

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter elaborates methodology applied in the research on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). A number of supporting aspects are described thoroughly concerning the research processes. They cover formulation of problems, research design and analytical framework. Furthermore, adopting the framework of ‘Representing Social Actions’ by van Leeuwen (2008), it includes the data collections and sample analysis regarding to representation of social actions, the core of social practices. Thus, either aims or objects of the research are eventually provided.

#### **3.1. Formulation of Problems**

The research problems are formulated in the following questions:

1. How are social actors represented through social actions on online *USA Today* and *Tripoli Post*?
2. What are social actions attributed to US Alliances on online *USA Today* and *Tripoli Post*?

#### **3.2. Research Design**

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative, intended at describing the use of discourse to represent certain tendencies on certain events in two different newspapers. The focus of the method lies on the ‘philosophy, concepts, data gathering procedures and statistical methods’ (Given, 2008, p.699) so that it is employed due to its appropriateness and support on the critical discourse analysis as the framework of the analysis. It is coherent with the aim of the research, which is analyzing written materials or documentary analysis. Also, it reveals the subtlety and complexity of cases or issues since theory is generated from the empirical data, and consequently there is ‘closeness of fit’ between theory

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and data (Woods, 2006). It is supported by Yin (1994), who argued that it is applied to dismantle the 'how' and 'why'.

To complete the employment of the method, descriptive method is applied due to its nature of gathering information about the occurring phenomenon in testing hypotheses and answering the related questions (Creswell, 1994). Thus, it is capable of describing the 2011 War in Libya as the recent existing phenomenon to investigate.

The above methods facilitate the research to concern on the framework of representing social actions as one of analytical tools in CDA in order to discover the representations of 2011 War in Libya, the tendencies conveyed by *USA Today* and *The Tripoli Post* both in presenting the war and the position of US Alliances. According to van Leeuwen (2008), CDA can be conceptualized through representing the core element of social practices, a set of actions (Wodak, 2009, p.148). Thus, the elements of social actions are investigated to find the relation between actual texts, discursive practices and social contexts that influence.

The further delineations of data collection and analysis are presented below.

### **3.3. Data Collection**

The data were collected from *USA Today* and *The Tripoli Post* published from March to May 2011. Selected articles were on the hypotheses that they have different points of view concerning 2011 war in Libya. In addition, several related specific tendentious information were provided at each. Three articles of each were selected as the materials to analyze. Both papers are retrieved from <http://www.usatoday.com> and <http://www.tripolipost.com>. The selected articles are presented on the following figure:

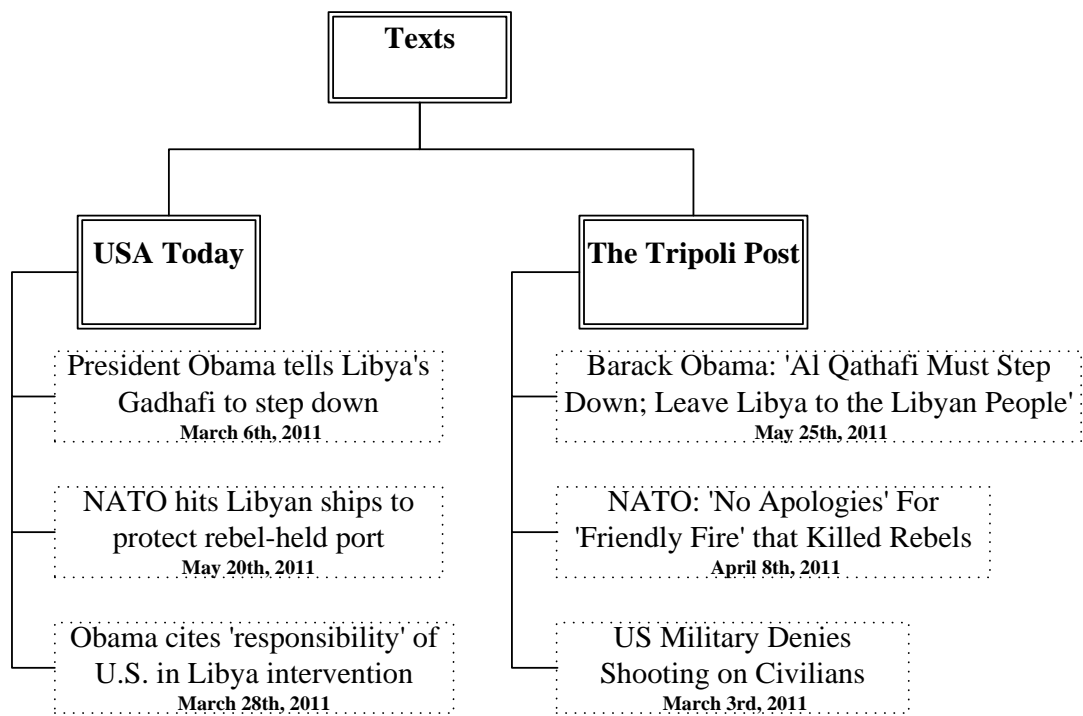


Figure 3.1. Selected research corpus

### 3.4. Data Analysis

In analyzing the content of the data, the research applies the analytical framework of representing social actions as an analytical tool of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), offered by van Leeuwen (2008) on his *Discourse and Practice*. Building on what Halliday (1956) proposes—transitivity (Systemic Functional Grammar), he develops a categorization of elements of social practices (action, participant, presentation styles, time, location, resources of tool and material and eligibility condition). Out of those elements, social actions are the core (Wodak, 2009, p.148) to be represented in a text on the newspapers as the research sources.

Sequentially, there are three series of steps in analyzing the representation of social actions in the online newspaper discourse. The first step concerns close

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reading of the selected texts—online USA Today and The Tripoli Post) to identify the social actions through the frame of social action network (See in Chapter 2: Figure 2.2. Social Actions Network).

Total number and type of social actions that were discovered include reactions and actions, in which the former consists of three types; affective, perceptive and cognitive. The latter are constituted by material and semiotic actions that can be transactive or nontransactive among the social actors.

It is followed by the next step, dealing with the transformations of the above social actions. They can be identified based on their four main form (See Chapter 2: Figure 2.2. Social Actions Network) covering deactivation (objectivation and descriptivization), deagentialization (eventuation, existentialization and naturalization), abstraction (generalization and distillation) and overdetermination (symbolization and inversion). Those series lead to the different interpretation between each text, so that the relation between actual texts, discursive practices and social contexts is investigated.

Essentially, in this research, preferred forms of social action performed by US Alliances regarding the 2011 War in Libya can be discovered.

The following scheme illuminates details of data sets drawn from a sample text based on the formulation of problems.

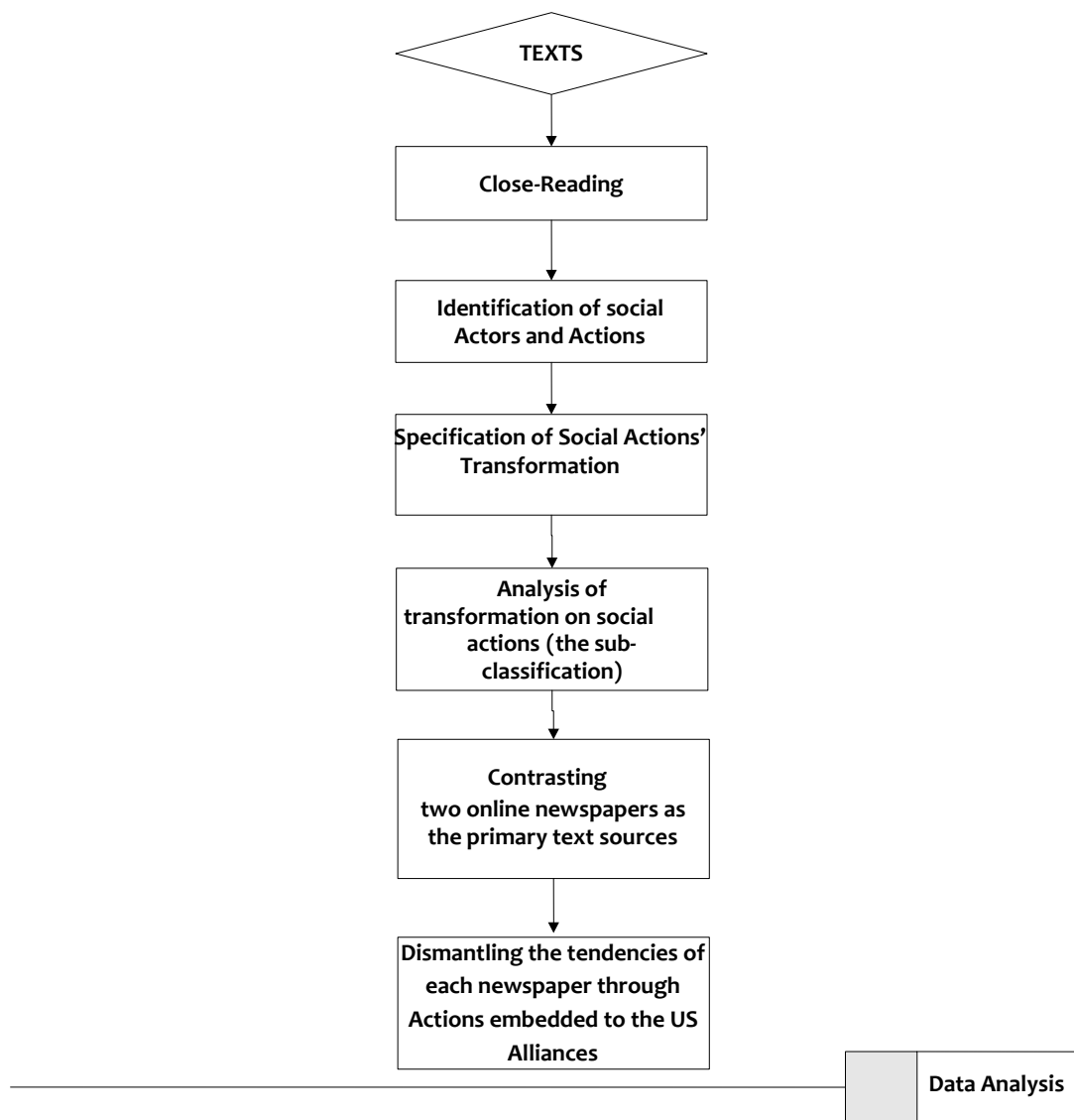


Figure 3.2. Detailed Scheme on Data Analysis

Table 3.1. below presents the initial analysis of social actions on each article of both newspapers based on van Leeuwen's categories on social action network. It consists of four main columns. The first column presents clause complexes of

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each article under discussions (See Appendices) based on the sequence of sentences. The second and third column covers the realization of actions (material or semiotic; transactive or nontransactive) and reactions (specified; affective-perceptive-cognitive or unspecified) embedded. The last column illuminates the transformation occur on those social actions. Some abbreviations are used to shorten the terms of each type of transformation:

DeAct.	Deactivation
O	Objectivation
Desc.	Descriptivization
DeAgt.	Deagentialization
Ev.	Eventuation
N	Naturalization
Ex.	Existentialization
Abs.	Abstraction
G	Generalization
Dist.	Distillation
OverDet.	Overdetermination
S	Symbolization
I	Inversion

Further depictions on findings and discussions of the research are provided in the next chapter.

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Table 3.1. The Initial Analysis

No	Sentences	Actions		Reactions		Transformations									
		Material	Semiotic	Unspecified	Specified	DeAct		DeAgt			Abs		Over Det		
						O	Desc	Ev	N	Ex	G	Dist	S	I	
T I T L E	President Obama tells Libya's Gaddafi to <u>step down</u>	<i>step down</i> (nontransactive)													
			<i>Tells</i> (transactive-interactive)												
1	President Obama <u>delivered</u> what he <u>called</u> a "very unambiguous" <u>message</u> to Libyan <u>dictator</u> Moammar Gaddafi on Thursday: <u>Step down</u> from power and <u>leave</u>	<i>Step down</i> (nontransactive)													
		<i>...leave</i> (nontransactive)													
			<i>Delivered</i> (transactive-instrumental)												
			<i>Called</i> (transactive-instrumental)												
			<i>Message</i> (transactive-interactive)			X									
			<i>Dictator</i> (nontransactive)			X									
2	He also <u>warned</u> those <u>carrying out</u> Gaddafi's orders that they <u>will be held accountable</u> for their <u>actions</u>	<i>carrying out</i> (transactive-instrumental)													
		<i>will be held accountable for</i> (nontransactive)						X							