



# **The Image of A Moralistic Diplomatic Leader in the News Construction of Sheikh Nawaf's Death as Emir of Kuwait in Indonesian Media**



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## ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the leadership image of Sheikh Nawaf during his life when he served as Emir of Kuwait; who has a strong influence on the internal and leadership landscape of the Kuwaiti state in the eyes of the world by examining the framing of the news of the death of Sheikh Nawaf from two Indonesian media that are ideologically opposed to each other, Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id. By using Pan and Kosicki's framing analysis with an approach to mass media construction, this study reveals that Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id carry out different perspectives: Liputan6.com focuses on the moral and policy aspects of Sheikh Nawaf, highlighting political decisions such as the amnesty decision for dissidents, while Republika.co.id emphasizes his diplomatic image and international relations recognized by world leaders. These findings present how the media portrays state leaders with moral-diplomatic traits and their impact on public perception. This study also contributes to understanding the relationship between diplomacy, moral leadership, and media steps in constructing news, offering further research insights.

**Keywords:** Leader Image; Media Framing; Emir of Kuwait; Sheikh Nawaf

## INTRODUCTION

Since the start of large-scale oil production in 1946 and the achievement of independence from Britain in 1961, Kuwaiti politics has been dominated by a ruling family called the al-Sabahs. Before the discovery of oil in Kuwait, although the al-Sabahs had ruled since Emir Sabah I in 1752, they relied on the support of wealthy merchant families who provided financial and political support to the government in return for their role in state affairs. Unlike other Gulf states, Kuwait had developed a politically conscious and organized merchant elite before the oil (**Hicks & Al-Najjar, 2005**). Kuwait has experienced 16 changes of Emir. From 2020 to 2023, it was led by Sheikh Nawaf (**Kuwait Government Online, 2023b**).

Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah was born on June 25, 1937. As a descendant of the al-Sabah family who migrated to Kuwait in 1756, he has held various important positions, such as being a leader throughout his career. Before becoming an Emir in Kuwait, he was appointed Governor of Hawalli on February 12, 1962. This position marked the beginning of his leadership journey. Over the years, his leadership role expanded as he assumed responsibilities, including being responsible for the Ministry of Interior on March 19, 1978, and then serving as Minister of Defense on January 26, 1988. His career also developed further when he served as Minister of Defense (**Kuwait Government Online, 2023a**).

His leadership position continued beyond the position of Minister of Defense; then, he was assigned to oversee the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor on April 2, 1991, followed by his appointment as Deputy Commander of the National Guard on October 16, 1994. He then held essential positions, becoming Deputy Prime Minister and first Minister of the Interior on October 16, 2003, and took over the Ministry of Interior on July 13, 2003. Then, he was appointed crown prince on February 20, 2006, and finally took over power as leader to become Emir of Kuwait on September 29, 2020 (**Kuwait Government Online, 2023a**). However, in the middle of his leadership, which had just reached three years as Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf died on December 16, 2023, at 83.

News of Sheikh Nawaf's death became a topic of discussion in the global mass media, including Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id as online media in Indonesia. The media has a vital role in communicating events, managing conflicts, and shaping perceptions about them because news reporting is often influenced by media ideology, which can be following the tendencies or context of the country that is the subject of the news (**Mansour, 2023**). The

digitalization of media has enabled people to obtain information in many cases in real-time (ElTarabishi & Galal, 2023). The presence of online media has accelerated the spread of global events reviewed in the news. Like conventional news media, the information conveyed in online news is selected with sentences that are interesting to readers (Zahra et al., 2020). This relates to the content framing technique, where the presentation of reality is not entirely objective but tends to be influenced subtly through attention to certain parts with words that can carry certain connotations using images and various other illustrative tools. Therefore, it is not surprising that an issue can have different interpretations because the mass media is often driven to present news according to the interests of the media or certain groups (Indrawan et al., 2021). Among them happened three popular newspapers in Greece: Golden Dawn, Rizospastis, and Kathimerini, which used terrorism as a means to promote their political goals based on extreme right-wing, extreme left-wing, and centrist ideologies (Kyriakou, 2017). Then, it also happened to Al-Jazeera Arabic tended to exaggerate the opposition's advantages or cover up the opposition's disadvantages in presenting its news. At the same time, BBC Arabic was more balanced, so it was found that the political context influenced both channels and was in line with the interests of domestic and foreign policy in their home countries (Nahed, 2016). Therefore, the online media Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id both use different approaches in framing the news of the death of Sheikh Nawaf as the Leader of the State of Kuwait.

This study aims to analyze how Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id frame the image of leadership in the news of the death of Sheikh Nawaf as a leader of the state of Kuwait. A person's ability to lead can be measured by his capacity to influence others to move toward the same goal, either within the scope of an organizational entity or within a country (Sohiron et al., 2019). The image of a leader built by the media is born from behavioral actions that have been carried out based on personal ability factors, experience, and total consistency toward the vision and mission of a country (Linawati & Sofiaty, 2019). For leaders who have passed away, their image can be influenced by how they interact with the public and their colleagues, the achievements or controversies they have made, and how they have influenced the lives of their people positively or negatively. By looking deeper into the framing of this leadership image, it is hoped that it can be a guideline for the media in depicting state leaders with moral-diplomatic traits and their impact on public perception. In addition, this study also contributes to understanding the

relationship between diplomacy, moral leadership, and media construction, which offers insights for further research.

Research on the image of leadership in news reporting about a deceased leader has been done a lot before. Scott T. Allison et al. stated that death polarizes morality judgments: Moral leaders are judged more morally after death. In contrast, immoral leaders are considered more immoral after death (**Allison et al., 2009**). Then, in line with Scott T. Allison et al., Milena Drzewiecka and Wojciech Cwalina revealed that before and after the death of Polish President Lech Kaczyński, there was a more positive evaluation from the mass media after his death, they also said that the death of a leader could be used as a valuable tool in a political marketing campaign (**Drzewiecka & Cwalina, 2020**). Furthermore, Andrés Fernando Orozco Macías also said that in reporting the death of Libyan President Gaddafi, CNN described Gaddafi as a symbol of the past that needed to be erased to bring positive change to Libya, and Fox News defined Gaddafi as a leader who oppressed his people and rejected freedom of expression. Of course, this was influenced by the political ideology of each media, where CNN and Fox News are pro-American media (**Orozco Macias, 2018**). In another study, Leysan Khakimova Storie et al. revealed how the media in Russia and the United States covered the death of Osama bin Laden, reflecting significant differences in the way the two media outlets covered the same event. The US media reported the death of bin Laden as the central figure of global terrorism who played a role as the leader of al-Qaeda and became the main focus of US counterterrorism efforts. While the US media focused heavily on the counterterrorism framework, it is clear that the Russian media is more skeptical of the US counterterrorism approach (**Storie et al., 2014**). Besides the image of leadership in the news about a deceased leader, there is also research on the construction of the image of leadership for a leader still alive, as stated by Dani Kurniawan and Widodo Muktiyo. Their findings indicate that Foxnews.com creates a positive image of Donald Trump as a leader by explaining that his immigration policies are intended for the national interest. In contrast, Aljazeera.com creates a negative image of Donald Trump because they argue that his immigration policies are discriminatory against Muslims (**Kurniawan & Muktiyo, 2019**).

Based on previous studies that have been described, there are several striking differences in this study. Starting from the analysis of the theory used, the media used as the subject of the study, and the news content presented. This study applies the analysis *framing* by Zhongdan Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki, who operationalize four structural dimensions of news text, namely: (1)

Syntax, (2) Script, (3) Thematic, and (4) Rhetorical. News content is presented as a unit of data analysis on how to reconstruct the image of the leadership of a deceased leader with presents framing on two online media that are often present in reporting international events but have different ideologies, namely Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id. First, Liputan6.com, which was previously under SCTV but since 2012 has been established under the name PT Kreatif Media Karya (KMK) independently (**Wardani & Setiawan, 2022**). Liputan6.com stands above and for all groups (**Fitria & Candrasari, 2023**). So, this site presents news and information from various fields without highlighting or promoting a particular religious affiliation. Unlike Liputan6.com, Republika.co.id has an ideological orientation that comes from the principles of its founders, namely the Association of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI), by taking the foundation of Islamic values in directing its steps (Launa, 2020). So Republika.co.id, in reporting events, usually strongly favors Muslims (Science & Mediacom, 2018). This can be seen in the columns presented, such as Ameera, Sharia, Khazanah, and Islam Digest. Thus, this study has the novelty of observing how the leadership style of Sheikh Nawaf as Emir is represented in two media outlets with quite different ideologies in the history of mass media in Indonesia.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Qualitative research methods with a media constructionism approach are applied in this study. Communication researchers often use this approach to understand how mass media not only conveys information but also constructs reality through the process of framing and interpretation of certain events by using the process of selection, emphasis, and interpretation to create meaning and build particular views in the public mind. This method aims to identify how mass media shapes and influences public perception and how the narrative structure used by the media can create or strengthen public opinion. (**Karman, 2014**). In practice, framing analysis allows researchers to link communication phenomena to sociological, political, and cultural contexts to examine how these contexts shape media interpretations and representations of certain events (**Munif, 2023**).

The news about the death of Sheikh Nawaf became the object of this research. Due to the minimal quantity of news coverage in Indonesian online media, this research used convenience sampling by taking two news titles based on the availability of news and the ease of obtaining it (**Fauzy, nd**). The first news by online media Liputan6.com with the title "Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Dies at the Age of 86," and the second news by Republika.com with the title "Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Dies"

became the primary data source as well as the subject of the research. The secondary data of this research are in the form of research journals, books, and articles or readings that are relevant and credible related to the profile of Sheikh Nawaf.

Based on the research methods, objects, and subjects that have been described, the researcher chose the framing analysis unit by Zhongdan Pan & Gerald M. Kosicki, which operationalizes four structural dimensions of news text, namely: (1) Syntax, (2) Script, (3) Thematic, and (4) Rhetorical (**Sobur, 2015**). Pan & Kosicki's approach sees framing as a public discourse constructed and negotiated by the media regarding a particular issue or policy. In data collection, researchers collected news about the death of Sheikh Nawaf in online media and then analyzed the use of symbols in vocabulary, graphics, and connotations presented by Liputan6.com and Republika.com. The goal is to understand how these elements contribute to constructing memory and audience perception (**Munif, 2023**). Through this framing, the media directs the audience to understand the event in a particular context, thus forming a reality following the point of view they offer.

***Table 1 Pan and Kosicki Model Framing Framework***

| <b>Structure</b>                                     | <b>Framing Devices</b>  | <b>Units under observation</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Syntax</b><br>How journalists compile facts       | 1. News Scheme  | Headline, lead, background information, quotes, sources, statements, closing |
| <b>Script</b><br>How journalists tell the facts      | 2. Completeness of news   | 5W+1H  |
| <b>Thematic</b><br>How journalists write facts       | 3. Detail<br>4. Meaning of sentence, relationship,<br>5. Inter-sentence nominalization,<br>6. Coherence,<br>7. Sentence form,<br>8. Pronouns, | Paragraph, proposition   |
| <b>Rhetorical</b><br>How journalists emphasize facts | 9. Lexicon<br>10. Graphic<br>11. Metaphor<br>12. Reliance   | Words, idioms, pictures/photos, graphics                                     |

Source: (**Sobur, 2015**)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The image of a leader is formed from past experiences, achievements or failures that he has experienced, the insights he has, and other people's views of him (Umam, 2017). Media is considered the most effective way to shape public opinion (Ahl et al., 2023). To find out the image of the leader built by Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id in the news of the death of Sheikh Nawaf, researchers used the framing theory by Pan and Kosicki to be able to compare the perspective or how the two media present news related to the same grand issue. Pan and Kosicki have identified four framing frameworks that include: (1) syntactic structure that refers to the arrangement of events, opinions, and quotes into a general news format, (2) script structure related to the narrative of a news story, (3) thematic structure that reflects views in sentences that form the entire text, (4) rhetorical structure that emphasizes specific meanings by using word choices, idioms, images, and other aspects to the public (Sobur, 2015).

In searching for news about the death of Sheikh Nawaf using the keywords "Nawaf" and "Kuwait" on Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id, the researcher found one piece of news from each media with a broadcast time on a different day. The news was selected based on the issue and the highlighting of unique aspects, then presented as analysis material by the researcher:

*Table 2 News researched*

| Liputan6.com   | Republika.co.id                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Dies at 86 | Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf Passes Away |

Source: Research Results, 2023

### Syekh Nawaf in The Frame of Liputan6.com

The news of the announcement of Sheikh Nawaf's death was presented with the title "Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Dies at the Age of 86", broadcast live on the same day as the incident, namely Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 21:28 WIB. In short, this news reports that Sheikh Nawaf, the Emir of Kuwait, died at age 86. Kuwaitis and the Islamic world expressed their condolences for his passing. Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber is likely to replace him as the Emir of Kuwait, known for having the sixth largest oil reserves in the world. Sheikh Nawaf, considered a forgiving emir, faced various domestic issues. He was known for issuing amnesty decrees and trying to resolve political conflicts. The British government also expressed condolences for his passing.



Table 3 *Liputan6.com News Analysis*

| Structure     | Unit   | Results  |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Syntax</b> | Headline, lead, background information, quotes, sources, statements, closing | <p><b>Headlines</b><br/>Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Dies at 86</p> <p><b>Lead</b><br/>Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah died at the age of 86, Saturday (16/12/2023).</p> <p><b>Background information</b><br/>This news covers the background of the political and government policies implemented by Sheikh Nawaf during his tenure as Emir, including his focus on domestic issues such as the welfare system and his political decisions regarding dissidents.</p> <p><b>Citations and sources</b><br/>"With deep sorrow and grief, we, the people of Kuwait, the Arab and Islamic nations, and the friendly citizens of the world - condole the passing of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah today," said a brief statement issued by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Sabah, as reported by AP.<br/>"He earned his title – he has a nickname here. They call him the 'merciful emir,' no one in Kuwait's modern history has gone this far to reach out to others, to open up," said Bader al-Saif, an assistant professor of history at Kuwait University.</p> <p><b>Statement/Opinion</b><br/>There is no author's opinion in this news.</p> <p><b>Closing</b><br/>The country has been a staunch US ally since the 1991 Gulf War. Kuwait hosts about 13,500 US troops and serves as the headquarters of the US Army in the Middle East.</p> |
| <b>Script</b> | 5W+1H  | <p><b>What (What):</b><br/>Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has died at the age of 86.</p> <p><b>Who (Who):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah (deceased emir of Kuwait).</li> <li>- Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber (deputy ruler of Kuwait who will take over).</li> <li>- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Sabah (delivering a statement on the death of Emir Sheikh Nawaf).</li> <li>- Bader al-Saif (assistant professor of history at Kuwait University).</li> <li>- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (offers condolences).</li> </ul> <p><b>When (When):</b><br/>Emir Sheikh Nawaf passed away on Saturday, December 16, 2023.<br/>In late November, Sheikh Nawaf was rushed to hospital with an unspecified illness.</p> <p><b>Where (Where):</b></p>   |

| Structure         | Unit                                     | Results   |
|-------------------|--|---|
|                   |  | <p>This incident occurred in Kuwait City, Kuwait.</p> <p><b>Why (Why):</b><br/>The exact cause of Emir Sheikh Nawaf's death was not disclosed. Reports say the health of Kuwaiti leaders is a sensitive issue.</p> <p><b>How (How):</b><br/>Details about how the death occurred or the Emir's health condition were not explained in the report.</p>   |
| <b>Thematic</b>   | Paragraph, proposition                   | <p><b>Coherence:</b><br/>The text provides information regarding the death of Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the succession process, international reactions, the political background in Kuwait, and Sheikh Nawaf's role and policies during his leadership. With prepositions such as "on", "since", "before", "in", "from", "upon", "for", and "in", the information is presented chronologically and consistently, from the events of his death to the international response and an explanation of Sheikh Nawaf's reign.</p> <p><b>Sentence Form:</b><br/>Most of the sentences in this text are complex sentences consisting of several simple sentences that are logically connected, providing more in-depth information. The sentence describes the chronology of events clearly, including facts about Sheikh Nawaf's health and influence on Kuwaiti politics.</p> <p><b>Pronouns:</b><br/>Pronouns such as "he", "they", and "we", are used consistently to refer to the figures being discussed as well as specific groups (for example, the people of Kuwait or Arab and Islamic countries).</p> |
| <b>Rhetorical</b> | Words, idioms, pictures/photos, graphics | <p><b>Idiom:</b><br/>"condolences", "return to Him", "the merciful emir"</p> <p><b>Emotional Words:</b><br/>"deep sadness and sorrow", "breadth and depth of emotion", "remembering with fondness"</p> <p><b>Words That Have a Strong Effect:</b><br/>"has the sixth largest oil reserves in the world"</p> <p><b>Image/Photo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Photo of Sheikh Nawaf wearing Bisht</li> <li>- Kuwaiti flag image in full</li> <li>- Photo of British Prime Minister waving</li> </ul>   |

Source: Research Results, 2023

From the description above, by applying Pan and Kosicki's framing analysis regarding the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death made by Liputan6.com, it can be seen that:

### 1) Syntax

In Syntactic Structure, Liputan6.com highlights Sheikh Nawaf's political decisions regarding dissidents in Kuwait. Apart from that, a quote was also used which stated that Sheikh Nawaf's actions were considered to have reached the highest level in Kuwait's history. This action took the form of issuing an amnesty decree in the form of pardoning or reducing sentences by Sheikh Nawaf to nearly 36 dissidents in Kuwait.

### 2) Script

In the Who element, Bader al-Saif, an expert in history at Kuwait University, is the news source. This indicates emphasis and provides confidence that an Emir has never done Sheikh Nawaf's actions in granting forgiveness or reducing sentences to dissidents throughout history. However, there is a lack of How and Why elements of 5W+1H in the news.

### 3) Thematic

The thematic structure of this news explains the death of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf, and an assessment of his tenure, as well as several essential decisions he took during his reign.

Each preposition (On, Since, Before, During, From) provides a different time frame or context for the events or actions described in each paragraph (**Ayu Kurniasih, 2017**). The thematic element of this proposition describes how Sheikh Nawaf is involved in situations that require peace by granting forgiveness. For example, "Since" he became the Emir of Kuwait, he has focused on domestic issues to ease political disputes, showing his forgiving nature to find solutions to the tensions in his country's politics.

### 4) Rhetorical

In the Rhetorical structure, there is an idiom in the form of "Forgiving Emir", this emphasizes the title or nickname for the character of Sheikh Nawaf, who has a forgiving nature by granting amnesty and pardon to several prisoners or dissidents in Kuwait (**Ferida, 2023**). Emotional words such as "deep sorrow and grief", "breadth and depth of emotion", and "remembering with affection" were also presented as a form of remembering with affection or kindness for what Sheikh Nawaf had done during his tenure as Emir of Kuwait.

The images embedded in the news also have rhetorical meaning, such as the Photo of Sheikh Nawaf wearing a Bisht. The use of Bisht (or Bisht), which is a traditional long Arab robe often worn by religious or state leaders at formal events (**Na'im & Andari, 2018**). Bisht is an outer garment for men

that is part of the clothing of rulers, presidents, figures, clerics, and high-ranking people (Husein, 2012).

In the news presented by Liputan6.com, the photo could have the meaning of a final tribute and recognition of his leadership and contribution during his life. The whole image of the Kuwaiti flag explains that the death of the Emir of Kuwait has a deep rhetorical meaning, showing the respect, loyalty, and solidarity of the people towards the country and its leader who has passed away. The photo of the British Prime Minister waving as a farewell or tribute, in the context of news of someone's death, shows the last tribute or respect from someone who is respected to the deceased.

### **Syekh Nawaf in The Frame of Republika.co.id**

Republika.co.id reported the death of Sheikh Nawaf with the title "Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Passes Away". Unlike Liputan6.com, Republika.co.id broadcast the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death one day later than the incident, namely Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 06:17 WIB. This news reported that Sheikh Nawaf, the Emir of Kuwait, died at age 86. The State of Kuwait also announced a 40-day mourning period, and the government was closed for three days. Global figures who play a significant role, such as the British Prime Minister, expressed their sadness because Sheikh Nawaf, the Emir who had close ties with the UK, will be remembered with great appreciation and love by them. In addition, the President of the United Arab Emirates also expressed his respect for Sheikh Nawaf because he was seen as playing an essential role in strengthening the ties between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

*Table. 3 Republika.co.id News Analysis*

| <b>Structure</b> | <b>Unit</b>  | <b>Results</b>   |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Syntax</b>    | Headline, lead, background information, quotes, sources, statements, closing | <p><b>Headlines</b><br/>Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf Passes Away</p> <p><b>Lead</b><br/>Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah has died at the age of 86. Sheikh Nawaf died three years after taking power in the oil-producing country, which is a US ally in the Middle East.</p> <p><b>Background information</b><br/>World leaders who paid their respects and condolences for the death of Sheikh Nawaf became the background information in the form of responses from the world and the description of the background information provided by the news was a political policy in the form of Sheikh Nawaf's foreign policy which sought to maintain balanced relations with neighboring countries.</p> <p><b>Citations and sources</b></p> |

| Structure | Unit  | Results   |
|-----------|-------|---|
|           |       | <p>On social media X, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak expressed his sadness at the news. Sheikh Nawaf's passing. He described the emir as a great friend of Britain who would be remembered fondly.</p> <p>On social media X, UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed wrote that Sheikh Nawaf was a wise leader who significantly strengthened Kuwait-UAE relations.</p> <p><b>Statement</b><br/>There are no direct statements/opinions from the author. All are descriptions, factual information, and quotes from other sources.</p> <p><b>Closing</b><br/>Kuwait bans parliamentary parties but remains one of the most liberal political systems in the Middle East. Political debate is often fierce, and the elected legislature includes Sunnis, Shiites, liberals, and Islamists.</p>   |
| Script    | 5W+1H | <p><b>What (What):</b><br/>News of the death of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, which occurred at the age of 86 after three years in power in Kuwait.</p> <p><b>Who (Who):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who died.</li> <li>- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (offers condolences).</li> <li>- President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed (paying respect).</li> </ul> <p><b>When (When):</b><br/>The exact day and date were not mentioned, but it was reported that Sheikh Nawaf's death occurred before Sunday, December 16, 2023. At age 86 and after three years in power as Emir of Kuwait.</p> <p><b>Where (Where):</b><br/>This news happened in Kuwait.</p> <p><b>Why (Why):</b><br/>The Kuwaiti government has not disclosed the exact cause of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah's death. However, the emir had previously been hospitalized for an emergency health issue, although his condition was stable.</p> <p><b>How (How):</b><br/>The manner of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah's death was not explained in detail in the news.</p> |

| Structure         | Unit                                     | Results  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>Thematic</b>   | Paragraph, preposition                   | <p><b>Coherence:</b><br/>Prepositions such as "in", "on", "from", "since", "for", "in", "against", "between", "with", and "to" are used to provide information about time, location, reasons, relationships, and various political dynamics. So that the text has good coherence in conveying information about the death of the Emir of Kuwait, succession, international responses, history, Kuwaiti domestic politics, and foreign relations.</p> <p><b>Sentence Form:</b><br/>Most of the sentences in the text are complex sentences, some long sentences with a lot of information, which provides a broader context.</p> <p><b>Pronouns:</b><br/>There is the use of pronouns such as "Emir", and "he", which are used consistently to refer to the characters being discussed.</p> |
| <b>Rhetorical</b> | Words, idioms, pictures/photos, graphics | <p><b>Emotional Words:</b><br/>"Respect"<br/>"grief"</p> <p><b>Words That Have a Strong Effect:</b><br/>"consensus builder"<br/>"they seem to be in sync"<br/>"ally"</p> <p><b>Image/Photo</b><br/>Image of the Kuwaiti flag flying at half mast</p>   |

Source: Research Results, 2023

Pan and Kosicki's framing analysis above explains the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death broadcast by Republika.co.id:

### 1) Syntax

Republika.co.id, in its syntactic structure in its news, highlights the balanced relationship with neighboring countries Kuwait built by Sheikh Nawaf. This also presents the respect and condolences given by world leaders for the death of Sheikh Nawaf.

### 2) Script

Republika.co.id in the Who element chose a quote from Kuwaiti analysts and diplomats stating that Sheikh Nawaf led Kuwait towards closer alignment with regional power Saudi Arabia. Rishi Sunak, British Prime Minister, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, President of the United Arab Emirates, were also chosen as sources in the Who element of the news (Satria, 2023). This

indicates emphasis and provides confidence that during his time as Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf was an Emir who had good relations with the internal state of Kuwait, neighboring countries, and other countries. However, in the news, there are shortcomings in the “How” and “Why” elements of 5W + 1H.

### 3) Thematic

Thematically, this news focuses on several aspects related to the death of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf, and its implications. The text provides information about Sheikh Nawaf's succession after three years in power and the international response to his death. The responses from world leaders such as the British Prime Minister and the President of the United Arab Emirates reflect the importance of Sheikh Nawaf in international relations. The news also discusses Sheikh Nawaf's role in strengthening relations between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, indicating the importance of diplomatic factors and bilateral relations between the countries.

The sentence forms used in this text are primarily complex and contain much information, providing a broader and deeper context. Using pronouns such as "Emir" and "He" consistently refers to the characters being discussed, maintaining consistency and fluency in reading the text.

### 4) Rhetorical

There are no idioms in the Rhetorical structure of the news presented by Republika.co.id. The emotional words "respect" and "sorrow" mean respect, recognition, and sympathy felt by the government and world leaders for the loss of Sheikh Nawaf as an essential figure in the political and diplomatic context during his reign.

The emotional words “consensus builder” and “they seem to be aligning” indicate Sheikh Nawaf's role in building understanding and agreement between opposing parties. This highlights his diplomatic skills in creating consensus amidst political deadlock, especially in relations with regional powers such as Saudi Arabia. This illustrates Kuwait's foreign strategy's change or shift in direction.

The national flag is raised at half-mast as a sign of mourning when the Head of State or Deputy Head of State dies (**Heroes' Day Commemoration Committee, 2017**). Article 4 Number 26 of 1991 concerning the Kuwaiti flag, stipulates that the flag must be flown at half-mast if there is an official mourning announcement in the country, and must also be flown at half-mast at the embassy house, and the Kuwaiti embassy, foreign consulates in the event of an official mourning announcement in the country where they are located. Kuwait City announced lowering the flag at half-mast for 40 days in all ministry buildings, government institutions, and main roads

(Kuna.net.kw, 2023). The image of the Kuwaiti flag flying at half-mast has a strong symbolic meaning associated with mourning. Those who have died and are remembered are considered heroes, a tribute to individuals who have contributed to the country's and nation's progress (**Flag at Half Mast, 2010**). In this context, the image can reinforce the sense of sadness and respect for the passing of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf. The half-mast flag can be seen as a symbol of national respect for the loss experienced by Kuwait.

## Discussion

### Moralist on Liputan6.Com; Diplomatic on Republika.Co.Id

A leader tries to show his personal style personally. This is expected to provide an example for his subordinates in carrying out their activities by seeing a successful and competent leader (**Linawati & Sofianti, 2019**). In the case of the death of Sheikh Nawaf as Emir of Kuwait, the image of success and competence that he had as a Leader can be an example of future leaders, given his personality and policies during his tenure as Emir of Kuwait.

Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id present the figure of Sheikh Nawaf from different perspectives in the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death. In the **syntactic** structure, Liputan6.com highlights the actions of Sheikh Nawaf's domestic political decisions in Kuwait; the actions are in the form of issuing an amnesty decree in the form of forgiveness or reduced sentences by Sheikh Nawaf to almost 36 dissidents in Kuwait. In contrast, Republika.co.id emphasizes the respect and condolences given by world leaders. This was born from the good relations between Kuwait and other countries that Sheikh Nawaf had built. In this case, the aspect presented by Republika.co.id is foreign policy.

Liputan6.com prefers a domestic source who is a historian of the **script** structure; this emphasizes that Sheikh Nawaf's actions in granting forgiveness to dissidents were truly unprecedented by any Emir throughout the history of Kuwait. On the other hand, Republika.co.id preferred foreign sources to express their condolences for the death of Sheikh Nawaf; this illustrates that during his tenure as Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf was an Emir who had good relations with other countries.

Then, in the **thematic** structure, an assessment of the critical decisions Sheikh Nawaf made during his reign is the focus of Liputan6.com. The thematic element of Liputan6.com's preposition describes how Sheikh Nawaf was involved in situations that required peace by granting forgiveness. For example, "Since" he became the Emir of Kuwait, he has focused on domestic issues to ease political disputes, showing his forgiving nature in finding solutions to the tensions in his country's politics. Meanwhile, Republika.co.id



provides information on Sheikh Nawaf's succession after three years in power and the international response to his death. The responses from world leaders such as the British Prime Minister and the President of the United Arab Emirates reflect the importance of Sheikh Nawaf in international relations. This news also discusses Sheikh Nawaf's role in strengthening relations between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, indicating the importance of diplomatic factors and bilateral relations.

The **rhetorical** structure by Liputan6.com in the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death is built with idioms, emotional words, and accompanying images. Liputan6.com wants to convey the impression of deep feelings over Sheikh Nawaf's passing and the last respect and recognition of his contribution during his tenure as Emir of Kuwait, who had a forgiving nature. While Republika.co.id displays the entire rhetoric in the news of Sheikh Nawaf's passing by emphasizing the sense of respect, sadness, and appreciation for Sheikh Nawaf's contribution, as well as highlighting his diplomatic skills and how the country responded to his passing symbolically.

Different results from the analysis of Pan and Kosicki's framing theory on the two media in Indonesia, namely Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id. Liputan6.com published news based on sources and statements from within the country, adding to the belief that Sheikh Nawaf was a moral leader who empathized with his citizens during his term as an Emir in Kuwait. A leader's empathy is a skill that allows him to identify, understand, and experience the feelings of subordinates, which are expressed through expressions and actions (**Sohiron et al., 2019**). One of the empathy that Sheikh Nawaf has for his country's citizens is manifested in his actions of forgiving dissidents in his country. This moral act is something that has never been done by an Emir before in Kuwait's history, demonstrating Sheikh Nawaf's innovative and high moral leadership values.

Meanwhile, Republika.co.id, in reporting the death of Sheikh Nawaf, emphasized the role of diplomatic leaders whom world leaders widely recognize. Diplomatic leaders have the skills to analyze something that can benefit their country and other countries (**Mattayang, 2019**). Focusing on the foreign policy aspect, Republika.co.id underlines the importance of Sheikh Nawaf's diplomatic role during his tenure as Emir of Kuwait by building good relations between Kuwait and other countries. Republika.co.id shows the overall rhetoric of the news by highlighting the respect, sadness, and appreciation for Sheikh Nawaf's contributions. This news highlights his diplomatic skills and the symbolic response shown by the country to his

passing, making Sheikh Nawaf's passing a moment that illustrates the importance of diplomatic roles and bilateral relations between countries.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

From the online media coverage of Liputan6.com and Republika.co.id. Overall, it can be concluded that both have pretty different tendencies when covering the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death; both have different approaches in presenting the image of the leader of Sheikh Nawaf as the former Emir of Kuwait who has passed away. Liputan6.com highlights the moral and policy side of Sheikh Nawaf's government by emphasizing his political decisions, especially regarding the amnesty decree given to dissidents in Kuwait. This reporting emphasizes the innovative and moral leadership traits that have never been shown by an Emir before. This is related to Liputan6.com's mission, which stands above and for all groups. This approach allows Liputan6.com to provide more neutral reporting, highlighting various aspects of Sheikh Nawaf's leadership without religious bias.

Meanwhile, Republika.co.id focuses more on the diplomatic image and international relations he built, which were later widely recognized by world leaders. They highlight the excellent relations built by Sheikh Nawaf between Kuwait and other countries, emphasizing the importance of diplomatic factors and bilateral relations between countries. This news shows how Sheikh Nawaf's death became a moment that illustrates the importance of the diplomatic role in the international world. This is related to Republika.co.id's ideological orientation, which is based on the principles of Islamic values. This orientation allows Republika.co.id to highlight Sheikh Nawaf's diplomatic aspects and international relations that align with Islamic values, such as international cooperation, justice, and peace, which the global community and world leaders appreciate.

The two constructions in the news of Sheikh Nawaf's death provide different images of Sheikh Nawaf's contribution and leadership, showing his unique qualities as a leader with moral values and diplomatic skills. However, it is essential to note the completeness of the Script structure in the news; the lack of "How" and "Why" elements can affect the depth and completeness of the information conveyed to the reader. The existence of "How" and "Why" elements in a news story is essential to provide the reader with a more complete, in-depth, and contextual picture of an event. This helps the reader better understand how the event occurred, why it is essential, and the implications and consequences that may arise from the event. Further research is needed on using social media to construct the leader's image in the news of the death of the emir of Kuwait.

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