Chapter V

Conclusions and Suggestions

This last chapter presents the final section of the study. It includes the conclusion and suggestion for future study. The conclusion section answers to several questions and the interpretation of the study. Meanwhile the suggestion section presents some advices for the future studies.

5.1 Conclusions

This study has investigated the representation of social actors in relation to the event of flood in Jakarta in 2013 in nine articles from an online newspaper, centroone.com. This study reveals how the social actors are represented in the texts and what social actions are contributed to the actors. The study applied the theory of representing social actors by van Leeuwen (2008), by categorizing the actors and the actions done in relation to the event based on the Sociosemantic inventory using the social actor network and social action network. It reveals the role allocation of the actors which leads to the interpretation of the representation of social actors in the texts.

The result of the analysis shows that the social actors are represented in 6 ways: proper names, pronouns, titles, institutions, general groups, and nouns. After the 6 ways are classified, there are 3 social actors who appear as the significant actors in relation to the flood in Jakarta in 2013, namely Joko Widodo, BNPB, and the citizens.

Joko Widodo is represented through the use of proper names “Joko Widodo”/“Jokowi”, social titles “Gubernur DKI Jakarta”/“Gubernur”/“Gubernur DKI”/“pimpinan wilayah ibu kota”, and institutions/organizations “Pemda DKI”/“pemprov DKI”/“pemerintah DKI”. The appearance of Joko Widodo
through the use of proper names tends to inform the readers about “Joko Widodo” as the governor of Jakarta and to show intimacy between Joko Widodo and the citizens. Joko Widodo who is represented through the use of social titles tends to inform the readers about the function of Joko Widodo related to the flood in Jakarta. He as the governor of Jakarta is the most significant actor because he is the one who leads the government of Jakarta. Further, Joko Widodo who is represented through the use of institutions/organizations indicates the work performed by Joko Widodo as a person and the work performed by the government of Jakarta as the institution. Joko Widodo is the actor who talks as the governor and as the representative of the government.

The second significant actor is BNPB. BNPB is represented through the use of proper noun “BNPB”, proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi”, and general groups “badan khusus” and “lembaga-lembaga terkait”. The proper noun “BNPB” is the acronym of Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana. It represents a national institution of disaster tackling in Indonesia. Through the use of proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi”, the articles inform the readers the actor related to the flood in Jakarta. Proper names “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi” inform a person related to the flood in Jakarta; Medi Herliyanto as the head of BNPB. Slightly the same as the representation of Joko Widodo, BNPB represented through “Medi Herliyanto”/“Medi” indicates the work performed by BNPB because Medi talks on behalf of BNPB. BNPB is also represented through the use of general groups. It does not give any specific information about BNPB. It informs that BNPB is included into a kind of institutions/organizations which is formed by group of people with a function.

The last significant actor related to the flood in Jakarta is the citizens. The citizens are represented through the use of general groups; “warga”/“masyarakat”/“rakyat”, “korban banjir/korban”, and “ibu-ibu”. From the analysis, the representation of citizens indicates the people related to the flood as the citizens/society and the flood victims.
5.2 Suggestion

This study analyzed the representation of social actors by using the theory of social actor network and social action network by van Leeuwen (2008). It analyzed the role of the actors in the articles by looking at the actors’ role categorizations and the categorizations of the actions that are attributed to the actors.

The future study should analyzed more of the elements of social practice than only the social actors and the actions attributed to them. There are several elements that van Leeuwen (2008) offers such as the location, time, or performance mode of a social practice. The future study would be better if it analyzes the whole elements of social practices proposed by van Leeuwen (2008) to get the better interpretation of the existence of representation in the texts. By analyzing more elements of social practices, the study would be more convincing in revealing the signification because the other elements can give more views to the social actors.

Then, the data of present study were taken from one source only (centroone.com). In future studies, the data can be derived from more than one online media to give different side of view to the event. To be taken as an example is to compare articles from centroone.com as the member of VIVA group with the articles from okezone.com as the member of MNC group. This may lead to wider results and may give same view to strengthen the interpretation, or may give different view to offer another interpretation of the event.

Furthermore, the researcher hopes that this study can help the readers to advance more in obtaining and absorbing the information taken from mass media. Therefore the readers can include the meaning beyond the information despite only accept the words given.