The Portrayal of Islamic State in Selected Online Newspapers in Malaysia: A Framing Approach

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ABSTRACT

This study is about the portrayal of Islamic State in selected online newspaper in Malaysia using a framing approach. Malaysia has been stressed with the increasing numbers of Islamic State threats in this country. Internet penetration has made the process of radicalization and recruitment happened faster over online media. Public need to have the right information in order to reduce their participation in Islamic State through information about the Islamic State threats in online news. Media framing plays a significant role in shaping opinions and views of audiences through its portrayal. Hence, the objectives of this study are to study the theme, dominant issue, types of frame, source of news, and news slant used in Islamic State reporting in selected online newspapers in Malaysia. Using the framing approach, this study used quantitative content analysis

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by analysing 260 news articles from four selected online newspapers in Malaysia. It comprises of two Malay online newspapers which are hmetro. com.my and sinarharian.com.my and two English online newspapers which are malaysiakini.com and thestar.com.my. The finding revealed that the terrorism is the main theme, and counter terrorism is the dominant issue reported by online media. Thematic frame and conflict frame are highly used in portraying about Islamic State. Malaysia is the most country mentioned, and government is the main source of news. The majority of news articles also portrayed negative slant in Islamic State coverage. As a result, this study managed to prove that there are significant differences between three out of the four variables through statistical analysis.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Terrorism as defined by Norris, Kern and Jupist cited in Alshathry [1] can be described as the structured use of forced pressure against people for the purposed of gaining political objectives. As for framing, it is an unconscious promotion in interpreting event by highlighting on selected facts, images, or developments.

Media framing plays an important role in projecting terrorism act by the Islamic State. There were several elements were identified by various studies conducted in research on journalism practices. Particularly, by comparing online news stories and articles between several news networks regarding the threat of ISIS. These global networks play its significant role in reporting news about ISIS. It was due to its ability to reach out this issue to distant countries and spread perception and image of these threats to every corner of the world. The impact was it created public awareness in all news channels internationally in order to influence, and also reported a quite similar portrayal of framing that caused in the creation of perception, interpretation and judgment of public views [2]. This showed that news framing of this issue became a new trend in media coverage at global perspectives.

Malaysia has been stressed with a chain of news asserted that the threats from the Islamic State is increasing. A report from New Straits Times revealed that there were two Malaysian suicide bombers associated with Islamic state had committed suicide bombing in Syria and Iraq, which resulted in the death of more than 30 victims previously. According to Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, the worrying trend of Malaysian participation has been growing within Islamic State [3]. Malaysian police, Inspector-General of Police, Khalid Abu Bakar disclosed in CNN report that Islamic State terrorist group had successfully made the first grenade attack in the Malaysia on June 28 near Kuala Lumpur. The attack was ordered by a Malaysian Islamic State jihadist fighters in Syria, Muhammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi. Based on analysis on this attack from terrorism expert, Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, working as the head of the International Center for Terrorism Research and Political Violence (ICPVTR) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore, this incident proved the existence of the emergence and formation of ISIS ideology in Southeast Asia regardless of counterterrorism operations efforts [4].

Unfortunately, in Malaysia, the statistic of positive views by Malaysian toward Islamic State had increasingly reached 12 percent, according to data released by the Pew Research Center, which formed general concern on the increasing of terrorism [5]. Home Ministry of Malaysia (KDN) had also emphasised that 75 percent of IS recruitment in Malaysia occurred through social media, as the Internet penetration rate in Malaysia is 67.5 percent, had allowed the process of radicalization and recruitment to happen faster. As compared to November 2014, the detainment of Malaysian participation in the Islamic State group had drastically increased from 40 to 177 Malaysians by March 2016 [6]. This presented that the emergence was occurring through asymmetrical warfare through both soft power and hard power. The number of Malaysian was not only the main concern should be alarmed, but also the identity of Malaysian citizens involved. They were not just from normal background, but also includes lecturers, civil servants and security forces [3].

However, the penetration of internet has made Islamic State ideology travelling fast, increase participation of Malaysian in Islamic State, and increasing in terrorist activities in Malaysia. This requires societies and public to have precise and suitable information to reduce insecurity from the involvement of Malaysian with Islamic State by notifying people through online news in social media about this threat. Media delivery of information is critical to shaping and influencing public consideration, responses, and some emerging crisis condition. Recent research into terrorism and related subjects, hence curved its interest to the media reportage of the matters concerned [7]. This lead to the question on what is the theme in Islamic State reporting in selected online newspaper in Malaysia? What is the dominant issue used in Islamic State coverage in selected online newspaper in Malaysia? What is the types of frame used to cover on Islamic State issue in selected online newspaper in Malaysia? What is the source of news in presenting Islamic State exposure in selected online newspaper in Malaysia? What is the news slant of Islamic State news coverage in selected online newspaper in Malaysia? Therefore, this has made the portrayal of the Islamic State in selected online newspaper in Malaysia a framing approach as an important topic to be discussed.

2.0 RELATED WORK

This section discussed on the theories, concepts and definition of this study from various understanding.

2.1 Framing Theory

Framing theory was found by Goffman in 1974 who together with other scholars stated that no individuals understand the world completely and people continually struggle to interpret their experience and fit that interpretation of the world around them [8]. Framing in the definition by Entman [9] was to "promote specific problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or a treatment recommendation". Entman assumed that people had developed an understanding of how and why framing appears in the media. Vreese [10] outlined several empirical approaches in assessing framing of news which include headlines, subheads,

photos, photo captions, leads, source selection, quote selection, pull quotes, logos, statistics and charts, as well as concluding statement and paragraphs. Tankard, Hendrickson, J.Silberman, Bliss, & Ghanem [11] revealed about a research group that was led by James W. Tankard in 1990 had defined a frame as "a central organizing idea for news content that supplies a context and suggests what the issue is through the use of selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration".

2.2 Agenda Setting Theory

McCombs & Shaw [12] defined the agenda setting theory as the idea that has a solid relationship between weight that placed by mass media on some issues and the significance attributed towards mass audiences on these issues. Framing was also mentioned in agenda setting theory as make a particular issue more salient by the media. It influenced the way people think and the process take place was called framing. Selection, emphasis, exclusion and elaboration were used in the central organising idea for news content and issue suggested [12]. Brettschneider [13] supported numerous studies on agenda setting by affirming that public perception of the reality relies more seriously on media reports rather than the actual 'reality'. Media were assumed not presenting a very precise image of issues actually happening.

2.3 Concept of Framing

Frames recommend a specified approach in interpreting framing messages which serve as the message idea construction [14]. Iyengar [15] and supported by Benjamin [16] in another study revealed there are two distinct frames which is thematic and episodic news frame. Thematic frame was about overall perspective which frequently comprise an in-depth background report, while episodic framing stress on describes issues of individual or particular events. The differences between episodic and thematic frame was, episodic frame emphasises on individual, single events, private area, how to mend the person, approach the audience as consumers and has better information. Meanwhile, thematic frame was highlight the issue, trends over time, public sphere, conditions solution,

approach audience as citizens and request for improved policies.

Cozma [17] listed and defined five types of framing in its study. The first frame was the conflict frame which emphasising conflict of individuals, groups, institutions and differences among and between them. The second frame is economic consequences frame which was about the coverage of the issue in the context of financial and economic impacts of people or country. The third frame was morality frame which positioned the issue behind of religious beliefs or moral recommendation. Next, responsibility frame which assigning the duty for an event, issue or problem to people or government. Lastly was a human interest frame that uses a human expression or an emotional viewpoint to the show and sensationalised the news in order to keep the attention of audiences. News source and slanting of news tone were factors influencing media framing. Cissel [18] and [19] agreed to the importance of news sources and slanting of the news tone in framing. It is significant to understand the feelings of media source on the reported topic or should be viewed by the audiences. Slanting of tones of the articles whether it was negative, positive or neutral often tested in order to observe the relationship to the type of coverage and determined the significant differences.

2.4 Media Framing on Terrorism

Rabe [20, 21, 22] had similar on the understanding of terrorism definition. Terrorism can be defined as the use of violence to create fear in order to create change in that larger audience by shaping the perceptions and understanding involving mass media and general public who consume news stories through the use of language in news media framing. Alshathry [1] and [23] states there were several types of frames have been applied which includes conflict frame, economic consequences frame, morality frame, responsibility frame, and human interest frame. Most of news relied heavily on conflict frame. Conflict frame often highlighted on the crisis and disagreement among involved people.

Yusof, Hassan, Hassan, & Osman [24], [25, 26] confessed Muslim

community were suffering with the extension of negative stereotype, discrimination and hatred portrayed by the international media. Media described Muslims and Islam as fundamentalist, terrorist, sexist, militant, undemocratic, violent, suicide bombers, hijackers, orthodox, and fanatic. Yusof, Hassan, Hassan, & Osman [24], [27, 28] agreed that there were present of agendas between news coverage and framing. American media view terrorism as the "international order" and "clash of civilization" in its framing which seem the only potential reaction is war against the enemy. The certain frame employed by journalists in news presentation are not only influence news opinion but also gave impacts to public discourse on the conflict.

2.5 Islamic State in Online Newspaper

Online newspaper is the digital version of traditional newspaper which received helped from internet that become a vehicle for increasing both information seeking and engagement with others and controls both the distribution and credibility of news. With the advancement of new media or digital media, information are instantly disseminated which makes these media platform needs to modify its news delivery to be faster and more reachable [29] and [30]. The image of Islamic State was controversial that created on the connection of traditional and modern frame. This phenomenon has been described through symbolic means to cover radical Islam [31]. Issue framed in the news makes people perceived the world similar to what has been portrayed. People may interpret by associating it between terrorists and the media portrayal of the issue. Thus, terrorists and the media have a symbiotic relationship in dealing with publicity [32]. For this study, Islamic State as terrorist group that make people perceived Islam as radical as being portrayed through news framing in various form of mass media. For an instance, Kenji Goto, a Japanese journalist was beheaded by an Islamic State militant after being captured for covering suffering of civilian in a war zone. He appeared in the Islamic State video as hostage and killed a week before another Japanese man, Haruna Yukawa was beheaded. Although there were many pasts Islamic State propaganda

videos were not authentic, but Japanese official believed that the video released by Islamic State was genuine [33].

2.6 Islamic State Issues

Religion issues was regarding on minorities' religion, radical islamic, and jihad issues. Amnesty International Ltd [34] and [35] minorities' religion suffered with torture and required to do things that against their religion belief. Veen & Grinstead [36] inserted, countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain and Yemen have insurgency conflict between Sunni or Shi'a. Radical Islamists disbelieved in the world separation between the Islamic peaceful realm and the full of infidel realm war of traditional Muslim. They assumed the West as the major target which threatened them and viewed the world currently as in war [37]. Through reports by India TV News [38] and [39], it was clear that there were many issues were presented in the media concerning the concept of jihad exploitation by Islamic State. They also let this prohibited behaviour to happen with a designated amendment in a fatwa that rationalised their behaviours. This Jihad concept has inspired foreign societies to fly to this region in order to participate in the Islamic State missions.

In political issues, it involved with the issues of political debate, propaganda, political structure, and democracy issues. For an instance, political structure was in chaos with the Arab upheavals, central governments failing and statehood collapsed had left over the ideological vacuum by Salafist jihadist movement. The radical Islamic streams abused the regions blatantly by ISIS had headed to Islamic State formation. It became an international challenge as the greater level of state collapsed, the larger possibility of them to occupy the non-state and others by forceful entities which picture them as state substitutes [40]. Veen & Grinstead [36] suggested the needs to certainly understand expansion, strengthen policy and avoid disintegration of diplomatic initiatives, through longitudinal and in-depth analysis were shared. Preferably, a group of similar mind-sets that ensure better organized and prolonged existence to discussion on policy such as the EU or UN. Fessha [37] outlook, ISIS was limiting several

democratic rights and imposed difficult social conventions with only reason that the group holds the military power. Schmid [41] and [42] said Islamic State has continued use media platform in order to spread propaganda through mainstream media and online media which include social media.

Issues of value of freedom, it related to issues of stereotype, gender oppression, and ethnic violence. There were many stereotyping issues raised because of terrorists act. Hallowell [43] defined the term Islamophobia as a problem that referring to bigotry, hate crimes, discrimination, policies, and against many societies including Muslims. It was not by accident the Islamophobia were happening in the media or in public discourse as studied showed 90% of the total reporting involving extremism had mentioned about Islam. Many researchers agreed on the massive gender oppression by Islamic State such as [44, 45, 46, 42] expressed that gender oppression by Islamic State can be observed through the way they abused and set restriction on woman's behaviour. Islamic State was being a secular activist treating women against human rights. Islamic State has prejudiced on western societies make them as a bad example by discriminated women in their territory from their routine, activities and social. Amnesty International Ltd [34] and [35] stated that ethnic violence was noticeable based on the issue of enslavement and tortured on numerous Yazidist people in Sinjar by ISIS. Several of them were unable to bear the torture and brutality abused by IS towards them, forced themselves to commit suicide. Women are suffering with fear and feeling insecure though they are staying at their own country.

Issues of terrorism included issue of violence, attack, recruitment, threat and counterterrorism. Gerhards & Schafer [47] has cited the definition of terrorism in which the intentional consumed of physical force more than violence acts by non-state actors against civilians. Abdullah [7] affirmed that terrorism and violence the extremely sensitive issues in the Middle East as it linked to the instability of Arab social, political and economic atmospheres. In Malaysia, [4] has reported that Islamic State has successfully launched the first attack in Kuala Lumpur on June 28 according

to Malaysian police. The attack was ordered by the Malaysian Islamic State fighter in Syria, Muhammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi which injured eight people. The internet has become a powerful radicalisation and recruitment tool for Daesh in Malaysia. According to Ahmad El-Muhammady in [48] report, Daesh has been able to lead radicalization and recruitment in a larger scale through internet by luring individuals to change to another platform that was more private when they presented a greater concern. The internet has reduced the time required to recruit and radicalise individual in Malaysia by exploiting the platform such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube that much quicker as compared to Jemaah Islamiyah. Gambhir [49] said in order to reduce the regional expansion of Islamic State, the Europe groups conveyed backing for counterterrorism operations though they unwilling to put action without leadership by the US. Counterterrorism tools has gradually been applied through the rise of targeted killing of suspected terrorist abroad conducted by Turkey, Columbia, Russia, Israel and the United States.

For economic issues, it involved issues related to financial and market shares. Abdullah [7] viewed economic issues as the reflection of the concern with the bottom line, revenue and cost. Life and assets damages, disaster responses, system restoration, destroyed infrastructure and momentary living support facility are counted in in the immediate economic costs of terrorism. Both visible cash and non-monetary economic asset contributed to the wealth of Islamic State. Natural possessions, including old, sites, and agriculture in ISIS region were all their non-monetary asset. Some main sources of domestic revenue of ISIS were economic assets robbery, the local population abuse and taxing, bank looting as well as oil fields control and plants. Several funds were used as effective methods to offer basic goods and services that enhance them and create legitimacy. The weakness to the infrastructure of ISIS can be spotted when they need more than enough funded to sustain this group as disruption of infrastructure could distressing their image and power. ISIS was regarded as the best financed terrorist group in the world as it benefited millions from Syrian civil war

by gulf countries. It believed, many fighters joint ISIS after receiving the donation and brought together with them experience and weapons. To prevent the breakdown, it required Islamic State to secure its economic resources sufficient and sustainable [50].

2.7 News Source

The term source was used to refer to the personalities which includes parties or individuals that reporters received the information about the news. Some scholars have debated on the journalists and their source's relationship as a conflict for power over the agreement and judgment of societies. Sources might attempt to support their basis by using reporter. The core news by who speak to reporters have greater opportunities to have their opinions heard, thus it makes news count on what the sources want to tell [51]. Kee, Ibrahim, Ahmad, & Khiang [52] cited in their study that there was an influence in news sources and framing building. News source frame information in news stories in parallel with their desired framing. There was concerned regarding news source because a single source for a story shows a lack of in-depth reporting. It affected changes in the level of public trust in the official words. Media has a responsibility to report issues that would affect public community [53]. Different media, whether mainstream or alternative media have a dissimilar approach in presenting news information. The causes of these differences could be due to financial sponsorship and monetary security, which lead to different content of their news [18].

2.8 News Slanting of Terrorism Coverage

News slanting or tone of news whether it was positive, negative or neutral had influenced in the framing of news. Keong, Naim, & Zamri [54] stated that the general theory or the ideology concept which characterise the subject or themes covered in the news report were called macrostructure analysis. Issue being reported can be classified as positive, negative and neutral through its themes and topics in the headlines and leading paragraph. A study by [26] in studying on the representation of Islam and

Muslim in the media has created news stories in classification of positive, negative, neutral or mixed which affecting the tone of news by its adjective in language usage as well as voices and opinions contribute to the creation of news. Finally, [24] generally clarified that the media has marked Islam as negative which linked to terrorism. Most of the news reported were presenting Islam in war and terrorism context. Western media presented international audiences with negative views and less reported on peace efforts between Islam and the West. At this moment, Islam was expected not to be framed in this way despite of the terrorist participation by certain Islamist group.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in a quantitative content analysis study. Krippendorf [55] described content analysis study method as "the use of replicable and valid methods for making specific inferences from text to other states or properties of its source". Abdullah [7] who cited from Tankard in 2001 that content analysis as "a systematic assignment of communication content to categories according to the rules and the analysis of the relationship involving those categories using statistical methods".

Hypotheses were tested to describe how the framing on Islamic State was influenced by variables of this study such as theme, dominant issue, types of frame, source of news and news slant. Researcher able to build prediction about the result of study when develops study based on existing theory. Therefore, the research hypothesis in this study were:

H1: There is a significant relationship between theme and dominant issue

H2: There is a significant relationship between dominant issue and types of frame

H3: There is a significant relationship between types of frame and source of news

H4: There is a significant relationship between source of news and news slant

Sampling method used in this study was stratified random sampling. By referring to latest ranked by [56] based on data from comScore, it provided the latest ranked of the top Malaysian online newspaper for June 2016 from desktop computer and mobile device. Therefore, hmetro.com.my, sinarharian.com.my, malaysiakini.com and thestar.com.my were selected as four online newspapers that represented the population of this study. Unit of analysis for this study was the online news articles. To choose sample from this population, sample of news articles were selected from 10% of its online news population.

As for data collection, news articles were gathered in online newspaper websites within a particular timeframe and SPSS was used in analysed the data. News articles were also collected within a timeframe of three months. Timeframe for news article to be collected was begun from the first successful attack by the Islamic State until the date this study was proposed, which was from 28 June 2016 to 28 September 2016.

The research instrument for this study was coding sheet. There was 48 questions were coded based on five variables as stated previously. There were 260 numbers of sample for this study. Pilot test was conducted prior actual data collection process and assumption testing using Shapiro-Wilk test was used to test the normality of the sample distribution. For data analysis in SPSS, chi-square, frequency, standard deviation, mean and percentage were used in order to test the hypothesis and meet the objectives of this study.

4.0 RESULTS

This section discussed on the findings of this study from data analyses. Tables 1 presented on online newspaper characteristic, while Table 2 to 7 were displayed according to all five variables that were tested. The highest

ranking categorisation described on the specific elements as has been coded that highly used in each variable, as well as which online news that highly used it. Meanwhile, as for frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation categories, it defined on the numerical data and statistics.

4.1 Online Newspaper Characteristics

TABLE 1

Shapiro- Wilk Normality Test for all variables

Online Newspaper Characteristic	Highest ranking	Frequency	Percent %
Online Newspaper	Thestar.com.my	202	77.7
Date of Publication	July	93	35.8
Level of Coverage	International	168	64.6
Types of story writing	News story writing	184	70.8
Purpose of News	To inform	229	88.1
Event location mentioned	Urban	184	70.8
News author	International source	166	63.8
International author	Reuters	150	57.7
Number of paragraph	3 and more paragraph	247	95
Types of attachment	Photo	167	64.2
Secondary types of attachment	None	253	97.3
Number of attachment	1 attachment	176	67.7

Table 1 discussed on the characteristics of online newspapers which displayed that thestar.com.my news articles contributed the most in this data findings. Mostly, news about Islamic State highly discussed within one month, after the first attack in Malaysia, by focusing on international coverage especially from Reuters that act as the international source of the news. The intent was to inform society about the news that occurred not only in rural area but also urban locations. Photos are attached together with writing of 3 and more paragraph of news story.

4.2 Theme in Islamic State Reporting

TABLE 2

Theme Used in Islamic State Reporting

Theme	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Main theme	Terrorism	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	3.48	1.11
Secondary theme	Political	Malaysiakini.com	11	36.7	3.18	1.92

Researcher found that the main theme that highly debated in selected online newspapers was terrorism, and secondary theme was political theme. This data showed that main theme and secondary theme shared similarity on the least theme, which was other theme. Researcher believed that the higher of terrorism theme because of asymmetrical warfare that Islamic State used, in both soft power and hard power that lead to the increasing of extremism in the whole world.

4.3 Dominant Issue Used in Islamic State Coverage

TABLE 3

Main Dominant Issue

Main Dominant Issue	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Terrorism	Counter terrorism	Sinarharian.com.my	4	44.4	3.49	1.42
Religious	Radical Islamic	Hmetro.com.my	1	100	2.62	0.96
Political	Political debate	Hmetro.com.my	1	100	1.98	1.11
Economic	Financial	Thestar.com.my	4	57.1	1.63	0.52
Value of freedom	Stereotype	Malaysiakini.com	4	100	1.17	0.93

Table 3 is interrelated with table 4. It compares the highest issue that becomes dominant in the most news articles.

TABLE 4

Secondary Dominant Issue

Secondary Dominant Issue	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Terrorism	Threat	Hmetro.com.my	2	66.7	3.22	1.55
Political	Democracy	Hmetro.com.my	2	66.7	2.19	1.02
Religious	Radical Islamic	Hmetro.com.my	4	80	2.61	0.83
Value of freedom	Stereotype	Hmetro.com.my	1	100	1.89	1.05
Economic	Financial	Sinarharian.com.my	1	100	1.43	0.52

The main issue that highly debated in selected online newspapers was counter terrorism issue, while secondary issue was threat issues. This data also presented that main issue and secondary issued have identical least issue, which was about other issues such as about migration and the refugee. From this dominant issues, researcher discovered deeper information which significance to many parties on this study. These issues were the evidence that the war was conducted in asymmetrical ways, though the use of both soft power and hard powers which endanger the life of the society. Diplomacy between states is crucial in order to combat terrorist groups.

4.4 Types of Frame Used to Cover on Islamic State Issue

TABLE 5
Types of Frame Used in Islamic State Reporting

Types of frame	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Types of story	Thematic	Sinarharian.com.my	14	93.3	1.25	0.44
Main issue	Conflict	Sinarharian.com.my	10	66.7	1.96	1.36
Headline	Conflict	Sinarharian.com.my	10	66.7	2.05	1.40
Lead	Conflict	Sinarharian.com.my	10	66.7	2.05	1.41
Attachment	Conflict	Hmetro.com.my	7	53.8	3.43	2.15
Secondary attachment	None	Sinarharian.com.my	15	100	5.91	0.59
Quotation	Conflict	Sinarharian.com.my	12	80	3.35	2.07
Conflict paragraph number	3 and more paragraph	Sinarharian.com.my	13	86.7	2.76	0.61
Economic paragraph number	None	Sinarharian.com.my	14	93.3	3.59	0.89
Morality paragraph number	None	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	3.31	1.03
Responsibility paragraph number	3 and more paragraph	Thestar.com.my	103	51	2.72	0.98
Human interest paragraph	None	Sinarharian.com.my	15	100	3.54	0.94

The researcher discovered that thematic frame of story was highly used to frame the story. This could be due to recent incidents of attacks not only in this country, but as well as in foreign countries. Besides that, the researcher found that in most of news parts such as headline, lead, attachment and other, the majority of it used a conflict frame to portray the Islamic State issue. It was believed that conflict frame concerning with the challenge to the political and social life as media interprets the crisis or disagreement to win the attention of the audience. Researcher

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believed that this was part of agenda setting theory in order to change from the media agenda to the public agenda. There was also number of frame in the news that displayed, despite of different types of frame, most of it had more than 3 paragraphs of a particular frame, especially for conflict frame. As a more dominant frame focused on conflict issue, the more paragraph acquired to indicate on conflict frame. This tally with number of paragraphs stated earlier in online newspapers characteristics. Conflict frame paragraph reflected in the depth of coverage of Islamic State reported in online newspapers with the purpose to inform the audience on the problem that we faced todays.

4.5 Source of News in Presenting Islamic State Exposure

TABLE 6

Source of News Used in Islamic State Reporting

Source of news	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Source number	1 source	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	1.77	0.81
Main source of country	Malaysia	Sinarharian.com.my	12	80	7.66	3.72
Secondary source of country	None	Hmetro.com.my	11	84.6	9.60	4.48
Main source	Government	Hmetro.com.my	12	92.3	2.27	2.01
Secondary source	Not mentioned	Sinarharian.com.my	12	80	6.28	3.07
Main attachment source	Government	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	4.84	3.29
Secondary attachment source	Not mentioned	Sinarharian.com.my	15	100	8.82	0.98
Quotation source	Government	Malaysiakini.com	20	66.7	4.12	3.40

The most of Islamic State news portrayed in the online newspapers was inclined towards one source of news. Although, there were many countries were discussed in the online newspapers which indicated that

the media wants audiences to aware of the consequences of extremism and incidents happened around the world caused by Islamic State. Researchers believed that even though most of the news sources were from one source, the purpose of one source reference was obvious. Media relied on government source as it holds the same mission which is to inform people about the emergence of Islamic State that would be harmful to the society. It assumed that repetitious of government information through quotation and attachment, could improve the message intended to be delivered to the audience.

4.6 News Slant of Islamic State News Coverage

TABLE 7

News Slant in Islamic State Reporting

News slant	Highest theme ranking	Highest online newspapers coverage	Frequency	Percent %	Mean	SD
Overall slant	Negative	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	2.20	0.94
Source slant	Negative	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	2.21	0.94
Headline slant	Negative	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	1.90	0.77
Lead slant	Negative	Hmetro.com.my	10	76.9	1.92	0.79
Main attachment	Negative	Hmetro.com.my	8	61.5	2.85	1.52
Secondary attachment	None	Malaysiakini.com	30	100	4.92	0.49
Caption slant	None	Malaysiakini.com	30	100	4.68	0.98
Quotation slant	Negative	Sinarharian.com.my	11	73.3	2.86	1.49

The majority of news slant in news structure had provided slanting towards negative coverage about Islamic State. It is believed that in order to counter terrorism, the negative connotation of terrorist activities should be published by the media as an approach to combat terrorism in line with government efforts. With this approach, media agenda would become

public agenda as the message about the negativity of it was delivered. Therefore, the audience perceived the news would be aware of the current issues and threats of Islamic State to the society, particularly in Malaysia.

4.7 Chi-square Statistical Analysis

H^0: There is no significant relationship between types of frame and source of news

H^1: There is a significant relationship between theme and dominant issue

H^2: There is a significant relationship between dominant issue and types of frame

H^3: There is a significant relationship between types of frame and source of news

H^4: There is a significant relationship between source of news and news slant

TABLE 8
Chi-square hypotheses testing

Hypothesis	X2 value	Asymp. Sig (2-sided)	Relationship
H^1: Theme and dominant issue	174.332	.000	Accept H1
H^2: Dominant issue and types of frame	484.668	.100	Reject H2
H^3: Types of frame and source of news	6723.815	.000	Accept H3
H^4: Source of news and news slant	4082.411	.000	Accept H4

It revealed that there is a significant relationship between theme and dominant issue of Islamic State in the selected online newspaper in Malaysia with X2 = 174.332 and p-value = .000. H^1 was accepted that there is significant relationship between theme and dominant issue, thus rejected H^0. However, in second hypothesis, the statistical analysis found a null hypothesis with X2 = 484.668 and p-value = .100. There is

no significant relationship between dominant issue and types of frame in the portrayal of the Islamic State. Hence, H^2 was rejected that there is no significant relationship between dominant issue and types of frame, thus H0 was accepted. On the other hand, the statistical analysis revealed the data findings for the third hypothesis strongly significant with X2 = 6723.815 and p-value = 0.000. This means, H^3 was accepted that there is a significant relationship between types of frame and source of news, thus rejected H^0. Chi-square test also discovered that there relationship between source of news and news slant is highly significant with X2 = 4082.411 and p-value = 0.000. Therefore, H^4 was accepted that there is a significant relationship between source of news and news slant, thus rejected H^0.

5.0 DISCUSSION

This section provides discussion from the result of this study.

5.1 Online Newspaper Characteristics

It was believed that data was highly contributed from sample of thestar.com.my due to the reason thestar.com.my it had published more than 2,000 news articles related to Islamic State compared to other online newspapers, as structured at figure 3.3 in Chapter 3. Therefore, it influenced the percentage although researcher used only 10% from each selected online newspapers.

Researcher believed that July had the highest coverage of Islamic State because that moments was the aftermath of the first successful attack in Malaysia, indicated that it was still fresh and recently at the public sphere. Thus, it influenced the higher reportage of the incident on July in selected online newspapers in Malaysia. It was assumed that the international level coverage originated from the idea that coverage from international level could bring a greater insight into Malaysian public, in the cost of the emergence and brutality of Islamic State, which enough to collapse the stability of a number of countries. The reason of higher number of international author was because the majority of news articles were provided by international online newspapers such as Reuters, AFP

and others.

Results of a study [57] also shown news articles in the news story writing style was the most published compared to others. Therefore, it supported this finding that news story writing was the most types of story writing used by online news in Malaysia when published about Islamic State. Column writing has the least reportage as researcher noticed that there was not many columnists who covered about the Islamic State in online newspapers. Thus, it resulted in the lowest coverage of types of story writing.

Moreover, researcher also had determined that the media played a huge responsibility to notify and update information regarding Islamic State to the public by informing them as the purpose of news. The high reportage of urban event location because the researcher found that there were many discussions as well as incidents were taking place at urban area, which include city and town as described [58] on the component of urban area, besides on occurrences that happened in rural areas. Some articles did not provide location, such as articles from columnist, which added to the number of not mentioned of event location.

As suggested [11] in his study, the frame shape and colour of picture, photo and others able to support the opinion on the isolated materials. This showed that photos were efficient to deliver direct information by interpreting the visual through still photo without having to wait for loading unlike video.

5.2 Theme in Islamic State Reporting

Results of theme in this study were different with data in a previous study [2] that found political was highly mentioned in CNN, while Al-Jazeera highlighted on religious and value of freedom. Taking example, in this data finding, the highest online newspaper discussed on terrorism was hmetro.com.my. Some of its news article wrote about killings incidents from an attack at their residents, and also matters about a captured-man who were suspected helping Islamic State that became threat to this country. It was often used terms to referred terrorism, such as 'killings', 'bombing',

'recruitment', 'attacks', 'suicide', 'threats' and other terms.

The main theme that came the second highest was about politics. It is supported by the CNN findings [2] that discussed more about political because CNN focused on political debate as stated previously in Chapter 2. Political themes was important coverage as it reflecting the peace and stability of the country. One of the topics that Malaysiakini.com covered about political as main theme was about Zahid Hamidi asked the UN to keep its unity in order to against terrorist. Previously [2] found religious theme was highly discussed by Al-Jazeera. However, it was the third topic were discussed in selected online newspapers in Malaysia. Researcher found that among topic were discussed about religious was about Wahhabis and jihadists.

Yusof, Hassan, Hassan, & Osman [24] stated that in the international level, Muslim minorities was suffered with stereotypes because of terrorist activities, but here researcher found the differences. There was several news mainly in malaysiakini.com, focused its news articles in the context of Malaysian minorities.

Besides that, there were several concerns on economic themes as well as in online newspapers. This had associated with Islamic state due to the possibility of funding money for terrorist activities. There were also topics were discussed besides these themes, which did not fit with the listed themes. There was about laws and policy and recognition.

Meanwhile, the secondary theme that commonly used in relation to Islamic State online newspapers was about political. Terrorism as a secondary theme on thestar.com.my was discussed on the bombing incidents, counterterrorism efforts, and others incidents related to Islamic State maltreatments. Religious as a secondary theme on hmetro. com.my was discussed on the influence of extremism, the spreading of information and ideology through the advancement of technology, and other. Essentially, economic as a secondary theme on hmetro.com.my discussed on the funding and economic perspectives that purposes either to combat terrorism or Islamic State-backing. As for the value of freedom

in secondary theme, it was focused on the issue of stereotyping. There was an incident about stereotyping on Islamic attire which creates insecurity to France due to fears of Islamic State terrorist attack.

5.3 Dominant Issue Used in Islamic State Coverage

As [49] asserted that European countries combined efforts in order to counter the Islamic State expansion. Researcher believed that public diplomacy is needed in order to combat terrorism in asymmetrical warfare. From this data, the researcher discovered that counterterrorism operation would be acted with the commitment from every party, which identical with the Inspector-General of Royal Malaysian Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar on the counterterrorism approach by Malaysia in sinarharian.com.my. Among the approach was though restriction control and reinforcement of policies. Parker [59] stated that a violation of human rights reinforce other people to combat. There were many attacks Islamic State had committed. The similarity of these attacks, it was done as the response of a certain issue, as [60] analysed on attack in France and Istanbul terror attack in IS response. It assumed that hard power attack committed in various forms as [61] described, it includes murdering, vast killings, assassinations publics, bombing places as well as beheading people. Besides that, the threats of Islamic State could come in physical forms through hard power. From the data analysis, the researcher found similarities with a statement in a report that stated IS constantly established other plans when the terror act was successfully blocked by authorities [42]. Some cases were placed as a threat because of the danger that it expected to be related with the Islamic State. Ryan [61] stated that among location that potential to be aimed for the attacks was mosques. Based on clarification by Ahmad El-Muhammady in a report [48] that IS used every method to lure people through the internet in a larger scale of recruitment. One tactic they used through by making individuals blinded with love as code M9 in sinarharian had reported. According to [62], it is difficult to obtain numbers of IS supporters from Malaysia. The efforts by authorities through many mediums was prepared in order to reduce recruitment of Malaysian into IS activities. Researcher found that the violence acts were extremely connected with the stability of a

state, which supported [7] findings that terrorism and violence are extremely sensitive issue as it related to social, political and economic instability in Arab states. The application of hard power was highly observed in this study. Weapon smuggling caused increasing of violence to civilians. As [47] explained, terrorism consumed with intentional physical force.

Political debate occurred in political area when there are presence of concern which affecting countries. Public diplomacy is important in the effort to achieve a more powerful approach for everyone benefits. Political debate happened in order to obtain mutual agreement to avoid unnecessary drawbacks from the approach taken, as it is important to have diplomacy between countries. Schmid [41] said online media were used as a platform to disseminate IS propaganda which supported findings of this study that discovered about the penetration of extremism mindset among young people derived from social media. Again, as Schmid [41] explained previously, IS make full use of social media to disseminate its propaganda. Syria state failure and conflict collapsed the country [40]. This had supported the data through n the impact of it caused many displaced people, and migration of Syrian to many countries. Researcher agreed with a claim [40] that there are large likelihood for militant to occupy non-state through force in order to be state substitute after a state suffered with a great collapse. The researcher determined the difference between Islamic country descriptions by the Islamic State with Islamic country recognised by Malaysia. Researcher agreed to a statement [37] that Islamic State impose difficult social convention which against human rights. This supported by a news article reported on Islamic State matters which sensitive to multi-religion and multiracial country like Malaysia.

Findings of radical Islamic supported [37] statement in Chapter 2 that an Islamic State target the Christianity as the enemy of Islam. Researcher found that the radical Islamic issue was also give interpretation of the activities that IS did to increase supporters, [63] stated that Islamic State take control through speeches which indicated the increasing of supporters. This combination of soft power and hard power make Islamic State development become more asymmetric. Data on Islamic sect displayed

that the true Sunni Islam in Malaysia is not possessed by extremist thought as characterised [63] about extreme Sunni Islam ideology of the Islamic State. According to India TV News [38], there are many reports were covered on the exploitation of the jihad concept by Islamic State. The researcher determined the relationship of the jihad concept of Islamic State described by Oakford [39] with jihad mentioned in the news article. Oakford [39] stated that jihad caused foreign people to join Islamic State. There were many issues of Islamic sects which caused insurgency conflict in several countries. As Veen & Grinstead [36] stated previously, the clashes of Islamic sects between Sunni and Shi'a caused the insurgency of Syria, Labenon, Bahrain and Yemen. Minorities' religious issues which was the least discussed here was about the killings of minorities in Bangladesh by IS and al Qaeda. Islamic States becomes a real threat to the security caused minorities mistreated [64]. Similar things happened in Orlando, where minorities Muslim, there become victims because of the Islamic State. This case similar with a description by Zhang & Hellmueller [64] on the killings and displaced of minorities which threatening world security.

Stereotype issue as Hallowell [43] understand was it engaging with bigotry issue, hate crime and discrimination against particular society. Researcher asserted that the stereotype issues has a relationship with the Islamophobia atmosphere in the society. As Hallowell [43] proclaimed, it is filled with hate, fear, and Islamophobia which have a narrative relation between Islam and extremism. This can be discover the aftereffects of attack in France, which Islamic women's attire was debated restricted in public. Amnesty International Ltd [34] and Chastain [35] had exposed about Yazidist enslavement in which women were tortured and insecure. Amnesty International Ltd [34] previously stated that ethnic violence was well-aware from its tortured issue towards Yazidist ethnics by Islamic State. The cruelty of was not only committed by the Islamic State, but also by Kurds governments who previously critiques on IS behaviour.

From this data, researcher found the highest contribution to financial issue due to reportage on the travel of money from this country to outside, mainly for the purpose to fund into Islamic State's finance. Salama [50]

stated that in order to sustain the infrastructure, image and power of the Islamic State, it is needed for this militant to have sufficient funds. The researcher argued that financial issue was not only consist of revenue and cost as claimed by Abdullah [7] on the immediate economic costs of terrorism. Researcher believed that financial issue can be beyond that. The issue of market and industry was reported has relating to Abdullah [7] statement that view it as the reflection from damage on infrastructure and momentary living support facility. Researcher asserted that the consequences of the terrorist attack lead to the drop in demand which threatening economic markets. Abdullah [7] also said reducing in the external demand threatened developed markets.

5.4 Types of Frame Used to Cover on Islamic State Issue

Researcher found that thematic analysis was highly used to frame news stories compared to episodic. This was different with findings by Alshathry [1] that found international news used more episodic frame than thematic. The researcher discovered that this was due to timeframe of three months right after the first successful attack in Malaysia, contributed the increasing of thematic frame usage, as thematic focused on trend over ties and the public sphere as well as approaches towards audience to make them aware of terrorism as Benjamin [16] described on thematic frame. This proved that the increasing of the thematic frame was due to the Islamic State issue has become a hot topic of discussion in Malaysia.

Alshathry [1] that most of the news relied heavily on conflict frame. In Malaysian online newspaper, most of the news frame the news by highlighting on the conflict frame through coverage on counter terrorism approaches in both national and international levels, and issues about threats of Islamic State to the stability of a state. This was coherent with the highest number of terrorism as both main issue and secondary issue in the second objectives. Conflict frame was used in the headline in order to emphasised audience on the crisis that encountered that could endanger in more extensively. Conflict frame usually appeared in the headline with sentences such as "…suicide bomber kills at least…", "…bomb attack in…", "…recruiting of foreign fighters…", and others. Again, researcher

believed that frame of lead was need to be in line with frame of headline. This was the reason of why the ranking of the conflict frame was highly used, which similar to a study by Gerhards & Schafer [47], that viewed terrorist incident as the war on terrors in both framing in CNN and Al-Jazeera. Majority of attachment used conflict frame such as the scene of the aftermath of the bombing, the weapons and equipment, Islamic State occupation photos with flags and others. This indicated that conflict frame data in line with Alshathry [1] findings that conflict frame was widely used. The researcher believes quotation in the news articles represented the concern toward the increasing of Islamic State emergence in Malaysia. Researcher opinionated that quotation in the conflict frame usually aimed to indicate the challenges encountered during a particular time, as well as the consequences of a particular event which could affect the harmonisation of atmosphere. From here, it enables media goal to make the event into a public agenda through conflict frame.

5.5 Source of News in Presenting Islamic State Exposure

Researcher counted on a number of sources used in order to determine the depth of reliability of media coverage about Islamic State. Ghafour [51] stated that the central part of source news was the chances of the opinion to be heard, relied on who speak to the media and the message that they want to deliver. The researcher also agreed to this statement as data displayed that more information derived from the same source as most of the source attempt to deliver messages through the relationship that it had with the media.

Researcher believed that this was due to the attack in Malaysia in June, and also the high reportage aftermath of the incidents in July which lead to higher numbers of Malaysian source countries. Back to the problem that Malaysia is facing now, the media have a purpose to inform and make people aware about the Islamic State emergence that comes in asymmetrical warfare.

Likewise, researcher discovered that it was in line with statement by Samuel [48] that see government devoted to counter extremist. Due to

that, the government was the main source of news in the most of online newspapers in Malaysia. It proved that government directly engaged with the Islamic State issue and contributed to the framing of news. As for this study, online newspaper become a medium for government to spread its messages to the audience, and media relied heavily to the source of news from government when presenting about Islamic State. Pestalardo [57] stated that media need to frame terrorism in different interest since words, images and media coverage able to influence political and international conflict. Therefore, the researcher believed that attachment was highly towards the government was due to reason that media want the trust of people in its news. Dailey & Wenger [53] believed that the media have a responsibility to share the news that influence public by putting trust in the words by officials. Therefore, researcher affirmed that government messages were significant to be used for quotation in order to increase the influence of the public using this framing approach.

5.6 News Slant of Islamic State News Coverage

In a previous study, Yusof, Hassan, Hassan, & Osman [24] that found that the media had negative views of Islamist group due to participation in terrorism. This can be referred to previous discussion on the increasing of terrorism issues in the second research objectives which caused worries and need counterterrorism approach. It referred to sources of news in general slanting, most of it was negative because the stance of the government was to combat terrorism. There were numerous issue raised about the destruction caused by these terrorist groups were discussed. This data also similar to Abdullah [7] data that discovered Al-Arabiya coverage slanting on the negative because of its support to the government in order to combat terrorism. Therefore, the media worked in line with government to fights against terrorist. Abdullah [7] believed that framing influenced by headline as well, which affirmed researcher stance that the headline slant could possibly influence the entire story as well. Thus, the negative slanting of news article derived from the negative tone of the message that media written in the article, such as about the bombing attack issues, argument

between several bodies that not mutually agreed by many parties and other shortcoming to the economic perspective as well.

Plus, Akbarzadeh & Smith [26] in a study stated that negative report was derived from lack of understanding which caused immorality, fights and disagreement. Researcher believed that this negative result of lead caused by the same reasons, which the lead gives a negative impression due to the story were mostly about the lack of understanding, especially in the counter terrorism approach, as terrorist used another approach to disseminate its propaganda. Similarly, with conflict frame in previous data, it caused more negative news compared to positive news. A researcher noticed that the main attachment were negative as it is in line with the story it discussed. As earlier stated about the quotation of the source, it was similar to this finding which governments used negative slant in order to make people aware and influence to the message it delivered. Abdullah [7] previously stated that media in Arab slant towards government in order to combat terrorism. This was similar in the selected online newspapers that discovered government provided negative quotation with the same purpose which is to counter terrorism.

5.7 Hypotheses: Chi-Square Statistical Analysis

The Chi-square test revealed that there is a significant relationship between theme and dominant issue of Islamic State in the selected online newspaper in Malaysia. This data discovered a strong relationship between the theme of news and dominant issue of the Islamic State in selected online newspapers in Malaysia through framing approach. Religious, political, value of freedom, terrorism, economic and others have significant relationships with every issue under these themes. This showed the theme of news and dominant issues portrayed in Islamic State news were able to shape the pattern of framing in the news.

Data described that there is no significant relationship between dominant issue and types of frame in the portrayal of the Islamic State

is selected online newspapers in Malaysia through framing approaches. This analysis showed that frame of story and types of stories such as conflict frame, economic frame, morality frame, responsibility frame and human interest does not have a relationship with the dominant issue of the Islamic State in selected online newspaper in Malaysia. It could be resulted from different issues may not influence to only dedicated particular types of frames and story frame only in framing approach. Therefore, in the context of framing approach, dominant issue and types of frame have no engagement to the portrayal of Islamic State in selected online newspaper in Malaysia.

Chi-square also revealed that there is a significant relationship between types of frame and source of news. The statistical analysis described the data findings for the third hypothesis strongly significant. From this test, it can be seen that types of frame such as conflict frame, economic frame, morality frame, responsibility frame and human interest frame, including with types of frame story such as thematic and episodic, as well as source of news including a source of country and source of personalities can contribute to the pattern of framing approach. Therefore, through framing approach between source of news and types of news have a vital connection to the portrayal of the Islamic State in selected online newspapers in Malaysia.

The statistical data also exposed that there is a significant relationship between source of news and slant of news. Chi-square test discovered that there relationship between these two variables is highly significant. This analysis disclosed that source of news elements such as country source and source of personalities were believed influenced the slant of news which consist of negative, positive, neutral and both positive and negative slant. Hence, the framing approach of source of news and news slant contributes to the manipulation of the framing pattern on the portrayal of Islamic State in selected online newspapers in Malaysia.

6.0 CONCLUSION

As for conclusion, Agenda Setting Theory and Framing theory was

extremely helpful to guide researcher in understanding of how the media portrayed Islamic State in online newspapers. These elements of framing such as theme, issue, frame types, source and slant of news were identified in this study on media practices which comparing several Malaysian online newspapers reportage on Islamic State.

With the escalation of numbers of Islamic State threats, the issue of Islamic State has become a major concern towards government. Islamic State used cyber as a tool to spread its ideology towards people for both radicalisation as well as recruitment purposes. With the used of online newspaper, which highly accessible by various generation ages, it was helpful in dissemination of information that would help them to avoid from joining Islamic State or extremist belief. This made the framing of news in online newspapers is extremely crucial, because media should influence the perception of people. Therefore, change from media agenda to public agenda.

This portrayal of Islamic State in selected online newspaper in Malaysia, a framing approach is important to be taken seriously, as it affects the national security of this country. Research courage this study to be used for further study and beneficial references to significant people such as government, media, public as well as future generation.

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