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## Representation of the Omnibus Law in the Jakarta Post Article Entitled “Omnibus Law Boosts Indonesian Growth Prospects”

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to find out the representation of the Omnibus Law constructed in *The Jakarta Post* article entitled “Omnibus Law Boosts Indonesian Growth Prospects” in the micro level analysis, namely in the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure aspects using the qualitative descriptive research method and the library research method. The research was conducted at Maranatha Christian University, Bandung, Indonesia, from January 2022 until May 2022. After the collection of data, it is then analyzed in the three aspects to unveil the representation of the Omnibus Law. Firstly, in macrostructure, the headline and lead are further analyzed. Secondly, in microstructure, three linguistics tools, namely evidentiality, consensus, and example/illustration, are employed in analyzing the data. Lastly, in superstructure, the text is divided into five different schematic categories; thereafter, the analysis focuses on the organization of ideas. The result shows that in macrostructure, the data constructs a global topic that “The Omnibus Law gives Indonesia some improvements in the economic aspect, especially in the business climate and labor market flexibility, in the hope of getting the international competitiveness.” Through the usage of three linguistics tools, the Omnibus Law is depicted positively. As for superstructure, the comment category becomes the most prominent category used by the author with seven times of appearances, through which the positive representation of the Omnibus Law is disclosed. The Omnibus Law’s positive representation is consistently seen through the analysis aspects of macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. Moreover, the data appears to be subjective due to the dominant use of comments that conveys the author’s personal opinion. The semantic

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macrostructure of the data also turns out to be subjective as the author explicitly mentions the positive things regarding the Omnibus Law.

*Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic; the omnibus law; critical discourse analysis; micro level; positive representation.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

On March 2, 2020, Indonesia announced its first official Covid-19 case with two people tested positive for it [1]. Thereafter, Indonesia suffered from a great increase of Covid-19 cases in the whole archipelago. Two waves of Covid-19 happened in Indonesia: the first happened in January 2021 while the second peaked in July 2021 [2]. It is even said that Indonesia also experienced the third wave albeit not being worse than the second wave [3]. This resulted in a great impact received by the country not only on the health and life sector, but also on the economic sector. As mentioned by Statistics Indonesia (BPS) [4], Indonesian economic growth went free fall from positive 3 percent in the first quarter of 2020 to consecutively minus 5.3 percent, minus 3.5 percent, and minus 2.2 percent. One of the factors is believed to be Indonesia's policy of limiting people's movement by applying Large-Scale Social Restriction and Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities [5]. This is in line with Anzum and Islam's [6] research showing that the policy will cause the economy to receive a massive loss globally.

Therefore, a good and immediate solution is urgently required to handle the situation. The government then released the Omnibus Law, which is supposed to be the remedy for Indonesia's economy after being hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic [7]. However, it did not receive a warm welcome from all Indonesian citizens, resulting in massive pros and cons [7]. On the one hand, the bill should be able to let more investors invest in Indonesia; this will result in thriving infrastructure development, increasing job opportunities, new technology, increasing area stability protection, and a faster bureaucratic process [8]. On the other hand, it also brought up negative impacts. For instance, the severance pay discussed in verse 89 number 45 of the Omnibus Law that changed some points in Law No. 13/2013 concerning manpower limits the movement of the labor group even tighter than before, not even to mention that

hitherto, there are still some companies that violate the law to give the severance package to the labors [9].

This immense event attracted many people to give their opinion, including the mass media. With spreading information as one of the main functions of mass media, many media started to cover this issue. This becomes more intriguing to find out how the Omnibus Law is represented since the media can describe a particular event objectively or subjectively as well as positively or negatively [10]. The research is going to uncover the representation of the Omnibus Law in *The Jakarta Post* article entitled "Omnibus Law Boosts Indonesian Growth Prospects" using van Dijk's concept of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The article is chosen due to the fact that the news agency has been established since 1983 in Indonesia and has won several awards, which denotes good credibility.

### 1.2 Literature Framework

#### 1.2.1 The omnibus law

Proposed by the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, the Omnibus Law was introduced due to a great number of laws and red tape in Indonesia resulting in the difficulty of investing in Indonesia [8][11]. Omnibus law is defined as a law that targets big issues or a single bill that consists of various matters, subjects, themes, and laws [11]; it functions to cut the redundant laws that overlap with one another and impede the country's growth [9]. However, the bill becomes problematic since it tightens the movement of the labor group, not to mention that there are still some companies that violate the law to give severance package, resulting in power abuse of the companies to exploit the labors [9]. In practice, it has been regulated in some countries such as America and Australia [11].

#### 1.2.2 Representation

According to Stuart Hall [12], language refers to "any sound, word, image, or object which functions as a sign, and is organized with other signs into a system which is capable of carrying

and expressing meaning” [p. 5]. In the representation system, the first system allows us to give meaning through constructing the relations between things and our conceptual maps. The second one relies on our conceptual maps and sign constructions which, after being arranged in various languages, denotes the concepts. This process that connects the two systems is what Hall [12] described as representation.

### 1.2.3 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

van Dijk [13] stated that in CDA the main issues discussed are social power abuse, dominance, and inequality that are found in a social or political text or talk. There are three different levels of analysis; they are macro, meso, and micro levels. The macro level usually covers power, dominance, and inequality between social groups, while the micro level focuses more on language use, discourse, verbal interaction, and communication. Meso level bridges the gap between the macro and micro levels.

Many studies have been conducted under the scope of CDA on the three levels. Previously, an article written by Fauzan, Subroto, and Poedjosoedarmo [14] discusses the MetroTV news report's ideology regarding the Lapindo mudflow. They gathered 22 news texts and used Fairclough's framework to analyze the data. They concluded that MetroTV does not merely give information about the events but also develops ideologies that instead of being a natural disaster, the mudflow is a human error. MetroTV also constructed an image that the one responsible is Lapindo incorporation; therefore, the state should not spend any money on this matter.

In the micro level analysis, Nurhaliza and Tanto [15] conducted research on one article published in *The New York Times* entitled “Rot at the Core’: Blasphemy Verdict in Indonesia Dismays Legal Experts”. Through the linguistic tool of lexicalization, they concluded that Indonesia's judiciary is represented negatively in the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analysis.

In the meso level, Bilal et. al. [16] analyzed two Pakistan-English newspapers, *The Nation* and *Dawn*. Using van Dijk's framework, they uncovered the ideology held by the two newspapers. They took three sample articles from each newspaper and compared the

ideology through critical analysis. In conclusion, they found that *The Nation* is more conservative and more critical toward the PPP (Pakistan People's Party), which ruled the country; their ideology is strict to two-nation theory and shows their sympathies toward Kashmir and Palestine, which are considered as suppressed entities. Meanwhile, *Dawn* is neutral and liberal; it does not have any particular ideology to follow and serves the news as objectively as possible without any political bias, making it reliable and authentic.

The analysis of this research will primarily deal with the micro level, consisting of macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure aspects [17]. However, unlike Nurhaliza and Tanto's research, this research will use more linguistics tools in the hope that more accurate findings will be obtained.

According to van Dijk [17, pp. 13-14], macrostructure works in a more global area of discourse; in other words, macrostructure talks about the main topic of the text. Moreover, van Dijk [17] said that in the schematic structure of a news article, the global topic can be found in the headline and lead. He further argued that these two parts “subjectively summarize the rest of the news report.” [p. 14].

Furthermore, van Dijk [17] stated that microstructure operates on a lower or local level which suggests that the structure works on the level of words, sentences, and sentence connections. Microstructure may apply various linguistics tools to help identify the representation of Us and Them of a text, such as lexicalization, metaphor, active sentence structure, burden, categorization, evidentiality, etc. [18]. In this research, to reveal the representation of the Omnibus Law, the tools used are evidentiality, consensus, and example/illustration

The third aspect, superstructure, is used to fulfill the need for a syntactic form to express the meaning of a sentence and a form to organize the general meaning [17]. van Dijk [17] also stated that in news schemata there are several different categories; they are summary, main events, backgrounds, verbal reactions, and comments.

Summary is a schematic category consisting of headlines and leads which are generally put at the beginning of a news article [17]. van Dijk [19] mentioned that headlines are the first opening

category of the schema with functions to express the most important topic of the news, while leads are the complete formulation of the macrostructure of the text. He said that both are printed on top, first, in large, bold type; however, this graphical layout may differ from one newspaper to another, depending on their culture. Moreover, van Dijk [20] stated that summary is the introduction of a news article in which main events, participants, location, and time are presented; it also “must express the semantic macrostructure of the text as a whole” [p. 36].

The next schematic category is main events or actual events, which van Dijk [20] explained as “the kernel of the news story and describe the main (new) events now in focus” [p. 36]. In addition, van Dijk [19] argued that main events are the dominant category that describes the events in the news.

As suggested by van Dijk [20], the next category, backgrounds or antecedents, provides the historical, cultural, or political information about the actual events, participants, countries, or social problems. They are “information that precedes the main events/actual events. They also may or may not have been reported before” [p. 36].

The category of Verbal Reactions, according to van Dijk [17], refers to information and opinions about Us and Them. He also stated that verbal reactions can be found in the form of other people’s quoted statements [19].

The last type of schematic category is comments, which are expressions showing the journalist’s or newspaper’s beliefs [20]. In addition, van Dijk [19] also said that comments may consist of “conclusions, expectations, speculations, and other information—often from journalists—about the event” [p. 87].

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This research employs the qualitative descriptive method as its research design. The research delves into the text in finding the representation of the Omnibus Law presented in the news article. Thus, it is suitable for this research due to its directness and straightforwardness in describing the phenomena [21].

In collecting the data, this research uses the library research technique since it utilizes some

references in supporting the interpretation of the findings. Library research, as proposed by Setiawan [22], is:

Every effort done by the researchers to gather relevant data on the topic or the problems that will be or are being analyzed. Those data could be scientific books, scientific reports, scientific articles, thesis and dissertation, rules, regulations, yearly books, encyclopedias, and any other text sources whether it is printed or electronic.

As Fig. 1 explains, after collecting the data, the next step is to process them in three different aspects, namely macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. In general, what becomes the data will be those parts of the text that are related to the Omnibus Law. Firstly, to get a result from macrostructure, the focus will be on the headline and lead to get the global topic of the text. This is in line with van Dijk’s [17] opinion, which proposes that the global topic can be found in those two parts. Thereafter, further analysis of the global topic will be done so as to conclude the representation of the Omnibus Law built by the newspaper.

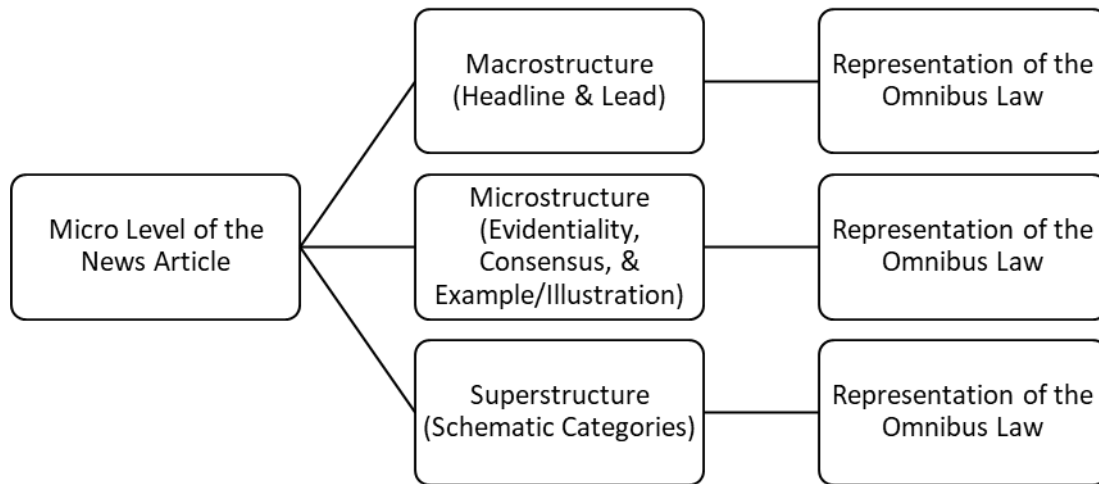
In the microstructure analysis, practically all language units, such as words, phrases, sentences, or even the whole paragraph can be the data, as long as they are relevant to the representation of the Omnibus Law. To uncover the representation of the Omnibus Law, three specific linguistics tools are used; they are evidentiality, consensus, and example/illustration.

In the superstructure analysis, the main data are the whole news article, from the headline to the last paragraph of the news article. The focus is more on the schematic categories of these paragraphs. The organization of the news article will be analyzed to find out how the Omnibus Law is represented.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Macrostructure

The headline of the researched news article is “Omnibus law boosts Indonesian growth prospects”. As suggested by Oxford Learner’s Dictionary [23, para.1], “to boost” means “to make something increase, or become better or more successful”. Up to this point, the Omnibus Law is expected to increase or make the Indonesian growth prospects better or more successful.



**Fig. 1. Research methodology**

Furthermore, the lead of the newspaper article in paragraph (1) says:

(1) The Indonesian House of Representatives' approval of the Omnibus Law on Job Creation on Oct. 5 marks a significant enhancement of the business climate and a step forward for labor market flexibility, which should, over time, improve the country's international competitiveness, provided the changes are well implemented.

According to the lead, the Omnibus Law signaled a significant enhancement of the business climate and a step forward for labor market flexibility; the impacts will be expected to improve the country's international competitiveness. Assuming that this enhancement is the stepping stone for Indonesia to be able to compete internationally with other countries, this is a way to achieve growth prospects. Furthermore, after inspecting all of the growth prospects mentioned in the lead, all three prospects are in the economic area. Therefore, according to the lead, the law is intended to give some improvements in the economic aspect.

After analyzing the headline and lead, it is concluded that the global topic of the article is "The Omnibus Law gives Indonesia some improvements in the economic aspect, especially in the business climate and labor market flexibility, in the hope of getting the international

competitiveness". Thus, it is obvious that the Omnibus Law brings positive things to Indonesia and it is very clear that in the macrostructure, the Omnibus Law is represented positively.

### 3.2 Microstructure

#### 3.2.1 Evidentiality

In order to make the speaker's argument more plausible, one may use evidentiality in their utterance. According to van Dijk [18], evidentiality refers to claims that are provided with proof and that are uttered by the authority figures or institutions. Authority here is the people who are generally recognized experts or moral leaders in the area of a political party, international organizations, scholars, the media, the church, or the courts [18].

In the first data, which is taken from paragraph (2), the writer claims that Indonesia's ranking has improved significantly, but is still at 73<sup>rd</sup> out of 190 countries in 2020. This is a strong claim as the evidence is also explicitly mentioned, which is based on the result of a survey done by the World Bank, established on July 1, 1944 [24]. The World Bank provides a wide array of assistance in financial products and technical assistance, and they also help and provide countries with innovative knowledge and solutions to face challenges [25]. Therefore, it is undoubtedly a credible institution.

The information given by the writer denotes that Indonesia’s ranking still has not reached the median for “BBB” sovereign in the year 2020; it remains stagnant at 73<sup>rd</sup> despite the significant improvement. Due to the stagnant ranking, it is assumed that the Indonesian government legitimizes the law in the hope of a better result for the ranking. Considering that the Omnibus Law will help Indonesia in improving the processes of doing business in Indonesia, it has the potential to improve the ranking. Therefore, the law is represented positively.

In data (2) from paragraph (4), the writer provides a survey conducted by Japan’s trade organization or JETRO, claiming that “the Indonesian annual salary levels for manufacturing workers in 2019 averaged US\$5,956, lower than China’s \$9,962, Thailand’s \$8,128 and Malaysia’s \$7,041, but higher than India’s \$4,466, Vietnam’s \$4,041 and the Philippines’ \$3,916.”

JETRO or Japan External Trade Organization [26] is an organization that is related to the Japanese government and works to encourage mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. JETRO was established in 1958 and it has many offices worldwide: 51 offices in Japan, 27 offices in Asia, 15 offices in Europe, 8 offices in North America, 8 offices in Africa, 7 offices in Central and South America, 5 offices in the Middle East, 3 offices in Russia CIS, and 2 offices in Oceania [27]. This suggests that JETRO is a reliable institution making the information it provides reliable as well.

By mentioning the evidence of Indonesia’s low annual salary level and its comparison to other countries’ salary levels, the writer attempts to say that Indonesia needs the Omnibus Law to raise the annual salary. This is also confirmed in the

following paragraph that the law will boost Indonesia’s long-term economic growth prospects and the current annual salary will also be improved. Thus, this shows the positive representation of the Omnibus Law.

The data of evidentiality will be shown in Table 1 below.

### 3.2.2 Consensus

According to van Dijk [18], consensus takes place when an issue is claimed to be of national importance and should take priority over any internal conflict in the nation.

The first data demonstrates the use of consensus by saying that the Omnibus Law could enhance Indonesia’s economy after suffering from downfalls in the last three-fourths of 2020 [4]. The impact of Covid-19 has brought Indonesia’s government to produce a fast and new law that could prevent more people from getting infected by the virus such as Large-Scale Social Restriction and Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the Minister of Finance of Indonesia confirmed that these policies have devastated many people because many social activities must be halted for a certain period, which certainly affects the economy of many people [5]. Consequently, this has become Indonesia’s government’s priority to take care of. In this case, the government of Indonesia takes a step forward to address the issue by publishing a new bill, which is the Omnibus Law. Since the law is intended to attract more investors, it is expected that the economy of Indonesia will rise from the devastation by gaining advantages, especially in the supply chain. Looking at what the Omnibus Law is expected to bring, the law is depicted as a positive representation.

**Table 1. Evidentiality showing the positive representation of the omnibus law**

NO.	DATA
1.	... Indonesia’s ranking for the <b>World Bank’s</b> annual survey of Ease of Doing Business has improved significantly in recent years, but at 73 <sup>rd</sup> out of 190 countries in 2020, is still below the median for “BBB” sovereigns. (para. 2)
2.	As a comparison, a survey conducted by Japan’s trade organization <b>JETRO</b> shows that Indonesian annual salary levels (excluding severance allowances, but including base salary, benefits and bonuses) for manufacturing workers in 2019 averaged US\$5,956, lower than China’s \$9,962, Thailand’s \$8,128 and Malaysia’s \$7,041, but higher than India’s \$4,466, Vietnam’s \$4,041 and the Philippines’ \$3,916. (para. 4)

The second data is taken from paragraph (10). The sentence shows that the government produces the Omnibus Law to restore the economic downfall that Indonesia suffers from the pandemic; they put the matter into their main focus. Moreover, the Omnibus Law seems to address the health issue occurring during the pandemic as well, so it is clear that the economic downfall and the health issue have become the national importance, both of which need to be handled strategically. Therefore, the representation of the Omnibus Law shown by the data is positively represented.

The data of consensus will be shown in the following table.

### 3.2.3 Example/Illustration

van Dijk [18] said giving a short story or vignette, illustration, or a plausible general point defended by the speaker is one of the concrete examples of argumentation. Such examples can make speeches or texts 'livelier' and suggest impelling forms of empirical proof.

The data gives an example of the multinationals which explore the diversity of supply chains because of the uncertainties created by United States-China trade tensions. This is supported by the statements posited by Shih [28] published in Harvard Business Review. Shih [28] said that the pandemic has caused turmoil in the economic sector. He mentioned that in February, a shock in

supply that started in China and demand which followed after it makes people realize that there are some vulnerabilities in their production strategies and supply chains of firms. He added that a lot of firms require key materials from suppliers that reside in certain countries, such as South Korea, China, and others; however, this becomes a problem if the firms only obtain the materials from one single supplier.

Shih [28] further suggested some ways to fix the vulnerabilities, which is to diversify the supply base from a single supplier by adding more other sources. In line with the text article, it is mentioned that some firms have relocated their production between China and Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Indonesia, or Thailand), also called the "China plus one" strategy.

Taking the information contained in the illustration in paragraph (3) into consideration, it is believed that the Omnibus Law which is said to gain an advantage in the global manufacturing supply chains could be one of the solutions for Indonesia's economic situation. Looking at how the Omnibus Law aims at what many multinationals are aiming for, the Omnibus Law is shown as an ambitious law, which makes it have a positive representation.

In the news article, there is one data found in paragraph (3) using this tool in their wordings, which can be seen in Table 3.

**Table 2. Consensus Showing the Positive Representation of the Omnibus Law**

NO.	DATA
1.	The reforms will put Indonesia in a better position to capitalize on shifts in global manufacturing supply chains. (para. 3)
2.	More positively, the reforms signal that the Indonesian government remains focused on long-term economic development, even as it looks to address the health crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic. (para. 10)

**Table 3. Example/Illustration Showing the Positive Representation of the Omnibus Law**

NO.	DATA
1.	The reforms will put Indonesia in a better position to capitalize on shifts in global manufacturing supply chains. Many multinationals are exploring opportunities to diversify supply chains, including a shift in some cases from China as a result of rising labor costs in that market and the uncertainties created by United States-China trade tensions. Some have relocated operations to Indonesia in recent years, but the local business environment may have served as a dampener on investor interest. (para. 3)

### 3.3 Superstructure

van Dijk [17] mentioned that superstructure is used to fulfill the need for a syntactic form to express the meaning of a sentence and a form to organize the general meaning. This means that superstructure is used to fulfill the flow of a news article as a whole.

Table 4 below shows the news schemata of the news article. The headline and lead summarize the whole news article; therefore, they are categorized as the summary. The main events which talk about the kernel of the news can be

found in paragraphs (2) and (8), which is 12.5%. Meanwhile, precedent information about the topic or background can be found in three paragraphs (18.75%), namely paragraphs (2), (3), and (11). This news article also contains three data (18.75%) of verbal reactions from renowned credit rating companies and the Omnibus Law itself in paragraphs (4), (5), and (7). Furthermore, comments become the most prominent category used in the news article by the author with seven times of appearances (43.75%), which can be seen in paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), and (11).

**Table 4. The news schemata of the news article**

<b>Para.</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Schematic Category</b>
<i>Headline</i> (1-Lead)	Omnibus law boosts Indonesian growth prospects The Indonesian House of Representatives' approval of the Omnibus Law on Job Creation on Oct.5 marks a significant enhancement of the business climate and a step forward for labor market flexibility, which should, over time, improve the country's international competitiveness, provided the changes are well implemented.	<i>Summary</i>
(2)	The new law, whose scope is wide-ranging, should help to reduce longstanding impediments to doing business in Indonesia by reducing red tape, simplifying land acquisition processes, easing restrictions on foreign investment, loosening labor laws and providing more incentives to free-trade zones. Indonesia's ranking for the World Bank's annual survey of Ease of Doing Business has improved significantly in recent years, but at 73rd out of 190 countries in 2020, is still below the median for "BBB" sovereigns.	<i>Main Event</i> <i>Background</i>
(3)	The reforms will put Indonesia in a better position to capitalize on shifts in global manufacturing supply chains. Many multinationals are exploring opportunities to diversify supply chains, including a shift in some cases from China as a result of rising labor costs in that market and the uncertainties created by United States-China trade tensions. Some have relocated operations to Indonesia in recent years, but the local business environment may have served as a dampener on investor interest.	<i>Comment</i> <i>Background</i>
(4)	As a comparison, a survey conducted by Japan's trade organization JETRO shows that Indonesian annual salary levels (excluding severance allowances, but including base salary, benefits and bonuses) for manufacturing workers in 2019	<i>Verbal Reaction</i>



<b>Para.</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Schematic Category</b>
	averaged US\$5,956, lower than China's \$9,962, Thailand's \$8,128 and Malaysia's \$7,041, but higher than India's \$4,466, Vietnam's \$4,041 and the Philippines' \$3,916.	
(5)	Fitch Ratings believes that the law will bolster Indonesia's longterm economic growth prospects. All else being equal, faster growth would have a positive effect on the sovereign's public debt metrics, boosting fiscal inflows and reducing debt-to- GDP ratios. Perhaps more importantly, the potential boost in Indonesia's manufacturing exports and FDI inflows could make the country less dependent on commodity exports and on portfolio flows to finance its current-account deficit.	<i>Verbal Reaction Comment</i>
(6)	Nonetheless, the effects of the reform package will take time to be felt. They are also unlikely on their own to drive changes in the near term to Indonesia's 'BBB' rating, which we affirmed with a Stable Outlook in August.	<i>Comment</i>
(7)	The reforms' effects will depend on how they are implemented. The Omnibus Law stipulates that a number of additional regulations need to be passed in key areas such as labor legislation. Other measures may be challenged in the Constitutional Court.	<i>Comment Verbal Reaction</i>
(8)	Meanwhile, the new legislation has been met with protests by labor groups, which could prompt the authorities to water down its provisions.	<i>Main Event</i>
(9)	Even if they remain intact, business regulation will still be complex and burdensome, relative to many other markets in ASEAN. Moreover, although maximum worker severance costs look set to fall by around 40 percent from levels that were previously among the region's most generous, they will remain high enough to be a concern for some foreign investors.	<i>Comment</i>
(10)	More positively, the reforms signal that the Indonesian government remains focused on long-term economic development, even as it looks to address the health crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic.	<i>Comment</i>
(11)	Investors are likely to welcome this sign, but will also be alert to the risk of negative policy surprises. The House is still considering proposals that would weaken the independence of Bank Indonesia, for example, which could undermine monetary policy credibility — although the government has made known its opposition to the proposals.	<i>Comment Background</i>

In addition, an in-depth analysis of the comment category regarding the depiction of the Omnibus Law is done due to the category being the most dominant and prominent, making it a significant category.

In Table 5 below, it is clear that two comments are positive, three comments are neutral, and two comments contain no representation of the Omnibus Law. The comments which show the positive representation talk about the benefit

(para. 3) and the government’s action (para. 10). The benefit is about getting advantage on the global manufacturing supply chains while the government action regards the long-term economic development and health issue in the pandemic time. Taking the objective of the research into account, the representation shown through the comments of this news article is quite positive because, in all the comments above, none contains a negative viewpoint of the Omnibus Law.

**Table 5. Comments showing the positive representation of the omnibus law**

Para.	Content	Representation of the Omnibus Law
(3)	<b>The reforms will put Indonesia in a better position to capitalize on shifts in global manufacturing supply chains.</b> Many multinationals are exploring opportunities to diversify supply chains, including a shift in some cases from China as a result of rising labor costs in that market and the uncertainties created by United States-China trade tensions. Some have relocated operations to Indonesia in recent years, <b>but the local business environment may have served as a dampener on investor interest.</b>	(+)
(5)	Fitch Ratings believes that the law will bolster Indonesia’s longterm economic growth prospects. <b>All else being equal, faster growth would have a positive effect on the sovereign’s public debt metrics, boosting fiscal inflows and reducing debt-to- GDP ratios. Perhaps more importantly, the potential boost in Indonesia’s manufacturing exports and FDI inflows could make the country less dependent on commodity exports and on portfolio flows to finance its current-account deficit.</b>	No Representation
(6)	<b>Nonetheless, the effects of the reform package will take time to be felt. They are also unlikely on their own to drive changes in the near term to Indonesia’s ‘BBB’ rating, which we affirmed with a Stable Outlook in August.</b>	Neutral
(7)	<b>The reforms’ effects will depend on how they are implemented.</b> The Omnibus Law stipulates that a number of additional regulations need to be passed in key areas such as labor legislation. Other measures may be challenged in the Constitutional Court.	Neutral
(9)	<b>Even if they remain intact, business regulation will still be complex and burdensome, relative to many other markets in ASEAN. Moreover, although maximum worker severance costs</b>	Neutral

Para.	Content	Representation of the Omnibus Law
(10)	<p><b>look set to fall by around 40 percent from levels that were previously among the region’s most generous, they will remain high enough to be a concern for some foreign investors.</b></p> <p><b>More positively, the reforms signal that the Indonesian government remains focused on long-term economic development, even as it looks to address the health crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic.</b></p>	(+)
(11)	<p><b>Investors are likely to welcome this sign, but will also be alert to the risk of negative policy surprises.</b> The House is still considering proposals that would weaken the independence of Bank Indonesia, for example, which could undermine monetary policy credibility — although the government has made known its opposition to the proposals.</p>	No Representation

Comments are a category in which a journalist can convey his or her personal opinions regarding the topic [20]. Since in this particular news article, comments become the most prominent and dominant category, a deeper look at the writer is required in order to check the credibility of the writer. Thomas Rookmaaker worked for Fitch Ratings from October 2013 until January 2022 as Director, Sovereign Ratings, and became the Head of Asia-Pacific Sovereign Ratings from January 2022 until now [29]. He also worked at International Monetary Fund as an advisor to the Executive Director from June 2006 until November 2008 and had ten years of experience working for the Dutch Central Bank as an Economist, Monetary and Economic Policy Department, and Senior Economist, Financial Markets Division [29]. Having considered his working experience, there is no doubt that Thomas Rookmaaker is credible. Despite the credibility of the author, the article itself cannot be said as objective news since most of the content of the news article is in the author’s opinion; hence, the news is mostly neutral that leans toward subjective. All in all, through the analysis of the comments category, it can be concluded that, despite the obvious subjectivity, the Omnibus Law is consistently represented positively.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The findings previously discussed show that the objectives of the research have been met; the Omnibus Law in the news article is represented

positively in the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. The three aspects demonstrate a strong inclination of *The Jakarta Post* and the author of the news article taking sides with the government, which, in this case, is the producer of the Omnibus Law. In the macrostructure analysis, it is seen that the author does not try to hide the representation of the Omnibus Law as the headline and the lead obviously and explicitly present the positive representation; therefore, this confirms the subjectivity of the text article. Moreover, in the microstructure analysis, the author shows the representation of the Omnibus Law through the usage of evidentiality, consensus, and example/illustration tools, which are considered implicit tools. Consequently, the readers are required to be critical as well as knowledgeable by digging deeper information on some issues. From the author’s side, the use of numbers as evidence and examples may suggest that the author wants to show the positive representation of the bill by convincing the readers and making them capture a sense of importance upon reading the article. Lastly, in the superstructure analysis, the Omnibus Law is represented positively most dominantly through the comment category, which once again supports the idea of subjectivity since those comments contain the authors’ personal viewpoints.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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## APPENDIX

### Omnibus law boosts Indonesian growth prospects

Thomas Rookmaaker (The Jakarta Post)  
Hong Kong • Mon, October 19, 2020

- (1) The Indonesian House of Representatives' approval of the Omnibus Law on Job Creation on Oct.5 marks a significant enhancement of the business climate and a step forward for labor market flexibility, which should, over time, improve the country's international competitiveness, provided the changes are well implemented.
- (2) The new law, whose scope is wide-ranging, should help to reduce longstanding impediments to doing business in Indonesia by reducing red tape, simplifying land acquisition processes, easing restrictions on foreign investment, loosening labor laws and providing more incentives to free-trade zones. Indonesia's ranking for the World Bank's annual survey of Ease of Doing Business has improved significantly in recent years, but at 73rd out of 190 countries in 2020, is still below the median for "BBB" sovereigns.
- (3) The reforms will put Indonesia in a better position to capitalize on shifts in global manufacturing supply chains. Many multinationals are exploring opportunities to diversify supply chains, including a shift in some cases from China as a result of rising labor costs in that market and the uncertainties created by United States-China trade tensions. Some have relocated operations to Indonesia in recent years, but the local business environment may have served as a dampener on investor interest.
- (4) As a comparison, a survey conducted by Japan's trade organization JETRO shows that Indonesian annual salary levels (excluding severance allowances, but including base salary, benefits and bonuses) for manufacturing workers in 2019 averaged US\$5,956, lower than China's \$9,962, Thailand's \$8,128 and Malaysia's \$7,041, but higher than India's \$4,466, Vietnam's \$4,041 and the Philippines' \$3,916.
- (5) Fitch Ratings believes that the law will bolster Indonesia's longterm economic growth prospects. All else being equal, faster growth would have a positive effect on the sovereign's public debt metrics, boosting fiscal inflows and reducing debt-to- GDP ratios. Perhaps more importantly, the potential boost in Indonesia's manufacturing exports and FDI inflows could make the country less dependent on commodity exports and on portfolio flows to finance its current-account deficit.
- (6) Nonetheless, the effects of the reform package will take time to be felt. They are also unlikely on their own to drive changes in the near term to Indonesia's ' BBB' rating, which we affirmed with a Stable Outlook in August.
- (7) The reforms' effects will depend on how they are implemented. The Omnibus Law stipulates that a number of additional regulations need to be passed in key areas such as labor legislation. Other measures may be challenged in the Constitutional Court.
- (8) Meanwhile, the new legislation has been met with protests by labor groups, which could prompt the authorities to water down its provisions.
- (9) Even if they remain intact, business regulation will still be complex and burdensome, relative to many other markets in ASEAN. Moreover, although maximum worker severance costs look set to fall by around 40 percent from levels that were previously among the region's most generous, they will remain high enough to be a concern for some foreign investors.
- (10) More positively, the reforms signal that the Indonesian government remains focused on long-term economic development, even as it looks to address the health crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic.
- (11) Investors are likely to welcome this sign, but will also be alert to the risk of negative policy surprises. The House is still considering proposals that would weaken the independence of Bank Indonesia, for example, which could undermine monetary policy credibility — although the government has made known its opposition to the proposals.

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