individual experience also plays a role as a journalist's intuition in digging up evidence that has been hidden.

Investigative journalists will look for empirical evidence of climate change when interacting with affected community groups, confirming it with data, and consulting with experts.

Values, norms and beliefs will encourage intuition to form views and narratives about the social world. This action will form a relationship pattern of interaction between subjects that is suitable for providing answers and confirmation of the belief system that has been formed internally.

More experienced journalists will rely on their reasoning abilities through a constructed question structure. This is related to the ability of cognitive memory to recollect the elements that form individual beliefs which bring answers to the root of the problem of an issue.

In regards of professional ethics, a journalist is responsible for the results of their report. The principles of journalism will emphasize on the importance of integrity, honesty, truth, and thoroughness. Journalists who adhere to this ethic tend to have a critical attitude in checking information, verifying facts, and avoiding bias or errors in their reporting (Okoliko & de Wit, 2021).

A critical-based attitude will also ensure that the information conveyed will be accurate, balanced and relevant. By then, a journalist in covering the issue of climate change will prioritize independence and objectivity and professional ethics based on social obligations (Harrison et al., 2020; Schäfer & Painter, 2020). In a social context, this exploration also includes how journalists attempt to reveal injustice (victims of natural disasters who are generally from poor and powerless communities) and report it to the public.

This is particularly the evident where in the transition journalistic work from conventional problem-based reporting to solution journalism, the narratives begin to emphasize agency, hope, and pathways for change (Wetts et al., 2025). Such a shift marks not only a professional evolution but also a broader process of social transformation, as discussed by Berger and Luckmann, where new norms are contested, negotiated, and institutionalized through everyday communicative acts.

This critical abilities of individuals will guide ideas for the transformation of social structures and the emergence of new norms and practices. This manifestation appears in the idea of solutions journalism, which in climate change issues is manifested through constructive and positive narratives. The solutions approach is not only highlighting problems, but also tries to identify, analyze, and describe existing or potential solutions to problems faced by society.

In the context of social reproduction, this research discovers that the main stream in using solutions journalism in environmental journalism coverage of climate change. This preference is to encourage the emergence of inspiring narratives, and strengthen the new social order.

5. CONCLUSION

This research provides conclusions from the problem formulation questions asked at the beginning, as follows:

1. The complexity and problems encountered in writing climate change stories are influenced by how journalists see reality objectively, which is influenced by the symbols and subjective reality they understand. The curiosity that arises from individuals encourages them to cover stories, build story narratives and add elements of empathy that arise from the individual's point of view.
2. The work network they have (inside and outside the media work environment) shapes journalists' cognition in constructing the social world. This research validates that journalists who have wider networks, are experienced, have curiosity, will have rich story ideas, and increasingly sharp narratives on the issue of climate change.

3. Support from editors, supervisors, and a team of colleagues to form social interactions that build initiative and work dynamics. This relationship brings with it a relationship that regulates routine work behavior which encourages journalists to work to complete editorial agendas. The issue of climate change is included in shared cognition, which is then written about in various topics arranged according to the approval of the editor.
4. The construction of built reality encourages social transformation. Journalists don't only write phenomena and stories about climate change. Furthermore, it shifted the focus of journalists' attention to finding constructive, inspiring solutions, motivating action, and mobilizing hope to help solve society's problems. On the topic of climate change, journalists are encouraged to contribute through solutions journalism.

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