CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general introduction to the study. This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, research methodology, clarification of the key term, and organization of the paper.

1.1   Background of the Study

People as language users always produce texts in their daily lives. When they use the language in order to communicate something or to convey meaning to others, they have made a text. It indicates that the text represents the meaning and perspective of the people (Barry, 1995). One of the texts that is produced by people is written text. A number of people produce the written texts with different ideas and perspectives that exist in those texts. Every writer wants to convey the message through his text that is produced. One of the written texts that caries thousands ideas, perspectives, knowledge and ideologies is a newspaper.

Newspaper always contains the knowledge (Van Dijk, 2004). The journalists need to understand news event when they want to write and report the news. In order to understand the news event, the journalists have to know what the previous knowledge of the world is, what the nature of the knowledge is and how it is acquired and mentally represented. Besides, journalists usually know much more about the news event than they write in the newspaper. In order to satisfy the editor and publisher who hire them, the journalist will select what knowledge to

include, and what knowledge to exclude from their news reports (Van Dijk, 2004; Hermawan, 2007).

Relating to the newspaper, there are several studies investigating how newspaper reports shape opinion, for example Kahn and Kenney work (2002), and Popkin and Kabashima work (n.d). Kahn and Kenny (2002), in their study, finds that news reports will shape opinion of the readers. They examined newspaper coverage of more than 60 senatorial campaign across three election years, and find that information on news pages is slanted in order to change citizens' views of candidates. Popkin and Kabashima (n.d) are also interested in the content of news. They examine content of news in different media. They find that different media have different political position and gives different effects to citizens. They also find that when the available news for citizens changes, the ways they judge their government also changes. It means that media has a great role to shape the world view of the readers (Hermawan, 2007).

Nowadays, there are so many publishers who produce newspapers. Those newspapers are produced in different places, situations, and angles of looking at the topics that carry a lot of information which may or may not be accurate to influent the readers' opinion and perspectives with their selected information.

For those reasons above, this study analyzes how *The Jakarta Post,* a most-read English Newspaper reports, hence, presents the news on bribery cases. The present study focuses on news involving Democratic Party Treasurer, Nazaruddin who has allegedly given some money to Constitutional Court Secretary-general Gaffar.

By doing this kind of analysis, the study intends to investigate how the case was reported, how the participants were represented in the news, and what meaning can be constructed from the news.

1.2   Research Questions

The study is geared towards answering the following questions:

1. How is Nazaruddin's bribery attempt case reported in *The Jakarta Post* in term of *news schemata*?

2. How are the major participants represented in the texts?

3. What meanings can be constructed from the texts?

1.3   Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are:

1. To describe *The Jakarta Post* ways in reporting the case in term of *news schemata*.

2. To describe how the major participants are represented in the text.

3. To uncover meanings constructed from texts.

1.4   Methodology of the Research

The study is largely qualitative. It investigated the phenomenon in the form of how the Nazarudin's bribery case was reported in texts, how the participants were represented in the texts, and what meanings can be constructed from the texts. The study also employs textual analysis. The selected news were

critically read, and word, phrases and clauses which serve of the data were categorized. Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Approach (2009) has been used as the main frame work to analyze the data. However, descriptive quantification is also employed in this study. It is used to support the quality of descriptions and to make better understanding of the study. Besides, it is also used to increase validity and reliability of the study (Alwasilah, 2011).

1.4.1   Data Collection

The data of the study are in the form of words, phrases or clauses critically selected to answer the research questions. The data are collected from *The Jakarta Post* headline news from 21st to 25th of May, 2011. The subject matter of the data is concerning Nazaruddin's bribery case. The data consist of five texts. The texts are sorted from 21st to 25th of May as follows:

1. "Lawmaker 'tried to bribe court official'", May 21, 2011.

2. "KPK hesitant about investigating Nazaruddin", May 22, 2011.

3. "Mahfud lashes out at Dems over gratuity claim", May 23, 2011.

4. "Dems ax Nazaruddin to save face, published on May 24, 2011

5. "Mahfud officially reports Nazaruddin to KPK," May 25, 2011.

1.4.2   Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed by using Sociocognitive Approach proposed by Van Dijk (2009). The data were mainly categorized into three levels, namely, *macrostructure*s, *superstructures*, and *microstructures*. These levels will be

elaborated more in Chapter 2. After being categorized, the data were classified into more specific terms, such as *macropropositions*, *propositions*, *news schemata*, participant, *communicative roles*, *occupational roles*, and positive-negative representation. Next, the classified data were examined and discussed based on its quality and quantity to gain the description and conclusion, and finally the results hopefully can answer the research questions.

1.5 Clarification of the Key Terms

To guide the analysis, there are a number of terms that have to be defined in this study. The followings are essential key terms used in this study:

1. Discourse Analysis (DA):

Discourse analysis is an approach to the analysis of language that looks patterns of language across text as well as the social and cultural contexts in which the texts occur (Paltridge, 2006).

2. Ideology:

Ideology is the fundamental beliefs of a group and its members (Van Dijk, 2005)

3. Knowledge:

Knowledge is sociocultural beliefs that are shared and certified by the criteria or standards of a community (Van Dijk, 2009).

4. Major participant:

Major participant is the participant who appears more frequently than other participants.

5. Participant:

Participant is thing or people that act in various roles (Van Dijk, 2005).

6. Text:

Text is the concrete realization of abstract forms of knowledge (Wodak & Meyer, 2009)

7. Theme or Topic:

Theme is what discourse is globally about (Van Dijk, 2009).

8. The Jakarta Post:

The Jakarta Post is online version of the largest English newspaper in Indonesia.

1.6 Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 contains of research background, research questions, aims of research, research methodology, clarification of the key terms, and organization of the paper. Chapter 2 discusses a review of related literature. This chapter covers a number of important concepts of discourse, Discourse Analysis (DA), and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Chapter 3 presents the theoretical and methodological framework guiding this study. This chapter consists of research questions, research design, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter 4 consists of findings and discussion. Here, the data were explored, identified and examined. The final chapter is Chapter 5 that covers the interpretation toward the result of the study in a form of conclusion and suggestion related to the research.