

## **Manipulative Messages in 'Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso': A Case Study of a Netflix Documentary**

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### **Abstract**

This research examines the presence and implications of manipulative messages in the Netflix documentary "Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso." By using framing analysis on the film, this research highlights how these messages shape the audience's perception and understanding of the events. The filmmaker's stance on the case attempts to present both sides of the case fairly, allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions. This film portrays Jessica with nuance to consider the possibility that Jessica is both a perpetrator and a victim of the system and

excessive media coverage. Furthermore, this research explores the cultural and societal contexts that have influenced the production of the documentary film, revealing how these factors contribute to the overall message. These findings indicate that the film director presents a perspective that attempts to view Jessica as a victim of media pressure and a legal process deemed unfair. Interviews with legal experts, Jessica's friends, and scenes showing the weaknesses and inconsistencies of the presented evidence also contribute to the narrative that Jessica might be innocent and instead a victim of unbalanced media framing. Until the year 2024, Jessica was declared free. This release marks a long-awaited victory for justice. This documentary film plays a significant role in raising public and judicial system awareness about the potential injustices that can befall an individual. This research is not merely entertainment, but rather an important medium that can contribute to voicing injustice and striving for justice in complex and controversial cases.

**Keywords:** Manipulative Message, Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso, Netflix Documentary

## **Introduction**

The development of media and internet convergence has given rise to a new phenomenon in the form of New Media, which includes platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and Documentary Films. This New Media provides a means for users to connect with their friends, share information, and communicate instantly. One of the main characteristics of New Media is the culture of content generated by users themselves, without going through a curation process by third parties, known as User Generated Content. (UGC). (Jenkins, 2006:2)

The development of the virtual world that allows people to connect with each other, form networks, and access diverse information. This is due to the convergence that results in the integration of computing, telecommunications, and the information media sector, with the added value of this new media convergence

being its interactivity. Especially in social media, this platform allows its users to have choices in the information system, both in terms of accessing information sources and controlling the outcomes of using the system. Thus, identity in the context of social media is not only the result of deliberate self-representation but is also formed organically through interactions, responses, and participation in various discourses that occur within it. This shows the complexity and dynamics involved in identity formation in the digital era. The influence of social media on the formation of public opinion has been discussed in many contexts where there are opportunities to choose priority topics. They can draw public attention to certain issues that are actually not very important and ignore essential and important issues. This is the power of social media that can influence what is considered important by society, which can manipulate that information through framing methods. (Ardiansyah, 2023).

Media as the "window to the outside world" allows border communities to access the outside world. However, the lack of local media, community, and public operating in border areas causes border communities to not receive balanced information, education, and knowledge about Indonesian cultural values. Information coming from foreign media Before long, the sense of Indonesian nationalism will fade, and border communities will experience cultural shifts and political conflicts. (Eni Maryani, 2024: 3)

The subjectification and objectification of women in the media will be discussed. Women and how society views and positions them will ultimately be influenced by the dilemmas between the processes of objectification and subjectification of women in television dramas. Soap operas, which are a media reality in Indonesia, have become a highly favored television product, especially among women. Currently, soap operas usually become part of the prime time slot owned by almost all television stations. As a result, each episode of a popular soap opera can generate

advertising revenue of up to billions of rupiah. On the other hand, compared to other media, television viewers still make up the largest percentage of the audience. The question is how the self-development of female audiences and societal perceptions of women are influential. (Eni Maryani, 2023: 5)

This case occurred in 2016 and became very hot news at that time, even the trial was conducted live on one of the television stations where Jessica was declared a suspect in the case. (Heryanto, 2017: 45) However, in 2023, one of the digital streaming media, Netflix, reopened the case by making a documentary film titled *Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee and Jessica Wongso*. (Miller, 2023: 3) Finally, in 2024, Jessica was declared free. This release marks a long-awaited victory for justice, demonstrating how the media, through balanced documentaries, can provide a platform for society to revisit cases deemed unresolved. (Shirky, 2010: 92) This documentary film plays a significant role in raising public and judicial system awareness about the potential injustices that can befall an individual.

Thus, this documentary film is not merely a product of entertainment, but an important medium that can contribute to voicing injustices and striving for justice in complex and controversial cases. (Nichols, 2017: 28) This demonstrates the power of documentary cinema in influencing public opinion and, further, the judicial system to reconsider a potentially erroneous verdict. (Aufderheide, 2007 : 101)

## **Research Method**

**Approach and Type of Research:** In this study, the author uses a qualitative method with a framing analysis approach, utilizing the Pan and Kosicki scheme as the analytical tool. Qualitative research is a type of research aimed at understanding the editor's attitude towards the narrative of the documentary film,

whether Jessica is guilty or considered a victim. An event is understood not as something taken for granted, but rather as something shaped by journalists and the media. (Mulyana, D. D, 2002). Framing analysis describes a phenomenon through data collection and does not focus on the population or sample size. Qualitative research focuses on the depth of data rather than the quantity of data obtained. (Albarikah, 2017).

Qualitative research is a type of research that does not produce precise results using statistical calculations or other methods that use numerical measurements. The principle of qualitative research is to quote narratives, content, and information that include the names of speakers, editors, interviewers, and interviewees. (Azfar, A. S., & Setiawan, H, 2023). 390-400.

The focus of this research is that reality is so complex that it is necessary to direct the research towards certain limits of the existing possibilities. The focus of the research is the research limitation determined by the researcher at the beginning of the study. The focus of this research is on media content framing. Researchers want to understand how media content manipulates information and how framing techniques used on social media affect public opinion regarding the Jessica Kumala Wongso cyanide coffee incident.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **The Framing of Jessica Wongso in a Documentary Film**

The character Jessica Wongso in this documentary film is one of the central elements driving the narrative. The documentary depicts Jessica Wongso in a dichotomous manner, between the role of a victim and that of a criminal. On one hand, she is portrayed as a victim of manipulation by the late Wayan Mirna Salihin, achieved through various manipulative film techniques. These techniques aim to build the audience's perception that Jessica is a person who

has been deceived and is in a difficult situation, thereby creating sympathy for her. (Nichols, 2017: 65)

This dichotomous approach plays an important role in the documentary, which not only portrays Jessica Wongso's character as the main focus but also blurs the boundaries between truth and manipulation. By utilizing effective manipulative techniques, this film influences the audience's perception, both of Jessica as a victim and as a villain. This makes the documentary more than just a criminal narrative; it becomes a study of perception, manipulation, and how public opinion can be shaped through the media. (Shirky, 2010: 88)

### **Analysis of how the documentary uses verbal and visual cues to influence Wongso.**

This section will explore how this documentary uses visual and verbal cues to manipulate the audience's perception of Jessica Wongso. This analysis will focus on the ways in which the documentary shapes the audience's views, both as victims and as perpetrators, through the use of specific scenes and dialogues. Techniques such as the use of lighting, camera angles, background music, and word choices in narration and interviews will be examined to understand how perceptions of Jessica Wongso's character are subtly directed and manipulated.

The examination of specific scenes and dialogues in this documentary will help uncover how visual and verbal elements are used to influence the emotions and thoughts of the audience. By paying attention to visual symbolism, vocal intonation, and the selection of quotes presented, this analysis will demonstrate how the documentary shapes a narrative that portrays Jessica Wongso as both a manipulated victim and a perpetrator of the crime.

This documentary utilizes verbal and visual cues to influence the audience's perception of Jessica Wongso. According to

Bordwell and Thompson, "visual cues, such as image composition and camera angles, can significantly shape the way audiences understand characters and narratives." (2010 : 150). In addition, they also emphasize that "dialogue and narration in documentaries serve to guide the audience's interpretation, creating the meaning desired by the filmmakers." (Bordwell & Thompson, 2010: 172). These techniques allow the film to convey a deeper message regarding the characterization and the situations faced by Wongso.

### **Portrayal of Murder Cases in Documentary Films**

This documentary film provides a detailed account of the murder case involving Jessica Wongso. In presenting the facts and evidence, this documentary is deliberately structured to evoke tension and a sense of intrigue among the viewers. The evidence is presented with a narrative intended to influence the audience's perception, highlighting elements that may build or raise doubts about Jessica Wongso as a suspect.

This section will examine how the documentary portrays the events and existing evidence, as well as analyze the strategies used to manipulate the audience's perception. The presentation of the chronology of events, interviews, and case reconstruction was carried out for a specific purpose—namely, to shape public opinion regarding Wongso's role in the murder. This approach not only narrates the chronology but also attempts to guide the audience's thinking, highlighting certain aspects of the evidence, and emphasizing elements that might influence their opinions.

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thinking, highlighting certain aspects of the evidence, and emphasizing elements that might influence their opinions.

The portrayal of murder cases in documentaries often involves the use of narrative techniques aimed at influencing the audience's perception. According to Renov, "documentaries not only serve to document facts but also to create dramatic narratives to enhance emotional impact." (2004: 45).

This research provides an in-depth narrative on the practice of documentary filmmaking, particularly focusing on the use of manipulative techniques that shape the audience's perception of the individuals involved. The documentary film *Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso* serves as a real example of how the media can use various cinematic techniques and manipulative messages to shape public opinion about the events and its main character, Jessica Wongso. The ethical implications of that practice are very significant, especially in the context of filmmakers' responsibility to represent real-life events fairly and without bias.

### **Manipulative messages can influence the audience's understanding of the case.**

In the context of documentary films, the claim to represent real-life events objectively needs to be evaluated carefully, as bias in presentation can affect public perception and even impact the lives of the individuals portrayed. Therefore, it is important for the audience not to accept the narrative at face value, but rather to analyze how the story and evidence are constructed to shape a particular opinion.

The message in a documentary film has the ability to significantly influence the audience's understanding. According to Bordwell and Thompson, "the message conveyed through narrative and visual techniques can shape the way the audience understands the events and characters presented" (2010: 112). They emphasize



that "careful narrative construction allows filmmakers to direct the emotions and responses of the audience, which in turn can shape their opinions and understanding of complex issues" (Bordwell & Thompson, 2010: 145). Therefore, it is important for viewers to be critical of the messages presented, so as not to be influenced by any biases that may exist in the documentary.

### **Public Perception and Media Role in the Mirna Murder Case in the Netflix Documentary Film *Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso***

The use of internet communication media causes society to use narrower communication media to obtain information that meets their needs. The information presented must be consistent with the way communication media is used. The content of the constructed message certainly does not require the same "formal" requirements as the messages produced in the editorial room during the execution of journalistic duties. In constructing reality, the media utilizes three components: (1) the use of political symbols (language of politics), (2) message packaging strategies (framing strategies), and (3) the media's willingness to provide space. (agenda setting function). Those three are the ones who determine the formed opinion. (Erawati, Surif, & Dalimunthe, 2022).

Critical discourse analysis considers language as a form of social practice. The goal of critical discourse analysis research is to raise public awareness. Norman Fairclough developed a model that integrates discourse analysis with linguistics and sociopolitical thought, and links it to social change. According to Fairclough, "discourse analysis must consider the broader social context, where language functions as a tool to shape and change social structures" (1992: 64). Therefore, the model proposed by Fairclough is often referred to as the social change model, as it emphasizes how discourse can reflect and influence social reality. (Fairclough, 2003: 23).

Fairclough's approach to text analysis is considered comprehensive because it attempts to integrate three traditions, namely: 1. The Textual Dimension (Microstructural), including: representation, relation, and identity. 2. The Text Production Practice Dimension (Mesostructural), including: text production, text dissemination, and text consumption. 3. The Socio-Cultural Practice Dimension (Macrostructural), including: situational, institutional, and social. (Erawati, Surif, & Dalimunthe, 2022).

### Microstructural Analysis

Based on various linguistic tools used by the media in this documentary film, there are two tools that mark the representation of a person's theme, namely through (1) vocabulary; diction (choice of formal and informal vocabulary), euphemistic expressions, and (2) grammar; syntax; syntactic functions and news forms.

In this film, several expert sources appear to express astonishment at the designation of Jessica as a suspect in the Mirna murder case, where there is a discrepancy between the evidence and the testimonies of the expert witnesses. This film attempts to show a positive side/image of Jessica by revealing the syntactic function of the adverbial, which touches on the prosecution's side, deemed to lack accurate evidence in this case. This means that Netflix is on Jessica's side by trying to uncover the facts through this documentary film.

Table 1: Positive Framing of Sisi Jessica

Elemen	Unit	Writing Strategy
Sintaksis	Headline	<b>Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee and Jessica Wongso</b>
	Lead	<i>Present Day (Jakarta women's prison class IIA)</i> <b>(Scene menit ke 30:29-1:23:50).</b>

Background Information	The series of trials for Mirna's murder with Jessica as the suspect until the verdict is pronounced.
Quote	<p>““With the results of this examination, what is your conclusion?” (Otto Hasibuan)</p> <p>“The death was not due to cyanide, sir” (dr. Djaja Surya Atmadja)” excerpt from the testimony of the Forensic Expert at the Mirna murder trial.</p> <p>“It was said that there was 0.2 cyanide, it was found 3 days after he died like that. So it's impossible that if it weren't for this 0.2, it definitely wouldn't have caused the death. The lethal dose that caused the death was 176 mg. The prosecutor's charges are irrelevant, the existing evidence is irrelevant,” said Otto Hasibuan. (Penasehat Hukum Jessica).</p>
Statement	<p>“I saw something strange about it, so I initially thought that maybe Jessica really did it.” “Just because I'm not sure, that's why I keep following it,” Dale (Case Observer)</p> <p>“The trial has gotten too heated, knock on wood, it's most likely not him. My confidence is rising to 60%.” Dale (Case Observer)</p> <p>“from the evidence, it cannot be declared guilty” Dale (Case Observer)</p> <p>“If you ask me whether I am guilty or not, the evidence is still ambiguous, right?” said</p>

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the public.

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**Conclusion**

**Closed with:**

- Statement by Erasmus Napitupulu (Executive Director, Criminal Justice Reform Institute):

"This may sound controversial, but in my opinion and according to research at least conducted by ICJR (The Institute for Criminal Justice Reform), Jessica could be found guilty because there needs to be someone held accountable for a person's death." So in that context, the Police and Prosecutor could not find out who the other suspects were. It's not a matter of right or wrong, but the most important thing is how the Indonesian criminal justice system then shows that it proves someone wrong with lingering doubts. If you categorize the Jessica case as moderate, then I will let your imagination run wild to envision how other cases in Indonesia are handled. If this is done by an ordinary person, I can assure you that you will be sentenced to death. The criminal justice system needs to be reformed, for what purpose? So that our reform aspirations, our independence aspirations, that all Indonesian people can access

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justice can be achieved. We need to reform the criminal justice system, why? Because anyone can be affected. "Anyone could be the next victim, that's from me."

- Narration in the film:

*"Jessica has served less than half of her 20-year sentence. She has exhausted all appeal options"*

- The narration in the film taken from Jessica's diary:

*"When I meet someone new, I always wonder if they think I'm a killer. I honestly can't help but wonder whether they believe I killed Mirna or not".*

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Microstructural analysis focuses on the small elements within a text, such as words, phrases, and sentence structures, which can reveal deeper meanings and ideas. According to van Dijk, "microstructural analysis includes the examination of linguistic details that form the text, which in turn can provide insights into how discourse creates meaning in a social context." (1997: 34).

Related to Fairclough's critical discourse, this film shows how Netflix identifies the prosecution as the subject or actor in the designation of Jessica as a suspect in the Mirna murder case, then provides a positive evaluation through the portrayal of Jessica's positive image and expert statements regarding the policies of the power holders in designating Jessica as a suspect. On the other hand, Netflix wants to highlight a positive evaluation of the importance of analyzing a case by looking at evidence and testimonies from both parties, the prosecution and the defense. (the prosecutor's office and Jessica's side).

### **Mesostructural Analysis**

When analyzing the mesostructural dimension, an interpretation of discourse processing is conducted, including the

dissemination and use of discourse, media profiles, editorial procedures, and the way texts are produced by media professionals.

Netflix is a subscription-based video-on-demand streaming service from the United States. This service offers a variety of movies and television shows, including original productions and those acquired from other parties, covering various genres, and available internationally in many languages. In Indonesia, Netflix has become one of the most frequently used movie streaming services. Netflix can be said to be the most popular streaming media at the moment. Netflix remains a leading premium streaming service with over 200 million subscribers worldwide. Netflix is a streaming service with one of the largest libraries among all streaming services. With the title "Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee, and Jessica Wongso," Netflix aims to convey something related to the Mirna murder case, showcasing another side of the case and comparing witness statements and evidence from Mirna (the victim) and Jessica (the suspect), because in the investigation and suspect determination process, there are ambiguous evidence and witness statements from the prosecution.

Table 2: Framing Jessica's Ambiguous Statements

<b>Elemen</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Writing Strategy</b>
<b>Sintaksis</b>	Headline	<b>Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee and Jessica Wongso</b>
	Lead	<i>Present Day (Jakarta women's prison class IIA)</i> <b>(Scene menit ke 30:29-1:23:50).</b>
	Background Information	<b>The series of trials for Mirna's murder with Jessica as the suspect until the verdict is pronounced.</b>

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Quote

**"When a case is being heard, it can be said that its position is 0-0." On one hand, the prosecutor must convince that the person sitting in the defendant's chair is indeed the murderer, the perpetrator. On the other hand, the lawyer will do everything in their power to argue that the person sitting in the defendant's chair is not the perpetrator. That is within the prime judicial system. It's called the elmode debate," Prof. Eddy O.S. Hiariej (Deputy Minister of Law and Human Rights)**

**"The key point in this case is death by cyanide, but after the trial began, the witnesses started to be examined, and we could already see, uncovering a bit of the untruths in those testimonies..." At that time, I asked the expert Slamet, 'Did you perform an autopsy?' (a clip of Slamet's testimony at the trial appears saying 'we did not perform an autopsy') then I asked, 'Why didn't you perform an autopsy?' (a clip of Slamet's testimony at the trial appears saying 'at the request of the police, it was like that'). In the case file, there is a letter from the police requesting the hospital to conduct an autopsy. This is very strange. "There is a letter as proof," Otto Hasibuan. (Jessica's legal advisor)**

**"During the course of the case, everything was directed to make people**

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hate Jessica, to make her seem wrong." My child said, "Dad, why do you want to get involved in a case like this? Don't you know, you have a lot of haters?" That's why I said netizens can defend whoever they want, but if I speak the truth, I don't care, I'll say it, that's it." Dr. Djaja Surya Atmadja (Forensic Pathologist).

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**Statement**      “ada kesan ketidakbenaran di sini. Ada pihak tertentu yang mungkin menginginkan pokoknya Jessica harus salah. Sebab kalau tidak, kenapa semua orang mau *fair-fair* aja, ya kan?” Otto Hasibuan (Penasehat Hukum Jessica).

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**Conclusion**      Closed with:  
- Statement by Erasmus Napitupulu (Executive Director, Criminal Justice Reform Institute):  
"This may sound controversial, but in my opinion and according to research at least conducted by ICJR (The Institute for Criminal Justice Reform), Jessica could be found guilty because there needs to be someone held accountable for a person's death." So in that context, the Police and Prosecutor could not find out who the other suspects were. It's not a matter of right or wrong, but the most important thing is how the Indonesian criminal justice system then shows that it proves someone wrong with lingering doubts. If you categorize the Jessica case as moderate, then I will let your imagination run wild to envision how



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other cases in Indonesia are handled. If this is done by an ordinary person, I can assure you that you will be sentenced to death. The criminal justice system needs to be reformed, for what purpose? So that our reform aspirations, our independence aspirations, that all Indonesian people can access justice can be achieved. We need to reform the criminal justice system, why? Because anyone can be affected. "Anyone could be the next victim, that's from me."

- Narration in the film:

*"Jessica has served less than half of her 20-year sentence. She has exhausted all appeal options"*

- The narration in the film taken from Jessica's diary:

*"When I meet someone new, I always wonder if they think I'm a killer. I honestly can't help but wonder whether they believe I killed Mirna or not".*

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Mesostructural analysis focuses on the relationships between parts within a text, such as paragraphs and argument structures, to understand how these elements interact with each other in shaping the overall meaning. According to van Dijk, "mesostructural analysis examines how various components of a text function collectively to create coherent and organized discourse, reflecting the author's patterns of thought and ideology." (1997: 56).

### **Macrostructural Analysis**

The third dimension is the level of macrostructural analysis, which is based on the assumption that the social context outside the

media actually influences how discourse unfolds within the media. Sociocultural practices, such as the situational, institutional, and social levels, affect media institutions and their discourse. The situational level relates to production and its situational context. The institutional level relates to the influence of institutions both internally and externally. The social level relates to more macro situations, such as the political system, economic system, and cultural system of society.

Macrostructural analysis focuses on the overall structure and context of discourse, including the larger themes and purposes of the text, as well as the relationship between discourse and its social context. According to van Dijk, "macrostructural analysis seeks to identify major patterns in discourse, which encompass central themes and how the discourse functions within a broader social and cultural context." (1997: 78).

Table 3: Jessica's Negative Framing

Elemen	Unit	Writing Strategy
Sintaksis	Headline	<b>Ice Cold: Murder, Coffee and Jessica Wongso</b>
	Lead	<i>Present Day (Jakarta women's prison class IIA) (Scene menit ke 30:29-1:23:50).</i>
	Backround Information	<b>The series of trials for Mirna's murder with Jessica as the suspect until the verdict is pronounced.</b>
	Quote	<b>"From there, I started to feel something was off because Jessica's gesture was more defensive. From there, I tested it myself, and it turned out that the coffee really did have a very</b>

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foul taste and smell," said Devi Siagian (Manager at Café Olivier).

"When I saw it, the color was very yellow like turmeric, and when I smelled it up close, it was very sticky like when we drop new power glue on our nose. If you say I panicked, I panicked a lot until I tried all the ingredients, but nothing was wrong, only Jessica's drink was like that," said Rangga Saputro (Barista at Café Olivier).

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Statement

"His response was strange, 'uncle..uncle.. Mirna is dead, did I kill Mirna?' Saying that, she tells a lot of lies, so she's lying," said Edi Darmawan. (Father of Mirna)

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Conclusion

Closed with the words of Edi Darmawan  
"Well, I asked Jessica once, 'Jes, my child died drinking coffee, what do you drink?' She said, 'Mineral Water.' She lied to me for the first time, and that's what made me suspicious of her, I became suspicious of her."

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The topic of this documentary film focuses on the murder case of Mirna, involving Jessica as the suspect. Netflix is trying to delve deeper into this case from two perspectives, namely Mirna's side and Jessica's side personally. Considering that the news

coverage of this case went viral at its onset, it has elicited various reactions from the public, especially in Indonesia. This documentary film features the cold war between the prosecution and Jessica's side, as well as statements from various experts in their fields regarding the course of this case. Some experts wonder why this case has attracted so much public attention considering that Jessica and Mirna are not public figures known to many people. After the autopsy of Mirna's body, the appearance of "cyanide" as evidence caused a public uproar, because cyanide is a chemical that is difficult to obtain on the market.

According to social perspectives, the situation in this case is seen as cornering Jessica as the suspect, even though the evidence presented by the prosecution can be proven wrong by Jessica's side. While the prosecution is solely focused on making Jessica the suspect, Netflix is trying to uncover facts that have not been presented in the media coverage. This is not separate from the responsibility of the media that have covered this case from beginning to end. Although there are some media outlets that report neutrally.

Based on the results of this study, the author concludes that critical discourse analysis emphasizes discourse as a form of interaction, and through critical discourse analysis, the use of spoken and written language appears as a manifestation of social practice. According to Fairclough, "critical discourse analysis focuses on the relationship between discourse and social practice, and how language use reflects and shapes social structures" (2001: 23). Social practice in critical discourse analysis is related to events from a reality and social structure. The role of the media is inseparable from ideological practices; meaning, the media presents news using certain constructs to attract public interest. (Machin & Mayr, 2012: 45).

If viewed from Fairclough's analysis theory, the murder case of Mirna with Jessica as the suspect becomes the main object in the

film. The media emphasizes Jessica as the suspect, whereas Netflix disagrees with this considering the performance of the authorities and the prosecutor's office, which is deemed biased based on the existing evidence and expert witness statements. From the depiction in the film and the expert narration presented in this film, it can be seen that the authorities and the public prosecutor are made the focal points of the problem in this case.

Throughout the film, the audience also learns how angry Jessica is with the media for reporting the incident in an overly dramatic and unbalanced manner. In fact, the media seemed to hold a trial by the press in which Jessica was declared guilty. This long and difficult process was also aired "naked" on several TV channels for a long time. Many parties consider this media coverage excessive and possibly inviting certain opinions.

In 2016, Jessica was found guilty 10 months after Mirna's death and sentenced to 20 years in prison. However, since this film was released, divisions have emerged in society. Some people are affected, while others do not take it seriously. Nevertheless, this film manages to give its audience the opportunity to think from a different perspective. Until many discussions emerged, especially from netizens who believe Jessica is not the perpetrator of Mirna's murder. (BBC: 2016)

It's natural for this documentary film to be perceived differently depending on the viewer. The enthusiasm of netizens' comments on social media shows that they view this film based on different abilities, personal experiences, and backgrounds. Therefore, the audience of this film can interpret the various messages they receive from the screen according to their individual abilities.

This documentary film may actually represent a different perspective from the official version presented by the police and the court. This film challenges the audience to think critically about the events and be skeptical. Viewers also realize that legal errors and

media manipulation may have occurred in the reporting of this incident. This film also provides the audience with a deeper understanding of Jessica's background and personality, portrayed as an evil and psychopathic character.

The reality in the film is actually a reality constructed by the filmmakers. It is important to understand that the reality depicted in this documentary film is the reality desired by the producers, directors, screenwriters, and the film crew. The existing reality is selected, categorized, and presented according to the hopes and goals of this film. Therefore, the reality in films, even in court cases, cannot be understood the same way as the reality that occurs in real life. In films, it is very possible to shape actual reality according to the filmmaker's wishes. The reality depicted in the film certainly does not align with the legal reality. So even though the release of this film might change someone's mind, it does not automatically change a legal decision.

## **Conclusion**

This film frames Jessica's case from two different perspectives. First, the perspective of those who side with Mirna and blame Jessica for Mirna's death. Second, the perspective of those who support Jessica and believe that the evidence presented by Mirna's side, including her family and the Public Prosecutor, is illogical and seems fabricated. Both perspectives are presented with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture of the differing opinions that are developing in society.

Based on the analysis of the script structure used by Netflix, this film follows the general 5W+1H pattern (What, Who, When, Where, Why, and How), which indicates the completeness of information in each scene presented. From a thematic structure perspective, Netflix attempts to package this case in a documentary style that flows based on the chronology of events. Meanwhile, from the perspective of rhetorical structure, the narrative presented

in this film tends to lead the audience to believe that what is conveyed aligns with actual events, giving an impression of objectivity in its presentation. In the context of critical discourse analysis, social practices are related to events that occur in reality and the underlying social structures. Media, including Netflix, is not exempt from ideological practices—where news is constructed in a certain way to attract audience interest. Based on Fairclough's critical discourse analysis theory, the murder case of Mirna with Jessica as the suspect becomes the main focus in this film. The media, in general, tends to emphasize Jessica as the suspect. However, in this film, Netflix seems to criticize the performance of the authorities and prosecutors, who are deemed to be unfair and biased, based on the evidence and expert witness statements presented. Through the depiction in the film and the narration from the experts, it is evident that the authorities and prosecutors are portrayed as the focal point of the problem in this case, reflecting doubts about the ongoing legal process.

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