

# Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of Covid-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

**Provide Abbreviated Title (Running Head) of the Paper:** Discourse Contest Pros and Cons of Covid-19 Vaccination

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# **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show

that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of provaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the Covid-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95%, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency, 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland & Jacobson, 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20th century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox (smallpox) in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al., 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the anti-vaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the anti-vaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe & Sharp, 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19th century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto, 2012). The article was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto, 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient. Including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews, 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, ADHD, and immune disorders (Tenpenny, 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny, 2006).

Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton, 2015; Cichocka et al., 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al., 2010); Wood & Douglas, 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit & Moser, 2011). For example, Oliver & Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20% agreed and 36% did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al., 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis, 2021). Streefland et al., (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the Covid-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period starts from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly (elderly) as many as 21,5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, starting in April – March 2021, is targeting a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which is estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

WHO recommends that all countries must implement a Covid-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving Covid-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al., 2018). Ordinary people are restless

because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The Covid-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

# **Objectives**

- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

## **METHODOLOGY**

# **Location and Type of Research**

This research will be conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the Covid-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

# Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles & Huberman, 1994; Moleong, 1999)

# **RESULTS**

Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the Covid-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100% already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus (ASN), including private employees, have reached 89.12% who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group only reached 20.01% or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 12.78% or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57% or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05% or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94% or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38% or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92% or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21% or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75% of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34% of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36% (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

## Covid-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the Covid-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the Covid-19 vaccination.

Pro

Based on the narrative of an informant named Anti (37 years old), said that he is pro against the Covid-19 vaccine, because according to the Covid-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this Covid-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated. (Interview, 3 June 2021)

Another informant named Astri (42 years old), said that she was pro against the Covid-19 vaccine because of the Covid-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the Covid-19 virus," he said. (Interview, 3 June 2021).

Respondents who were against the Covid-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the Covid-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the Covid-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the Covid-19 virus.

Sri Sulastriani was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the Covid-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the

impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned (Interview, 03 June 2021).

While Mrs Hj. Marwiah agrees with the Covid-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to Covid-19. In addition, the Covid-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by getting the Covid-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this.

## Counter

Several informants who were against the Covid-19 vaccine, such as Sumarni (27 years) and Suswati (26 years) said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against Covid-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against Covid-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the Covid-19 virus (Interview, 2 June 2021).

Furthermore, informant Andi Ira (41 years old) in an interview said that it was contra because no Covid-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this Covid-19 vaccine. This Covid-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said (Interview, June 4, 2021).

The same thing was conveyed by informant Aulia Sari (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after

being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for Covid-19, even though they have been vaccinated. (Interview, 6 June 2021)

# Covid-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse

Pro

According to Achwal Nazar (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that: For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to Covid-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus to protect its people (Interview, July 13, 2021).

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant Alimuddin (45 years old) that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the Covid-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to make the Covid-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus. (Interview July 13, 2021).

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### Counter

Informant Moh. Fajri Ramli (23 years old) revealed that he had doubts about the covid19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to
be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast,
whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame
because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to
the virus (Interview, 5 June 2021).

A more extreme view is expressed by Ahmad Maulana (21 years old), saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of Covid-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy, that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of. (Interview, June 4, 2021).

## Covid-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle

Pro

According to informant Suardi (45 years old), people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities. (Interview, November 13, 2021). The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old) that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the Covid-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus (Interview, November 13, 2021).

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### Counter

According to the informant Agussalim (56 years old) that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine (Interview, 17 September 2021). The same thing was expressed by Mustari (54 years old) that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the Covid-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack.

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

# The pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra Covid-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine Covid-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the Covid-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021. The achievement of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 per cent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators, public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 per cent and for the second dose, it is 31 per cent more.

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012); Ritzer (2012); Ritzer & Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The Covid-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact,

cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

## **DISCUSSION**

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al., 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The Covid-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton, 2015; Cichocka et al., 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit & Moser, 2011). For example, Oliver & Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto, 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis, 2021). Streefland et al., (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo, 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

Covid-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of Covid-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling Covid-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various

negative issues regarding Covid-19 vaccination through the internet, TV and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the Covid-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70% of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the Covid-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that:

- The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the Covid-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas.
- The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-Covid-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the Covid-19 vaccine.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following:

 There should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the Covid-19 vaccine and knowledge against the Covid-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. 2. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the Covid-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the Covid-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the Covid-19 vaccine.

## LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the Covid-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

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## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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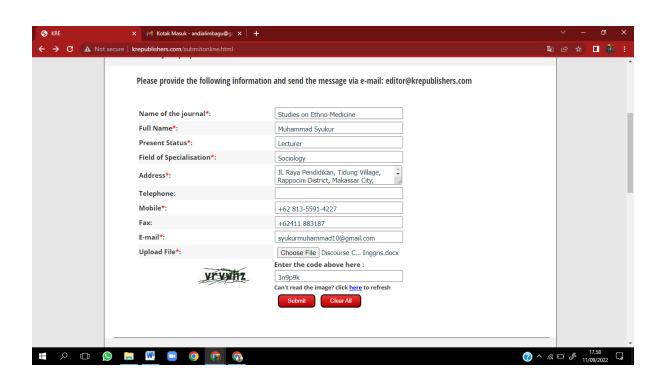
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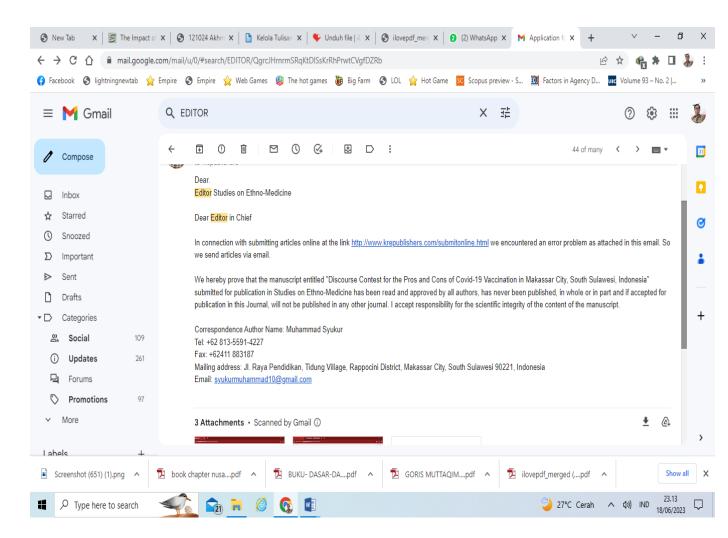
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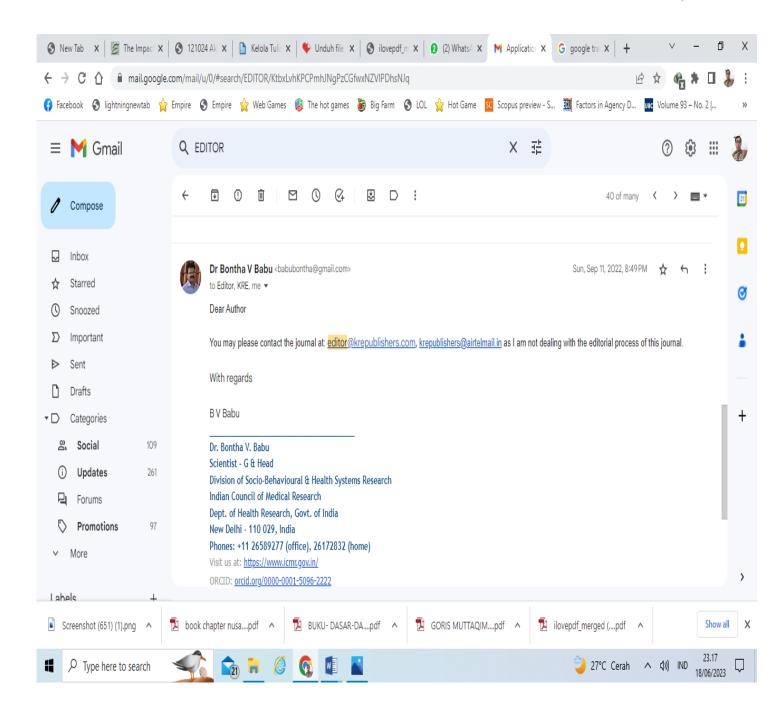
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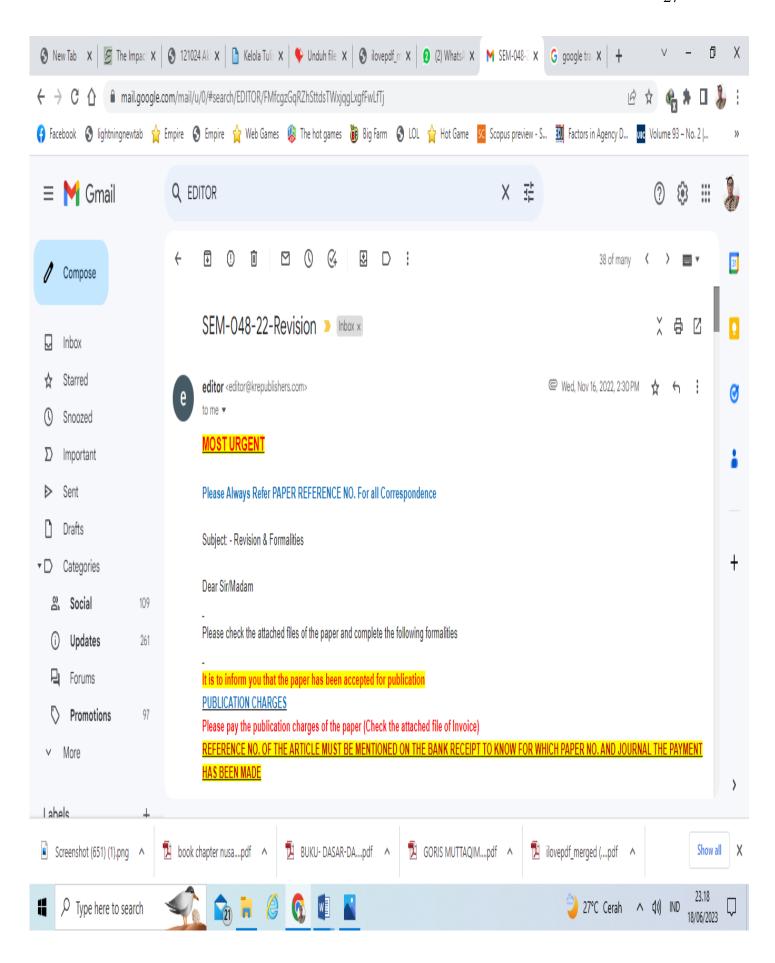
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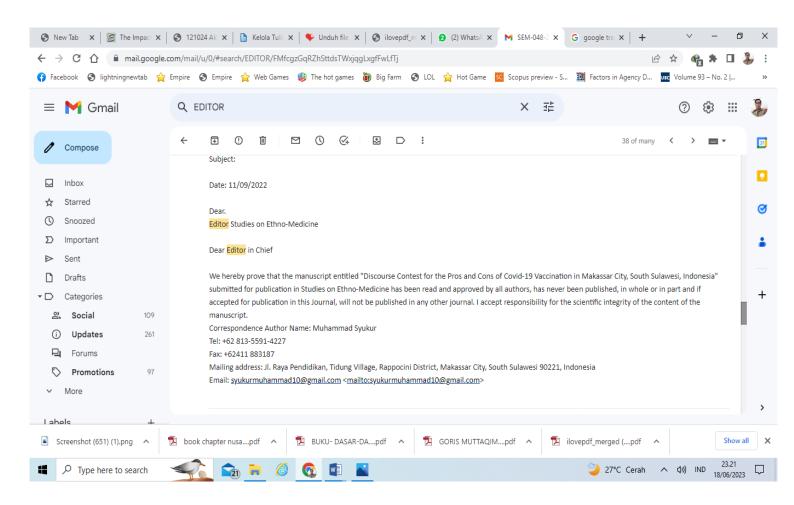
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Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVIDovid-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

RUNNING HEAD: DISCOURSE CONTEST PROS AND CONS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

**KEYWORDS** COVIDovid-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and cons. Pandemic. Vaccination.

**ABSTRACT** This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVIDovid-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVIDovid-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

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One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95%, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency, 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland & Jacobson, 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20th century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox (smallpox) in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al., 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the antivaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the antivaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe & Sharp, 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19th century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto, 2012). The article was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto, 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient. Fincluding anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews, 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, ADHD, and immune disorders (Tenpenny, 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny, 2006).

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Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton, 2015; Cichocka et al., 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al., 2010); Wood & Douglas, 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit & Moser, 2011). For example, Oliver & Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20% agreed and 36% did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, Hearned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al., 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis, 2021). Streefland et al., (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVIDovid-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period starts from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly (elderly) as many as 21,5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, starting in April – March 2021, is targeting a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which is estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVIDovid-19 vaccine.

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WHO recommends that all countries must implement a COVIDovid-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVIDovid-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al., 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVIDovid-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVIDevid-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

#### METHODOLOGY

#### Location and Type of Research

This research will be conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the COVIDevid-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

#### Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory

observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles & Huberman, 1994; Moleong, 1999)

#### **RESULTS**

#### Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the Covid-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100% already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus (ASN), including private employees, have reached 89.12% who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group only reached as low as 20.01% or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 12.78% or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the

4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57% or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05% or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94% or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38% or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92% or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21% or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75% of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COVID ovid-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34% of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36% (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

#### **COVIDevid-19** Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVIDovid-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual

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world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVIDovid-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the COVIDovid-19 vaccination.

#### Pro

Based on the narrative of an informant named Anti (37 years old), said that he is pro against the COVIDevid-19 vaccine, because according to the Covid-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this Covid-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated. (Interview, 3 June 2021)

Another informant named Astri (42 years old), said that she was pro against the Covid-19 vaccine because of the Covid-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the Covid-19 virus," he said. (Interview, 3 June 2021).

Respondents who were against the Covid-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the Covid-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the Covid-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the Covid-19 virus.

Sri Sulastriani was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the Covid-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned (Interview, 03 June 2021).

While Mrs Hj. Marwiah agrees with the Covid-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to Covid-19. In addition, the Covid-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he

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said by getting the Covid-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this.

#### Counter

Several informants who were against the Covid-19 vaccine, such as Sumarni (27 years) and Suswati (26 years) said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against Covid-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against Covid-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the Covid-19 virus (Interview, 2 June 2021).

Furthermore, informant Andi Ira (41 years old) in an interview said that it was contra because no Covid-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this Covid-19 vaccine. This Covid-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said (Interview, June 4, 2021).

The same thing was conveyed by informant Aulia Sari (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for Covid-19, even though they have been vaccinated. (Interview, 6 June 2021)

## **Covid-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse**

#### Pro

According to Achwal Nazar (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that: For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to Covid-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus to protect its people (Interview, July 13, 2021).

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

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Meanwhile, according to informant Alimuddin (45 years old) that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the Covid-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to make the Covid-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus. (Interview July 13, 2021).

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### Counter

Informant Moh. Fajri Ramli (23 years old) revealed that he had doubts about the covid-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (Interview, 5 June 2021).

A more extreme view is expressed by Ahmad Maulana (21 years old), saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of Covid-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy, that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of. (Interview, June 4, 2021).

#### Covid-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle

#### Pro

According to informant Suardi (45 years old), people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities. (Interview, November 13, 2021). The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old) that economic

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activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the Covid-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus (Interview, November 13, 2021).

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### Counter

According to the informant Agussalim (56 years old) that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine (Interview, 17 September 2021). The same thing was expressed by Mustari (54 years old) that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the Covid-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack.

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

## The pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra Covid-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine Covid-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the Covid-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021. The achievement of the Covid-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 per cent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators,

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public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 per cent and for the second dose, it is 31 per cent more.

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012); Ritzer (2012); Ritzer & Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The Covid-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

## DISCUSSION

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al., 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The Covid-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton, 2015; Cichocka et al., 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit & Moser, 2011). For example, Oliver & Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto, 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis, 2021). Streefland et al., (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo, 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

Covid-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of Covid-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling Covid-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding Covid-19 vaccination through the internet, TV and issues

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circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the Covid-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70% of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the Covid-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that:

- 1. The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the Covid-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas.
- 2. The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-Covid-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the Covid-19 vaccine.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following:

- 1. There should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the Covid-19 vaccine and knowledge against the Covid-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party.
- 2. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the Covid-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the Covid-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the Covid-19 vaccine.

## LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the Covid-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from

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various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The authors would like to thank the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makassar State University who has given space the authors in completing this research. Thanks are also conveyed to the informants who have taken the time to provide information to researchers, as well as to the Central Statistics Agency, Makassar City Government, and Makassar City Health Office who have been willing to provide additional information related to this research.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of Covid-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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# Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVID-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Muhammad Syukur<sup>1</sup>, Andi Alim<sup>2</sup> and Asriani Minarti S<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Program Study of Sociology, Program of Postgraduate, University of State Makassar, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Public Health, University of Pejuang Republic Indonesia, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

## RUNNING HEAD: DISCOURSE CONTEST PROS AND CONS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

## **KEYWORDS** COVID-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and cons. Pandemic. Vaccination.

**ABSTRACT** This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Program Study of Public Health, University of Muslim Indonesian, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland and Jacobson 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20th century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al. 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the antivaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the antivaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe and Sharp 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19th century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto 2012). The article was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient, including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and immune disorders (Tenpenny 2008); and (2)

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FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny 2006).

Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al. 2010); Wood and Douglas 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20 percent agreed and 36 percent did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al. 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period starts from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly as many as 21,5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, starting in April – March 2021, is targeting a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which is estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan

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Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COVID-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

#### METHODOLOGY

## Location and Type of Research

This research will be conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in

pro debates and cons when the COVID-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

#### Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin and Lincoln 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles and Huberman 1994; Moleong 1999)

## RESULTS

#### Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the COVID-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are

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still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100 percent already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus, including private employees, have reached 89.12 percent who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group reached as low as 20.01 percent or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine reached 12.78 percent or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57 percent or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05 percent or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94 percent or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38 percent or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92 percent or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21 percent or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75 percent of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34 percent of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36 percent (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The

following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse**

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination.

#### Pro

## An informant who works as a private employee said that:

...said that he is pro against the COVID-19 vaccine, because according to the COVID-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this COVID-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated.... (AT, 03/06/2021)

## A similar view was expressed by an informant who works as a Civil Servant that:

...said that she was pro against the COVID-19 vaccine because of the COVID-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus," he said...(AST, 03/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because vaccines are believed to strengthen the immunity of people who have been vaccinated. The covid vaccine is believed to have been made by experts who are competent in their field so that it is safe to use. However, there are side effects that usually arise after a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, such as drowsiness and body aches for three days. The two informants believed that after someone had received the COVID-19 vaccine, the chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus was very small because they already had good body immunity.

Respondents who were against the COVID-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the COVID-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results

and was still confusing while the pros said that the COVID-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. An informant from the Civil Servants circle revealed that:

...was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the COVID-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned...(SSL, 03/06/2021).

#### Meanwhile, an informant who works as a trader revealed that:

...agrees with the COVID-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this... (MRW, 09/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because if someone has been vaccinated, it can weaken the effect of the COVID-19 virus if it attacks people who have been vaccinated. The chance of disease complications can be reduced if someone has received the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the massive implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in the community can accelerate the occurrence of herd immunity. If herd immunity is achieved, then the community can leave the pandemic to become endemic and the community can return to their activities normally.

#### Counter

Several informants who were against the COVID-19 vaccine, such as SM (27 years) and SW (26 years):

...said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against COVID-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus...(SM and SW, 02/06/2021)

...no COVID-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccination was carried out

too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said...(SW, 04/06/2021)

Based on the statements of SM and SW, who are both housewives, it appears that the reason she refused to be vaccinated was due to their knowledge system that the COVID-19 vaccine injected to someone did not go through good clinical trials. COVID-19 vaccines that have not gone through clinical trials can cause new diseases in people who have been vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination, is something that is forced and done in a hurry. There were cases that they got from their friends that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 were paralyzed and some even died. There is no guarantee from the government and the media, that people who have been vaccinated will be free from getting the virus, instead they still have the chance to be attacked by the COVID-19 virus.

The same thing was conveyed by informant AS (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because:

...there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for COVID-19, even though they have been vaccinated... (AS, 06/06/2021)

The refusal to be vaccinated in the AS is due to the knowledge system it has that the Covid-19 vaccine can make a person paralyzed and die. It was also proven that people who had been vaccinated, but later were sentenced to experience COVID-19. Based on this, the informants refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse**

#### Pro

According to AN (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that:

....For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to COVID-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect its people...(AN, 13/07/2021)

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant AD (45 years old):

...that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the COVID-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to

make the COVID-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus...(AD, 14/07/2021)

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### Counter

Informant MFR (23 years old):

revealed that he had doubts about the COVID-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (MFR, 05/06/2021)

A more extreme view is expressed by AM (21 years old):

...saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of COVID-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy. that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of...(AM, 04/07/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that MFR and AM refused because the COVID-19 vaccine did not go through a research process. After all, it went through a short duration of time, whereas normally vaccines go through longer research results or can only be used for years. The government seems to be forcing people to participate in vaccines. The AM informant suspects that the COVID-19 vaccine is an attempt to reduce the earth's population by pharmaceutical capitalist companies. According to AM's knowledge system, the COVID-19 vaccine is political because it was not made by people with a medical expert background, so there is no guarantee of what it will be like in the future for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle**

#### Pro

According to informant SR (45 years old):

...people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities...(SR, 13/11/2021)

The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old):

...that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the COVID-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus..(RD, 13/11/2021)

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### Counter

According to the informant AGS (56 years old):

...that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine...(AGS, 17/09/2021).

The same thing was expressed by MT (54 years old):

...that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the COVID-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack...(MT, 12/09/2021).

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

#### The pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra COVID-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine COVID-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021. The achievement of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 per cent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators,

public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 per cent and for the second dose, it is 31 per cent more.

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012); Ritzer (2012); Ritzer and Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The COVID-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the data found in the field it appears that a person's knowledge system for accepting or rejecting the COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by health behaviour. Communities who are familiar with using the services of paramedics in overcoming illnesses they experienced before, tend to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, people who have rarely used medical services when they are sick, tend to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Religious beliefs also play a role in determining the choice to accept or refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a belief among the public that the COVID-19 vaccine contains pork elements which are forbidden to enter the body of a Muslim. Such belief is of course based

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on religious doctrine, especially among adherents of Islam. Therefore, people refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Along in line with the research conducted by Adnan Fojnica et al. (2022) who found that only 25.7% of respondents said they wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine, while 74.3% of respondents were hesitant or refused vaccination altogether. Vaccine acceptance increases with age, education, and income level. The main motivation for pro-vaccination behaviour is the intention to achieve weaponry immunity (30.1%), while the main incentive for vaccine prevention is a lack of clinical data (30.2%).

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including

confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

COVID-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of COVID-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling COVID-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding COVID-19 vaccination through the internet, television (TV) and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the COVID-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70 percent of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the COVID-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that: 1) The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the COVID-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas. The knowledge system that underlies a person's choices for the pros and cons of the COVID-19 vaccine is based on religious beliefs, geographic conditions, health conditions, and education level. 2) The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge

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possessed by related actors who are pro-COVID-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following there should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the COVID-19 vaccine and knowledge against the COVID-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the COVID-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the COVID-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the COVID-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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# Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVID-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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RUNNING HEAD: DISCOURSE CONTEST PROS AND CONS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

**KEYWORDS** COVID-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and cons. Pandemic. Vaccination.

ABSTRACT This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland

and Jacobson 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20th century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al. 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the antivaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the antivaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe and Sharp 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19th century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto 2012). The article was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient, including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and immune disorders (Tenpenny 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny 2006).

Various factors can an an an another people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al. 2010); Wood and Douglas 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser

2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20 percent agreed and 36 percent did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al. 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period starts from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly as many as 21,5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, starting in April – March 2021, is targeting a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which is estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines adam Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COVID-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

### **Objectives**

- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

## Location and Type of Research

This research will be conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the COVID-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

#### Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin and Lincoln 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went inrough three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles and Huberman 1994; Moleong 1999)

#### **RESULTS**

#### Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the COVID-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100 percent already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus, including private employees, have reached 89.12 percent who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group reached as low as 20.01 percent or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine reached 12.78 percent or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57 percent or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05 percent or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94 percent or 498,631 people, while those who had

received the second vaccine were 30.38 percent or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92 percent or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21 percent or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75 percent of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34 percent of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36 percent (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that Makassar tity is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

#### **COVID-19** Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding me implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual world. Discourse on me pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about me pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination.

#### Pro

An informant who works as a private employee said that:

...said that he is pro against the COVID-19 vaccine, because according to the COVID-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this COVID-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated.... (AT, 03/06/2021)

A similar view was expressed by an informant who works as a Civil Servant that:

...said that she was pro against the COVID-19 vaccine because of the COVID-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus," he said...(AST, 03/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because vaccines are believed to strengthen the immunity of people who have been vaccinated. The covid vaccine is believed to have been made by experts who are competent in their field so that it is safe to use. However, there are side effects that usually arise after a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, such as drowsiness and body aches for three days. The two informants believed that after someone had received the COVID-19 vaccine, the chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus was very small because they already had good body immunity.

Respondents who were against the COVID-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the COVID-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the COVID-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

An informant from the Civil Servants circle revealed that:

...was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the COVID-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned...(SSL, 03/06/2021).

Meanwhile, an informant who works as a trader revealed that:

...agrees with the COVID-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by

getting the COVID-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this... (MRW, 09/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because if someone has been vaccinated, it can weaken the effect of the COVID-19 virus if it attacks people who have been vaccinated. The chance of disease complications can be reduced if someone has received the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the massive implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in the community can accelerate the occurrence of herd immunity. If herd immunity is achieved, then the community can leave the pandemic to become endemic and the community can return to their activities normally.

#### Counter

Several informants who were against the COVID-19 vaccine, such as SM (27 years) and SW (26 years):

...said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against COVID-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus...(SM and SW, 02/06/2021)

...no COVID-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said...(SW, 04/06/2021)

Based on the statements of SM and SW, who are both housewives, it appears that the reason she refused to be vaccinated was due to their knowledge system that the COVID-19 vaccine injected to someone did not go through good clinical trials. COVID-19 vaccines that have not gone through clinical trials can cause new diseases in people who have been vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination, is something that is forced and done in a hurry. There were cases that they got from their friends that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 were paralyzed and some even died. There is no guarantee from the government and the media, that people who have been vaccinated will be free from getting the virus, instead they still have the chance to be attacked by the COVID-19 virus.

The same thing was conveyed by informant AS (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because:

...there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for COVID-19, even though they have been vaccinated... (AS, 06/06/2021)

The refusal to be vaccinated in the AS is due to the knowledge system it has that the Covid-19 vaccine can make a person paralyzed and die. It was also proven that people who had been vaccinated, but later were sentenced to experience COVID-19. Based on this, the informants refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### **COVID-19** Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse

#### Pro

According to AN (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that:

....For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to COVID-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect its people...(AN, 13/07/2021)

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant AD (45 years old):

...that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the COVID-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to make the COVID-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus...(AD, 14/07/2021)

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### **Counter**

Informant MFR (23 years old):

revealed that he had doubts about the COVID-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (MFR, 05/06/2021)

A more extreme view is expressed by AM (21 years old):

...saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of COVID-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy, that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of...(AM, 04/07/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that MFR and AM refused because the COVID-19 vaccine did not go through a research process. After all, it went through a short duration of time, whereas normally vaccines go through longer research results or can only be used for years. The government seems to be forcing people to participate in vaccines. The AM informant suspects that the COVID-19 vaccine is an attempt to reduce the earth's population by pharmaceutical capitalist companies. According to AM's knowledge system, the COVID-19 vaccine is political because it was not made by people with a medical expert background, so there is no guarantee of what it will be like in the future for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **COVID-19** Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle

#### Pro

According to informant SR (45 years old):

...people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities...(SR, 13/11/2021)

The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old):

...that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the COVID-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus..(RD, 13/11/2021)

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### **Counter**

According to the informant AGS (56 years old):

...that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine...(AGS, 17/09/2021).

The same thing was expressed by MT (54 years old):

...that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the COVID-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack...(MT, 12/09/2021).

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

#### The pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra COVID-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine COVID-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021. The achievement of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 per cent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators, public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 per cent and for the second dose, it is 31 per cent more.

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012); Ritzer (2012); Ritzer and Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The COVID-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Based on the data found in the field it appears that a person's knowledge system for accepting or rejecting the COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by health behaviour. Communities who are familiar with using the services of paramedics in overcoming illnesses they experienced before, tend to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, people who have rarely used medical services when they are sick, tend to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Religious beliefs also play a role in determining the choice to accept or refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a belief among the public that the COVID-19 vaccine contains pork elements which are forbidden to enter the body of a Muslim. Such belief is of course based on religious doctrine, especially among adherents of Islam. Therefore, people refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Along in line with the research conducted by Adnan Fojnica et al. (2022) who found that only 25.7% of respondents said they wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine, while 74.3% of respondents were hesitant or refused vaccination altogether. Vaccine acceptance increases with age, education, and income level. The main motivation for pro-vaccination behaviour is the intention to achieve weaponry immunity (30.1%), while the main incentive for vaccine prevention is a lack of clinical data (30.2%).

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

accination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt lefers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

COVID-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of COVID-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia 2020). Decree of the Minister of Tealth No.

HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling COVID-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding COVID-19 vaccination through the internet, television (TV) and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the COVID-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70 percent of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the COVID-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

## <sup>19</sup>CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that: 1) The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the COVID-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas. The knowledge system that underlies a person's choices for the pros and cons of the COVID-19 vaccine is based on religious beliefs, geographic conditions, health conditions, and education level. 2) The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-COVID-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following there should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the COVID-19 vaccine and knowledge against the COVID-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the COVID-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the COVID-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the COVID-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# ONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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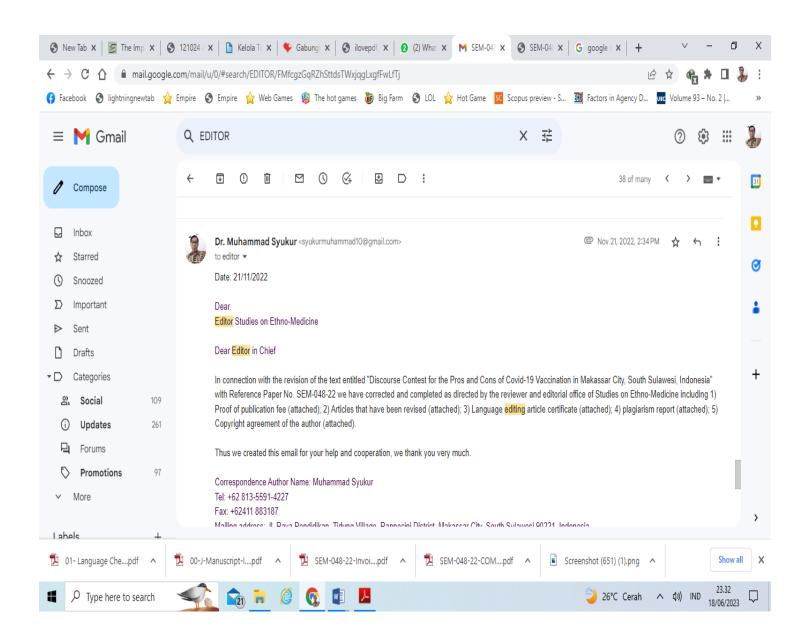
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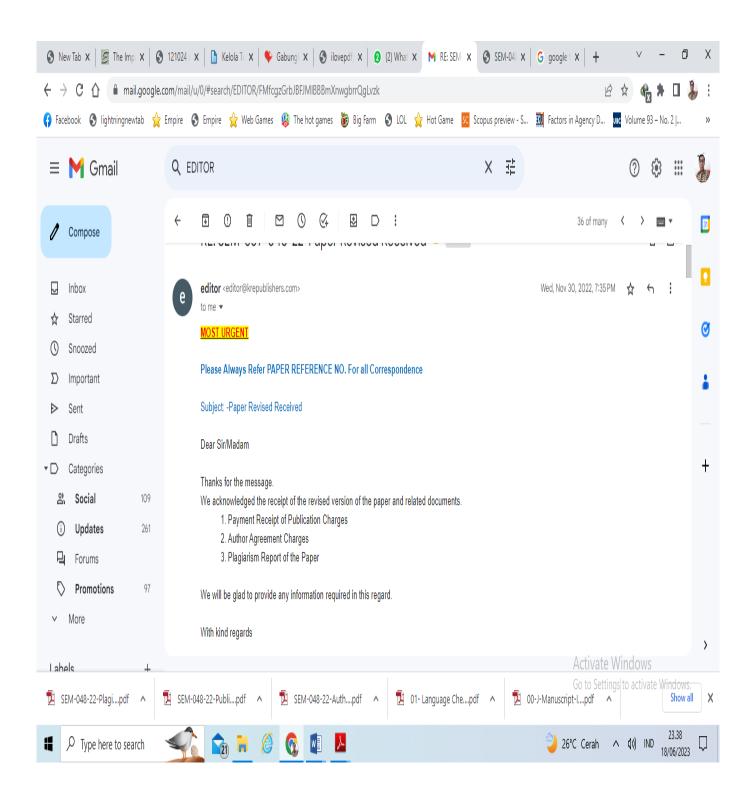
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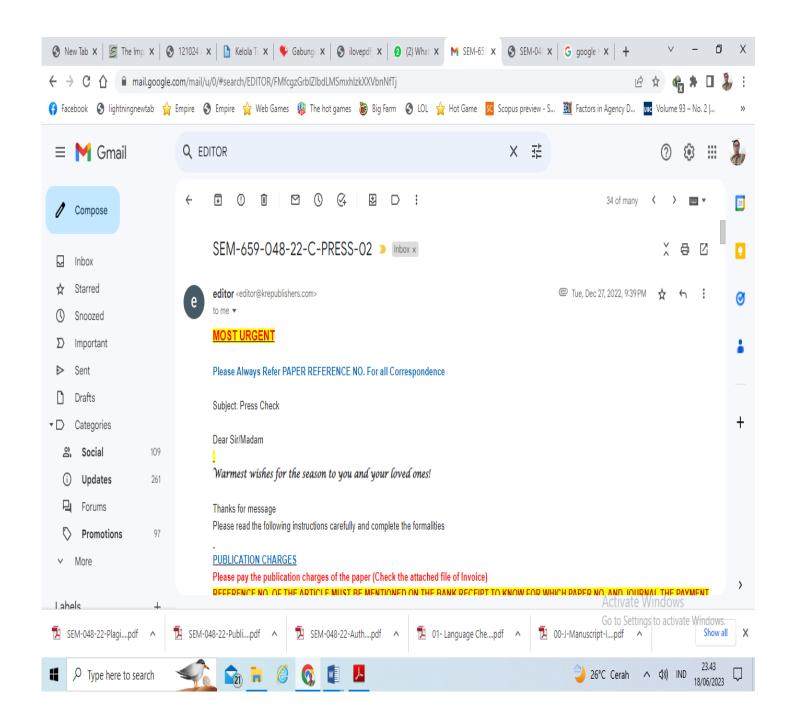
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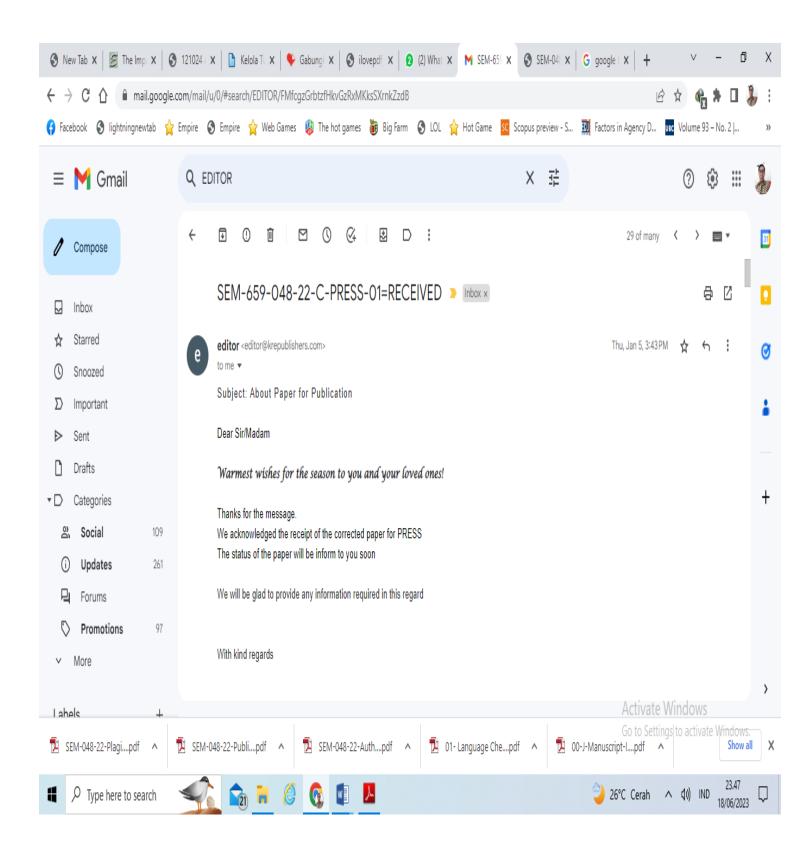
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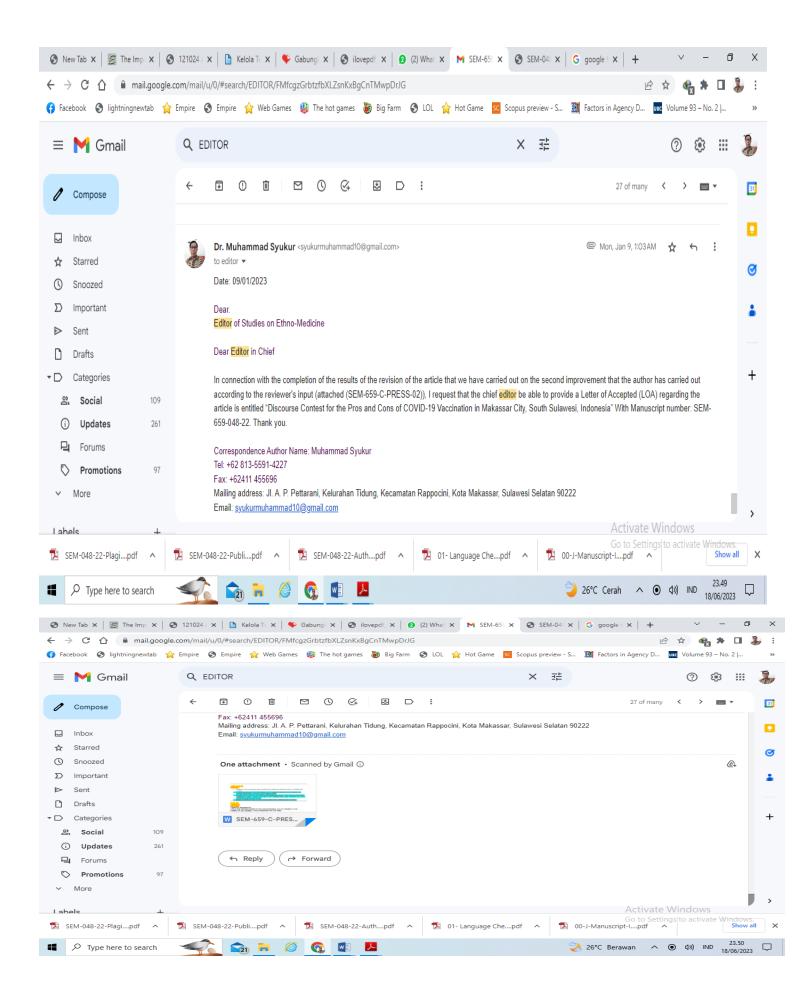
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Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of Covid-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Muhammad Syukur<sup>1</sup>, Andi Alim<sup>2</sup> and Asriani Minarti S<sup>3</sup>

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Mention the number of participants in In-depth interviews, how many focus group discussions were conducted.

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- Add literature on any such discourse on vaccination regarding COVID or any other vaccination earlier
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- Add time period during which the survey was carried out.
- Was the consent sought from the participants? Also there is no mention regarding Ethics approval.
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- COMMENTS
- Mention the responses of the informants within quotation marks if stating their sentences as first person.
- Was consent sought to reveal the identity of the informants? If not maintain confidentiality of the study informants.
- Are the results of pro and cons only from the In-depth Interviews conducted or does it even include the results of Focus group discussion.
- The third paragraph under the subheading "Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the Covid-19 Vaccine" - Is the data stated related to Makassar City. Clearly state which geographic location.
- The last paragraph under the sub heading "The pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra Covid-19 Vaccines" seems as a discussion. The results section has to include the study findings as per the objectives.
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# Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVID-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Muhammad Syukur<sup>1</sup>, Andi Alim<sup>2</sup> and Asriani Minarti S<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Program Study of Sociology, Program of Postgraduate, University of State Makassar, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Public Health, University of Pejuang Republic Indonesia, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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RUNNING HEAD: DISCOURSE CONTEST PROS AND CONS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

## KEYWORDS COVID-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and Cons. Pandemic. Vaccination

**ABSTRACT** This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland and Jacobson 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al. 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the antivaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the antivaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe and

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Sharp 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto 2012). The paper was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient, including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and immune disorders (Tenpenny 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny 2006).

Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al. 2010; Wood and Douglas 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20 percent agreed and 36 percent did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

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The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al. 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al.'s (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period started from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly as many as 21.5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, which started in April- March 2021, targeted a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which was estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COVID-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is *haram* under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

## **Objectives**

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- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

## **METHODOLOGY**

## Location and Type of Research

This research was conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the COVID-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

## Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin and Lincoln 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

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Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles and Huberman 1994; Moleong 1999).

#### RESULTS

## Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the COVID-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100 percent already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus, including private employees, have reached 89.12 percent who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group reached as low as 20.01 percent or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine reached 12.78 percent or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57 percent or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05 percent or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the

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group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94 percent or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38 percent or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92 percent or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21 percent or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75 percent of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34 percent of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36 percent (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse**

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual

world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination.

## **Pro**

## An informant who works as a private employee said that:

...said that he is pro against the COVID-19 vaccine, because according to the COVID-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this COVID-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated.... (AT, 03/06/2021)

## A similar view was expressed by an informant who works as a Civil Servant that:

...said that she was pro against the COVID-19 vaccine because of the COVID-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus," he said...(AST, 03/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because vaccines are believed to strengthen the immunity of people who have been vaccinated. The covid vaccine is believed to have been made by experts who are competent in their field so that it is safe to use. However, there are side effects that usually arise after a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, such as drowsiness and body aches for three days. The two informants believed that after someone had received the COVID-19 vaccine, the chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus was very small because they already had good body immunity.

Respondents who were against the COVID-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the COVID-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the COVID-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. An informant from the Civil Servants circle revealed that:

...was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of

the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the COVID-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned...(SSL, 03/06/2021).

## Meanwhile, an informant who works as a trader revealed that:

...agrees with the COVID-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this... (MRW, 09/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because if someone has been vaccinated, it can weaken the effect of the COVID-19 virus if it attacks people who have been vaccinated. The chance of disease complications can be reduced if someone has received the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the massive implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in the community can accelerate the occurrence of herd immunity. If herd immunity is achieved, then the community can leave the pandemic to become endemic and the community can return to their activities normally.

### Counter

Several informants who were against the COVID-19 vaccine, such as SM (27 years) and SW (26 years):

...said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against COVID-19. People who have been

vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus...(SM and SW, 02/06/2021)

...no COVID-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said...(SW, 04/06/2021)

Based on the statements of SM and SW, who are both housewives, it appears that the reason she refused to be vaccinated was due to their knowledge system that the COVID-19 vaccine injected to someone did not go through good clinical trials. COVID-19 vaccines that have not gone through clinical trials can cause new diseases in people who have been vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination, is something that is forced and done in a hurry. There were cases that they got from their friends that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 were paralyzed and some even died. There is no guarantee from the government and the media, that people who have been vaccinated will be free from getting the virus, instead they still have the chance to be attacked by the COVID-19 virus.

The same thing was conveyed by informant AS (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because:

...there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for COVID-19, even though they have been vaccinated... (AS, 06/06/2021)

The refusal to be vaccinated in the AS is due to the knowledge system it has that the Covid-19 vaccine can make a person paralyzed and die. It was also proven that people who had been vaccinated, but later were sentenced to experience COVID-19. Based on this, the informants refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse**

## **Pro**

According to AN (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that:

....For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to COVID-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect its people...(AN, 13/07/2021)

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant AD (45 years old):

...that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the COVID-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to make the COVID-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus...(AD, 14/07/2021)

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

## Counter

## Informant MFR (23 years old):

revealed that he had doubts about the COVID-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (MFR, 05/06/2021)

A more extreme view is expressed by AM (21 years old):

...saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of COVID-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy, that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose

scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of...(AM, 04/07/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that MFR and AM refused because the COVID-19 vaccine did not go through a research process. After all, it went through a short duration of time, whereas normally vaccines go through longer research results or can only be used for years. The government seems to be forcing people to participate in vaccines. The AM informant suspects that the COVID-19 vaccine is an attempt to reduce the earth's population by pharmaceutical capitalist companies. According to AM's knowledge system, the COVID-19 vaccine is political because it was not made by people with a medical expert background, so there is no guarantee of what it will be like in the future for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle**

## Pro

According to informant SR (45 years old):

...people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities...(SR, 13/11/2021)

The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old):

...that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the COVID-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus..(RD, 13/11/2021)

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

## Counter

According to the informant AGS (56 years old):

...that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly

very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine...(AGS, 17/09/2021).

The same thing was expressed by MT (54 years old):

...that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the COVID-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack...(MT, 12/09/2021).

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

#### The Pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra COVID-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine COVID-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021, the achievement of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 percent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators, public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 percent and for the second dose, it is 31 percent more (Arus 2021).

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(Arus 2021)

Arus, A. (2021) Vaksinasi Covid-19 di Kota Makassar Capai 50 Persen, https://www.masyarakat.net. Available at: https://www.masyarakat.net/vaksinasi-covid19-di-kota-makassar capai-50-persen (Retrieved on: 12 October 2021). The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012), Ritzer (2012) and Ritzer and Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The COVID-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the data found in the field it appears that a person's knowledge system for accepting or rejecting the COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by health behaviour. Communities who are familiar with using the services of paramedics in overcoming illnesses they experienced before, tend to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, people who have rarely used medical services when they are sick, tend to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Religious beliefs also play a role in determining the choice to accept or refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a belief among the public that the COVID-19 vaccine contains pork elements which are forbidden to enter the body of a Muslim. Such belief is of course based on religious doctrine, especially among adherents of Islam. Therefore, people refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

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Along in line with the research conducted by Fojnica et al. (2022) who found that only 25.7 percent of respondents said they wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine, while 74.3 percent of respondents were hesitant or refused vaccination altogether. Vaccine acceptance increases with age, education, and income level. The main motivation for pro-vaccination behaviour is the intention to achieve weaponry immunity (30.1%), while the main incentive for vaccine prevention is a lack of clinical data (30.2%).

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al.

(1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

COVID-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of COVID-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling COVID-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding COVID-19 vaccination through the internet, television (TV) and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the COVID-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70 percent of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the COVID-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that: 1) The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the COVID-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas. The knowledge system that underlies a person's choices for the pros and cons of the COVID-19 vaccine is based on religious beliefs, geographic conditions, health conditions, and education level. 2) The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-COVID-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following there should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the COVID-19 vaccine and knowledge against the COVID-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the COVID-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the COVID-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

## LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the COVID-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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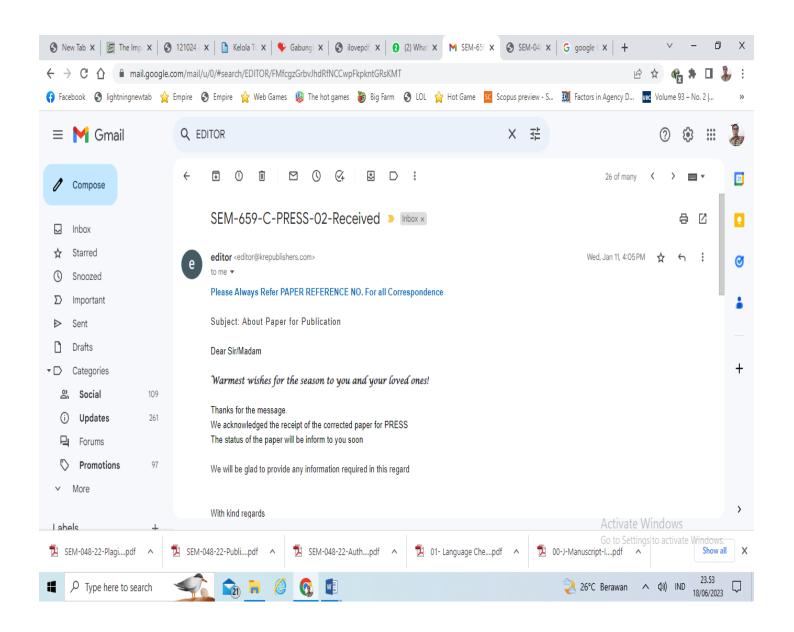
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## C-PRESS-02++

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COVID-19 vaccine program.

Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving2+vaccines

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Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of Covid-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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(1. Clear/adequate, 2. Needs modification, 3. I Inadequate)

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COMMENTS: MINOR REVISIONS.

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Mention the number of participants in In-depth interviews, how many focus group discussions were conducted.

O <u>INTRODUCTION:</u> Evaluate the observations critically and update the text with <u>RECENT</u>
<u>STUDIES</u>

(1. Importance of studying of topic, 2. Convincing rationale of study, 3. Review of Literature on topic) COMMENTS:

- Add literature on any such discourse on vaccination regarding COVID or any other vaccination earlier

O <u>OBJECTIVES</u>: It should be brief and under separate sub-heading under the head introduction (1. Importance of studying of topic, 2. Convincing rationale of study, 3. Inappropriate/erroneous) <u>COMMENTS</u>: **SIMPLIFY THE OBJECTIVES** 

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- Was the consent sought from the participants? Also there is no mention regarding Ethics approval.
- Mention the number of participants in In-depth interviews, how many focus group discussions (number of participants in each FGD, was the FGD group homogenous or heterogeneous, who were involved in FGD).
- How was the Participatory observation technique carried out.
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- Mention the responses of the informants within quotation marks if stating their sentences as first person.
- Was consent sought to reveal the identity of the informants? If not maintain confidentiality of the study informants.
- Are the results of pro and cons only from the In-depth Interviews conducted or does it even include the results of Focus group discussion.
- The third paragraph under the subheading "Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the Covid-19 Vaccine" Is the data stated related to Makassar City. Clearly state which geographic location.
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Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVID-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Muhammad Syukur<sup>1</sup>, Andi Alim<sup>2</sup> and Asriani Minarti S<sup>3</sup>

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South Sulawesi, Indonesia

RUNNING HEAD: DISCOURSE CONTEST PROS AND CONS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

#### KEYWORDS COVID-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and Cons. Pandemic. Vaccination

ABSTRACT This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland

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and Jacobson 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al. 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the antivaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the antivaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe and Sharp 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto 2012). The paper was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient, including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vaccinated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and immune disorders (Tenpenny 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny 2006).

Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al. 2010; Wood and Douglas

2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20 percent agreed and 36 percent did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

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The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al. 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al.'s (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period started from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly as many as 21.5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, which started in April- March 2021, targeted a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which was estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COVID-19 vaccine program. Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for

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each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is *haram* under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros and cons of the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- 2. Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

#### METHODOLOGY

#### Location and Type of Research

This research was conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and the researcher. The research targets are people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants will be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant will be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the COVID-19 vaccine crew period starts until the time this research is carried out.

#### Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data

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collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin and Lincoln 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles and Huberman 1994; Moleong 1999).

#### RESULTS

#### Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the **COVID-19** Vaccine

The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100 percent already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as

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Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus, including private employees, have reached 89.12 percent who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group reached as low as 20.01 percent or 150,871 people who received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine reached 12.78 percent or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57 percent or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05 percent or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94 percent or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38 percent or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92 percent or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21 percent or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75 percent of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are pro-vaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34 percent of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36 percent (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse**

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination.

#### **Pro**

#### An informant who works as a private employee said that:

...said that he is pro against the COVID-19 vaccine, because according to the COVID-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this COVID-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated.... (AT, 03/06/2021)

### A similar view was expressed by an informant who works as a Civil Servant that:

...said that she was pro against the COVID-19 vaccine because of the COVID-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus," he said...(AST, 03/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because vaccines are believed to strengthen the immunity of people who have been vaccinated. The covid vaccine is believed to have been made by experts who are competent in their field so that it is safe to use. However, there are side effects that usually arise after a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, such as drowsiness and body aches for three days. The two informants believed that after someone had received the COVID-19 vaccine, the chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus was very small because they already had good body immunity.

Respondents who were against the COVID-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the COVID-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the COVID-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. An informant from the Civil Servants circle revealed that:

...was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the COVID-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned...(SSL, 03/06/2021).

#### Meanwhile, an informant who works as a trader revealed that:

...agrees with the COVID-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this... (MRW, 09/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because if someone has been vaccinated, it can weaken the effect of the COVID-19 virus if it attacks people who have been vaccinated. The chance of disease complications can be reduced if someone has received the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the massive implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in the community can accelerate the occurrence of herd immunity. If herd immunity is achieved, then the community can leave the pandemic to become endemic and the community can return to their activities normally.

#### **Counter**

Several informants who were against the COVID-19 vaccine, such as SM (27 years) and SW (26 years):

...said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against COVID-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus...(SM and SW, 02/06/2021)

...no COVID-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said...(SW, 04/06/2021)

Based on the statements of SM and SW, who are both housewives, it appears that the reason she refused to be vaccinated was due to their knowledge system that the COVID-19 vaccine injected to someone did not go through good clinical trials. COVID-19 vaccines that have not gone through clinical trials can cause new diseases in people who have been vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination, is something that is forced and done in a hurry. There were cases that they got from their friends that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 were paralyzed and some even died. There is no guarantee from the government and the media, that people who have been vaccinated will be free from getting the virus, instead they still have the chance to be attacked by the COVID-19 virus.

The same thing was conveyed by informant AS (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because:

...there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for COVID-19, even though they have been vaccinated... (AS, 06/06/2021)

The refusal to be vaccinated in the AS is due to the knowledge system it has that the Covid-19 vaccine can make a person paralyzed and die. It was also proven that people who had been vaccinated, but later were sentenced to experience COVID-19. Based on this, the informants refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse**

#### Pro

According to AN (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that:

....For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to COVID-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect its people...(AN, 13/07/2021)

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant AD (45 years old):

...that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the COVID-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help the government to make the COVID-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus...(AD, 14/07/2021)

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### Counter

Informant MFR (23 years old):

revealed that he had doubts about the COVID-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (MFR, 05/06/2021)

A more extreme view is expressed by AM (21 years old):

...saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of COVID-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy, that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of...(AM, 04/07/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that MFR and AM refused because the COVID-19 vaccine did not go through a research process. After all, it went through a short duration of time, whereas normally vaccines go through longer research results or can only be used for years. The government seems to be forcing people to participate in vaccines. The AM informant suspects that the COVID-19 vaccine is an attempt to reduce the earth's population by pharmaceutical capitalist companies. According to AM's knowledge system, the COVID-19 vaccine is political because it was not made by people with a medical expert background, so there is no guarantee of what it will be like in the future for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle**

#### **Pro**

According to informant SR (45 years old):

...people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities...(SR, 13/11/2021)

The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old):

...that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the COVID-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus..(RD, 13/11/2021)

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### Counter

According to the informant AGS (56 years old):

...that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine...(AGS, 17/09/2021).

The same thing was expressed by MT (54 years old):

...that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the COVID-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack...(MT, 12/09/2021).

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

#### The Pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra COVID-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine COVID-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021, the achievement of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated

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(Arus 2021)

Arus, A. (2021) Vaksinasi Covid-19 di Kota Makassar Capai 50
Persen, https://www.masyarakat.net. Available at:
https://www.masyarakat.net/vaksinasi-covid19-di-kota-makassarcapai-50-persen (Retrieved on: 12 October 2021).

from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 percent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators, public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 percent and for the second dose, it is 31 percent more (Arus 2021).

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012), Ritzer (2012) and Ritzer and Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The COVID-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the data found in the field it appears that a person's knowledge system for accepting or rejecting the COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by health behaviour. Communities who are familiar with using the services of paramedics in overcoming illnesses they experienced before, tend to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, people who have rarely used

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medical services when they are sick, tend to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Religious beliefs also play a role in determining the choice to accept or refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a belief among the public that the COVID-19 vaccine contains pork elements which are forbidden to enter the body of a Muslim. Such belief is of course based on religious doctrine, especially among adherents of Islam. Therefore, people refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Along in line with the research conducted by Fojnica et al. (2022) who found that only 25.7 percent of respondents said they wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine, while 74.3 percent of respondents were hesitant or refused vaccination altogether. Vaccine acceptance increases with age, education, and income level. The main motivation for pro-vaccination behaviour is the intention to achieve weaponry immunity (30.1%), while the main incentive for vaccine prevention is a lack of clinical data (30.2%).

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

COVID-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of COVID-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling COVID-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding COVID-19 vaccination through the internet, television (TV) and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out

vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the COVID-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70 percent of the population so that herd immunity can be achieved.

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the COVID-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that: 1) The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the COVID-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas. The knowledge system that underlies a person's choices for the pros and cons of the COVID-19 vaccine is based on religious beliefs, geographic conditions, health conditions, and education level. 2) The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-COVID-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following there should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the COVID-19 vaccine and knowledge against the COVID-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the COVID-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the COVID-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the COVID-

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19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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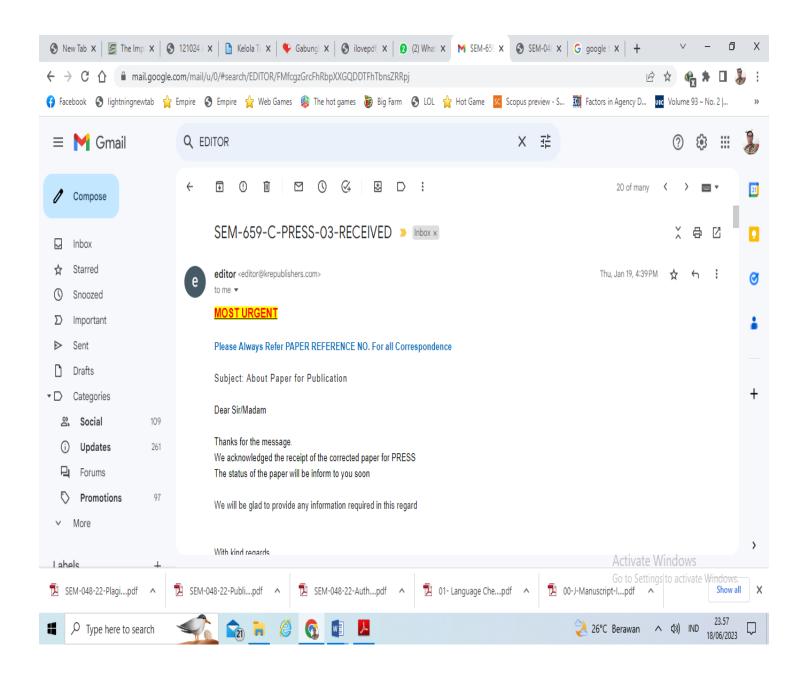
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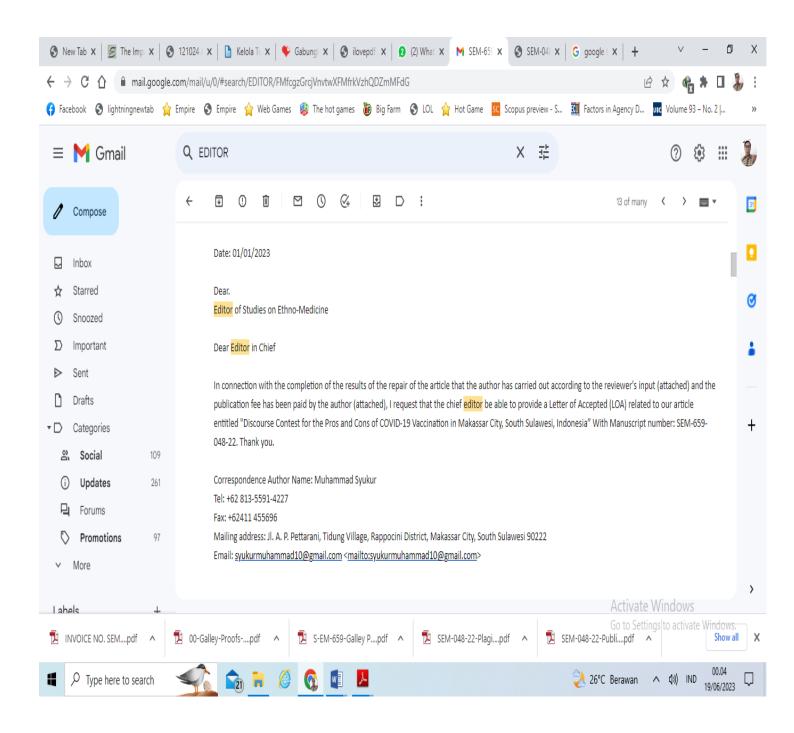
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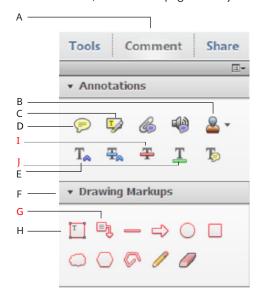
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Relationship between Instructional Leadersheep and Organizational Health in Primary Schools

Leadership

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### Discourse Contest for the Pros and Cons of COVID-19 Vaccination in Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

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KEYWORDS COVID-19. Discourse Contest. Pros and Cons. Pandemic. Vaccination

ABSTRACT This study aims to analyze the occurrence and explain the pattern of contestation on the pros and cons of COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. The study used a qualitative approach with data collection methods through interviews, observation and documentation. The results show that the discourse of vaccination is not only healthy but also political and economic. The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by the pro and contra community in the arena of health, politics and economics shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of pro-vaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is being visited by the public, long queues are always seen every time there is an implementation of vaccination carried out for free.

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the phenomena that exist in the community is the vaccination program that has been launched by the government for free. Despite the proven importance of vaccination for the health and well-being of the population, many people opt out of the government vaccination schedule. The phenomenon in some countries, where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, puts people at risk for infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization (UK Health Security Agency 2014).

Vaccines are germs (viruses) that are weakened to produce active immunity when introduced into the human body. Vaccines with all their capabilities to prevent morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases are the greatest achievements in the field of public health (Poland and Jacobson 2001). Vaccines played an important role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because they succeeded in eradicating smallpox in 1974 and polio in 2014 (Maglione et al. 2014).

Vaccine development does not necessarily go smoothly. When vaccines become more popular, certain groups and understandings are born that reject them, namely the anti-vaccines. There are discussions in the community and on the internet about the anti-vaccination/immunization movement. Research results show that this new movement emerged when the smallpox vaccination was introduced and continues to this day (Wolfe and Sharp 2002). The methods of disseminating information have changed since the 19th century, but the issues raised by the anti-vaccination community remain the same today. When traced, the number of internet sites that discuss anti-vaccination will be far more than sites that promote vaccination. Most of the content is similar, copied over and over from one site to another (Kristyanto 2012). The paper was written as if it was evidence-based medicine because it featured the names of experts with very convincing data and figures.

Over the time, the anti-vaccine movement was not only crowded on the internet but also seminars were held in universities. Even the speaker is a doctor (Kristyanto 2012). Doctors as 'experts' are valued for their knowledge, both in terms of theory and clinical skills, so that any information conveyed by a doctor will be easily believed by a patient, including anti-vaccine propaganda. One of the famous figures for his refusal to be vacci-

nated is Sherri Tenpenny, an osteopath from Ohio, United States (detikNews 2015). Some of his works related to anti-vaccination, such as: (1) Saying No to Vaccines, contains an explanation of why vaccines are detrimental to health, including vaccine complications such as asthma, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and immune disorders (Tenpenny 2008); and (2) FOWL! Bird Flu: It's Not What You Think, which describes how bird flu correlates with vaccination (Tenpenny 2006).

Various factors can influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active antivaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the covert actions of certain groups who cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016). For example, popular conspiracy theorists allege that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States government to justify the war on terror and that climate change is a hoax orchestrated by climate scientists to secure research funding (Swami et al. 2010; Wood and Douglas 2015). According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccination, data is falsified and the dangerous side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government would prefer vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism, 20 percent agreed and 36 percent did not. This study aims to examine the relationship between vaccination in children and autism.

The practice of vaccination is not only symbolic but also closely related to body appearance, identity, class and social relations. Symbols and performances are transmitted, learned, and reproduced within families, across generations and within groups and communities (Lunnay et al. 2011). Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Some scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine indecision and vaccine refusal to recognize the gender and relational aspects of parenting as decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al.'s (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work in-

troduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The debate about the pros and cons in Indonesia that is currently popular is the use of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is being implemented by the Indonesian government. The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination was marked by the first vaccination by President Joko Widodo on January 13, 2021. The first wave, the vaccination period started from January - April 2021 by targeting the main target health workers as many as 1.4 million followed by the elderly as many as 21.5 million, then public officers as many as 17.4 million people. The second wave, which started in April- March 2021, targeted a range of people, namely those in areas with a high risk of transmission, the number of which was estimated at around 63.9 million, followed by other communities, which number around 77.4 million people with a cluster approach by the availability of vaccines (Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Kesehatan Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). Researchers found that there are many pros and cons regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all countries must implement a COV-ID-19 vaccine program (French et al. 2020; Ali 2020). Every element of society has an important role in achieving COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is haram under any circumstances, plus many hoax issues are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. Haram, in this context, refers to the COVID-19 vaccine that contains substances that are originated from pig, which is considered a sin by Muslims if it enters their body. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched before vaccination began, but the fact is that after vaccination began, there were people who refused to be vaccinated.

#### **Objectives**

1. Analyzing the spread of knowledge behind the emergence of contestation on the pros

- and cons of the implementation of the COV-ID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.
- Analyzing the mechanism of the contestation pattern of pro and con discourse on the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City.

#### METHODOLOGY

#### Location and Type of Research

This research was conducted in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. This type of research is qualitative with a constructivist paradigm. Qualitative research allows interaction between researchers and researchers as in the tradition of the constructivist paradigm so that the data adapted is natural. Truth is a shared understanding of social reality in the form of intersubjectivity that was born as a result of the interaction between the researcher and research subjects/informants. The research targets were people who are actively involved in discourse contestation both in the real world and in cyberspace. Informants would be selected by purposive sampling, where each informant would be selected according to the research objectives and understanding of the problem under study, namely at least already involved in pro debates and cons when the COVID-19 vaccine crew period started until the time this research was carried out.

# Methods of Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Based on the source, the data used is divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from several respondents. Primary data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, documentation and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The main form of interview used is an in-depth interview. The author also conducts the informal conversational interview, which is an interview technique that takes place spontaneously and freely (Denzin and Lincoln 2011). While secondary data is obtained from several related agencies such as government agencies, as well as written data from various sources such as books, journals, and research results.

Data analysis went through three stages, namely; first, the data reduction process that focuses on the selection, simplification, abstraction and transformation of rough data from field notes. In this process, data that are relevant to the research focus and data that do not meet the inclusion-exclusion criteria are selected. The second stage is data presentation, namely the compilation of information into statements that allow concluding. The data is presented in the form of narrative text, initially scattered and separated from various sources of information, and then classified according to the theme and needs of analysis. The third stage is drawing conclusions based on data reduction and presentation. Conclusion drawing takes place gradually from general conclusions at the data reduction stage, then becomes more specific at the data presentation stage, and more specifically at the actual conclusion drawing stage. This series of processes shows that the qualitative data analysis in this study combines the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing repeatedly and cyclically (Miles and Huberman 1994; Moleong 1999).

#### RESULTS

# Discourse Contest between the Pros and Cons of the COVID-19 Vaccine

The implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City is marked by the presence of people who are pro and contra. Despite the various socialization efforts that have been carried out by the government to invite the public to implement the vaccine there are still many people who do not want to implement the vaccine. Debates about the pros and cons of discourse in the public sphere and social media always occur.

The Health Human Resources (HR) group appears to have carried out vaccinations 1 and 2 and has reached 100 percent already vaccinated. Meanwhile, public officials such as Lecturers, Teachers, Soldiers, Police, and State Civil Apparatus, including private employees, have reached 89.12 percent who have received the second vaccine or 611,985 of the 694,477 people targeted for the vaccine. While the elderly group reached as low as 20.01 percent or 150,871 people who re-

Ethno Med, 00(000): 0000 (20221

ceived the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine reached 12.78 percent or 96,315 people. While the general public showed that of the 4,571,997 people who were targeted for the vaccine, only about 34.57 percent or 1,580,455 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 20.05 percent or 916,603 people who had just received the vaccine. 2. While the group of adolescents who became the target group was 978,890 people and those who had received vaccine 1 had reached 50.94 percent or 498,631 people, while those who had received the second vaccine were 30.38 percent or 297,425 people. Overall, of the 7,058,141 who were targeted for the new vaccine, around 42.92 percent or 3,029,642 people had received the first vaccine, while those who received the second vaccine only reached 28.21 percent or 1,991,177 people (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that herd immunity has not been achieved because ideally, people who must receive the vaccine are above 75 percent of the total population who are the target group of the vaccine. One of the obstacles to the slow achievement of herd immunity is the emergence of groups that are against the implementation of the COV-ID-19 vaccine.

Data related to the implementation of vaccination in the city of Makassar shows a number that is quite encouraging for those who are provaccines. Makassar City is one of the districts/ cities with the highest vaccine participation rate among districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province. Makassar City already has around 75.34 percent of people who have received the first vaccine, while people who have received the second vaccine have reached 54.36 percent (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2021). This data shows that Makassar City is the region with the highest number of vaccines receiving the first and second vaccines among the Kota regencies in South Sulawesi. Although the number is quite high, it has not yet reached herd immunity. The existence of community resistance is one of the factors that slow the achievement of herd immunity in Makassar City.

For the people of Makassar City, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not just a health discourse, but also involves economic, political and religious discourse. The following is

a presentation of the discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City in various spheres and discourses.

# COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Health Discourse

There are various kinds of discourses put forward by the community regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City. People in Makassar City consider that the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination is not merely a medical or health issue, but also related to economic and political issues and even religious issues. Discourse battles occur in various arenas, both in the real world and in the virtual or virtual world. Discourse on the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccine has always coloured meetings in various public spaces. Both formal and informal meetings. It is a common thing that we meet at these meetings involving discussions about the pros and cons of implementing the COVID-19 vaccination.

#### Pro

An informant who works as a private employee said that:

...said that he is pro against the COVID-19 vaccine, because according to the COVID-19 vaccine it can increase our body's immunity, and I believe that this vaccine has been made by experts for our good in the world amid this COVID-19 outbreak, and has been considered beforehand. Therefore I am not afraid to be vaccinated.... (AT, 03/06/2021)

A similar view was expressed by an informant who works as a Civil Servant that:

...said that she was pro against the COVID-19 vaccine because of the COVID-19 vaccination, the body's immune system increased even though there were side effects after being vaccinated, the body felt sore and sleepy for three days. At least after I was vaccinated I no longer felt worried about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus," he said...(AST, 03/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because vaccines are believed to strengthen the immunity of people who have been vaccinated. The covid vaccine is believed to have been made

by experts who are competent in their field so that it is safe to use. However, there are side effects that usually arise after a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, such as drowsiness and body aches for three days. The two informants believed that after someone had received the COVID-19 vaccine, the chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus was very small because they already had good body immunity.

Respondents who were against the COVID-19 vaccination said that vaccination would cause paralysis, and death, some even said that the COVID-19 vaccine had no clinical trial results and was still confusing while the pros said that the COVID-19 vaccine can increase the body's immunity so that they no longer worry about being exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

An informant from the Civil Servants circle revealed that:

...was pro or receiving vaccinations because he said that he was obliged to vaccinate from the office but besides being required he said he was personally, the vaccine weakens the virus, and he said it was as a preparation of the body for the production of the immune system, if at any time exposed to the coronavirus but after being vaccinated the immune system was already can recognize that it is the COVID-19 virus. Then he also said that after being vaccinated there were no significant side effects because the symptoms experienced were common symptoms felt by people who had been vaccinated, but these symptoms were only felt after the first vaccination, after the second vaccination the symptoms were no longer felt. However, he said that because he had a history of asthma, after the vaccination he felt the impact that if his body was more sensitive to dust, his asthma returned...(SSL, 03/06/2021).

Meanwhile, an informant who works as a trader revealed that:

...agrees with the COVID-19 vaccine because it can reduce the possibility of severe symptoms and complications due to COVID-19. In addition, the COVID-19 vaccination aims to encourage the formation of herd immunity or group immunity. So, he said by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, we not only protect ourselves but also those around us who do not yet have immunity to the Coronavirus. Now the side effects of this vaccine are said to be harmless, he only feels a

little dizzy and gets sleepy easily, but this is generally in the sense that all those who have been vaccinated have experienced this... (MRW, 09/06/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that both of them support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination because if someone has been vaccinated, it can weaken the effect of the COVID-19 virus if it attacks people who have been vaccinated. The chance of disease complications can be reduced if someone has received the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the massive implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in the community can accelerate the occurrence of herd immunity. If herd immunity is achieved, then the community can leave the pandemic to become endemic and the community can return to their activities normally.

#### Counter

Several informants who were against the COV-ID-19 vaccine, such as SM (27 years) and SW (26 years):

...said that I was against it because of what I saw of people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19, some of them were paralyzed, some even die. I have a history of illness, so I am afraid to get vaccinated against COVID-19. People who have been vaccinated do not rule out the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus...(SM and SW, 02/06/2021)

...no COVID-19 vaccine had passed clinical trials and there was still confusing information about this COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccination was carried out too hastily, and it is not certain whether this vaccine is safe or not, but it has been carried out. Because doing vaccinations that have not been clinically tested can cause new health problems," he said...(SW, 04/06/2021)

Based on the statements of SM and SW, who are both housewives, it appears that the reason she refused to be vaccinated was due to their knowledge system that the COVID-19 vaccine injected to someone did not go through good clinical trials. COVID-19 vaccines that have not gone through clinical trials can cause new diseases in people who have been vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination, is something that is forced and done in a hurry. There were cases that they got

from their friends that people who had been vaccinated against COVID-19 were paralyzed and some even died. There is no guarantee from the government and the media, that people who have been vaccinated will be free from getting the virus, instead they still have the chance to be attacked by the COVID-19 virus.

The same thing was conveyed by informant AS (31 years) a private employee who stated that he refused to be vaccinated because:

...there were many cases of people getting sick after being vaccinated. A paralyzed person, it was even reported that someone died after being vaccinated. There is also news of people who are positive for COVID-19, even though they have been vaccinated... (AS, 06/06/2021)

The refusal to be vaccinated in the AS is due to the knowledge system it has that the Covid-19 vaccine can make a person paralyzed and die. It was also proven that people who had been vaccinated, but later were sentenced to experience COVID-19. Based on this, the informants refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

# COVID-19 Vaccine in the Battle of Political Discourse

#### Pro

According to AN (23 years old), a master's degree student at a well-known university in the city of Makassar revealed that:

....For example, if the vaccine is indeed an antidote to COVID-19, then I agree, as long as no one feels harmed by the vaccine, why not. The vaccine is a form of the government's anticipation process to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect its people...(AN, 13/07/2021)

Based on the statement of the source, it seems that it refers more to the government's efforts to prevent the spread of the virus through vaccines than the public is afraid of the rise of news about the dangers of vaccines whose truth cannot be trusted.

Meanwhile, according to informant AD (45 years old):

...that the government has a moral responsibility to protect all its people from the dangers of the coronavirus. The government's reputation is at stake in dealing with the COVID-19 issue. Therefore, as a good citizen, I am obliged to help

the government to make the COVID-19 vaccination successful. I believe that the government will not plunge its people into the vaccine. I am ready to be vaccinated to protect myself, my family and society in general from the spread of the coronavirus...(AD, 14/07/2021)

Based on the information from Mr Alimuddin, it appears that he strongly supports the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination and he has a responsibility to help the government and wants to be vaccinated as an effort to protect himself, his family and society.

#### Counter

Informant MFR (23 years old):

revealed that he had doubts about the COV-ID-19 vaccination and was also surprised at the government which seemed to oblige the public to be vaccinated. In addition, the interviewees also wondered why the vaccine was made so fast, whereas if you think about it using the logic of making a vaccine, it has a long time frame because a extra thorough research must be carried out so that it can be used as an antidote to the virus (MFR, 05/06/2021)

A more extreme view is expressed by AM (21 years old):

...saying that this vaccination resembles a fascist-style program. Because in several countries there is a large depopulation of the population due to the trial vaccine. This informant does not yet believe in the existence of COVID-19 because until now its whereabouts are still unclear. So why receive vaccinations if the virus that is currently being discussed is still unclear? According to him, this is just a conspiracy. that the vaccines that are circulated in the world are made by capitalist companies whose scientific base is not medical personnel. So, no one knows in the future what will happen to people who have been vaccinated, because of the fluids that enter the bodies of these people we do not know what fluids are made of...(AM, 04/07/2021)

Based on the statements of the two informants, it appears that MFR and AM refused because the COVID-19 vaccine did not go through a research process. After all, it went through a short duration of time, whereas normally vaccines go through longer research results or can only be used for years. The government seems to be forc-

ing people to participate in vaccines. The AM informant suspects that the COVID-19 vaccine is an attempt to reduce the earth's population by pharmaceutical capitalist companies. According to AM's knowledge system, the COVID-19 vaccine is political because it was not made by people with a medical expert background, so there is no guarantee of what it will be like in the future for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

# COVID-19 Vaccine in Economic Discourse Battle

#### Pro

According to informant SR (45 years old):

...people need to receive vaccines immediately to achieve immunity. If people have been vaccinated and are immune to the coronavirus, then they can carry out normal economic activities...(SR, 13/11/2021)

The same thing was expressed by a media officer named Rosdiana (40 years old):

...that economic activities will soon run smoothly when people have carried out vaccinations. This is because people who have previously received the COVID-19 vaccine will experience immunity to the coronavirus..(RD, 13/11/2021)

Based on the informant's narrative, it appears that the discourse of vaccination is to accelerate economic recovery in the community or country as the coronavirus attack must be stopped so that economic activity can recover as before.

#### Counter

According to the informant AGS (56 years old):

...that the issue of the coronavirus was deliberately heralded by countries that produce vaccines so that countries compete to buy vaccines from their countries. This is certainly very beneficial economically for the country that produces the vaccine...(AGS, 17/09/2021).

The same thing was expressed by MT (54 years old):

...that the Chinese State deliberately discussed the transmission of the coronavirus so that other countries would buy the COVID-19 vaccine to protect its citizens from the dangers of the coronavirus attack...(MT, 12/09/2021).

Based on the narratives of the two informants, it appears that they consider issues related to the corona, including the implementation of vaccination, to be issues related to economic problems. There is a group of countries that want to get a big advantage behind the issue of the spread of the coronavirus.

## The Pattern of Contest Between Pro Vaccines and Contra COVID-19 Vaccines

The pattern of contestation of knowledge possessed by people who are pro-vaccine and contra-vaccine COVID-19 in the health, political, and economic arenas shows a pattern of contestation that is dominant. The knowledge of provaccine community dominates the discourse and knowledge milling about in the community and on social media compared to those against the COVID-19 vaccine. This symptom can be seen in the crowded places where the vaccination is visited by the public. Queues are always visible during the implementation of free vaccinations.

Referring to the vaccination data compiled by the Makassar Health Service as of September 1, 2021, the achievement of the COVID-19 vaccination in Makassar City has reached 50.06 per cent for the first dose or targeting 551,879 Makassar residents who have been vaccinated from the total vaccine target of 1,102,330 Makassar residents. Meanwhile, those who have received the full vaccine or received two doses reached 31.77 percent or 350,247 Makassar residents. This vaccination targets all groups of people such as health workers, educators, public officials, the elderly, market traders, the general public, people with disabilities and students, and university students. The achievement of the Makassar City vaccination for the first dose has reached 50.06 percent and for the second dose, it is 31 percent more (Arus 2021).

The contestation of power and knowledge as the theory of Foucault (2012), Ritzer (2012) and Ritzer and Goodman (2008) is constructed based on a very complex scientific method. This complexity gave birth to three alternative knowledge reconstructions described by Salman (2012) as patterned reconstructions (1) zero-sum game, which occurs when there is mutual negation in

the contestation between knowledge, (2) hybridization, which occurs when mixing occurs and then gives birth to new features of knowledge in contestation between narratives; patterned reconstruction; (3) coexistence, takes place when there is a mutual presence without mutual influence in the contestation between discourses.

The concept of hybridization is also used by Escobar (1999) in analyzing the linkage of local knowledge with science with a cultural value orientation. The COVID-19 vaccination practice has become a cultural phenomenon that is surrounded by various cultural symbols that contain meaning, contestation, interests, and power relations in it. Regarding the link between the two knowledge, Salman (2012) is of the view that when local variables increasingly interact with non-local variables, the knowledge that is applied is not only produced within the community but also the knowledge that comes from outside. In such conditions, contact, cooperation, mutual reference, competition and conflict between substances and producers and bearers of knowledge take place. This whole phenomenon is referred to as the contestation of knowledge.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the data found in the field it appears that a person's knowledge system for accepting or rejecting the COVID-19 vaccination is influenced by health behaviour. Communities who are familiar with using the services of paramedics in overcoming illnesses they experienced before, tend to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, people who have rarely used medical services when they are sick, tend to refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Religious beliefs also play a role in determining the choice to accept or refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a belief among the public that the COVID-19 vaccine contains pork elements which are forbidden to enter the body of a Muslim. Such belief is of course based on religious doctrine, especially among adherents of Islam. Therefore, people refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Along in line with the research conducted by Fojnica et al. (2022) who found that only 25.7 percent of respondents said they wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine, while 74.3 percent of respondents were hesitant or refused vaccination alto-

gether. Vaccine acceptance increases with age, education, and income level. The main motivation for pro-vaccination behaviour is the intention to achieve weaponry immunity (30.1%), while the main incentive for vaccine prevention is a lack of clinical data (30.2%).

According to the Health Belief Model theory, a person's perception can affect his health behaviour. Likewise, parents' perceptions of immunization can vary for each individual, which is also influenced by geographical differences (Prabandari et al. 2018). Ordinary people are restless because they think that everything that contains pork in it is *haram* under any circumstances, plus many rumours are circulating about the impact of giving vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign program was launched long before the vaccination started, but after the vaccination started, some people refused to be vaccinated.

Various factors can undoubtedly influence people's decisions about vaccination, one potential one being the conspiracy theories spread by the active anti-vaccine movement. Conspiracy theorists explain the main causes of important events as the secret actions of certain groups to cover up information to suit their interests (Brotherton 2015; Cichocka et al. 2016).

According to the most popular conspiracy theories related to the issue of vaccinations, data is falsified and the harmful side effects of vaccines are hidden from the public to ensure that pharmaceutical companies and governments can make money (Offit and Moser 2011). For example, Oliver and Wood (2014) asked participants if they thought that doctors and the government preferred vaccination despite knowing that vaccines cause autism.

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient step to give children immunity in an effort to prevent various kinds of infectious diseases. Vaccination is carried out by giving antigens (viruses or bacteria) to stimulate an antibody response (Arifianto 2014).

Bourdieu's approach to vaccine rejection is a new contribution. Several scholars have criticized positivist and medical models of vaccine hesitancy and refusal to acknowledge the gendered and relational aspects of parental decision-making (Conis 2021). Streefland et al. (1999) groundbreaking anthropological work introduced the notion of a 'local vaccination culture' rooted in social acceptance and rejection.

The term vaccine doubt refers to the delay in receiving or refusing a vaccine despite the availability of vaccination services. Doubt has alternative connotations including confidence/belief in various issues such as trust in vaccines including concerns about vaccine safety, and trust in healthcare workers who administer vaccines and in those who make decisions to approve vaccines (Suhardjo 2010).

Acceptance of the vaccine has a large number when compared to the group that refuses the vaccine. But the group agreed that others should vaccinate and some delayed vaccination or received vaccinations but were unsure about doing so. This scepticism is set on a continuum between those who accept all vaccines without hesitation, complete refusals without hesitation, and individuals who doubt vaccines also agree with vaccine refusal.

COVID-19 disease is a disease for which a definite cure has not been found, so preventing the spread of COVID-19 disease. The State of Indonesia has guaranteed its citizens to be vaccinated. Presidential Regulation no. 99 of 2020 concerning the procurement of vaccines and the implementation of vaccinations in the context of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Presiden Republik Indonesia 2020). Decree of the Minister of Health No. HK.01.02./MENKES/12758/2021 regarding the determination of the type of vaccine for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). Then, Minister of Health Regulation No. 84 of 2020 concerning the implementation of vaccinations in the context of controlling COV-ID-19 (Menteri Kesehatan Republik Indonesia 2020). The implementation of the vaccination has received a lot of rejection from the community. Various negative issues regarding COVID-19 vaccination through the internet, television (TV) and issues circulating in their environment make people hesitate to carry out vaccinations. The government has a discourse that the COVID-19 vaccination must be carried out on 70 percent of the population so that herd immunity can be

Certain social groups can also become social capital for someone who can influence individual behaviour. In addition, symbolic capital such as

religion, for example, Islam which forbids its followers to eat pigs will certainly make strong rejection of the COVID-19 vaccination which is rumoured to be made from pigs.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that: 1) The contestation of pro talk and contracts for the COVID-19 vaccine took place in the health (medical), political, and economic arenas. The knowledge system that underlies a person's choices for the pros and cons of the COV-ID-19 vaccine is based on religious beliefs, geographic conditions, health conditions, and education level. 2) The pattern of speech contestation and knowledge possessed by related actors who are pro-COVID-19 vaccines appear as the dominating or victorious parties to the knowledge of actors who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions that have been put forward, the researchers suggest the following there should be mutual understanding and mutual respect between knowledge that is for the COV-ID-19 vaccine and knowledge against the COV-ID-19 vaccine in the health, economic and political arenas so that it does not lead to hostility. Thus, the truth claim does not arise only from one party. The party that appears as the dominant group, namely the people who are pro to the COVID-19 vaccine, can continue to roll the knowledge they have so that more people will implement the COVID-19 vaccine. But still have to respect differences of opinion with people who are against the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### LIMITATIONS

Because this study is to understand the debate on the pros and cons of vaccines in Makassar City and was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic with a qualitative approach. This research is limited to examining one large city area in Indonesia that carries out the COVID-19 vaccination. The existence of government policies to limit travel and maintain distance in interacting made the research team experience limitations in

extracting information from various informants. Future studies can be carried out with a quantitative approach and can reach a larger number of samples and be carried out in various regions in Indonesia.

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#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest in this study.

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