

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This final chapter consists of conclusion which briefly summarizes the answers to the research problems and presents further interpretations; and suggestions which offers future directions of research.

5.1 Conclusions

The present study investigates discursive construction of president salary increase in The Jakarta Post with the concerns on (1) identifying how social actors are referred to linguistically, (2) exploring predications that are attributed to the social actors, and (3) investigating arguments which are used to justify president salary increase.

In regards to the nominations, the social actors who frequently mentioned at most in the texts are Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY), public officials, Indonesian Military (TNI), Agus Martowardjojo, National Poilice officials, Hatta Rajasa, Jusuf Kalla, and government. Those social actors were linguistically referred to through deixis, proper names, and anthroponyms. Among those social actors, SBY played a significant role in the formation of discourse as he is the central figure in the issue. Meanwhile, anthroponym is the most frequent linguistic reference and can be interpreted as the effort to emphasize the role of institution rather than individuals.

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In term of predication, those social actors are judged positively and negatively. The social actors were judged through choices of lexical item associated with negative meaning such as “complain” and “a big mistake”, and relative clauses such as “whose salary will be reviewed” and “who receive higher take-home pay” Meanwhile, the positive judgments were made through the predicates and relative clauses such as “concerned on” and “hand over”

In relation to argumentations, the newspaper showed more frequent use of topoi rather than the fallacies. Those topoi and fallacies were linguistically realized in the form of comparative-superlative degree, conditional sentence, metaphor, and synecdoche. Those topoi and fallacies tend to the issue becomes justifiable from perspective of economy, social and government.

A synthesis was made to the findings regarding the nomination, predication, and argumentation. It was found that those three analyses are linked and support one another to discursively construct the issue of president salary increase. The selection of social actors who come from government institution to be the sources of news really determines the direction of the discourse to be positive. Those social actors, their predications and their argumentations, mostly agreed with the president salary increase.

It can be further mentioned that this study proved the existence of intervention of media in the reproduction of issues for public consumption. The interventions were realized by the selection of news source, the predications and

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argumentations. Therefore, media can use their power of public accessibility to shape public discourse to the readers based on their own ideology.

This study also tried to reveal the reason behind the discursive construction by considering historical aspects regarding the economy and politic of media. From the economy perspective, The Jakarta Post sustain their existence through the selection of newsworthy events, thus it chooses the issue and sources from elite group. From the perspective of politic, The Jakarta Post wants to present what is happening in Indonesia from Indonesian perspective to balance the reports made by overseas media, as stated in the history of The Jakarta Post.

5.1 Suggestion

The completion of this study has raised several points that can be considered in future research on Discourse-Historical Approach. First, this study focused on the Government Issue which also responded by government itself. Further study may select a topic on other Indonesian problems such as minority groups, justice, and religion. Those issues, and how they are discursively constructed, are worth investigating. Second, this study related DHA to media theories to see the discursive construction of an event in the media. Further study may use DHA to explore representations in other genre such as propaganda posters, literary works, and government documents. Third, this study found the difficulty to observe the predication of social actors. Conducting manual observation of each social actor in every sentence took long time. The further research may use corpus software for the easier and faster analysis. Fourth, 5

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samples were used as the object of investigation in this study. Further study may use more samples to make a better result of analysis.



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