CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Conclusions

The study is conducted to investigate the construction of fear in selected *Kompas.com* and *Detik.com* disaster news articles by analyzing the representations of the social actors, the actions and reactions attributed to them and the news' accompanying images. It is also geared toward answering the signification of the construction of fear in the texts which lead to the main notions of CDA (power asymmetry, ideology and critique).

This study finds that there are seven social actors in the texts. Total representations of social actors are 372 representations with 306 (82,6%) inclusions and 66 exclusion (17,74%). In addition, there are 336 actions and reactions attributed to them with 289 actions (86%) and 47 reactions (14%).

The actors are disasters, sufferers, affected infrastructures, local government, national governments, experts, and journalists. The forces of natural phenomenon that bring destruction, death, loss and chaos such as earthquake, tsunami, landslide, eruption, and flash-flood are referred as "Disasters" in the analysis. In addition, the people who receive direct impact of disasters are referred as "Sufferer" while the infrastructures that receive the direct impact from the disaster are referred as "Affected infrastructures". The local authoritative power that includes the heads of the government, the local rescue and medical team and their tools to help the disaster

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victims are referred as "Local Government". Meanwhile, if the local government cannot handle the situation after the disaster hits, the higher authoritative (the head of the government, the rescue and medical team and their tools and equipments) will come to help the local governments. It implies that the occurred disaster is considered as a "national disaster". This higher authoritative is then referred as "National Government". There is also a scholar who elaborates his/her scientific details related to the occurred disaster. This scholar is then referred as "Expert" in the analysis. Finally, the men behind the disaster reporting who are responsible to the information and messages of the news are referred as "Journalist".

Based on the analyzed data, it is found that "Disasters" tend to be represented as highly activated, specified, individuated, determinate, indifferenciated and associated actors. In addition, the actions are attributed to them are instrumental transactive material, activated, agentialized and concretization actions. Moreover, the sufferers tend to be highly subjected, generic, assimilated (collectivized and aggregated), determinate, indifferenciated, categorized based on ethnics and associated actors. The actions attributed to them are non transactive material, activated, agentialized and concretization actions. The reactions attribute to the sufferers tends to be negative emotions such as "fear" and "panic".

Furthermore, the local governments tends to be highly activated, specified, individuated (when taking the role of head of government), assimilated (when taking the role as the rescue and medical team), indifferenciated, associated, nominated (when taking the role of head of government), functionalized (when taking the role as

the rescue and medical team). The actions that attributed to them are interactive and instrumental material, quotation non behavioral semiotic, activated, agentialized and concretization. Additionally, the reactions attributed to them tends to be cognitive such as "consider", "think" and negative emotion such as "fear" and "panic".

Fear is, then constructed by representing disasters as the mighty entities but fearful and destructive (personalized, highly activated, specified, identified by their mighty and fearful physical appearances). They are attributed to instrumental transactive instrumental material actions that mostly damage the human infrastructures and interactive material actions that cause human death and injury. Moreover, the sufferers are represented by the journalists as the victims of disasters' "destructive actions" (highly subjected, personalized, categorized based on their origins and ethics). The sufferers are also distanced away from the readers (generalized) meaning that they are only a horde and statistics of disasters victim (collectivized and aggregated).

The scheme to frame disasters as mighty yet dangerous entities are also strengthen by the reactions to sufferers, local and national governments. Most reactions attributed to them are negative reactions such as "fear" and panic. It occurs because "as the power of social actions decrease, the amount of emotive reactions to them increase (van Leeuwen (2008:56)"

The notion to represent disasters as the recognizable and dangerous threats is also supported by the elaboration of scientific facts about the disasters. Experts'

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elaborations tend to be semiotic quotation action to enhance the credibility of disaster embedded representations (van Leewen, 2008).

However, when there is evil, there are always good. The ones that play the role as "heroes" in the construction of fear in the texts under investigation are local and national government. They took two roles: a) when they are individuated, nominated (formalization or imformalization) and functionalization as the "the man in charge", they play as the head government who control the rescue and medical team b) when they are assimilated (collectivized/aggregated), functionalized, they play as the rescue and medical teams that come to disasters sites. Local and governments actions are also instrumental and interactive material actions just like disasters' actions. However, their actions tend be represented in more positive way since their actions are used to help disaster victims.

5.2. Suggestions for Further Research

The study of fear is a frutitful and fascinating to investigate. For further research, the study suggests three ideas to expand the study of fear. First, the future researchers can enlarge the scopes of the research by utilizing more or different objects such us printed media, advertisements and film about fear. Second, the further investigation of other sources of fear is encouraged such as crime, terrorism, mass-chaos or even the slimming and skin whitening ads. Third, the use of different tools for the analysis is also such as systemic functional linguistics, an appraisal system or

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multi modal analysis tool is also possible. All the future research are expected to

present the deeper and complete understanding of fear, humans and their society.