

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research design, data collection, data analysis, research procedure, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of Study

A Critical Discourse Analysis has been one of the approaches in discourse study that contributes to the social issues. According to Rogers (2004, in Paltridge, 2006), Critical Discourse Analysis, in a way, is often related to the social issues for example race, politics, gender, identity, media, and some other social issues. It is also supported by Paltridge (2006 p.180) that those issues both “constructed and reflected” in texts. Texts, at least in Critical Discourse Analysis, should be interpreted as the representation of social practice (Leeuwen, 2008).

In the relation to “text” and “discourse”, nowadays, the term “discourse” can be defined and understood differently by different people. The experts of Critical Discourse Analysis also have their own interpretation of the term “discourse”. Wodak and Meyer (2009 p.144) explained that in often times, ‘discourse’ can mean “speech or writing, or text.” Then, it is further explained that Critical Discourse Analysis is the analysis of text. Slightly different from Wodak and Meyer, Fairclough (2003 p.27-29) takes “text” as a part of discourse. He interpreted discourse as “the entire process of social interaction” while text can be both the product and the source of the process.

The main concern of the study is to see how the social actors are represented in text and what social actions are attributed to it. Therefore, in conducting the present study, the writer takes the perspective of van Leeuwen (2008) that text can be taken as the representation of social practices. The study also takes the perspective of Paltridge (2006) that text, in Critical Discourse

Analysis, is one of a tool of communication that is closely related to social practice, which means that the relationship between text and social practice is interdependent; the text that we produce, written or spoken, construct the social practice and is also constructed by social practice. These social practices consist of some elements, and one of them is participants or social actors. These social actors need to exist in a social practice and they have each certain role (Leeuwen, 2008).

In relation to this, Wodak and Meyer (2009) also explained that social actors have their roles in a social practice, for each; they may participate as agents, patients, or beneficiaries. However, some of these social actors are not being mentioned clearly in the text and if they are mentioned, some may be clear, others may not be.

The critical analysis of social actors in texts has become one of major points of analysis in critical discourse analysis. For example, a study conducted by Sahragard and Davatgarzadeh (2010) analyzed the linguistic representation of male and female social actors and the construction of gender identities. This study found that there is a different representation of social actors where females are portrayed as more prominent, successful, active, independent, expressive and assertive compare to males. Another study was conducted by Labarta and Dolón (2005). This study looked into the construction of identity and the exclusion in related to discourse practice of resistance. This study found that there are two different representations of social agents. Another one was conducted by Rashidi and Rasti (2012). The study adopted van Leeuwen's system network of social actors and investigated the morpho-semantic modes through which social actors implicated in the newspaper articles. It found the patterns emerging from the categories of van Leeuwen's model of system network of social actors in Western news reports that forms an ideological bias towards Iranian side. Meanwhile a study by Post (2009) revealed the effects of different discourse structure on the use of different mental processes. Wenden (2005) looked into the political struggle, such as the struggle for the power representation. She also looked into

the characterization of the actors, their actions, and the events of the conflict in the articles posted in the website of the conflicting country. Her study found that the ideology, the characterizations of the actors, the actions, and also the events are related to the conflict.

This present study investigates the representation of social actor/s in online newspaper articles. It aims to investigate how the social actors were represented in the articles concerning the flood in Jakarta and what social actions were contributed to them. In uncovering the representation, the study uses the theory of representing social actors (Sociosemantic inventory) proposed by Theo van Leeuwen (2008).

1.2 Research Questions

The study is geared towards answering the following research questions:

1. How are social actors represented in the news?
2. What social actions are attributed to the social actors as evidence in the news?
3. What do the representations signify?

1.3 Aims of Study

1. To analyze the way social actors are represented in the news.
2. To analyze kind of social actions attributed to the social actors.
3. To reveal the signification of the representations in the news.

1.4 Scope of Study

This present study is limited to investigate only the way social actors are represented in the news, what social actions are attributed to the social actors in the news, and the signification of the representation revealed from the analysis. The social actors are limited to the significant actors found in the analysis. This study analyses nine articles concerning the flood in Jakarta posted by *centroone.com* between 17 January 2013 and 27 January 2013.

1.5 Research Methodology

1.5.1 Research Design

The present study uses a qualitative approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor (in Muhammad, 2011), qualitative method is a method that “produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and their behavior”. This phenomenon of people was then analyzed from its elements, which are the participants, events, background, and time. This study investigates the phenomenon in the form of how social actors are represented in the news and what kind of social actions are attributed to the social actors as evidenced in the news.

1.5.2 Data Collection

The data were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences critically selected from an online newspaper, *centroone.com*. The nine articles were selected because those are articles that present an in-dept report about the flood in Jakarta since it started in 17 January 2013.

The nine articles are consisted of one article posted on 17 January 2013 entitled “Banjir Karena Masyarakat Tak Peduli Lingkungan”, one article on 18 January 2013 entitled “Banjir Jakarta Momentum Baik Pindah Ibu Kota”, one article on 19 January 2013 entitled “Jakarta Banjir, Jokowi Ogah Disalahkan Sendiri”, one article on 20 January 2013 entitled “Banjir Jakarta Adalah Musibah Bencana Nasional”, two articles on 21 January 2013 entitled “Banjir di Jakarta, ini Usul Marzuki Alie” and “Marzuki Alie Sayangkan BNPB Tak Aktif Bantu Korban Banjir”, one article on 24 January 2013 entitled “Marzuki: Korban Banjir Tanggung Jawab Kemensos Dan BNPB”, and two articles on 26 January 2013 entitled “DPR Minta BNPB Minimalisir Efek Bencana Banjir” and “27 Januari Jakarta Banjir Lagi, BNPB Lepas Tangan”.

1.5.3 Data Analysis

Meyza Pritama, 2014

social actors in flood in jakartaa critical discourse analysis

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

The collected data were then broken down into sentences to see the participants in each sentence. Then, it was continued by classifying the variables of representation of social actors based on the theory of Representing Social Actors as proposed by van Leeuwen (2008) which draws on the sociosemantic inventory. These steps were the foundation to answer the research questions proposed in this study.

In conducting the study, the following steps were taken.

1. Choosing the topic of the study.
2. Choosing the articles from an online newspaper centroone.com.
3. Transcribing the articles from the website in the form of Ms. Word.
4. Reading the articles thoroughly in order to understand the content.
5. Breaking down the data into sentences in order to see the participants and actions clearly.
6. Classifying the aspects according to the theory of representation of social actor (the social actor network) by van Leeuwen (2008).
7. Analyzing the data using the theory of representing social actors proposed by Theo van Leeuwen (2008) to see how the sociosemantic inventory in which the social actors are represented and what social actions are included into the processes.
8. Making conclusion from the analysis of the representation.
9. Presenting the result using descriptive method to describe how the social actors are represented in the text and what actions are contributed to them.

1.6 Organization of Paper

The study paper is organized in five chapters. Each chapter includes each subtopic which explains the detail explanation related to the study. It begins with the introduction as the first chapter. This chapter includes the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and the organization of the paper. Then it is continued by Theoretical Framework as the second chapter. This chapter includes

the theoretical review which provides the basic theories in conducting the study. The third chapter is the Research Methodology. This chapter includes the research design, data collection, and data analysis of the study. The fourth chapter is Findings and Discussion. This chapter presents the analysis and the result of the study. The fifth chapter is Conclusion and Suggestion. This last chapter includes the interpretation revealed according to the analysis and result of the study. This part is arranged in the form of conclusion and suggestion.

