

# Nuclear Weapon Discussion on G20 Forum: A Media Framing Analysis From Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Assyarqu Al-Awsathu Online Media

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## ABSTRACT

Indonesia holds a key role as host of the G20 Presidency in 2022. Many international media highlighted this summit and the issues that has been discussed inside. As a world economic forum, G20 Presidency in Indonesia also reviewed about the international security issue, one of it is nuclear weapon threat. This study identifies, analyze, and compares the content produced by Indonesia (Kompas.com), United Kingdom (BBC.co.uk), and Saudi Arabia's online news media (aawsat.com), surrounding the frame of nuclear weapons issue on G20 Forum. The study utilizes the framing analysis model of Zhondang Pan and Gerald M. Kosicki, to explain the message that communicated by the three countries related on nuclear weapon issue on G20 summit. The major findings clearly captured that every media adopted different rhetorical frames through the media coverage of the G20 Presidency in Indonesia. Related on nuclear weapon issue, Indonesian media imply a neutral approach, different with UK's media that used straightforward approach or Saudi's media with interior approach.

## KEYWORDS

G20; Nuclear  
Weapon; Online  
Media; Framing  
Analysis

## INTRODUCTION

The Group of Twenty (G20) became one of the most important international forums for Indonesia government. The participation brought Indonesia for having broader contribution in international activities, related to political affairs, economic development, international trade, healthcare, and other programs among fellow members of the G20 forum (Astuti & Fathun, 2020; Saputra & Ali, 2021).

Indonesia as one of the G20 members also had a role in building a higher degree of coordination. Especially in 2022, Indonesia's presidency on G20, until the Bali Summit in November 2022, could play a role between individual nations (Bilateral, multilateral) also as an international organization. As the "premier forum" for international economic cooperation, Bali Summit 2022 had been held in the middle of various issues, beside the fact that every member represents the majority of world population, or how the countries represent global economic on world trade activity (Callaghan, 2013).

The Bali Summit in 2022 became more highlighted compared to the other G20 leader summit for years before. The world waits on how the G20 responded to the global recovery after Covid-19 pandemic (Atkinson, 2020) also another issue related to the

Russia-Ukraine conflict (Simatupang & Panggabean, 2022), and the nuclear weapon discussion.

The discussion of nuclear weapons and other related issues, such as Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and international security (Jagtiani et al., 2022; Mukherjee, 2022; Wint, 2022) It also grabs the media attention and influences the way of press to inform the summit. Several research shows that the government's intention could influence the media reportage, especially related to a similar type of international forum (G8, COP27). Research by Lichtenstein & Koerth (2022) showed that media had several considerations on how to depict the crisis, one of the cases is G8 according to their respective format conventions. Media that affiliated as a public service news mainly reflected governmental frames. Another research by Löw & Dewenter (2022) highlighted the news framing of COP27 in the media.

The media coverage on the G20 also captured how the nuclear weapon was discussed between the members. G20 Bali Summit 2022 with the theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" confers the economic landscape and global security issue in 2022 (Teresia & Sulaiman, 2022). The global media outlook portrayed the international sentiment regarding every issue that talked about Indonesia's G20 presidency. International media have a significant role to provide the primary framework for the public. While the public's perception of the origins, outcomes, and importance of the international forum is impacted by news media reports. However, Pan and Kosicki (2004) also capture a different perspective, that news also "construct" the reality rather than simply "report" and it referred to media framing. The framing is defined as a media management encoding the information, interpreting it, and retrieving the phenomena. The media framing analysis assumed that there is a strategy of constructing and processing news discourse or as a characteristic of the discourse itself.

The agenda offered by international media shows the differences in how they portrayed the forum. Also, the news is generally performed through cross-cultural comparisons of every region that is represented: South-east Asian media, Arabic media, and European-based media. These studies of news framing have provided important insights on a range of topics in the last three years—refugees (Doufesh & Briel, 2021), 2014 Hong Kong Protest (Ping, 2022), and War of Terror (Hashmat & Rawan, 2020). However, they rarely provide insight in the application of news frames for international forums and the perspective of media in different regions.

This research aimed to compare the textual and visual discourse used to frame the nuclear weapon discussion by the online news media outlets: Kompas.com (Indonesia), BBC.co.uk (United Kingdom), and aawsat.com (Saudi Arabia).

According to this purpose, 3 online media headlines were gathered on 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the period during which the G20 Bali Summit discussed global security and nuclear weapons. The motivation behind this choice of timeframe lies in our interest to compare the salience of media coverage during the nuclear weapon discussion.

## METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach and adopts a framing analysis method. The framing used is Zhongdang Pan and Gerald Kosicki's model (Pan & Kosicki, 1993), and it becomes a tool to describe the phenomena. In this framework model. The analysis includes all points of view contained in the text: related to words, sentences, paraphrases, labels, expressions (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). The analysis also considers the structure of the text and relationships between sentences or paragraphs.

Pan and Kosicki framing analysis divides 4 structural dimensions of news text as framing structures: syntax, script, thematic and rhetorical. The assumption of framing analysis is that every news uses a frame to organize the ideas of the message. Frame relates to meaning, how someone interprets an event can be used from a set of signs that appear in the text. In this approach the framing device is divided into four major structures (Pan, 2005).

Analysis starts with syntactic structure, then analyzing the script, thematic structure, and see the rhetorical structure (Tracy, 2019). Syntactic analysis answers how journalists organize phenomena by using the placement of statements, opinions, quotes, and the result of observations while writing news articles. Syntax will be picturized on the selected titles of the news, the leads on the article, and how is the background information of the news. Then, it continues on the analysis of script structure, to find the choice of journalist's storytelling strategy. Third, the analysis of thematic structure to examine how journalists present their perspective on an issue or phenomenon through their use of statements or sentences. Fourth, The rhetorical structure analysis portrayed the journalist's strategy for emphasizing a specific meaning through the use of words, idioms, graphics, and images.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research found three news stories from three regional online news media: Kompas.com (Indonesia, South-east Asia), BBC.co.uk (United Kingdom, European), and Assyarqu Al- Awsathu (or aawsat.com, Saudi Arabia). These three articles portrayed how the G20 Bali Summit discussed the Nuclear Weapon. Three news headline that will be analyzed include:

**Table 1.** News Headlines

No.	Original Title	English Title	News Media	Published Date
1.	Apa Kata Pemimpin Dunia soal Rusia-Ukraina di KTT G20?	What every nation leader says about Rusia-Ukraine conflict on G20 Forum?	Kompas.com	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
2.	How missiles in Europe dominated a Bali summit		BBC.co.uk	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
3.	«قمة بالي» ترفض التلويح بـ«النووي» وتلتزم أمن الغذاء والطاقة	G20 Forum Refused the Nuclear Threat and Commit on Food and Energy Resiliencies.	Aawsat.com	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023

Syntax becomes the first aspect of the analysis, emphasizing on how journalists and media construct the news scheme, including the title or headline, leads, background information, quotes, source, statements, and closing. This study found that every media sample, Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Aawsat.com, displayed different syntactic elements on their news articles.

Kompas.com does not clearly state the “nuclear discussion” on their G20 Bali Summit reportage. Kompas raised the title on the perspective of what the nation leader said on the G20, and arrange the article as an “compilation” on quoting statements of the nation leader. All of the statement emphasizes every issue that has been discussed at the G20 Bali Summit, related to the economic outlook, global security, and other bilateral issues. Related on the nuclear weapon perspective, Kompas quotes two key statements from The President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, and Germany Chancellor, Olaf Scholz. But, how Kompas.com using the headline of the article portrayed that the journalist (and the media) has a tendency to be neutral for discussing the nuclear issue.

What Kompas.com did was different from the narrative of BBC.co.uk and Aawsat.com. In contrast, the other two media clearly state the nuclear weapon issue in their headlines. BBC clearly writes “How missiles in Europe dominated a Bali summit” as the title. Aawsat.com also clearly discussed the nuclear weapon issue in the article by concluding the G20 Bali Summit forum result: “Bali Summit Refused the Nuclear Threat and Commit on Food and Energy Resiliencies.”

Regarding the selection of the source in the news article, Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Aawsat.com have a different approach. All of the three media take the primary source to gather the data: Using the observation on the direct reportage, direct interview or on press conference session, also use the documentation study. Kompas use various sources of news, especially on how the article quotes 10 statements from nation leaders and the United Nations. BBC, co.uk and Aawsat.com have the same multi-source but in different angles. BBC quotes more on Joe Biden and other G7 Nation Leaders, and Assyarqu Al-Awsathu quotes on several nation leaders related to the COP27 Summit.

**Table 2.** Syntax analysis

<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Kompas.com</b>	<b>BBC.co.uk</b>	<b>Aawsat.com</b>
<i>Headline</i>	What every nation leader says about Russia-Ukraine conflict on G20 forum?	How missiles in Europe dominated a Bali summit	G20 Forum Refused the Nuclear Threat and Commit on Food and Energy Resiliencies.
<i>Lead</i>	The world's attention is currently on the G20 Summit in Bali on 15-16 November 2022. One of the issues discussed at the Bali G20 Summit is Russia's invasion of Ukraine.	It was meant to be Indonesia's big reopening party after the pandemic, a chance to show the world it was ready for business and poised for recovery. But in the end, even the best	Wearing white hats and shirts, the G20 leaders lined up to plant the "mangrove" tree in a double expression of unity and environmental commitment. However, the smiles of

		efforts by the host of the G20 Bali summit to keep things on track were no match for a barrage of missiles fired half a world away.	the audience did not succeed in hiding the hours of tension, as a result of a missile that fell on Polish soil and caused the death of two people.
<i>Background Information</i>	Statement from every nation leader, responding several issues that discussed in G20 Bali Summit, especially related on global security, Ukraine-Russia conflict, and Nuclear Weapon usage.	Story of nuclear weapon discussion in G20 Bali Summit: what is the urgency, the accident that trigger the discussion, how the G20 member stated and what is the result of discussion.	Statement from the US President and Germany Chancellor, also reflecting the COP27 agreement on climate change and food sustainability.

The script analysis portrayed the way the media and journalists tell the phenomena from the completeness of every news element (*What, When, Where, Who, Why, How*). Every media has a different emphasis on displaying the 5W+1H element.

Kompas.com puts more focus on ‘what’, ‘who’, and ‘how’ aspects of their news articles. The journalist combines multiple perspectives to capture the G20 Bali Summit, discussing various issues and displaying what each statement stands for.

The article cited ten statements from various sources to explain what the summit's concern is, what agenda each member brought, how the discussion was done, the result of the discussion, and how to implement it. This writing style is commonly done in the online media worldwide, and it is affected by the readers or audience behavior. Online readers or audiences tend to read the news point-per-point called skimming. The numbering style of news writing makes it easier to understand the context of the article.

Moreover, Kompas.com highlighted two topics to display the ‘what’ and ‘how’ aspect, related to their choice to put every member statement on the Bali Summit. The topics are global security and global solidarity to respond to the post-pandemic era. Kompas brings broader space on statements that respond to the Ukraine-Russia conflict and related to that, the possibility of nuclear weapon usage to handle the international conflict. We found that 7 of the statements are related to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, including two statements from the US President and Germany Chancellor that clearly stated, “To refuse the possibility of nuclear weapon usage.”

BBC has a different approach to deliver the reports related to the G20 Bali Summit, that emphasize the ‘why’ and ‘how’ aspect to respond to the nuclear weapon discussion. BBC brings their media argumentation. The report only cited one direct quotation, to picture the United Nation statements, and tells more on how the discussion happened related to nuclear weapon usage: From every coordination after the missile accident on Poland, G7 member meetings on Bali, and how the nation leaders calmly responded to the tension with mangrove planting.

The BBC.co.uk article focused on the journalist's narrative based on their

observations during the summit. This reportage uses a storytelling style of writing to emphasize how the situation is during the nuclear weapon discussion and why this issue has become the main agenda of the summit. To strengthen the message, BBC starts their article with a missile accident in Poland territory, and how the response from European nation leaders, NATO, and United Nation. Some argument emphasized by the BBC reports, just like *"Most member condemned the invasion..., Some leader has painted this as a win, given that the statement was not vetoed by Russia"* or *"The Ukraine war still ended up casting a long shadow."* The last argument is seen as a critique for the G20 members, especially European nation leaders on how they responded to the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Assyarqu Al-Awsathu online site has a similar point of view with BBC. But they emphasize more on how nuclear weapon refusals could support the agenda of COP27 related to climate change and food sustainability. Aawsat.com quotes the statement of the German Chancellor and US President that every country cannot accept the use of nuclear weapon usage for any reason. The report also emphasizes that the G20 forum should commit to global security, because it could support other international agenda, including the declaration of Sharm El-Sheikh UN Climate Change Conference 2022.

Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Aawsat.com has a similar thematic development on nuclear weapon discussion in G20 Bali summit reportage. The three online media bring connection, interrelated issues of nuclear weapons with the Ukraine-Russia conflict. But, these three online media have a different approach to build every paragraph, preposition, and sentence.

Kompas starts the news article with the phrase "The world today highlighted the G20 Bali Summit that had been held on 15-16 November 2022." Also, Kompas shaped the topic of article with stating "One of the issues that had been discussed on G20 Bali Summit is Russian Invasion to Ukraine." After that, Kompas quoted 10 statements that they compiled during the summit, from Ukraine President and other nation leaders, and the United Nation statement on the closing of G20 Bali Summit. Compiling several quotes of nation leaders, Kompas.com brings the same exposure to every statement and tends to be "neutral" without any tendency, even they highlight more on the Invasion of Russia in Ukraine.

BBC has a different approach to build the theme of the news, with straightforward on the issue of Nuclear Weapon, Missile on Poland, and Ukraine-Russia Conflict. BBC shaped the urgency of the discussion by displaying some facts with some assumption or rumor related to the conflict. The article tells the fact that, "Two missiles landing in Poland near the border with Ukraine...", and continued by media assumption that "... Raising the possibility that Russia may have attacked a NATO member.". BBC also gives zero space for Russia to confirm the missile accident, and just display the fact on the departure of Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov. Moreover, the departure of the minister is still connected with the accident. "Organisers (G20 Bali Summit) said it was a scheduled departure. But it also happened just as Russia fired scores of missiles into Ukraine, hitting key power infrastructure in Kyiv and other cities and killing at least one person."

Aawsat writes the fact of the G20 Bali Summit and nuclear weapon discussion to emphasize the positive impact if every member refused the nuclear weapon usage, especially to handle international conflict. The article shows an interior approach, to promote how Saudi Arabia, Middle east, and non-European members of G20 also have a role to global stability in any aspect. Aawsat also highlights the COP27 forum and it has a connection with every discussion result on the G20 summit. Different with BBC, Aawsat use generalization statement to picturized the nuclear weapon refusals in G20 Bali Summit by stating, “G20 confirm on the *joint statement* that the usage and threat of nuclear weapon usage is not allowed.”, also, “Promote the conflict resolution peacefully, to resolve the global crisis, and prioritize diplomacy.”

Rhetorically, the choice of word in the three reports by Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Aawsat.com is related to how the media reflect their nation (or regional) and their role on G20 Bali Summit. This assumption confirmed how the media arrange the headline, choose the source, put every statement, even display the message with every graphic, photos, or data chart (Pan, 2005).

Kompas used a question phrase as the headline, “What every nation leader says about the Russia-Ukraine conflict on G20 Forum?” This headline emphasizes the “Russia-Ukraine conflict” to describe the global security discussion and the nuclear weapon issue. The tendency is shaped to be neutral by using the “every nation leader” statement that is compiled inside the article.



Presiden Joko Widodo duduk berdekatan dengan Presiden Amerika Serikat (AS) Joe Biden, Perdana Menteri (PM) India Narendra Modi, PM Italia Giorgia Meloni dan Presiden China Xi Jinping saat sesi pertama KTT G20 di Candi Ballroom The Apurva Kempinski, Selasa (15/11/2022). (dok. Sekretariat Presiden)

**Picture 1.** G20 event pictured the President of Indonesia, US President, India PM, Italia PM, and President of China

(Source: Sekretariat Presiden, 2020)

Kompas.com also mentions the nation as the subtheme, same goes for “China” or “AS (United States)” then followed by three to five paragraphs of narrative. These narratives display direct quotations of the personal statement. Also, the choice to mention “Russia-Ukraine conflict” brings another agenda, because Kompas does not

only quote statements related to the conflict, but also other topics such as economy or bilateral issues.

## How missiles in Europe dominated a Bali summit

© 16 November 2022

Russia-Ukraine war



Walking and talking - Joe Biden (centre) is flanked by President Macron and IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva

Picture 2. Headline and Pictures from BBC  
(Source: BBC, 2020)

The word "missile" in the BBC title refers to the issue of nuclear weapon usage during the G20 Bali Summit. 'Missile' became the trigger of the discussion, related to a missile accident in Poland that happened on the second day of the Bali Summit. The narratives built by BBC are against the Russia's side, with telling some argument with several statement; "Totally unconscionable strikes on Ukraine," "Raising the possibility that Russia may have attacked a NATO member," and "Painted this (The demand for Moscow to hold back) as a win. BBC brings the perspective on how Russia became a global threat. Also, BBC picturized the connection between US and European members by using photos of interaction between the President of US and the President of France.

## «قمة بالي» ترفض التلويح بـ«النووي» وتلتزم أمن الغذاء والطاقة القادة اعتبروا الاتفاق على البيان الختامي رغم الانقسامات «نجاحاً غير متوقع»

الخميس - 22 شهر ربيع الثاني 1444 هـ - 17 نوفمبر 2022 م رقم العدد | 16060



قادة ورؤساء دول مجموعة العشرين وقادة للمنتديات الدولية يزرعون أشجار «التحروف» في مقترحة نعوزاء رأي للغايات في خلال قمة بالي (رويترز)

Picture 3. Headline and Pictures from Aawsat.com  
(Source: Aawsat, 2020)



Aawsat.com also take the Ukraine-Russia conflict to display the importance of nuclear weapon discussion in G20 Bali Summit. Aawsat.com uses the term “nuclear” in their headline. But the report connects the nuclear weapon issue with another agenda, “World commitment on energy and food sustainability.”

Aawsat.com reflects the COP27 summit that will also be held in 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The mention also brings the image of the Saudi Arabia government, who has a dominant role on the latest COP27 summit. Saudi Arabia has a big concern on the energy, climate change, and world food issue, and they stated that “The global stability and nations solidarity will support every agenda to minimize the effect of climate change.”

## **CONCLUSION**

This study reveals how the media framed the issue in news reports which also happened on G20 Presidency 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Different media have different agenda for framing, by arranging the headline, writing the lead, displaying background of informant or information, also the choice of word, phrase, and sentences. The news is set to emphasize the agenda of the media, whether just to inform the audience, to construct the issue, or to criticize the opposition.

Related to the G20 Bali Summit, especially on Nuclear Missile discussion, this study reveals that the international media has a different agenda. This research analyzes three media from three different regions: Kompas.com (Indonesia), BBC.co.uk (United Kingdom), and Aawsat.com (Saudi Arabia). All the three media have a similar point of view on how they capture the discussion on nuclear weapon refusals.

Kompas.com, BBC.co.uk, and Aawsat.com has a similar thematic development on nuclear weapon discussion in G20 Bali summit reportage. The three online media bring connection, interrelated the issue of nuclear weapons with the Ukraine-Russia conflict. But, these three online media have a different approach to build every paragraph, preposition, and sentence.

The major findings clearly captured that every media adopted different syntax, script, thematic, and rhetorical frames through the media coverage of the G20 Summit in Indonesia. Related on the nuclear weapon issue, Indonesian media (Kompas.com) imply a neutral approach.

Compiling several quotes of nation leaders, Kompas.com brings the same exposure on every statement and tends to be “neutral” without any tendency, even if they highlight more on the Invasion of Russia in Ukraine. It is different with UK’s media (BBC) that used a straightforward approach, BBC shaped the urgency of the discussion by displaying some facts with some assumption or rumor related to the conflict. Last, Saudi’s media (Aawsat) have an interior approach on the reports, promoting how Saudi Arabia, Middle east, and non-European members of G20 also have a role to global stability in any aspect.

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