

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to help determine the public response to the naturalization program of Indonesian national team players by PSSI and understand the social factors and ideologies of the community that give rise to these responses. This study uses a corpus approach to process large amounts of data, the theory of Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis, to categorize public comments into support, ambiguity, or rejection. Then, the theory of Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk is applied to examine the factors or ideologies that underlie public responses. The study results indicate that comments of support for the naturalization program are influenced by pragmatic values, professionalism, and legitimacy triggered by the satisfactory results of naturalization. Meanwhile, comments of ambiguity provide conditional support for the naturalization program not to rely too much on this program and to improve the quality of the local league and players. It is influenced by the failure to improve the local league and players. Finally, comments of rejection that view naturalization as a pragmatic solution, harm local players and ignore the value of nationalism are influenced by politicized policies. This study contributes to understanding public discourse in sports and examines policies from a community perspective.

Keywords: Naturalization, Comments, Public, Discourse, Corpus

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Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Indonesian football has become an interesting topic for the public regarding the foreign player naturalization program by PSSI (Persatuan Sepakbola Seluruh Indonesia). This naturalization program has been implemented for a long time, but this is the first time it has been implemented massively and professionally. Naturalization is one of the processes that must be undergone to obtain citizenship transfer status (Chiu, 2021). This program aims to improve the quality of the Indonesian national team by gathering half-blood, diaspora, and blijvers players with promising skills and joining football clubs in quality leagues, indirectly increasing local players' competitiveness to improve their quality (Kemenpora, 2022). The joining of international quality football players, such as Sandy Walsh, Rafael Struick, Jay Idzes, Maarten Paes, and many more, has made this naturalization program a concern for many people. The people in question are the general public, football fans, and critics who, while acknowledging the potential benefits, also raise concerns about the impact of naturalization on the development of local talent. The attention from the public has given rise to views on the naturalization program.

In today's era of digital power, people utilize social media platforms in everyday conversations, including when responding to naturalization programs. One of these social media platforms is YouTube. YouTube is one of the most visited platforms in recent years. According to Google Advertising Resources, there are 139 million YouTube users in Indonesia, ranked fourth in the world in early 2024 (Kemp, 2024). YouTube users often use video-based social media and supporting features such as the comment column to comment and respond to other users. These statements are why this study took data from video content comments on YouTube.

This study selected HotRoom content videos from the MetroTV episode "Naturalisasi untuk Prestasi" because the content focuses on discussing the naturalization program by PSSI, and two main sources are Indonesian football critics, namely Justinus Lhaksana and Towel, who provide different views. YouTube users also provide their views or responses to the naturalization program of national team players through the comment column in the videos.

According to Susan Herring (2004) in CMDA (Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis), public discourse is categorized into support, ambiguity, and rejection categories. **However, those public**

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responses are influenced by many factors yang dapat dilihat melalui Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk, which consists of 3 segments such as text, social cognition, and social context.

The public opinions on the national team player naturalization program are indeed divided by agreeing and disagreeing (Tegar et al., 2024). In public opinions, there are key actors involved in the social network on the keyword "Naturalization of the national team" on social media that showing the pros and cons of the program (Zahran et al., 2024). Media also showing the tendency in reporting on the pros and cons side of the naturalization of national team players (Wakhid, 2024). However, media reporting is prone to institutional power relations where discourse can be regulated within formal institutional framework. There has been no research that discusses the public response to the naturalization program of the Indonesian national team by PSSI with data sources from public opinion in the comments column of YouTube video content using corpus-based data analysis, the CMDA (Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis) approach, and the CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) theory by Van Dijk.

This research aims to categorize public responses to the naturalization program for Indonesian National Team players and to discover and understand what lies beneath these responses based on ideological and social factors. This research is expected to not only contribute to the development of corpus linguistic research and discourse studies but also to understand the public response or attitude to policies made by the government in the field of sports. Through this study, policymakers can consider the policy for steps to be taken in the future and adjust it to the views of the public response.

The limitation of this research is that the public comment data cannot be guaranteed to be original from the thoughts and opinions of an individual without any indication of the interests of the ruling figures behind it. However, this research will be a breakthrough in the topic of the naturalization program based on corpus and critical discourse.

METHOD

This research is qualitative research that uses descriptive statistical methods. This method involves data collection, organization, presentation, analysis, and interpretation (Starbuck, 2023; Miles, 2019). This research is related to a language corpus that utilizes a corpus machine to read data. The corpus data processing application used is AntConc, a crucial tool that functions as a data interpreter or elaborator. The data source for this study is public

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

comments uploaded on the HotRoom content video comment page entitled "Naturalisasi untuk Prestasi" on the Metro TV YouTube account. These comments were collected using the scrapping method via the Console Apify website. The results of scrapping via Console Apify are in the form of Microsoft Excel format data containing the name of the YouTube account owner, comments, time, and others. The researcher separated all comments from the Microsoft Excel file and then moved them into a notepad txt file format. The number of comments obtained was 15,000 comments.

Then, the txt data file is inputted into the AntConc application by looking at the frequency of words and concordances as a reference. The data results are interpreted using the Computer-Mediated Analysis (CMDA) theory to analyze and categorize public discourse into support, ambiguity, or rejection categories. After that, the researcher discovers the factors that influence the responses given by the public using the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory by Van Dijk, which consists of 3 xt analysis, social cognition, and social context.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher received 15,000 comments and 189,189 tokens. First, the researcher looked at what words often appeared in public comments. Here are the results of relevant frequency words.

Table 1:
The Relevant of Frequency Words

N/R	Word Type	Freq
1	Towel	7528
5	Pemain	2112
7	Indonesia	2110
8	Timnas	1958
10	STY	1675
11	Bola	1615
17	Bisa	1343
20	Naturalisasi	1160
27	Tidak	894

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

32	Lokal	764
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The researcher took 10 relevant words, or those that do not include prepositions, from the sequence with the most frequent occurrence. This study focuses on public comments regarding the Naturalisation program, so the researcher will focus on the keyword Naturalisation. Naturalisation has a frequency of occurrence of 1,160 times. Through the concordance of the word, the researcher can categorise the comments first using the Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis (CMDA) theory and then analyse the background of the public response with the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory by Van Dijk.

Response Categorizations

The CMDA (Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis) approach, developed by Susan Herring (2004), invites scholars, researchers, and students to interpret interactions in social media through text and discourse. CMDA's analysis of online behaviour in terms of language and its interpretation through observation is collaborative, with the audience playing a crucial role in understanding the patterns of interaction and context. In this study, we collectively looked at a public comment sentence's linguistic or pragmatic features that indicated the meaning of support, ambiguity, or rejection.

Picture 1:
Concordance Word of Naturalization

Total Hits: 1160 Page Size: 100 hits 1 to 100 of 1160 hits

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 komentar ...	di Indonesia ini yg sltu mengedepankan ego yang gak suka	naturalisasi	itu adalah keturunan orang pribumi yang suka korupsi djamar
2 komentar ...	abang bersaing pendahulunya di dlm tim kalau yang menolak	naturalisasi	itu adalah orang pola berpikirnya sempit dan bukan pemikiran
3 komentar ...	si toel Ada indikasi mafia itu si towel, sekarang begini,	naturalisasi	itu adalah tolak ukur, karena patokan itu lokal juga
4 komentar ...	ada Program itu ada jfk pendek,menegah Dan panjang nah	naturalisasi	itu program jgk pendek Saya selama ini diem ajah
5 komentar ...	ada Program itu ada jfk pendek,menegah Dan panjang nah	naturalisasi	itu program jgk pendek Ini towel pengmat bola apa
6 komentar ...	in tetangga ketinggalan kereta baru mau kejar kita sdh sampai	naturalisasi	itu program fifa tdk ada larangan khususnya bagi semua
7 komentar ...	👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍👍 MCMCMCMCMCMCM Toel pemain	naturalisasi	itu bagus untuk motivasi juga buat pemain lokal, jadi
8 komentar ...	bn2 orang yang bukan pesepakbola ... teori aja itu Toel pemain	naturalisasi	itu bagus untuk motivasi juga buat pemain lokal, jadi
9 komentar ...	g makan sama sty 🍕 Biarin Tawel dg pikiran nya sendiri 🍕🍕	Naturalisasi	itu baik saja asal membawa kemsjuan bola Indonesia dan
10 komentar ...	ngalir terus, sampek mau muntah aq dengerin towel babi ni!"	Naturalisasi	itu baik saja asal membawa kemsjuan bola Indonesia dan
11 komentar ...	ib sekaliun pelatihnya. "Positif thinking aja gaes, menurut saya	naturalisasi	itu bisa jd motivasi pemain lokal untuk berjuang LBH
12 komentar ...	kilan pssi buang" tenaga kalo lawan towel. Dengerin nih towel..	naturalisasi	itu bisa meningkatkan kekuatan tim..meningkatkan kemamp
13 komentar ...	2 yang naturalisasi sekarang menggunakan UU yang sama dan	naturalisasi	itu bukan sekedar akselerasi tapi tetap bisa dilakukan sesuai
14 komentar ...	sebelumnya ... ?? Si towellll... itu g mau kalah nih Yang jelas,	naturalisasi	itu bukan solusi untuk sebuah timnas yg tangguh. Solusinya
15 komentar ...	tp towel bagian dari mafia bola Nih...dengerin nih...Towelll.	Naturalisasi	itu campuran, dan seluruh negara di bumi ini rasnya

Source: AntConc 4.3.1.

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.
Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

Support is a form of community agreement in responding to the naturalization program by providing comments of support for the program. Here are some comments from the community that support the naturalization program through the concordance word of naturalization, which is a key term in the analysis and indicates a strong connection to the program:

- 1) “Sudah jelas Timnas bermain **bagus** karena pemain **naturalisasi** dan STY. Kalo Cuma pemain lokal mana bisa compete lawan Tim seperti Australia, Korea, dll.”
- 2) “Kenapa Timnas dan teruntuk PSSI menggunakan **naturalisasi** dan **efeknya bagus** untuk Timnas dan nyata bagus hasilnya kenapa malah ada yang kritik ga setuju lah ini lah itu lah minta sty out lah.”
- 3) “...tapi kan **naturalisasi** itu untuk **memotivasi** dan persaingan sehat, biar anak2 muda di Timnas bisa lebih berkembang dan belajar dari yang udah pengalaman di luar negeri.”
- 4) “**Naturalisasi** itu prosesnya, dan mereka punya **darah indo**, cuma di Indo naturalisasi heboh, FIFA juga **dukung** UUD juga dukung.”
- 5) “Makanya **Naturalisasi** itu **penting** **bt menopang** mentalitas pemain lokal.”

Based on the data, several examples of public comments supporting the naturalization program indicate positive words that are side by side and aimed at the word naturalization, such as bagus, motivasi, mendukung, penting and menopang. It shows that the public views naturalization as a good program for the sustainability of Indonesian football because it can motivate the quality of the team.

Ambiguity, the absence of words that confirm partisanship towards something, is a key aspect of our research. In this context, the public response does not indicate a desire to side with one party. The results, often leading to two thoughts in response to one comment, do not indicate any pros and cons of the naturalization program. Here are some of the ambiguous public comments on the naturalization program that we have observed:

- 1) “Di satu sisi **oke** lah **naturalisasi** tapi **jangan** ketergantungan. Adakah program jangka menengah atau jangka panjang kompetisi dan pembinaan usia muda di Indonesia agar di masa depan bisa stop naturalisasi. Karena para pemain asli Indonesia berhak mendapatkan itu karena orang tua mereka bayar pajak dimana pajak tersebut diberikan kepada federasi sepakbola Indonesia.”
- 2) “**Naturalisasi** atau **tidak Naturalisasi**.. intinya bukan di situ... intinya semua sistem dalam sepakbola Indonesia bergerak untuk

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

maju, termasuk industri nya.”

3) “**Naturalisasi** ini ada hal negatif kedepan nya, maka perlu kan ‘Warning’ dan perlu berita **penyeimbang** (yg kontra).”

4) “Saya **ga peduli** yg main mau **naturalisasi** mau keturunan mau **lokal**. Saya hanya liat timnas nya.”

5) “Jujur saja naturalisasinya terlalu banyak. Agak berlebihan kalo semua posisi **full naturalisasi** terus bagaimana hasil pemain liga kita? **kasihan** kalo **pemain liga 1** tidak di kasih slot untuk timnas (yg sudah berlatih di liga 1).”

Based on the data, several examples of public comments on the naturalization program have ambiguous indications. In one comment, there are two contradictory words aimed at the naturalization program, such as the words 'oke' and 'jangan', 'naturalisasi' and 'tidak naturalisasi' or 'lokal'. It shows that people with ambiguous opinions produce two interpretations of opinion, namely that people do not care who plays on the Indonesian National Team and argue that naturalization occurs with several conditions related to non-diaspora players.

Rejection is a feeling of disapproval of something. The response given is a feeling of disapproval or dislike of something. In this context, society responds with its disapproval and disagreement with the naturalization program. Here are some examples of comments from a society that rejects the naturalization program:

1) “Yang jelas, **naturalisasi** itu **bukan solusi** untuk sebuah timnas yg tangguh. Solusinya cuma satu: Kompetisi! Naturalisasi itu tabungan 'politis' erick thohir. Thats it!”

2) “**Naturalisasi** itu, a) mental pragmatis, b) kegagalan pendidikan sepak bola indon, c) orientasi bisnis dlm dunia sepak bola, d) tdk ada nasionalisme.”

3) “**Naturalisasi** itu **merusak** pelan² liga indo, regenerasi, sperti indomie, rokok, sprite yg merusak tubuh pelan².”

4) “Saya **menolak naturalisasi**. dan mendukung normalisasi segera di timnas Indonesia.”

5) “**Naturalisasi** dan terus menerus itu adalah program **instan** yg tdk baik.”

Based on the data, examples of public comments on the naturalization program have rejections, as seen from the negative words directed at the naturalization program, such as 'bukan solusi,' 'merusak,' 'menolak,' and 'instant.' This shows that the public rejects the naturalization program by arguing that it is not beneficial in the long term and is detrimental to the generation of Indonesian league players.

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

Various public responses to the naturalization program certainly give rise to various thoughts about the program. These responses certainly do not merely provide thoughts related to the naturalization program; they have a background. The background in question is the factors that influence the public to have opinions or comments about the naturalization program.

Response Factors

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory by Van Dijk analyzes based on text and looks at the process and factors of speakers in producing discourse. Here, Van Dijk connects a discourse with the context behind it. The usefulness of this theory is why it is called a "social cognitive approach." This theory by Van Dijk has three analysis segments: text analysis, social cognition, and social context (Darma, 2014).

1. Textual Analysis

In text structure analysis, word analysis is the goal of this segment. Van Dijk divides this segment into three structures: macrostructure, which focuses on analyzing the meaning or ideology of discourse through relevant words that appear; superstructure, which focuses on the arrangement of structures and discourses in the text; and microstructure, which analyzes words and clauses, structures, and discourse elements to get the meaning of a text. Among the three structures, the researcher only chose the macrostructure that was most relevant to the analysis of this study.

In the example of comments supporting the naturalization program, comments 1 and 2 show support for the naturalization program by using arguments about the results received. Both comments highlight how the influence of diaspora players through the naturalization program provides satisfactory results, such as winning against big countries and showing increased performance from before. Comments 3 and 5 explain support for the naturalization program by viewing diaspora players who can foster a sense of ambition and want to compete with non-diaspora players so they are still given the same opportunity to play on the Indonesian National Team. This competition can indirectly equalize the abilities and performance of diaspora and non-diaspora players, strengthening the quality of the Indonesian National Team. Finally, comment 4 agrees with the naturalization program because this method is legal and supported by state regulations in the Constitution (UUD) and the central football

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

federation, FIFA. This legality means that diaspora players who can undergo the naturalization program have Indonesian blood, which can legally become Indonesian citizens, so diaspora players are also included as football players from Indonesia.

In addition, examples of ambiguous comments on the naturalization program, namely comments 1 and 5, do not completely reject the naturalization program. However, conditions are proposed to improve the quality of non-diaspora or local players. This program is considered temporary and cannot be said to be long-term. Therefore, improving local players to have the same opportunities as diaspora players is necessary until the naturalization program is no longer needed. Comment 2 only wants to highlight the Indonesian football system that must be improved. The comment does not want to look at who plays on the Indonesian National Team but is more concerned with how the football system in Indonesia can be improved so that it runs well and orderly. Comment 3 views the issue of the naturalization program as requiring a balance, namely opposing opinions amidst the many pro-opinions. The reason is that this naturalization program allows for something negative if it is too passionate about approving the program. Concerns about the negative impacts that may exist in the future are very necessary. Finally, comment 4 highlights his support for the Indonesian National Team and does not want to care about this program. It explains that whether or not there are diaspora players or a naturalization program is not a problem because the most important thing is to see the Indonesian National Team improve.

Examples of comments that reject the naturalization program highlight disagreement with the naturalization program, such as comment 1, which views the naturalization program as a short-term solution and only focuses on political interests that benefit certain individuals. This program is considered not the right solution to improve the quality of Indonesian National Team football because local competitions should be a long-term solution and must be improved. Comment 2 argues that this program only reflects that the government has failed to improve Indonesian football education and has made this sport a personal business field. This program also shows that the Indonesian people like instant solutions or have a pragmatic mentality and a reduced sense of nationalism towards local players. Other comments have similarities, such as discussing that this program hinders the regeneration of local or non-diaspora players, so the Indonesian National Team is likely only to be filled with diaspora players. Most people reject the naturalization program because they

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

are concerned about the abilities and opportunities of non-diaspora players in the Indonesian National Team and the development of local league competitions.

2. Social Cognition

Social cognition analysis is the second segment based on the assumption that a text or discourse's meaning comes from its users. Therefore, this social cognition aims to reveal meanings, opinions, or ideologies that are not explicitly expressed in a text or discourse.

Community comments that support the naturalization program certainly have values that influence these opinions. Comments 1 and 2, which argue that naturalization provides good results and performance when competing in international competitions, are influenced by the value of pragmatism. This value emphasizes a fast and practical way to improve the quality of the Indonesian National Team. Comments 3 and 5 highlight this program as a motivation for non-diaspora or local players to compete and improve their abilities to be on par with the quality of diaspora players. Local players can also learn a lot from diaspora players with experience playing in international competitions. This opinion is influenced by the value of professionalism related to the positive impacts generated by this program. Comment 4 validates this naturalization program as a legitimate and fair method according to the rules of the Constitution and FIFA, so the value of legality influences this.

Ambiguity comments on the naturalization program, such as comment 1 are influenced by the values of independence and justice because there is a plan for independent development of the local football player generation for the long term so that they do not always depend on this program so that local players get the same opportunity in the Indonesian National Team. Comments 2 and 4 only focus on developing the Indonesian football system and its National Team, which are influenced by the value of improvement. Meanwhile, comments 3 and 5 are influenced by the value of caution in the naturalization program, which is feared to have a negative impact in the future, and the value of balance in responding to the many views that are pro this program.

Rejection comments argue that such comments are influenced by anti-pragmatism, which rejects the naturalization program as an instant solution, and anti-politicization, which considers this program to be just a politician's toy. In addition, other comments mostly express

opinions about the fate of local players who should be focused on regeneration and improving the local league. The values of nationalism and locality influence it because they support local players as a symbol of nationalism and consider naturalization to destroy the essence of the Indonesian National Team.

3. Social Context

Finally, social context analysis analyzes the discourse framework in which situations or things outside the text influence the creation of the text or discourse. Discourse analysis's main feature is how text and context are described in a communication process to determine the intent of each discourse or utterance.

The support comments by the public in comments 1 and 2 were influenced by the situation where the Indonesian National Team often failed in facing the National Team of a big country. That situation was the background for the public to agree with the naturalization program. Positive comments from the public increased when the program could be said to be successful when it got several wins and good results. The situation that influenced comments 3 and 5 was the lack of local players playing in the international league, so it needed diaspora players who could provide motivation, learning, and mentality. Comment 4 was influenced by the emotional situation of the public, who did not agree with the naturalization program. Hence, an explanation emerged that naturalization was a legal method and had been applied by many other countries.

In the ambiguous comments by the community, comment 1 was triggered by a social situation where the community wanted the government not to rely too much on the naturalization program, to use tax funds to develop the local player generation, and to give them priority to become part of the Indonesian National Team. Then, the issue of naturalization did not significantly influence comment 2, but there was an important awareness of improving the football system, including facilities, local players, local leagues, and others. Comments 3 and 5 were influenced by the community's concern about the naturalization program being carried out too excessively. These concerns refer to local players who find it increasingly difficult to join the Indonesian National Team and a pragmatic culture that can ignore long-term solutions such as developing local players. Comment 4 was also not influenced by the existence of the naturalization program but by the pressure situation that only wanted to see the Indonesian National Team play in international competitions.

Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program: Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis.

Syahzanan Harris, Fayza Achsina Salsabila, Ervinda Dwi Meidyana
DOI

Rejection comments by the public were triggered by the situation of the public in comment 1, who were still skeptical of a policy or program carried out by the government, and also the dissatisfaction of the public, who considered that the government had not done optimally in building a good quality local league. In addition, comment 2 was concerned with the spirit of nationalism of the Indonesian people. According to comment 2, local players are symbols of the country that must be prioritized. Other comments were influenced by the same context, namely concerns about the regeneration of local players in a pragmatic culture by the public through the naturalization program. The public who rejected the naturalization program saw it as a direct threat to the future of local players.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the comprehensive research analysis on Public Responses to the Indonesian National Football Team Player Naturalization Program, which employed the AntConc corpus application, Susan Herrings' Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis theory, and Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk as analysis tools, researchers have meticulously categorized public responses into three categories: support, ambiguity, and rejection.

Comments support the naturalization program as a program useful for improving the quality of the Indonesian National Team and positively impacting local players. Pragmatic values, professionalism, and legitimacy influence this support. These values are motivated by the past failure of the National Team and the current situation, which has produced very good results. Then, ambiguous comments that have more than one view in one comment. Here, ambiguous comments provide conditional support for the naturalization program not to rely too much on this program and be aware of the negative impacts that may occur. It is influenced by the social situation of the government, which must be serious in developing the local football league and player system to be better. Finally, the rejection comments that disagree with the naturalization program because it is considered a pragmatic solution that is detrimental to local players. It is considered able to forget the value of nationalism triggered by society, which is still skeptical of the government's performance.

This study not only contributes to providing insight into public discourse through social media that examines sports policies but also offers practical implications for policy reviewers. It helps them

understand the public perspective on the naturalization program policy, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of their policy reviews.

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