

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides brief explanation of several aspects that contribute to initiating the study. It includes the background, statement of problems, the objectives, the reasons, and the limitation of the study. In addition, it also presents a brief explanation of how the study is undertaken, the list of key terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

It is commonly believed that language is one of the means of human communication. Language is used to express thought or opinion, to describe, to inform and so many others. The use of language as the mean of communication is done through either spoken or written manners and in interpersonal setting or with the involvement of a great number of participants.

Generally speaking, interpersonal communication is done by one person with another. Meanwhile the one that involves great number of participants is done by the mass media to the society. Besides the great number of communication participants, media has a lot more significant role in a democratic country. This is in line with what Joshi (2000) states, that the media is the forth fundamental pillar of a modern democratic country. It functions as the bridge between the people and the policy makers or the governments through

providing informative report of, for instance, political or social issues that happen in the country. Hence in a broad communication setting and in its position in the nation, media certainly has a strategic position.

What becomes the concern is that what is written in the media (e.g. newspaper article) is not a mere article or a mere information feeder. In fact, the articles can bring about casual effect such as a change of perspective for the communication participants or the readers of the newspaper. This is in line with what Fairclough (2003) suggests that texts should have causal effect upon the change of what people believe (belief, attitude, etc.), how people act, and the social relation. Thus it indicates that media can have the power to contribute to the change of what people think through what is presented in the text or the article.

As the result of the phenomenon above, the raised issue is that the media might not simply present the reality that happens. The media might use some framework in interpreting that reality. This will influence the reader because media helps to construct the social construction and interpret the reality (Bennet,1982). The aforementioned explanation leads to the idea that the events or the reality that the media presents are possible to be carefully selected. Needless to say, the perspective and motive of the media influence the way it tells or presents the reality.

Considering the phenomenon above, “The Study of *Kompas*’ and *Republika*’s Tendencies in Reporting Abu Bakar Ba’ayir’s Trial” should be conducted. It is due to investigate two different news reports taken from *Kompas* and *Republika*. The news reports will be analyzed by using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG).

1.2 Reason for choosing the topic

In this case, newspapers are the agents and we, the readers, are the object of their action. Some readers will just fully receive certain information from the newspaper without critical thinking on what they have been read. It makes the readers become the victim of the ideology of certain newspaper. They believe in something that they actually do not mean to. The research is conducted to give the critical analysis on news report from selected newspaper.

1.3 Scope of The Study

The focus of the study is on finding the way *Kompas* and *Republika* present Abu Bakar Ba’asyir’s case, how Abu Bakar Ba’asyir is represented, and the tendency behind the representations.

The study is undertaken with the employment of Critical Discourse Analysis approach proposed by Norman Fairclough (2003) and Systemic Functional Grammar by Michael Halliday (2004).

1.4 Statements of The Problem

Research problem of this paper are formulated in these following questions:

1. How is the trial of Abu Bakar Ba'asyir represented by *Kompas* and *Republika*?

More specifically, what are the tendencies of *Kompas* and *Republika* behind the representation of the issue?

1.5 Aims of The Study

Related to the research questions above, this paper aims to:

1. Finding and comparing the representations of The Trial of Abu Bakar Ba'asyir. More specifically, to find the tendencies behind the representations of the two different newspapers

1.6 Methodology of The Research

To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the study employs qualitative method by which the study is also a descriptive study. Furthermore, regarding the technical aspects, the study is undertaken by employing not only Critical Discourse Analysis framework of analysis but also Systemic Functional Grammar which includes transitivity and nominalization analysis as well as the identification of social events. The data sources were taken from on-line version of *Kompas* and *Republika* and later were analyzed with the theoretical approach above. Therefore, this study is aimed to unpack the issue through the text analysis and the aspect

beyond it. The more elaborative explanation about the methodology of the study is broadly discussed in Chapter III of the paper.

1.7 Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstandings, the researcher classifies the following terms:

Text: Written or printed language used such as newspaper articles, shopping list, etc. (Fairclough, 2003)

Discourse: Discourse is the language used that is associated with particular social field or practices. In general sense, discourse is the form of language used (as well as visual image) as an element of social life which is dialectically related to other elements. (Fairclough 2003)

Ideology: Representation of aspect of the world which can be shown to contribute to establishing, maintaining and changing social relation of power, domination, and exploitation. (Fairclough, 2003)

Tendency: A way of a person or thing tends to be, behave, moves or change.

(Oxford's Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

As in CDA, tendency can be identified as the ideology that is enacted in ways of interacting and inculcated in ways of being or identities

(Fairclough, 2003)

Representation: A thing that shows the image of somebody or something else.

(Oxford's Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

Representation has something to do with the use of language to represent experience, to comprehend, or to systematize and to express human's perception of the world and their consciousness.

(Halliday, 1975, cited in Fairclough, 2003)

1.8 Organization of The Paper

The paper will be divided into five chapters:

Chapter I : Introduction

It describes the background of the study, scope of the study, statements of problem, the aim of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, methodology of the research and organisation of the paper.

Chapter II : Theoretical Foundation

It explores theoretical framework including the theories of analysis and analytical method that relevant to the study.

Chapter III : Research Methodology

It explains data collection, population and sample, and technique in analysing the data.

Chapter IV : Finding and Discussion

It describes the data collection result, analyses the data and research findings.

Chapter V : Conclusion and Suggestion

It explains the interpretation of research findings generally and suggestion for further research and the implication of the study.

