

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEWS ABOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN WHATSAPP GROUPS

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ABSTRACT

Since the Covid-19 case was announced in Wuhan in March 2019, various aspects of life have changed drastically. Economic, social, cultural, political, religious, and educational aspects and even language have changed. Social media is the vehicle that most frequently reports on the COVID-19 pandemic, including WhatsApp. This study aims to (1) describe the themes about the covid-19 pandemic on Whatsapp and (2) describe the public's attitude towards the news about the Covid-19 pandemic on Whatsapp. Data was collected from August 2021 to November 2021 during the fourth PPKM regulation. To analyze the discourse, the researcher uses Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model.

The results of this research indicate (1) the themes developed by the speakers in the WhtasApp Group include the themes of religiosity, health, education, and the economy. (2) The attitude of the public in responding to news about Covid-19 includes three aspects, namely affection, cognition, and behavior. The community responds to these three aspects with various functions, (a) with humor, (b) seriousness, (c) prohibitions, (d) invitations, (e) hopes, (f) worries, (g) ironism, (h) howax news, and (i) acts of obedience, as well as (j) violations.

Kata Kunci: *CDA, Fairclough, Covid-19, WA, WhatsApp, Attitude*