

The Role of Opposition Parties: A Systematic Literature Review (SLR)

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Abstract

Abstract: Opposition parties in Indonesia today, especially during President Jokowi's first government period (2014-2019) and second period (2019-2024), many have failed to carry out their function as political watchdogs and cooperate well with the government, which has resulted in instability in the landscape. state politics. This research aims to understand the impact of party opposition on the stability of Indonesian democracy. The research methodology used in this research is a systematic literature review using 192 scientific articles sourced from the Scopus database. Articles reviewed using the Vosviewer application. Based on the findings of this research, opposition parties have a significant impact on the development of democracy in the Indonesian political system because they provide good stability for the reform of the country's political system. Opposition parties in parliament have different methods from the agreed government. Opposition parties can work together in various ways, for example by criticizing government policies.

Abstrak: Partai oposisi di Indonesia saat ini, terutama selama periode pemerintahan pertama Presiden Jokowi (2014-2019) dan periode kedua (2019-2024), banyak yang gagal menjalankan fungsi mereka sebagai pengawas politik dan bekerja sama dengan baik dengan pemerintah, yang mengakibatkan ketidakstabilan dalam lanskap politik negara. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami dampak oposisi partai terhadap stabilitas demokrasi Indonesia. Metodologi penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah tinjauan literatur sistematis dengan menggunakan 192 artikel ilmiah yang bersumber dari database Scopus. Artikel ditinjau menggunakan aplikasi Vosviewer. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian ini, partai oposisi memiliki dampak signifikan terhadap perkembangan demokrasi dalam sistem politik Indonesia karena mereka memberikan stabilitas yang baik bagi reformasi sistem politik negara. Partai oposisi di parlemen memiliki metode yang berbeda dari pemerintah yang telah disepakati. Partai oposisi dapat bekerja sama dengan berbagai cara, misalnya dengan mengkritik kebijakan pemerintah.

Introduction

Indonesia's governmental system is employed to oversee the country's affairs. However, the dynamics of Indonesian political protests are shifting during the implementation process to strengthen democracy. Because of the numerous changes in domestic and international politics, Accordingly, you become part of the democratic process. A few Indonesian scholars have revealed that, despite the country's political transition to a more democratic one, the practice of oligarchy (Ahmad & Khan, 2023) or elitism remains prevalent in Indonesia. Within the Indonesian political system, facts are always contradictory since the political system can only be understood in light of the current state of affairs, and political actors are already committed to responding to the needs of the situation. For example (Alper & Lancaster, 2023) explain that "one of the most essential factors of modern democracies is the role played by parliamentary oppositions." Conversely, regarding the relationship between the opposition and the governing class, Salvatore Valitutti states that "the democracy breathes by two lungs, by the lung of the opposition and the lung of the majority." As stated in Jaja (2022), Mladenović (2022), states that "in a democratic country, a political party is the most visible manifestation and unquestionably one of the most effective forms of opposition." This indicates that opposition is a necessary condition for a democracy to function effectively in a given nation. Furthermore, political parties with closer ties to the government or the people themselves tend to have stronger resolve. Due to this, political opposition parties can effectively convey their disapproval and hatred towards them.

The study concluded that there were no opposing opinions in the 1945 Constitution. However, this statement would not be helpful if the opposition party's members were to remain neutral and lack both strength and courage (Jackman & Maitrot, 2022). This is due to the fact that there are subtle protests taking place against the government and civil society, which are components of the opposition itself. According to Jha (2023), given the political party's considerable strength and commitment to advancing public policy, it is quite likely that their efforts will contribute to the achievement of the general public's goals. Apart from that, there are some people who believe that the opposition party does not adhere to Pancasila democracy, which upholds Islamic law. As a result, they are unknown in the national political sphere (Gherghina & Bankov, 2023). If most of the population opposes something, it might hinder the opposition's process of forming a group since opposition can only be formed if the majority of the population opposes it. Not with standing this, it is important to understand that the political parties in the aforementioned legislative body are composed of the opposition and coalitions, which serve as both the governing and legislative branches' representatives in matters of policy that are made by the government, whether at the national or local level. It is not true to say that most people do not always expect the opposition party to support their aspirations when the government enacts laws that have the advantage of not hurting the general populace.

Even so, a lot of research has shown that opposition parties in Indonesian politics are not only related to the functions of watchdog, critic, and mediator; they also play a role in upholding accountability, examining, and evaluating every government action, and pressing

the government to clarify policies or laws that are enacted as a result of opposition parties participation in public debates and responsiveness to the needs of the general public. Opposition is a phenomenon that occurs in various fields. In general, opposition is described as "being in opposition to something" or "having a position that differs from that of something else ([Hjermitslev, 2023](#)). Since the 1998 political reform, the majority of Indonesians, particularly those who support democracy, have made democracy their preferred course of action.

The focus of this research is to answer the question, "How can opposition parties in Indonesia initiate and carry out their functions effectively within the government system?" To address this question, the study used a qualitative content analysis method with SLR testing and Vosviewer article analysis. This study contributes to the advancement of knowledge, particularly the knowledge of government that is related to opposing parties in Indonesia, as well as to the policies and functions of government.

Opposition parties operate as a control mechanism against the stagnant government. The opposition can ensure that the government does not violate democratic principles and citizen rights by undermining government activities and decisions ([Kazlauskaitė & Salmela, 2022](#)). Opposition is not simply an anti-government or disparate group; it is an existence that provides criticism and alternative policy proposals as well as control over how the government operates. As a result of the implementation of power controls, the opposition is "rational partiality" ([Hohendorf et al., 2020](#)). As Dahl believed more than forty years ago, a healthy opposition is both a component and a representation of a strong democracy. Practical aspects of the Indonesian opposition and democracy will be discussed in the next discussion ([Sitandang & Firdaus, 2024](#)). Critical analysis and constructive evaluation from the opposition parties help to strengthen the government's credibility and curb the use of force. In a democratic system, opposition parties create more inclusive politics and more expansive popular representation.

Even though they are not in the government, opposition parties nevertheless have the right to voice their desires and concerns about groups that may not be well-served by their more powerful counterparts. Thus, the opposition parties assert that the government's decisions undermine the people's rights ([Hinfelaar et al., 2022](#)).

The opposing party serves as a monitoring mechanism for the government that is currently in disarray. The opposition was perceived during the Old Order as a counter-revolution and as something that was either not natural or was being "planted" by foreign forces ([Mietzner & Honna 2023](#)). In the meantime, the opposition during the Order era was labeled as belonging to radical circles or being contra development or contra Pancasila. They uphold the laws and decrees of the government and criticize any dissension or lack of understanding regarding the fundamental principles of democracy and the interests of the people ([Gharti, 2022](#)). The presence of opposition parties makes the government more accountable and open to criticism and advice from many organizations. This policy helps to curb the spread of prostitution and government corruption. Opposing parties strive to

strengthen political discourse (Irwin, 2023), of a democratic system, political dialogue is crucial to achieving consensus and accurately expressing differences of opinion.

Opposition parties engage in active debate and discussion in the political arena. Critiques and counterarguments to the policies put out by the opposition parties encourage healthy debate and deepen public understanding of important issues (Hatab, 2023). This discussion helps the public become more vigilant and ensures that the laws that are passed will not impede the development of various viewpoint. In the Indonesian context, for example, (PDIP) has occasionally been used as a counterargument to the Pemilu reforms of 2004 and 2009. Even though the PDIP currently holds the first rank in the quick count results of the Legislative 2024, this party states that it is obligated to remain outside the government and the DPR as the opposition in order to carry out the function of check and balance (Firdiansyah et al., 2024).

In the current research study on (Yu, Wojcieszak, & Casas, 2023) explain opposition parties' tactics in democracy, some important issues that are related to the stability and progress of the democratic system are highlighted. Below are a few eye-catching examples. Initially, the opposition party's stance on the advancement of democracy Research indicates that opposition parties have a significant negative impact on the stability of the democratic system in the Indonesian government (Lee, Ha, & Lee, 2023). The implementation of policy should be based on the needs and goals of the state (Kaul, 2023; Kefale, 2023). includes the general public and the private sector. This principle emphasizes the importance of cooperation and synergy between the government, private sector, and the general public in order to achieve the goal of "Together" (Burlock, 2022). Government operates as a facilitator and direction determiner, not as the primary actor. In this regard, the opposition operates as a watchdog over government policy. By providing checks and balances, they ensure that every decision made by the government may be reviewed and scrutinized to ensure that it is balanced between the government's decisions and the needs of the people (Stewart et al., 2023).

Finally, the opposition party becomes the primary alternative in the principle of checks and balances. (Ahmad & Khan, 2023) In the Indonesian presidential system, the opposition is the primary alternative for implementing the principle of checks and balances. Their

Perseverance helped them to overcome their anger and frustration with the government. Opposition parties also struggle to achieve more inclusive representation for the general public because they impose expectations and values on groups that may not be fully understood by coalitions with strong positions (Kirkaldy, 2022). Finally, in accordance with Islamic law, justice must be beneficial and promote mutual respect (Balasubramaniam, 2022). Al-Qur'an and Hadis inspire every person to be virtuous and upright in their pursuit of a perfect life. It is hoped that opposition parties functioning as watchdogs and evaluators of government policy will ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

Accordingly, opposition parties in democracy serve not only as political ladders but also as a means of achieving stability and credibility for the government. Their determination

ensures that democracy will continue to function properly and prevents the possibility of authoritarianism or corruption in government.

To ensure that readers may easily and comprehensively understand this journal, the authors have organized this article into several sections: Firstly, the word cloud that is composed of problem statements. Secondly, literature review to obtain theoretical groundwork useful for addressing issues raised in oppositional journal papers. Third, the research methodology aims to analyze the policies that are proposed and implemented by the government as well as the responses and contributions of the opposition to those policies. And the final results as well as the feedback that have important implications for expressing and implications them.

Research Method

This study employs the qualitative research methodology with content analysis. The present study employs a systematic literature review methodology using Vosviewer software to analyze the article. Database Scopus is used as the summary data for this research article since this method is the most appropriate for this research. The data used in this study is a collection of articles published in journals that discuss the concept of opposition parties in government in several countries.

In this study, the article evaluation process begins with a review of the article based on the phrase "role of opposition parties" in the Scopus database for the years 2022-2023. This article is then divided into three sections: the introduction, the body, and the use of the lunak application.

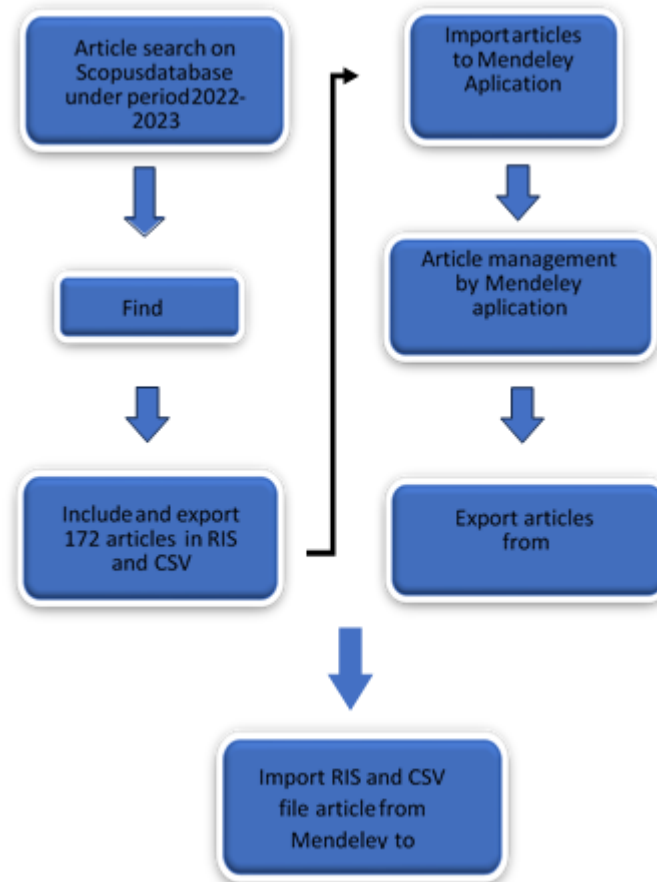


Figure 1. Scheme research methods

Several articles with strong correlations were found by researchers using the following procedure: First, article identification works by sorting and selecting various articles so that only those related to the selected topic are displayed. This is accomplished by putting the phrase "The role of opposition parties" in the margin of the paper, with a break from the year 2022 to the year 2024. Based on the search process, this topic was covered in 1902 articles. The second step involves verifying the passage in order to determine whether they truly need it and are related to the issue of "the opposite parties." Verification is carried out by comparing the kind of document (journal) and language (English). The verification process identifies articles or journals that correspond with opposing viewpoints. This article can be used as a reference to learn about "The role of opposition parties".

Results and Discussion

The first graph shows the results of the data analysis conducted from the year 2022 to the year 2023. Based on the results of this data analysis, it can be concluded that the research study being conducted is related to the idea that opposition parties in some countries experience difficulties in conducting research. This is explained by the fact that the number of studies on this topic is increasing every year.

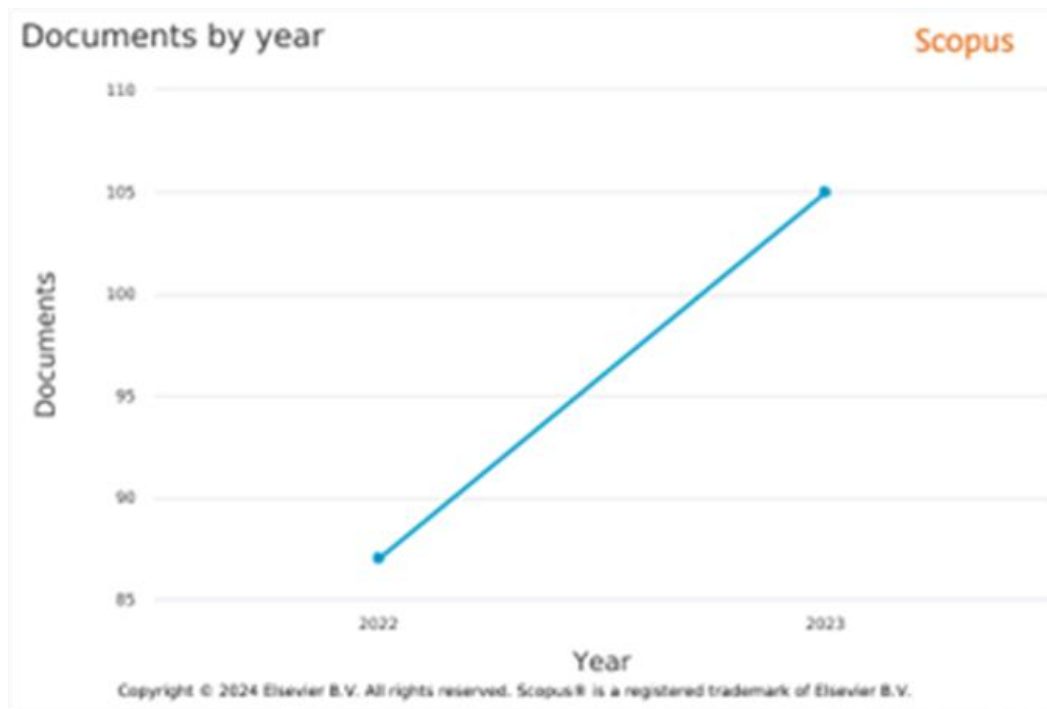


Figure 2. Research based on a year's worth of data regarding the concept of opposing parties in various countries

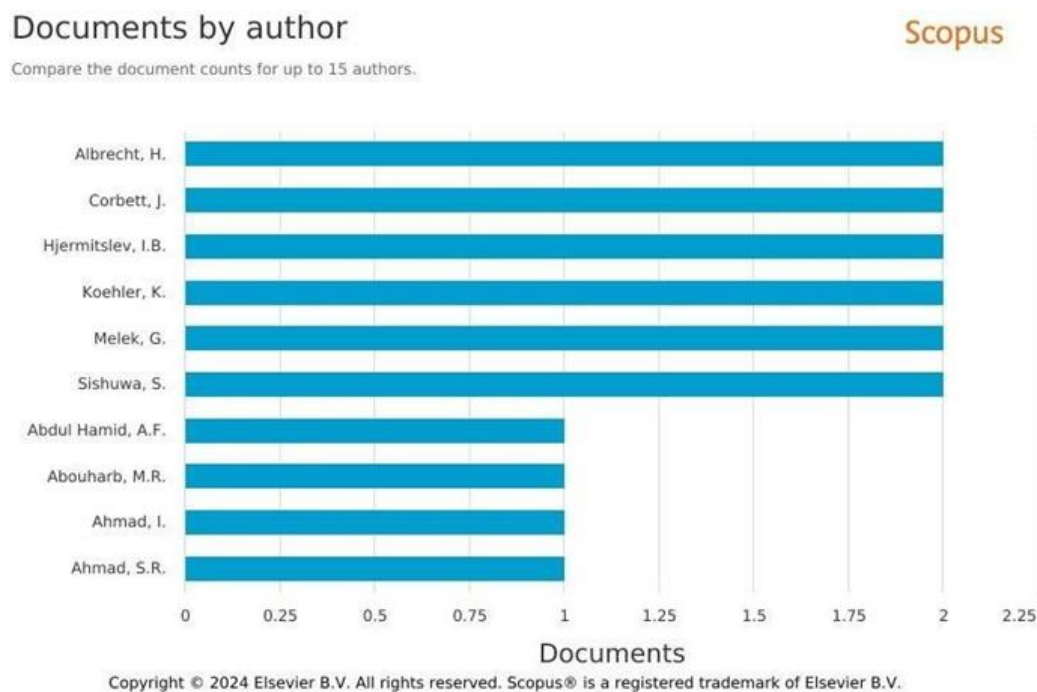


Figure 3. Research on the role of opposition parties based on a few countries from the scope.

Figure 3. Indicates the frequency of writers who discuss the roles of opposing parties. In this essay, the opposition parties' role is discussed. As can be seen from the above graph, Alberech, Corbett, J., and Koehler, K. are the writers who most frequently discuss the function of opposition parties. Picture 3. highlights the importance of each nation in discussing the role of the opposition parties. Based on this data, it can be shown which country has the highest intensity of this topic. Based on the presented data, the United States appears to be more aggressive when discussing the role of opposition parties with number 33 from the year 2022 to the year 2023. Subsequently, the United Kingdom criticized it with number 31, and in the fourth article, Russia was the only country to discuss the role of opposition parties with number 13. Based on the data shown in Figure 3, it can be observed that the relationship between the United States and the country after the war is very similar in terms of the intensity of the war.

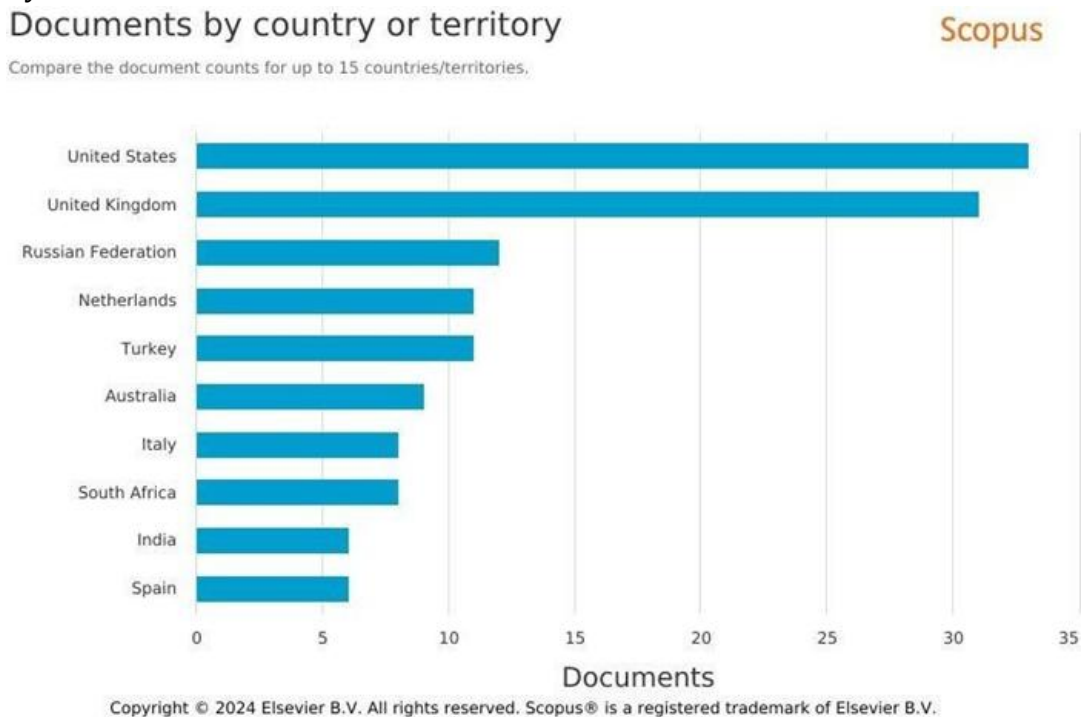


Figure 4. Trend research based on several countries from Scopus about the role of opposition parties

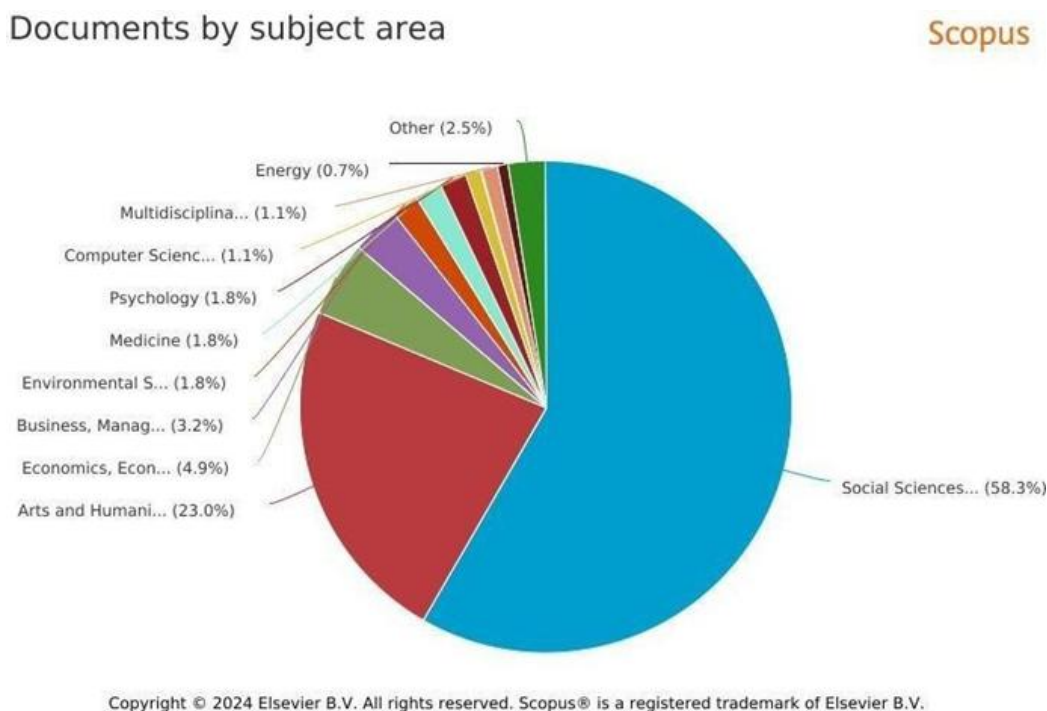


Figure 5. Taken for scopus database shows articles related to topic The Role of Opposite parties

Based on the results above, the social sciences subject at (58.3%) is the largest number, followed by arts and human (23,0%), then followed by economics at (4,9%) and there many other subjects which can be seen in figure 4. Based on the visualization, figure 5 shows the relationship between terms in the development of research on The Role of Opposition parties. The Relationships between terms are described in an interconnected network. Figure 5 shows the clusters of each term that are interrelated with research. From the clusters contained in the network visualization it can be seen that reserch on conceptions of civil society can be separated into 5 clusters, namely the first clusters in red consisting in 16 topics, the second clusters in yellow consisting of 13 topics, the third clusters in green consisting of 17 topics.

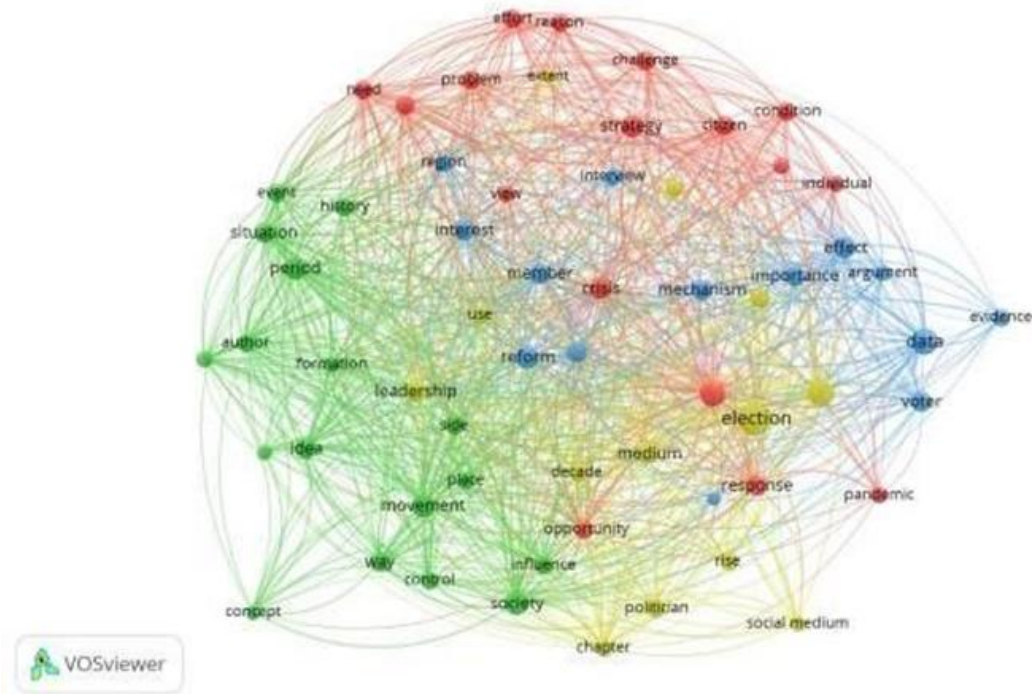


Figure 6. Visualization of the development map of the role opposition parties research.

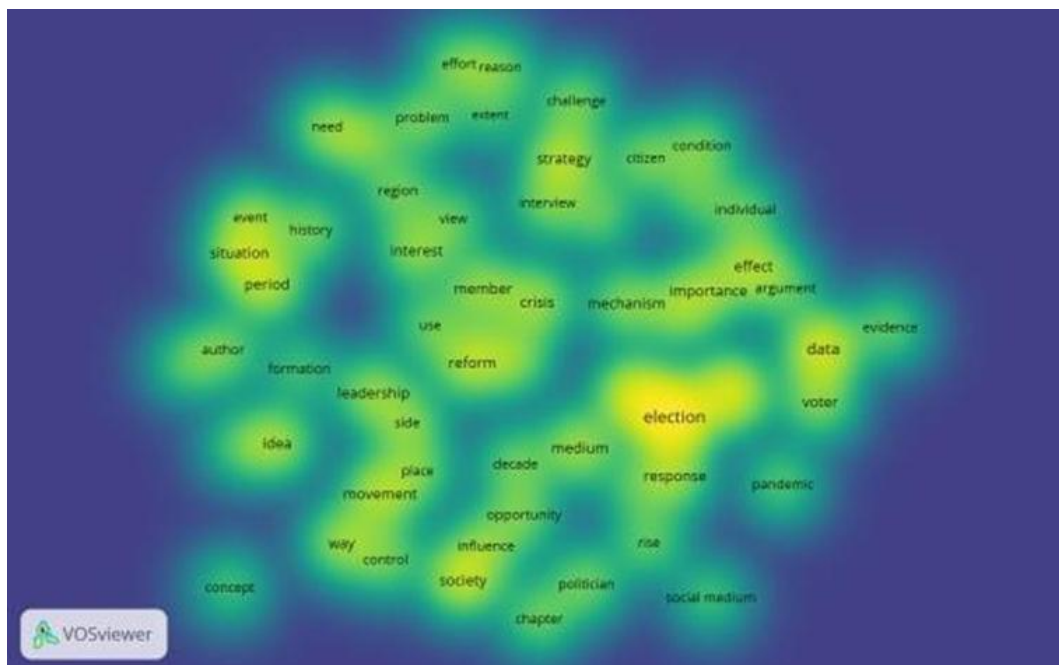


Figure 7. Civil density visualization community and state cooperation

Figure 7. shows a density visualization in research on the conception of civil society from around the world. Density visualization explains the density of a term based on visible color brightness. Density can be used as a basis for searching on research terms that are

rarely conducted and often done. If a term denotes fading or blurred colors, then research the term still rarely done. Meanwhile, if a the term indicates an increasingly bright yellow color, then research on this term has often been carried out have been done. As shown in Figure 6, people and interaction security terms has the brightest yellow color, this shows that research uses this topic has been done often. Contrary to the terms type, operation, and researcher, the color fades and is almost invisible, this indicates that the research discusses this matter This topic is still rarely done.

Comparing the findings with the most recent research, the researchers found that the opposition parties' actions within the Indonesian democratic system indicate how important it is for them to maintain the stability of the system. One fundamental principle that distinguishes democratic nations from authoritarian nations is the stronger opposition parties' ability to function as catalysts for democratic systems. For this reason, if a country starts implementing his power outside of its borders, claim against the government will inevitably occur. However, this is unlikely to happen. For this reason, the most important principle in providing criticism to the government and potentially damaging the government's sound stability is opposition. When opposition parties maintain their primary strategy of presenting ideas to the government, the next thing to consider is whether or not good things will happen and whether or not this will have a positive impact on democracy in the future. Rakyat might benefit from oppositional pressures on the Indonesian political system. Due to the government implementing tasks and functions in a manner that is expected, everyone experiences anxiety and fear. Opposition parties uphold important principles in Indonesian political systems by observing state policy, presenting alternatives on important issues, and stimulating public debate. Despite facing several challenges, opposition parties have significant advantages in bolstering democracy and preserving government credibility.

For this reason, opposition parties should be respected and valued as essential components of a democratic and inclusive political system. They act as a substitute for the general public, promoting transparency and government accountability, addressing political inequality, and meeting the needs of the general public. One of the most important tasks of opposition parties is to protect the government, provide the people with strong leadership, combat the effects of power, and meet the needs of the general public. Thus, research conducted in Indonesia indicates that the use of opposition as a tool for teaching, learning, and other purposes is ineffective. However, in a democratic society, opposition parties are more than just political forces; they are an essential component of the system for ensuring stability and harmony. The opposition parties in both the conventional and Islamic systems have the capacity to modify and alter in a constructive manner. This has the ability to promote openness and trust between them that are steadfast. In addition, as a means of fostering social interaction, opposition parties discuss and expose various government policy measures. Opposition parties are very important in ensuring that all people have equal rights within legislative bodies.

In numerous cases, opposition parties' actions against the general public are motivated by their desire to uphold public rights, strengthen the general people's interests, and criticize

government policies that seem to be failing to meet the needs of the general public. Here are a few examples of oppositional party responses to the general public:

Listening and voicing aspirations

Opposing parties pay close attention to the needs and desires of the general public. To understand issues faced by the general public, they do silent research through public forums, group discussions, or social media.

Pointing out critical issues

Opposing parties frequently bring up important issues that should be resolved by the government or a strong opposition party. This can address issues related to the economy, society, environment, health, and education that negatively impact people's day-to-day lives.

Offering solutions and alternatives to law

In addition to criticizing, opposition parties work hard to provide better solutions and alternatives to law that are more appropriate for resolving issues that the general public faces. This hinders the creation of programs and the commitment to concrete action in order to improve current conditions.

Mobilizing the people's power

Opposing parties work to mobilize the people's power through protests, marches, or other means to express their solidarity with the issues that their opponents are raising. This is intended to strengthen political pressure on the government to act in accordance with the needs of the people.

Increasing political participation

Opposing parties help people get more engaged in politics by educating them about their political rights, the importance of voting in general elections, and other ways to participate in political processes.

Discussing government criticism

Opposing parties criticize government policies and practices that they believe do not benefit the general populace. This highlights human rights violations, discrimination, and the use of force against civilians. Due to this, the oppositional party's stance toward the general public undermines their desire to become citizens, distorts the general public's interests, and determines how the government will carry out its duties.

The authors collect shows that, if the President is not serious about revising the KPK Law, a few PDI-P elites with the support of parties supporting will insist on proposing it. Politics in the DPR, as far as we can tell, is not adversely affected by strong public opinion against the revision of the KPK to be submitted to the Prolegnas. Subsequently, based on two committees that were convened by the DPR Legislation Board on February 10, 2016, to amend law number 30 of 2002 on the Commission on Prohibition of Corruption (KPK), only the Gerindra Party was in favor of the amendment. Should the revision be rejected by the government later, it would mean a formal opposition to both the government and the general public. Gerindra's political views can be divided into three categories.

First and foremost, the Gerindra Party is working to support public sentiment against corruption. Such a action is very helpful in the endeavor to obtain public support; it is very

important for the opposition parties to cooperate with the government in the enactment of legislation during the specified term. Furthermore, the opposition party is not "different origin" with the government when it comes to policymaking; it does not care whether the policy in question conflicts with the government's policies. Such speech will undoubtedly be beneficial to the constituents, guiding their political decisions in the future. Thirdly, the oppositional party's coalition is quite weak since it is not influenced by similar ideologies and has already lost the quantitative support of a few coalition members. Instead, by being fiercely loyal to the public interest, the oppositional party will be more popular with the public. In the end, it can increase their constituents electability and their defenses against the advancing tide.

Opposition parties' stances on the viability of democracy can have a significant impact on the country and state. Because the notion of checks and balances can be applied in a variety of ways, stability that is favorable to the operation of Indonesia's democratic system can be ensured. The primary means of offering critique as a means of balancing the advancement of the democratic system is to regulate and supervise the actions of opposition parties. Consequently, the opposition parties' current primary role could help ensure the longevity of Indonesian democracy. Not only does this study contribute to understanding oppositional thinking, but it also provides a basis for more effective policy formulation that promotes political plurality and public participation. And make the administration aware of the need to rethink how opposition parties are controlled so that deviations that are harmful to society do not happen.

The first finding in this study's analysis is that there has been a decline in data and information. The study encountered difficulties in obtaining comprehensive and accurate data regarding opposition activities and work practices in Indonesia. And second, a shifting focus This study may only highlight opposition parties' positions on a particular issue, such as legislation, without challenging their positions on other agenda items, such as execution schedules. The fourth lack of longitudinal analysis was conducted. Insufficient effort when doing a long-term analysis can hinder more in-depth understanding of the evolution of Indonesian political parties. Suggestions for further research include using sector-specific intersectoral approaches to understand political participation in various aspects of the general public's life. Research that more in-depth and longitudinal is required to identify the factors that negatively impact political parties' performance over time and to detect changes in those behaviors.

Conclusion

Opposition parties' stances on the viability of democracy can have a significant impact on the country and state. Because the notion of checks and balances can be applied in a variety of ways, stability that is favorable to the operation of Indonesia's democratic system can be ensured. The primary means of offering critique as a means of balancing the advancement of the democratic system is to regulate and supervise the actions of opposition parties. Consequently, the opposition parties' current primary role could help ensure the longevity of Indonesian democracy. Not only does this study contribute to understanding oppositional thinking, but it also provides a basis for more effective policy formulation that promotes political plurality and public participation. And make the administration aware of the need to rethink how opposition parties are controlled so that deviations that are harmful to

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