

## ANALISIS NETWORK GATEKEEPING LIPUTAN PERJUANGAN GERAKAN MASYARAKAT ADAT: STUDI KASUS PADA BERITA LINGKUNGAN ONLINE MONGABAY

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### ABSTRAK

Simpaty terhadap perjuangan masyarakat adat di media saat ini semakin hadir terkait posisi sosiologis mereka sebagai penjaga hutan dan iklim yang keberadaannya semakin memudar seiring dengan hilangnya sumber daya alam yang dimilikinya. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis aktivitas editorial dalam pemberitaan perjuangan masyarakat adat, mengacu pada praktik gatekeeping terkait produksi berita rutin. Penelitian kualitatif ini menggunakan studi kasus dengan menganalisis teks berita yang relevan dan dibuat oleh editor dari beberapa biro regional global. Analisis menggunakan Network Gatekeeping Theory pada situs media online lingkungan global Mongabay.com menemukan bahwa tim redaksi berperan dalam menentukan arah kontrol atas informasi yang dipilih, ditambahkan dan disajikan terkait pemberitaan masyarakat adat. Narasi intrinsik yang disajikan didasarkan pada pengetahuan di tingkat individu (pendiri, editor, jurnalis) tentang topik tersebut, keyakinan mereka terhadap nilai-nilai keberagaman, hubungan dengan aktivis adat dan kelompok gerakan hak asasi manusia, sumber-sumber primer informasi, dan pengalaman empiris liputan lapangan. Narasi tersebut terkait dengan pendalaman sejarah masyarakat adat, sumber daya alam yang mendukungnya, termasuk hutan yang kaya dengan keanekaragaman hewan dan tumbuhan, sumber daya mineral, pesisir, dan berbagai jasa lingkungan. Narasi yang muncul mengenai perlawanan masyarakat adat terhadap kelompok kapitalis besar juga merupakan bentuk perlawanan terhadap rezim hegemonistik kapitalis yang pro pasar dan pro kapital.

**Kata Kunci:** Perubahan iklim, Komunikasi lingkungan, Media digital, Media massa, Teori Network Gatekeeping

### **NETWORK GATEKEEPING ANALYSIS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MOVEMENT STRUGGLE REPORT: A CASE STUDY IN ONLINE ENVIRONMENT NEWS MONGABAY**

#### **ABSTRACT**

*Sympathy for the struggle of indigenous peoples in the media is currently increasingly present in relation to their sociological position as forest and climate guardians whose existence is increasingly fading along with the loss of their natural resources. This research identifies and analyzes editorial activities in reporting on indigenous people's struggles, referring to gatekeeping practices related to routine news production. This qualitative research uses case studies by analyzing relevant news texts created by editors from several global regional bureaus. Analysis using Network Gatekeeping Theory on the global environmental online media site Mongabay.com found that the editorial team plays a role in determining the direction of control over the information selected, added and presented regarding reporting on indigenous*

*communities. The intrinsic narrative presented by this organization is based on knowledge at the individual level (founders, editors, journalists) about the topic, their belief in the values of diversity, relationships with indigenous activists and human rights movement groups, primary sources, information, and empirical experience of field coverage. This narrative is related to deepening the history of indigenous peoples, the resources of how indigenous peoples maintain their living spaces, areas with remaining forests that are rich in animal and plant diversity, mineral resources, coastal resources, and various potential environmental services. The emerging narrative of indigenous people's resistance to large capitalist groups is also a form of resistance to the capitalist-hegemonistic regime which is pro-market and pro-capital.*

**Keywords:** *Climate change, Environment communication, Digital media, Mass media, Network Gatekeeping Theory*

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## INTRODUCTION

In general, media narratives often highlight the cultural exoticism of indigenous peoples or to raise issues of tenorial conflicts and disputes that occur between indigenous peoples and land concession investors, as well as state policies. Following the open of access to digital spaces, substantive matters of indigenous peoples' lives, such as systems of values and knowledge, living space, and customary law practices and institutions related to life wisdom have not been widely discussed (Bhroin et al., 2021).

On the other hand, in the last twenty years, indigenous peoples' movements have emerged. Under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the charter of rights of indigenous peoples includes several points of self-identification, customary land, socio-economic and political

ownership in indigenous peoples' territories. Basically, UNDRIP highlights the rights of indigenous peoples to determine their own destiny (Mager, 2021; Obikwu, 2021; Takach, 2021).

In the current era of digital media, narratives and articles about indigenous peoples are even easier to find. Media that have a focus on socio-culture, environment, forestry and climate change, also incorporate the narratives of indigenous peoples who are considered as notable agents to protect tens of millions of hectares that still have pristine forests and ecosystems (Ilham et al., 2022; Rustiraning, 2022). Their existence is considered as a vital agent for protecting and managing natural resources, including forests and pristine ecosystems (Carson et al., 2018).

The presence of new media models such as Mongabay.com, a particular media for the environmental reporting, is

intended to fulfil the niches for environmental news, which attempt to encapsulate the ecocentrism construction of the social world.

In contrast to common knowledge, that in the age of open information of the internet, audiences possess the power to choose information and become gatekeepers for themselves, thus changes in technology platforms also result in news gatekeeping processes. As disclosed by Shoemaker & Reese (1996) which states that the gatekeeping process and news selection are still relevant from the print media era to today's internet era. The development of online media has led to the convenience of publication which can be done through "self-publishing" (Olsen et al., 2022).

The internet era is characterized by the ability to distribute the necessary supporting materials almost without limitation, not only locally but from various global sources (Valdeón, 2022). Meanwhile, in printed media, after the news is produced, the news must be layout and printed on sheets of paper and then distributed and disseminated, therefore, the internet has cut this process. In addition to the efficiency of the production chain and costs, the most important role of the internet is bringing digital news in the same space and time

or identified as the real time news. News is delivered in seconds, distributed and not geographically limited with multi of digital platform (Ranaivoson & Domazetovikj, 2023).

In the digital news era, a writer or editor able to have the freedom to process information and choose the narrative and point of view which they choose (Müller & Wiik, 2023). An online editor can use a word search engine, enter the right keywords and in real-time may access the information s/he needs from all corners of the world, including from the audience comments which can be a trigger for news formation (Bürger et al., 2023).

The concept of gatekeeping as presented by Shoemaker & Reese (1996), then developed along with the emergence of the internet called network gatekeeping, which is considered more adaptive to the digital medium (Yang & Peng, 2020). Network gatekeeping is defined “a process of controlling information as it moves through a gate. Activities of network gatekeeping include selection, addition, withholding, display, channeling, shaping, manipulation, repetition, timing, localization, integration, disregard, and deletion of information”. A network gatekeeper is defined as an “[e]ntity

(People, organization or governments)” that has the discretion to exercise gatekeeping through a gatekeeping mechanism networks and can choose the extent to which to exercise it” (Barzilai-Nahon, 2006; Barzilai-Nahon & Neumann, 2005).

The difference above is due to the characteristics of the role of an active audience. Audiences have “peer to peer” access and are diligent in sharing on the social media networks they follow (Hermida, 2020; Kozman & Cozma, 2021). This phenomenon is very different from the conventional passive audience in traditional media (legacy media) which is still stuck in a unidirectional pattern called as "legacy platform" (Potnis & Tahamtan, 2021; Savolainen, 2020).

On the other hand, the newsroom approach is also different. In classic gatekeeping, Shoemaker & Reese (1996) differentiates into five levels:

- a. Individual level, which focuses on seeing how individuals are responsible for the gatekeeping selection process. A gatekeeper will carry out the process of evaluating, interpreting messages and making decisions.
- b. The level of routine, with a focus on seeing various patrons, routines,

repetitive practices that are formulated in journalistic work.

- c. Organizational level, looking at how internal factors within the organization affect decision making.
- d. Institutional level, concentrating on the exogenous concentration of an organization and their representation that influences the gatekeeping process.
- e. The social system level, explores the impact of ideology and culture in the gatekeeping process.

According to Wallace (2018), a typical gatekeeper in new media is more oriented towards personal motivation, in contrast to the routine activities of print media editors which are more prominent in influencing the existing traditional gatekeeping functions.

This journal article focuses on an international-scale research object, namely the English-language environmental news site Mongabay.com which based in the United States and has several regional bureau offices in South America, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Central Africa in the scope of publication of articles on indigenous peoples. This study will look at the existence of awareness interventions, both internal and external in the

newsroom which will influence editors to produce news about indigenous peoples, through the gatekeeping process.

This research has identified some questions that related to the Network Gatekeeping Theory to obtain an explanation of digital networks by exploring and finding out more about the following:

1. Identifying the basis for the editor as gatekeeper in the media network to carry out the duties and routines of producing articles about indigenous peoples.
2. Analyzing the situation of reaction of the newsroom and the gatekeepers when observing the hegemonic discourse between news about indigenous peoples and the news that is produced.
3. To summarize how the context of network gatekeeping works in the media and news production.

The concept of "network gatekeeping" introduced by Barzilai-Nahon refers to the process by which individuals or groups influence or control the flow of information in digital communication networks, especially in terms of how information is shared and disseminated through social media

platforms and applications (Nahon & Hemsley, 2013). Under this term, network gatekeeping in social networks can be carried out by individuals, groups, or algorithms that act as "gates" to moderate or control the flow of information into and out of the network (Ojennus, 2020; Sa'diyah & Fahmi, 2021).

Media editors who act as gatekeepers or regulators of information will pass through the network which will highlight the importance of power and control over information in the digital era, where information can be easily disseminated and have wide-reaching impacts in a short time (Walters, 2022). In this model approach, the gatekeeping process can affect the way people perceive information, influence their opinions and actions, and even affect the results of elections and public policies, which in turn social networks and social media platforms can influence social and political dynamics (Pafka-Suchojad, 2021).

In the context of digital media, gatekeeping can be carried out by various parties, in ways such as selecting friends and followers, curating content, paying attention to social media algorithms, and online communities (Peterson-Salahuddin & Diakopoulos,

2020; Reviglio, 2022). From an ethical standpoint, through the online gatekeeping process carried out by an editor, they will be confronted with values related to transparency, accountability in their gatekeeping practices, and responsibility in promoting truth (Corra, 2020).

Thus, the concept of network gatekeeping shows how important it is to understand how information is disseminated and processed on social media. Understanding how gatekeeping is done can help us understand how information is processed on social media, how public perception is formed, and how political and social decision-making is formed (Li et al., 2022).

## RESEARCH METHOD

The approach model for this research will use the conceptual framework model introduced by Barzilai-Nahon (2006), which focuses on the strength of the network that influences how information gatekeeping works in the digital news era (Nahon & Hemsley, 2013; Toefy & Ganyawu-Magwali, 2022). There are five important elements in the network, namely gatekeeping, gate, network gatekeeper, the gated and gatekeeping

mechanism. With each explanation as follows:

- a. Gatekeeping: the process of controlling information and for moving it through a gate. These activities include selection, addition, cutting, appearance, channel selection, sharpening, manipulation, repetition, timing, locality, integration, ignoring, and erasing information (the process of controlling passage).
- b. Gate: an attempt to enter or to exit a network or part of the network (the point at which passage is controlled).
- c. Gatekeeping mechanism: tools, technology, or methodology used to bring into the gatekeeping process (the means used to carry out gatekeeping).
- d. Network gatekeeper: entity (person, organization, government), which has flexibility in the gatekeeping process through a gatekeeping mechanism in the network and can choose the extent of the gatekeeping practice to be carried out (the actor or stakeholder that performs gatekeeping).
- e. Gated: subject, entity for the gatekeeping process. In a network, the information system is the readers

(audience) (the entity on whom gatekeeping is exercised).

Furthermore, in relation to power relations, Barzilai-Nahon (2006) offers a gatekeeping mechanism which includes:

1. Censorship mechanisms: tools, technology or methodologies used to remove, filter, block, or establish certain user zones.
2. Editorial mechanism: namely the mechanism for modifying (altering) content. This mechanism is similar to that of an editor within a traditional gatekeeper.
3. Channel mechanism which is a mechanism to attract the attention of direct users. This mechanism is including the efforts to facilitate community members through the process of hyperlinking, ranking content, and displaying various issues that can enter the virtual community space.
4. Security mechanism: as an effort to protect virtual communities through certain mechanisms in order to maintain the boundaries of a virtual community.
5. Localization mechanisms: which a content/technology adaptation mechanism for various specific cultural characteristics.

6. Infrastructure mechanism: as a mechanism that manage user behavior at the infrastructure level, including facilitating space for groups to be able to carry out synchronous correspondence.

7. Regulation mechanisms: namely as efforts to build the role and behavior of a community through training, developing codes and guidelines.

The method of approach in this study uses case studies. The case study that the researcher opted is an intrinsic case study, which is a study conducted to understand in detail about a particular case. Through an intrinsic approach, a case will be dissected through in-depth understanding and digestion of the subject under study.

## **RESEARCH RESULT AND ANALYSIS**

### **A. The Emergence Of Ecocentrism's Point Of View**

Although the issue of the existence of indigenous peoples has been widely discussed by the government, NGOs and industry groups in international forums, in fact not many media have followed it with particular intensity. The media in general only raises the issues of indigenous peoples as

part of by-side journalistic products and rarely raises them in in-depth narrative coverage.

One of the international media outlets that for the last twenty years has focused specifically on reporting on environmental issues, including indigenous peoples, around the world is Mongabay.com. This news site was founded by Rhett A. Butler, a conservationist cum journalist from the United States who has a global concern for the loss of the world's remaining forests, and the resulting impact.

Mongabay publishes various information and unique reports related to the theme of wildlife, biodiversity, ecological relationships between humans and nature, as well as various research results related to the world of science, especially ecology and biology. The first article in Mongabay in 1999 by Rhett A Butler presented the phenomenon of tropical forest loss in Sarawak-Malaysia due to land conversion to plantations. The loss of forests has caused biodiversity loss and extinction, impact to animals and vegetations, as well as the emergence of socio-cultural impacts on the peoples.

The choice of narrative for this story, obviously cannot be separated from the synthesis of problems from the

experience point of view. In Butler's case, the most influential childhood experience for his development was when he lived and played with Indian children in Colombia, South America during summer vacation. Butler felt the atmosphere of the tropical forest where the Indian tribe lived.

However, the trip that would change the course of Butler's life and lead him to find the environmental news site Mongabay.com was his trip to Sarawak Malaysia in the 1990s. On his journey in the Sarawak jungle, he encountered thick tropical forests, overgrown with tall trees, orangutans among the tree branches and the sound of hornbills, clear rivers and local peoples who live depending on the forest.

Eight weeks after the trip, Butler read in the media that the forest he had visited in Sarawak had been cleared by an oil palm plantation company. The tropical forests he visited have been destroyed, barren and have turned into monoculture plantations.

In this situation, Butler thought what would happen if all the tropical forests on the Earth, then disappeared, what would happen to the various animals, trees, and humans who lived there? He came with a question: "Who benefits from this practice of destroying forests?"



Why don't more peoples know about the problems that occur in tropical forests?" That thought, then led to the idea of creating an environmental news website that can be accessed by peoples, with the main topic raising global environmental issues and their impact on humans.

One of the biggest milestones in Mongabay.com's managerial journey was when the organization in 2012 formed a foundation as legal entity called Mongabay.org Not just alone, Butler invited colleagues from the academia and influential individuals to join the foundation's board.

In line with the establishment of MongabayOrg as a legal entity that oversees the non-profit activities, the establishment of Mongabay bureaus outside the United States began. The first country chosen was Indonesia, a mega-biodiversity country which also has various issues in managing its natural resources.

In April 2012 the Mongabay Indonesia website officially operated with four working staff. After Indonesia, others of Mongabay bureaus were established in various regions of the world, respectively: Latin America (2016), Brazil (2019), India (2020), and Africa (2023). In 2012, In October 2022,

the number of Mongabay International staff are 75.

Butler supports the world's ecological system that is oriented towards the sustainability of the world's natural resources and continues to believe that nature and its surroundings can be utilized for human life. According to him, the preservation of nature and tropical forests cannot be accomplished without involving the human factor. Butler believes that policy makers, economic actors, civil society groups and academics are able make important contributions to the world, if they carry out their activities correctly.

The management of natural resources and their production must comply with applicable standards, ethics and norms. Including the principles of respect for indigenous and local communities (IPLC) through a mechanism known as FPIC (principle of free, prior and informed consent).

As editor and writer, Butler and his writings tended to put forward his ideological views, rather than to promote a particular lifestyle *an-sich*. What Butler did later become the style of writing at Mongabay, which was later followed by editors. The editors conduct in-depth coverage studies, that are filled with data, and cover both sides of

journalism to sources. Mongabay's writing as an environmental medium, makes the writing he published no longer focused only on straight news writing style, but becomes stylish, in-depth analysis and investigative.

## B. Results of Reporting on Indigenous Peoples in Mongabay

As an online-based media, the way Mongabay operates is on an office-less basis, there is no requirement for a physical office and staff are allowed work from anywhere. The editor in this case receives the writing from journalists, either through assignments from the editor, or those submitted independently based on topic of directions from the editor.

In forestry coverage, indigenous peoples are the main component in seeing the impact of land conversion on the community. Indigenous peoples here are subject to *vis a vis* who feel the loss of primary forests where they have lived their lives for generations. Deforestation,

land and forest fires, conversion of land to monoculture plantations and conversion to cattle farming are the topics of writing in Mongabay. These editors are spread across various coverage regions, including the Indian sub-continent, the Indonesian archipelago, and the Amazonian tropical forest.

All editors have a uniform work style, which relies on technology network in finding information and completeness of data, dealing with contributing journalists, conducting editorials process, and uploading articles. The average length of articles uploaded is around 500 - 1,000 words and can be up to 10,000 words for investigative writing's story. Meanwhile, the processing time for an article submitted by the author can range from 2-5 days. For investigative coverage that requires a lot of data validation, it can take up to 12 months, from the time this writing project was initiated to the publication of the article.

**Table 1. Number of articles and the names of their editors**

| No | editor's name (initial) | number of articles | conflict /dispute | rights protection | leader/figure | conservation | marine and coastal | rain forest | land use | food security |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| 1  | AT                      | 1                  | 1                 | 1                 | 0             | 0            | 0                  | 1           | 1        | 0             |
| 2  | AP                      | 2                  | 1                 | 1                 | 0             | 0            | 0                  | 0           | 1        | 0             |
| 3  | GB                      | 2                  | 0                 | 2                 | 0             | 0            | 0                  | 2           | 1        | 1             |

|    |                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 4  | HI             | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| 5  | JF             | 4  | 2  | 3  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 3  | 1  | 1  |
| 6  | HC             | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| 7  | KM             | 6  | 4  | 4  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 3  | 3  | 1  |
| 8  | LA             | 8  | 1  | 3  | 4  | 6  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 1  |
| 9  | MV             | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| 10 | MS             | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  |
| 11 | MR             | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| 12 | MA             | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| 13 | NC             | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| 14 | RR             | 3  | 0  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 2  | 0  |
| 15 | SG             | 2  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 16 | SS             | 36 | 21 | 17 | 4  | 10 | 2  | 13 | 24 | 5  |
| 17 | XB             | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| 18 | Op/ed<br>(Eng) | 6  | 1  | 5  | 0  | 6  | 0  | 3  | 2  | 0  |
| 19 | Op/ed<br>(Ind) | 6  | 3  | 3  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 2  |
|    |                | 84 | 36 | 45 | 11 | 33 | 10 | 35 | 43 | 15 |

*Source: results of data analysis*

Based on the 84 articles collected in the 12-month publication period (Jan-Dec 2022), the topic of the importance of protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and land use became the two main topics. Topics such as agrarian conflicts and disputes, indigenous peoples and their living space (tropical forests), and conservation efforts are the most discussed topics. Below that, the topics raised next are related to food security, traditional community leaders/figures, as well as the marine and the coastal.

All of these articles were worked on by 17 editors in three separate regions (South Asia, Southeast Asia, and South America), where these three regions

have the existence of indigenous peoples whose culture is closely related to nature and the environment. The remaining 12 articles come from opinions/editorials written by non-editors of Mongabay or from outsiders (experts, observers, NGOs, and academics).

Of the 17 editors, there is a variance in the number of posts uploaded by the editors. From 1 post (9 peoples) to 36 posts (1 person). The average score for articles on indigenous peoples per editor is 4.4 articles. Of the 17 editors, five editors wrote the most articles about indigenous peoples, namely SS (36 articles), LA (8), KM (6), JF (4), and RR (3). Three of these editors are female, and the remaining two are male.

The results of the study found that the Southeast Asian region is the region that has the most coverage on indigenous peoples, followed by the South Asian region and the South American region. This relates to the choice of topics raised regarding the discourse on rights protection, land use, agrarian conflicts and disputes, living space and biodiversity conservation efforts.

### **C. Gatekeeping Process at Mongabay**

The gatekeeping process at Mongabay is influenced by a blend of vision, intrinsic value, understanding of the power that works in the news gatekeeping process which then becomes the energy and driving force. Intrinsic values that are specifically bound are individual editors who work in the media, directly correlated to the media's perspective in assessing certain things.

Based on the top five editors in this study, it was found that the editors had a background in journalistic work prior joining Mongabay, and those related to social issues, biodiversity conservation studies and high conservation value ecosystems, national policy analysis related to climate change and the impact

in disaster mitigation, as well as land and property rights.

Four of these editors previously worked at national media outlets, both media in print and digital formats platforms. One editor works in a media initiated by an NGO working on tropical forest conservation projects, which relate to indigenous peoples.

From existing relations, experience and inherent intrinsic values have created a censorship mechanism which is then applied in daily editorial work. Many of these editors receive information from established networks (gates), which generally come from civil society movements/activists and academics. The choice of this gate is related to intrinsic which relates to various factors in the form of trust/belief, espoused values, and internal experience as a journalist and editor.

In an inversed position to being gated, editors as gatekeepers have "privileges" and are very active in using "power" through various efforts made through the gatekeeping mechanism. Gatekeepers build and continue to enrich existing discourses, through the accumulation of tracking information that is obtained from various connections and networks formed by gatekeepers.

Alongside, the gatekeeper deliberately and in committed manner enters the gate he has chosen. From the results of data analysis, SS editors wrote the most stories about indigenous peoples. As the most senior editor who has worked at Mongabay for 11 years, her work focus and accumulated experience have led her to sharpen her previous writings on indigenous peoples. SS also confirms to the parties, especially the government and the private sector as a form of confirmation of news on cases that occur in the field or cover both stories.

The consistency of the coverage carried out by the Mongabay editor, explains that the editor as the gatekeeper pays special attention in presenting advanced cases concerning indigenous peoples, continues to observe developments, and provides new narratives on this issue.

Furthermore, editors as gatekeepers will not be able to be continuously consistent in a report if they are not supported by the network in the gatekeeping network they have built. In this study, it was found that a number of influential actors in the coverage of indigenous peoples influenced gatekeepers, namely, non-state actors.

Gatekeepers place their trust in academics, activists and civil society groups. On the other hand, closing or only opening a few gates to information and green washing models of information provided by companies/private sectors and their media consultants.

Referring to the concept of Hegelian dialectics, this narrative battle of ideas, makes the editor have to digest and select the incoming information to compile the synthesis. In compiling articles that are not just straight news in nature, the editor's ability is needed to think logically, and not be driven by only one single piece of information he receives.

The editor's alignment with indigenous peoples can be understood as an act of voting for a party with less power. Indigenous peoples have historically been stated to have existed before the existence of the state and have often been victims of policies from state praxis and corporate activities. In the editor's conception, this is motivated by the problem of the struggle for natural resources, for commodities that have had high economic value, such as wood, fertile land, minerals, to the environmental services.

In today's modern capitalistic concept, in contrast to the traditional

hegemonic power where the state and apparatus attain coercive power when dealing with opposing groups, the findings of this study find that in the narrative that appears in writing, there is already a power driven by business (business entity) as the hegemon party facilitated by the state is dealing with counter-hegemon movements represented by civil society groups and the marginalized groups they represent.

A business entity appears as a hegemon when the power owned by the state (represented by the government) is handed over to the business group in the form of a granted license as a concession. The government acts as a facilitator and regulator of the process.

In censorship mechanisms, this editorial process is influenced by the technology or methodology used to remove, filter, block, or establish certain zones for users. This process is facilitated by the increasingly widespread use of social media and conversations through messaging with resource persons to get information and make contact with each other.

In the position of receiving this response, an opened gate ("gate open position") is required for a confirmation request. Access and the volume of information offered by actors is the main

key for gatekeepers to build and exchange information by actors who act as gated.

Over time, the intrinsic value and trust of the gatekeeper influences how the perception of the network changes. Gatekeepers who were initially skeptical of corporate and state actors, in some cases eventually an opened gate after these actors made fundamental changes. In the case of state actors, this approach can be perceived when the state favors indigenous peoples through new policies (laws, regulations, regional regulations). Dynamically, trust in this actor can decrease, if the actor does the opposite.

When the editor as the gatekeeper opens the gate to other actors who were not previously were not considered to seek additional information, the editor shows "autonomous power" which was previously "rejected" becomes included in the network building it owns, which is in line with the change in gated perceptions of network actors.

As an information asset, the sources used by the editor are being maintained, as well as to maintain their consistency by building relationships through existing virtual network mechanisms. In routine, editors send the results of their articles to those who become their sources. This simultaneously opens the

gate of trust to remain open, as well as a form of confirmation, maintaining credibility, and a form of accountability, one must not always be asked by sources as gated. This position shows that there is an interdependence relationship between the editor and the resource person, which is mutually beneficial to build trust in the future.

The benefits for both parties by sharing the news article link will also make it easier to distribute the article. In the traditional context, dissemination of news is done through its own media channel distribution, on the other hand, in the digital world, this article can be disseminated through sources through the organization's official channels and personal social media accounts. This method will accelerate the dissemination of information in digital spaces in a special niche community that is connected to the information being shared.

In a time when there is a lot of information circulating in the digital world (websites, social media), this mechanism will attract the attention of members of an expanding virtual community (Müller & Wiik, 2023). Through hyperlinks, the information disseminated becomes the public's attention through similar interests. This

method also opens up opportunities for information to penetrate bureaucratic and decision-making spaces, which were difficult to reach through the methods used by traditional media in the past (Dovbysh, 2021).

Cumulatively, this action will open up additional opportunities for additional information flows that are gated. Inter-relational connection will move dynamically and exchange with information held by gatekeepers in digital networks (Blanchett, 2021). This relation indicates the gated position is not in a lower position than the gatekeeper. On the other hand, gated is also the goal of the information provided by the gatekeeper. In the interaction that is occur between these two parties, this also opens up a content adaptation mechanism such as re-publication of articles on gated website and social media accounts (Pérez-Díaz et al., 2020).

The network concept also opens up the emergence of new feedback delivered by gated in the form of responses. The feedback provided by the gated in this case can be in the form of feedback aimed at confirming, providing a response or raising a rejection made/produced by the gatekeeper (Navarro et al., 2020). This finding simultaneously supports and confirms

what was stated by Shoemaker (2020), which states that the editorial process (gatekeeper) carried out by professional journalists will affect the power that exists within the gate environment.

In some cases, when there is a mistake in the quote of statement, data or typo, the editor will perform corrections to the article. Correction of words and sentences is done through an editorial mechanism which is easier in the digital era. The editor will provide a statement that states an error under the writing that has been made/published, when it occurs. This also provides confirmation to the source, as a form of maintaining relations with the source (Rusdi & Rusdi, 2020).

The Mongabay Editor also facilitates digital infrastructure spaces in Mongabay. Within the internal team, topics that catch the attention of the audience are created in a new format on social media owned by the organization and personal accounts (Malinen, 2021). In this context, dissemination of information can expand the network that is built by expanding to other readership segments. The editor, as the gatekeeper, will specifically look at the topic from the deviations that occur, such as the social significance that affects the attention of the audience as gated.

## CONCLUSION

The results of this study discover several findings that refer to the Theory of Network Gatekeeping and the formulation of the problems, which have drawn the following conclusions:

The guidance of intrinsic values, experience and understanding of an editor are influenced by the environment in which he or she works. The role of the founder becomes a reference that binds the vision of the media, including individuals who work in the media, who are then directly connected to the way the media perceives things. These values are then reflected in the editor's routine as the gatekeeper, who carries out the selection process, confirms news sources, and builds networks to be presented in the articles that are made. In the context of reporting on indigenous peoples, gatekeepers take a setting to support the position of indigenous peoples, who are generally categorized as marginal groups and face threats from stronger hegemon groups.

In the concept of network gatekeeping, this is increasingly facilitated in digital spaces that can be utilized. The relationship between gatekeeper and gated is transformed into an open relationship. In the relationship between gatekeepers and gated in online



media, the audience has been transformed not only passively but has become an integral part and must be an attention of the editorial room.

In the terms of the monopoly of "power" in the newsroom has ended, when the audience has changed, no longer as a passive observer, but to give and create the information itself. So far, this approach was not popular during the print media era (information age: "one to many").

Even though the circumstance environment has changed and strengthened the role of the audience, in this approach, the editor in the newsroom still has the power, in the form of control and the right to forward, re-create, select and post an article.

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