

## ABSTRACT

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Mass rallies (*Aksi Bela Islam*) on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 (411) and December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 (212) which drew thousands of “Muslims” (The Guardian), “Islamists” (The New York Times), and “hard-line Muslims” (The Wall Street Journal) to protest against the Christian Sino Indonesian governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok), who ran for the Jakarta’s gubernatorial election in 2017, have been portrayed by The Guardian, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Deploying Halliday’s transitivity system and Martin and White’s judgment aspect in Appraisal Theory, this study seeks to analyze the fabrication mechanism of discursive contestation in *Aksi Bela Islam* from the perspective of the three Western media. It is found that the discursive contestation is executed mostly by employing material and verbal process to safeguard Ahok as a victim in the blasphemy case and at the same time position the protesters as the party who started the conflict and were not loyal to the investigation process. Positive judgment is mostly directed to Ahok by pointing out his good work performance. In contrast, negative judgment is mostly directed to the protesters by pointing out their violent behavior.

Keywords: *Aksi Bela Islam*, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok), Transitivity System, Appraisal Theory, Discursive Contestation