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Terrorism News Reporting in Southeast Asian Muslim Countries: A Comparative Study of Terrorism Issues as Reported by the Wall Street Journal and the Telegraph (2012-2014)

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Abstract

Scholars, academicians, authorities, politicians and others have done many researches on terrorism issues and Islam from different perspectives at local and international level. This article would like to present terrorism issues that have been reported by *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* and *The Telegraph (TT)* pertaining to the coverage of Islam and stories on Muslims in Southeast Asian Muslim countries primarily in Malaysia and Indonesia from 2012 until 2014. It specifically explores on the frequency of reporting on terrorism issues between the two newspapers. The analysis of this study is based on a content analysis approach. The data were collected based on the preliminary study, which analyzed 445 news paragraphs by using QSR NVivo8. However, only 290 news paragraphs were fit to be analyzed based on the objectives of this study. The findings suggested that 178 news paragraphs from *WSJ* and 112 news paragraphs from *TT* reported news on Islam and Muslims under the theme of terrorism. The results displayed that Malaysia received high reporting from *The Telegraph* newspaper specifically on the issue of terrorism in three consecutive years (2012 to 2014). In contrary, Indonesia received high coverage on terrorism issues from *The Wall Street Journal* and received very minimal coverage from *The Telegraph* from 2012 to 2014.

Keywords: Extremism Issues, News Reporting, International Newspapers, Terrorism History and Terrorism News Reporting.

Introduction

The term “terrorism” can be defined as any incidents that eventually turn more violent (O’Donnell & Gray, 2012). They further noted that The Department of State’s Patterns of Global Terrorism in 1996 argued terrorism as “the death toll from the individual act and the trend of

more ruthless attacks on mass civilian targets, the use of powerful bombs and material of mass destruction". For Schmid (2012) terrorism is "a special form or tactic of fear-generating, coercive political violence, conspiratorial practice of calculated, demonstrative, direct violent action without legal or moral restraints which targeting the civilians and non-combatants for the purpose of propagandistic and psychological effects". Based on the definition given, terrorism cannot be separated from any activities related to violent, death, attacks, demonstration and mass destructions which ultimately leads to the psychology and physical impacts.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and history has shown that it has existed since the 18th century of revolutionary France during the reign of terror, and the Zealots of Palestine in opposition to Roman 2000 years ago. The aspect of complex and emotive cannot be separated when we discuss the issue of terrorism. Terrorism can be complex, as the study of terrorism has been discussed within the field of politics, psychology, military strategy and history. In the meantime, it can also be emotive and sensitive as terrorism touches the feelings among the victims and who witnessed the terrorism (United States Institution of Peace, n.d). According to The Global Terrorism Index in 2015, terrorism activities continue to rise. The data showed that in 2014, the total number of deaths because of terrorism reached to 32, 685 (80%) which mostly occurred in Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria compared to the previous year which only recorded 18, 111 cases (Global Terrorism Index, 2015).

Today, terrorism activities have mushroomed in the Middle East Countries, Southeast Asian Countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines, United States, France, United Kingdom and others. Many scholars have also researched the analysis of issues on terrorism and its link to Islam (i.e. Cole, 2009; Walsh, 2010; Powell, 2011; O'Donnell & Gray, 2012). The trend of studying Islam and terrorism has given important signals especially to Muslim countries and to the media in the Muslim countries as this topic is very much significant to Muslims. Therefore, this study intends to see how two mainstream newspapers in the U.S and the U.K report the issue relating to terrorism that took place in Malaysia and Indonesia. In specific, this study examines on how the two newspapers; *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* and *The Telegraph (TT)* reported on terrorism issues specifically on Islam and Muslims in Malaysia and Indonesia. The focuses of the study are to identify the sub-themes, which emerged from these two international newspapers and also to compare the coverage of terrorism issues between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Terrorism and Media

Terrorist and media have a reciprocal and symbiotic relationship. As Miller (1982) argued, "terrorism and the media are entwined in an almost inexorable and symbiotic relationship. Terrorism attempts of writing any drama – no matter how horrible to compel the media's attention". This statement shows that media and terrorism cannot be separated and terrorism issues become the focal point to get media attraction. Furthermore, the misinformation can be disseminated through media by terrorists and media uses this kind of information to increase ratings. Thus, terrorists see that the higher the media coverage towards a certain issue, then it indicates the success of the campaign (O'Donnell & Gray, 2012).

For Archetti (2012), the relationship between media and terrorism began when she noticed that several authors agreed that terrorists wanted to send a message in the media to achieve their objectives and the communication technologies actually bring out the difference on how the extremists' message is distributed. This means the influence and the capability of media and communication technologies have advocated terrorism to become an important issue to be discussed globally. However, in another study pointed out by Nacos (2003) media are manipulated by terrorists as they just predict and plan the dramatic events to attract the media's attention. Adam Curtis (2004) in another study explained that media have been exploited by governments and accused media collaborating with the policy makers to support the political agendas. However, in another situation, media are independent and free from any control to produce what they want.

Later, Nacos (2007) illustrated the relationship between terrorism and media as having an extensive impact and caught the media's attention especially after the 9/11 attacks. The study showed that 53% of U.S population planned not going to work and in the days after, 9 in 10 people are worried of future attacks as they perceived there will be more terrorist events and they do not want to be victims. This is consistent with O'Donnell and Gray (2012) who stated that the media has given full coverage on 9/11 attacks in 2001. This enabled the residents and some of the tourists access to all the footage of photographs and videos and disseminated worldwide. The same goes to the attack on children in Beslan, Russia where the Chechen killed a large number of school children. They believed that the media would not ignore any horrific attacks especially involving children.

The understanding of media attention towards terrorism issues has started to explore the tone of the coverage in which will influence the attitudes of public audiences, voters and also potential sympathizers of terrorist movements. There are evidences saying that the increase of terrorism coverage may increase feelings such as fear, anxiety and emotional changes among public which eventually influences some of the public to support counterterrorism that rely on force (Walsh, 2010). At the same time, Powell (2011) also described that the impact of wide coverage of terrorism issues has created fear among the population and the issue of government focus, economic resources and military resources to fight terror are becoming the important agenda.

Extremism in Malaysia and Indonesia

Besides the growing number of the Muslim population in Malaysia (29.8 million Muslims) and Indonesia (248.5 million Muslims) as shown by the Global Muslim Population website, these two countries remain a terrain for terrorism activities which involved Muslim groups as well. Historically, Malaysia have experienced terrorist violence such as the inter-communal violence between Malays and Chinese in 1969 and Malays and Indians in 2001. These two incidents however remained isolated. Malaysia has also become a focal point for Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM), which was linked with al Qaeda activities and also Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) especially for training activities, operational planning and continuous support (Cole, 2009). Recently, Malaysia has become a platform to join the Islamic State (IS) and the involvement of Malaysians especially a Muslim has worsened the situation. The saddest part is when children

are being recruited as early as two years old to join the IS in special training centers in Syria and Kazakhstan. The Assistant Director of Counter-Terrorism Division of the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) has revealed that Malaysian children were also involved in the training center based on the video obtained from the training centers of Southeast Asia in Syria (Harian, 2015).

The impact of radical Islamic activities in Indonesia has long been debated over the few past years. This started with the Bali bombings in 2002 and threatening effects of September 11 issues, which has resulted to the increasing number of media coverage of Islamic radicalism and militancy in Indonesia (Eliraz, 2004). Jamaah Islamiyah (JI), Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), Laskar Jihad, Mujahidin Indonesia Timur (MIT) and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are among the main terrorist groups that operate in Indonesia (Galamas, 2015). This is consistent with the facts from *The Wall Street Journal* in 2013, which reported the growing number of extremism in Indonesia year by year. The numbers of attacks on religious freedom, religious minorities, the imprisonment of religious leaders and the closure of Christian churches and the belonging of mosques to the minority of Ahmadi sect have made the number of extremism increased from 200 in 2009, 216 in 2010, 244 in 2011 and 264 violations in 2012. In another point of view, Galamas (2015) pointed out that the fears over ISIS militant group has frightened the Indonesian authorities and also the Indonesian Ulema Council by outlawing ISIS as a violent and radical movement. In 2015, the Indonesian government has also strictly imposed the antiterrorism law by revoking the citizens' passports whom travelled to join ISIS, monitoring closely the detainees of ISIS and has removed all the Islamic State propagandas videos for not using and social media platforms to propagate any radical activities and information.

Research Questions

In light of the above problems discussed, this study is specifically to identify the frequencies of news reporting on terrorism on Islam and Muslims in Malaysia and Indonesia by *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Telegraph*. Second is to identify the themes of terrorism issues reported by both newspapers and lastly to identify the dominance of terrorism themes being reported by *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Telegraph* when it comes to reporting on Islam-related news stories between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Methodology

Newspaper Selection

This study employed two elite newspapers: U.S.-owned newspaper (*The Wall Street Journal*) and U.K.-owned newspapers (*The Telegraph*). These two newspapers were selected for a number of reasons; first, past studies have shown that the media in the U.S and the U.K both represented Islam and Muslims negatively; the selection of these two different newspapers represent different ownership in which the comparison and style of news reporting can be distinguished and analyzed. Both are broadsheet type of newspapers and represent well-respected elite newspapers with an approximate circulation of 200,000 per day (Audited Media & Audit Bureau of Circulations). The final important reason to be highlighted is both newspapers allocate a special column for the Asian region, which provides a wide range of coverage for Asian issues.

Sampling and Data Collection

This study solely used newspaper articles (online news) as data collection. One of the advantages of using documents such as newspaper articles, collection of speech, report and *etc.* as data collection can guarantee its stability and furnish descriptive information, new categories, offer historical understanding, track change and development (Merriam, 2009). Full-text databases of relevant news articles from these two newspapers were purchased directly from their Web sites. Several keywords had been determined such as 'Islam', 'Muslim', 'Malaysia', 'Indonesia', 'Muslim majority country', 'Muslim world', 'Islam in Malaysia', 'Islam in Indonesia' and 'Allah' to search the relevant news articles related to the present study. For this preliminary study, only 178 news paragraphs from *WSJ* and 112 news paragraphs from *TT* were analyzed.

Data Analysis

This study used a quantitative and qualitative content analysis approaches. All 290 news paragraphs were analyzed by using quantitative analysis software namely SPSS 22. The reason of using this software is to figure out the descriptive statistics particularly in frequencies distribution, which are to find out the frequencies of news reporting. For qualitative approach, the identification of the types of news themes, the researchers used QSR NVivo 8. The used of NVivo is to assist the researchers to restore, manage, coding and to display systematically. To provide the reliability of data, two coders have been appointed to check the consistency through inter-coder reliability for quantitative content analysis and the news themes have been checked by two panel experts specifically in the field of qualitative for verification of news themes.

Research Instrument

Two instruments were used to perform this study. In order to look into a frequency of news, a set of coding sheet has been used. In a coding sheet, the appointed coders were needed to fill up the demographic profile such as the name of the coder, name of the newspaper, date and year of the news. This section provided the frequencies of the news. The second instrument used was a form that contained a list of news themes with some examples of the passage or news excerpt. This approach provided the reliability of the news themes as the experts appointed have to tick in the box provided either they agree or disagree with the news themes prepared by the researchers.

Validity and Reliability of Data

To ensure the reliability and validity of the data, the researchers have appointed two coders to verify the quantitative content analysis. In this case, the researchers appointed two coders who have a knowledge and experience in doing content analysis. They are asked to read each news articles and code them into a coding sheet provided. After that, the analysis of Holsti formula (1969) was used. The calculation of the reliability index for quantitative approach as below:

$$R = \frac{3 (M)}{N1 + N2 + N3} \quad R = \frac{3 (24)}{30 + 30 + 30}$$

$$R = \frac{72}{90}$$

$$R = 0.80$$

To validate the terrorism themes that are found in this study, the researchers have asked two experts who have done researches on the similar topic of this study to evaluate and examine the themes found in this study. These two experts have explored all the themes found by the researchers, and the use of reliability index of Cohens Kappa was used. The use of index Cohens Kappa has been used by previous scholars such as Kamarul Azmi (2012), Zamri (2004) and Nik Mohd Rahimi (2005). The calculation of the reliability index for qualitative approach is as below:

Expert A	Expert B	Overall Index
27-15	26-15	0.8 + 0.73
K = $\frac{27-15}{30-15}$	K = $\frac{26-15}{30-15}$	K = $\frac{0.8 + 0.73}{2}$
12	11	1.53
K = $\frac{12}{15}$	K = $\frac{11}{15}$	K = $\frac{1.53}{2}$
K = 0.8	K = 0.73	K = 0.765

The intercoder reliability index showed 0.80 and the reliability index of Cohens Kappa as overall is 0.765. Both results obtained more than 0.75 and this is showed the consistency level of data encoding performed by the researchers is high.

Findings

This section specifically explains in detail the findings in order to answer all objectives stated in this study. The result consists of two types of data, which are quantitative data and also the qualitative approach by pulling out the excerpt of news paragraphs. The analysis from 290 news paragraphs presented several interesting findings. Below are the tables to present the findings.

The Frequency of Coverage, the Themes and the Dominant Themes on Terrorism Issues in Malaysia

In this section, the researchers will elaborate the frequency of reporting under terrorism issues specifically in Malaysia by the two newspapers. The table below highlights the detail.

Table 1.1: The Frequency of Coverage and the Themes on Terrorism Issues in Malaysia

List of Themes and Sub-Themes	Frequent of Coverage (Malaysia)					
	<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>			<i>The Telegraph</i>		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Attacking	-	-	-	-	1 (6%)	10 (13%)
Bersih Rally	5 (29%)	-	-	-	-	-
Counter Terrorism	-	-	-	-	9 (53%)	-
Demonstrations	11 (65%)	1 (100%)	-	1 (100%)	-	-
<i>Explosions</i>						
Bali Bombings	-	-	-	-	-	2 (3%)
Bombing in Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bombing in Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	11 (15%)
Bombing Philippine Embassy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jihad	-	-	-	-	-	3 (4%)
Killing	-	-	-	-	1 (6%)	2 (3%)
Militants	-	-	-	-	4 (24%)	4 (5%)
Protest	-	-	2 (100%)	-	-	-
Suspected as Terrorist	-	-	-	-	-	9 (12%)
<i>Terrorism Leaders</i>						
Abu Bakar Bashir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Noordin Mat Top	-	-	-	-	-	-

Terrorism Locations	-	-	-	-	1 (6%)	1 (1%)
Terrorist Attack	-	-	-	-	-	24 (32%)
Training as Terrorist	-	-	-	-	-	7 (9%)
Violence	1 (6%)	-	-	-	1 (6%)	2 (3%)
TOTAL	17 (85%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	1 (1%)	17 (18%)	75 (81%)

The above table showed that there are 15 related sub-themes to terrorism that have been found and identified by the researchers in both newspapers. They are attacking, Bersih rally, counter terrorism, demonstrations, explosions, Jihad, killing, militants, protest, suspected as terrorist, terrorism leaders, terrorism locations, terrorist attack, training as terrorists and violence.

In terms of frequent reporting on terrorism issues in Malaysia, *WSJ* shows that, only 20 news paragraphs were found related to the terrorism issues in total. In 2012, *WSJ* showed the highest issues was on demonstrations, which constitutes 11 news paragraphs (65%). In the consequent year, which is in 2013 and 2014, *WSJ* has the least reporting under the terrorism issues, which reports only 1 issue on demonstration and 2 issues on protest. The issue of demonstration has received frequent coverage from *WSJ* in 2012 and 2014. This indicates that demonstrations become a dominant issue by *WSJ*. As for example, *WSJ* reported:

The National Fatwa Council – which has previously issued edicts against yoga, supernatural beings and forex trading – said Monday that it was issuing a “strong reminder” that “rioting, causing disturbances and damaging public property” is forbidden by Islam. (*WSJ* 2012: 11)

To elaborate on the demonstration issues, the Malaysian National Fatwa Council has determined that Muslims cannot practice yoga. Kedah has decided to implement the fatwa because yoga exercise is contrary to the belief of Islam and could undermine Muslim faith (Proclaimed June 24, 2010). *WSJ* also stated that the council has strictly warned the Malaysian society especially Muslims to not be involved with riots, causing disturbance and damaging public property as prohibited by Islam. This is in line with a Malaysian newspaper report namely *Sinar Harian*. This newspaper also reported the Malaysian Fatwa’s declaration on the ban or “haram” to participate in rallies, or demonstrations and create chaos in the country. The Malaysian National Fatwa decided this, following the rally that took place in Kuala Lumpur on April 28, 2012 (*Harian*, 2012).

In another story on demonstration issues, *WSJ* 2012 has reported that the Malaysian Prime Minister urged Malaysians to hold peaceful demonstrations to express their dissatisfaction towards the government. In the news report, it stated:

On Sunday, Mr. Najib said that his government had “no objections” to peaceful demonstrations, as long as the country’s existing laws were respected and protesters behaved in a civilized manner. He criticized the Bersih movement for insisting that their rally be held in the streets, rather than in a stadium – the location offered by the government. (*WSJ*, 2012: 29)

Surprisingly, *The Telegraph* reported highest coverage under terrorism issues and it shows an increase every year. The total of 93 news paragraphs was found in which the highest was in 2014 at 81% specifically on the issue of terrorist attacks, which constitute 24 news paragraphs or 32%. It shows that theme of terrorist attacks is very dominant in *TT*. The involvement of Malaysians in the Islamic State has created media attention which lead to the terrorist attacks. *The Telegraph* in 2014 reported:

Malaysian police have foiled plans for a wave of bombings drawn up by radical Islamic militants inspired by Iraq's extremist jihad group Islamic State, a top counter-terrorism official said. (*TT* 2014: 8)

Yazid, who was released in 2008, was also suspected of providing lodging for two of the 9/11 hijackers. Malaysian sources, however, insisted Islamic terrorism carried out by Malaysian jihadists is unlikely since the country has only a tiny number of Muslim fundamentalists. (*TT* 2014: 74)

Apart from that, *TT* has very minimum coverage on attacking, killing, demonstrations, violence and terrorism locations in which each shows only 1 news paragraph respectively.

In comparison, the news reporting in particular of terrorism issues in Malaysia as reported by *WSJ* and *TT*, indicated that *TT* has covered more on terrorism issues in Malaysia compared to *WSJ*. The researchers believed that the different amount of news collected was one of the factors on why *TT* covered more compared to *WSJ*. Apart from that, based on the news selected in this preliminary study had indirectly chose news from *TT*, which were on ISIL issues and hijacked plane of MH 370. In contrary, news selected from *WSJ* for this preliminary study only reported on interfaith issues, religious sensitivity issues and also the grief of victims of MH 370 which were not related to any terrorist attack theme.

The Frequency of Coverage, The Themes and The Dominant Themes on Terrorism Issues in Indonesia

After establishing the discussion on Malaysia, this specific section describes the frequency of terrorism issues in Indonesia to compare with Malaysia. The details are as below.

Table 1.2: The frequency of coverage and the themes on terrorism issues in Indonesia

List of Themes and Sub-Themes	Frequent of Coverage (Indonesia)					
	<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>			<i>The Daily Telegraph</i>		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Attacking	8 (14%)	9 (15%)	3 (8%)	-	3 (38%)	-
Bersih Rally	-	-	-	-	-	-
Counter Terrorism	5 (8%)	7 (11%)	10 (26%)	2 (22%)	-	-
Demonstrations	13 (22%)	7 (11%)	-	-	2 (25%)	1 (50%)
<i>Explosions</i>						
Bali Bombings	5 (8%)	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	3 (33%)	-	-
Bombing in Indonesia	4 (7%)	2 (3%)	2 (5%)	-	-	-
Bombing in Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bombing Philippine Embassy	1 (2%)	-	-	-	-	-
Jihad	-	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	-	-	-
Killing	4 (7%)	4 (7%)	3 (8%)	1 (11%)	-	-
Militants	-	4 (7%)	8 (21%)	-	-	-
Protest	-	1 (2%)	-	-	3 (38%)	1 (50%)
Suspected as Terrorist	6 (10%)	1 (2%)	4 (11%)	-	-	-
<i>Terrorism Leaders</i>						
Abu Bakar Bashir	1 (2%)	-	-	-	-	-
Noordin Mat Top	1 (2%)	-	-	-	-	-

Terrorism Locations	1 (2%)	3 (5%)	1 (3%)	1 (11%)	-	-
Terrorist Attack	6 (10%)	8 (13%)	3 (8%)	2 (22%)	-	-
Training as Terrorist	1 (2%)	5 (8%)	2 (5%)	-	-	-
Violence	3 (5%)	6 (10%)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	59 (37%)	61 (39%)	38 (24%)	9 (47%)	8 (42%)	2 (11%)

Table 1.2 shows the list of terrorism issues that appeared in both newspapers specifically in Indonesia. In general, Indonesia received massive reporting under terrorism issues from both newspapers. A total of 177 news paragraphs have been found related to the terrorism issues. However, there is an obvious difference between the coverage of *WSJ* and *TT*. The table indicated that *WSJ* gives higher attention to terrorism issues in Indonesia with 158 news paragraphs and only 19 news paragraphs were found in *TT*.

In 2012, *WSJ* showed that the highest coverage was on demonstrations, which constitutes 22% and attacking issues received highest reporting in 2013 with 15%. This shows that demonstrations issues are very dominant in *WSJ*. Among the issues found under demonstration issues was the issue of beauty pageant in Indonesia, *WSJ* in 2013 wrote:

Hundreds of Muslim hardliners here protested the coming Miss World pageant Friday, saying the beauty contest poses indecency problems in the world's most-populous Muslim-majority country, despite assurances from organizers that the contest will not feature a swimsuit competition. (*WSJ* 2013: 9)

The issue of beauty pageant in Indonesia has created the anger among Muslims in Indonesia as they argued that this contest clearly exploits women's bodies and disgrace their dignity even though they are not wearing bikinis for the contest. However, in 2014, *WSJ* shows something interesting with their coverage on terrorism where they give much focus on how to counter the terrorism issues at 26% of coverage compared to cover on what types of terrorism issues that occurred in Indonesia.

"PALEMBANG, Indonesia—President Joko Widodo said his government was reaching out to Muslim organizations in Indonesia for help in reducing the threat of terrorism by Islamic extremists." (*WSJ* 2014: 7)

"On Sunday, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on government agencies, religious leaders and the public to help stop the spread of Islamic State influence. Djoko Suyanto, the coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, said the president had instructed government agencies to prevent Indonesians from flying

to the Middle East to join Islamic State, including by denying passports if that appeared to be their intent. Indonesia will ask foreign governments to be selective in providing visas to Indonesians, he said.” (*WSJ* 2014: 49)

Based on these two excerpt news, it indicates that *WSJ* has focused on how the terrorism issues can be solved. The reporting also sowed the effort done by the President of Indonesia at that time who President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono urged the Indonesian together to stop any terrorist attacks in Indonesia.

For *The Telegraph*, news related to terrorism in Indonesia only received very minimum coverage with only 19 news paragraphs. Surprisingly, the number of news paragraphs decreased every year. This is because, in 2012, there were 9 news paragraphs and followed by 8 news paragraphs in 2013. But, in 2014, only 2 news paragraphs were found. The highest coverage was in 2013 with the issues of attacking, Bali bombings and protest. This coverage shows that these three issues which were attacking, Bali bombing and protest received dominant coverage in *TT*. However, the lowest coverage was on demonstrations and terrorism locations. Below are the examples of news excerpt from *The Telegraph*.

Umar Patek, 45, said he had only a small role in the bombings in 2002, but that he had objected when told the target was Bali in places where many foreigners gathered. (*TT* 2012: 9)

The Foreign Office today updated its advice to warn that extremists may be planning attacks and possibly targeting hotels connected to the event, which continues until September 28. It said: “Extremists may be planning attacks targeting the Miss World pageant being held in Bali, including possibly against hotels used by participants. (*TT* 2013: 14)

Based on the news excerpt above, the issue of Bali bombings and attacking was used as one of the example issues, which was covered by *TT* between 2012 until 2014. The first excerpt tells the news on Umar Patek who was caught for planning and being involved in the Bali bombing. He has been in a court trial and will be faced with death penalty if found guilty. Another important issue was on attacking where there are extremists in Indonesia who plan to attack hotels in Bali as to express their anger to the Miss World contest.

The striking distinction between *WSJ* and *TT* in reporting on terrorism issues in Indonesia has been proved on the table above. In terms of total number of coverage, *WSJ* gives more coverage about news on terrorism in Indonesia compared to *TT*. The distinction maybe due to the factor of imbalance of news coverage between two newspapers. Other than that, the factor that might contribute to this scenario is the historical factors. The radical Islamic activities and extremist groups in Indonesia Jamaah Islamiyah (JI), Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), Laskar Jihad, Mujahidin Indonesia Timur (MIT) and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has triggered the increasing number of reporting on terrorism issues in Indonesia by *WSJ*.

Based on the analysis above, the researchers have found the dominant issues particularly under terrorism that have been covered by these two newspapers. To sum up, in Malaysia, *WSJ* mostly reported on demonstrations in 2012 with 65% while *TT* reported dominantly on terrorist attacks in 2014 at 32%. Meanwhile in Indonesia, dominant coverage by *WSJ* was also on demonstrations at 22% and *TT* reported mostly on attacking and protest issues.

Conclusion

Terrorism activities have become a worldwide phenomenon where they will take place at every part of the world. Regardless of electronic or printed media, either local or international have played a role in reporting terrorism issues to become significant to the public as they want to know about their recruiting activities, ideology and attacks. In this study, the issue of terrorism related to Muslim countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia is not surprising as these two countries have been involved in some terrorism activities with recurrent issues such as attacks, militant, explosion, demonstration and others. Based on the preliminary analysis above, the frequency of the coverage indicated that Malaysia received high reporting from *The Telegraph*, meanwhile Indonesia received high coverage from *The Wall Street Journal* in particular reporting on terrorism and Islam issues within three consecutive years (2012 to 2014). According to this result, it is necessary for the public to be aware on the presence of reporting on terrorism occurred within Malaysia and Indonesia by international news media. Apart from that, the researchers believed that terrorism issues are always be the attracting topic for media to cover. Furthermore, the recent issues such as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has made that Southeast Asian Muslim countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia received high reporting on terrorism events. Though, for the purpose of producing a comprehensive research on terrorism reporting in the future, the researchers suggest to study on: Who are the sources for all the terrorism news? How does the news media slant the issue of terrorism? How do the public see the reporting of terrorism in the media? By completing these questions, the researchers believe that the comprehensive study on terrorism and media can be established for the current references.

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