

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study discusses the news of Iran's nuclear program in the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). Findings and discussion of research that have been presented in the previous chapter are the basis in formulating conclusions in this chapter. The depiction of the parties, both institutions and figures, as the actors or in the actions in the discourse and ideology behind their depictions become the main points presented in this chapter to answer the research questions.

5.1 Conclusions

This study examines three research problems, i.e. (1) how the Iran's nuclear program is depicted in the official media of Iran; (2) the ideology of the official Iranian media toward Iran's nuclear program; and (3) the functions of the ideology in pursuing political interests. This study reveals the following findings.

First, IRIB has a tendency to be on the pro side of Iran's nuclear program. Overall, the analysis of texts, both at the level of exclusion and inclusion, have shown that the IRIB represent the leaders of Iran and its nuclear program support in the images and portrayals are more appreciative than the depiction of the counter. The texts in the news much influenced conservative representations of Iran and the positive role of the characters in the nuclear problems they are facing. Predicate "Islamic countries oppressed by the West", which traditionally attached

to Iran, it is possible to be a motive that triggered reporting with these texts. This is reinforced by an analysis of the social context, which shows that, directly, IRIB is owned by the Government of Iran. This allows for access to IRIB news better for Iran, rather than to the party opposing the nuclear program.

Secondly, ideology that is the background of IRIB news is conservative ideology that favors the maintenance of traditional values and the hegemony of the Iranian government as "the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran" which is based on Shiite Islamic Sharia. In this case, traditional value in question is the role of Iran as an Islamic state in modern times. It appears that the maintenance of traditional values is not contrary to the values of democracy because it is placed in a very special place in the governance of the association in the world. Traditional values of this also, historically, never disturb the order of harmony with European countries in a broader international scale because it is just a concept. However, the real focus of attention of the world community is the transparency of the nuclear program that is often obscured by the process of abstraction in IRIB news.

Thirdly, IRIB tends to emphasize its Islamic ideology. IRIB tendency can be clearly seen how the IRIB functions their news as a means to establish their political interest, especially the representation of the Iranian and the West in the news.

From the three conclusions that are the answers of the statements of this study, at least, three things become the broader implications. First, through this study, CDA is able to reveal the ideology behind the IRIB news related to Iran's nuclear program discourse. As we have discussed, the foundations of critical

theory, the power relations, shape the social, cultural, economic, and political ways in which groups or certain people are treated, and how they generate ideologically texts (Pennycook 1997: 23). Then the CDA function indicates inequality in access to information and it has been proven. It can certainly provide benefits to the reader, society in general, to be able to interpret a piece of literature with a more critical manner, namely by mastery of the CDA.

Second, the media has a great role as a major source of ideological attitudes and knowledge of today's society; both elite and ordinary class (van Dijk, 1997). IRIB news then predisposed to certain parties can indirectly lead to the society opinion and ideology that are in the text. The implication is that the preservation of traditional values and primordial can continue to survive in a society, are being faced with rapid global change. In sociological glasses, people who cannot align with the value system and the system is highly vulnerable to changes in the risk of dropping civilization (Soemardjan, 1962).

Third, this conclusion also confirms that society needs to be made aware that the information they get is not completely neutral and free from access to certain groups who are more dominant and have interests related to the discourse.

5.2 Suggestions

This study shows the importance of the CDA in encouraging people to think critically in addressing current issues. Critical thinking will allow society to be able to identify the ideologies embedded in news texts, a discourse, to assess them objectively.

It would be better if future studies expand the sample of the studied mass media, for example by using a comparison of the pros media and cons media. It is expected that the results of such studies will be more varied and representative. Research in the domain of CDA would also be more challenging when combined with Cultural Studies Analysis (CSA-Cultural Studies Analysis), so the results are not only discussing ideology, but also cultural practices that are related to the ideology.

This research uses the analytical framework van Leeuwen. Therefore, it is better if similar studies in the future may use other analytical frameworks, such as Fowler (1979), van Dijk (1989), or Fairclough (1998). Future research could also use some frameworks at the same time, to compare the results for the effort to be more explicit and objective in uncovering ideology.

Furthermore, of the three broader implications in the conclusion, then there are three other suggestions related to the three implications. First, because the CDA ability in exposing the ideology has been proven through various studies, the CDA needs to be taught broadly to the various levels of society. Moreover, the CDA itself has a capacity of cross-disciplinary study. By understanding the CDA, society will be better able to address and understand how power relations shape the social, cultural, economic, and political ways. CDA function in indicating inequality in access and to information is very beneficial. It is also important to look for a more populist way, not just theoretical, so that people have a higher interest to study CDA, for example, through the medium of film, novel, or even a comic, not only through textbooks that can be boring.

Secondly, because media has a great role as a major source of ideological attitudes and knowledge of today's society, both elite and ordinary class (van Dijk, 1997), then the media should be given emphasis in order to be better able to reduce, if not impossible to eliminate, tendency to certain interests. They also should reduce tendency to, directly or indirectly, lead the society opinion and a certain ideology through their written texts. Public has rights to access information that is clear and balanced.

Third, society should be given absolute awareness to be able to filter the information with a critical mind. Thus, people may act in rational, rather than emotional, and logical manners. In addition, the critical power will also be able to free society from the domination of certain groups who use the mass media to personal or primordial interests.

5.3 Closing

In essence, the results of a study of CDA requires the realization of social and tangible actions that benefit the society (van Dijk, 1998), because knowledge of the critical capabilities that are the main objective of understanding the CDA are the right of every member of society. It is expected that this thesis can be the inspiration for the efforts of such contributions.