



**Transnational Comparative Framing Analysis on South China Sea  
Dispute in Southeast Asian Online Media Coverage**

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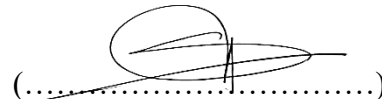
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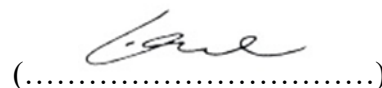
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**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER BUT NEVER LATE IS  
BETTER**

**-Fancy, Drake 2011**

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# **TRANSNATIONAL COMPARATIVE FRAMING ANALYSIS OF SOUTH CHINA SEA CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE**

## **Abstract**

The South China Sea conflict is one of the longest-running conflicts in Asia. The significance of the sea is so crucial that it affects several aspects, such as the economy, geopolitical, and maritime security within the region. In recent years, China has used its history and domestic law to occupy the maritime claim over the sea; this act developing an ambiguity in the disputed sea. Then again, the media has a lot of societal responsibilities in terms of how they should report the right information to the public. Reporters in conflict situations should report the news without inflaming the situation. Instead, journalists should practice journalism in a way that reconciles their differences.

The objective of this study is to analyze the framing of the South China Sea conflict. This research focuses on forty publications of four online media in Southeast Asia; The Jakarta Post, The Inquirer Philippine, The Star Online, and VietnamPlus as the representatives of the media on the coverage of the South China Sea dispute. The approach used in this study is a framing analysis, specifically with Guo's method of the Transnational Comparative Framing Model. Basing on the theories of peace and war journalism, this study hypothesized that the four online media in Southeast Asia incline toward war journalism.

This result of the framing analysis found that the media in Southeast Asia affirm the main assumption of the research, showing that the media in Southeast Asia opted for the war journalism in covering the news about the South China Sea conflict. There are four main indicators which represent the war journalism which include: elite-oriented, victory-oriented, propaganda-oriented, and partisan coverage. This study also shows that the media in Southeast Asia mostly cover the conflict through the lens of territorial dispute frame. This study affirms the applicability of the theories and findings previous studies. From a media perspective, this study emphasizes the need to take into account the importance of peace journalism practice during a conflict.

**Keywords:** South China Sea conflict, Transnational Comparative Framing Model,

Peace Journalism, War Journalism

## **Preface**

The author's deep gratitude goes out to God Almighty as well as to the people who have been involved and helped to finish the research titled "Transnational Comparative Framing Analysis of South China Sea Conflict". The topic of this undergraduate thesis was chosen because looking back at the ongoing conflicts that occur in the South China Sea, it has potential impact on Southeast Asian economic, political, and diplomatic policies. Media in this context has a fairly important role for future conflict resolution, considering that the media is able to act as a mediator to promote negotiations and conflict resolution.

The author hopes that the "Transnational Comparative Framing Analysis of South China Sea" research can be useful to provide a view of how the media in Southeast Asia frame news about conflicts in the South China Sea, and can contribute to the conflict resolution efforts in the South China Sea.

The final product of this thesis is used to meet one of the requirements for a bachelor's degree at the Department of Communication Studies, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Diponegoro University. This research in the making process has been attempted as thoroughly as possible, but still, there are shortcomings in this study. Criticisms and suggestions are extremely helpful for the improvement of the study. Finally, the author hopes that this research will be useful to the readers as well as the society.

**Author**



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