

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general introduction to the study which covers background of the research, research questions, purposes of the research, significance of the research, research methods, data collection, data analysis, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Research

In the early of 2015, Indonesians were surprised by the sudden arrest of Bambang Widjojanto, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) commissioner, more precisely on 23 January 2015 in Depok, West Java by the National Police's (POLRI) detective division. He was accused of ordering a witness to commit perjury at the Constitutional Court in 2010 in a regional election dispute case in Waringin Barat, Central Kalimantan. The forced summons surprised the public as, according to Article 122 of the KUHAP, that move can only be carried out if a suspect fails to show up for a previous summons (thejakartapost.com). What surprises people was that the arrest seems to be fictitious and engineered. The arrest was believed as another move to attack the antigraft body after its bold moves to name top cop candidate Comr. Gen. Budi Gunawan as a suspect in a bribery case.

This case was frequently reported in mass media. Mass media has become a part of our daily life. It provides us a lot of information and has become a primary source of what is happening around the world. Media text guides the reader's interpretations about certain issues (Langer, 1998). The idea, issue or personality that are presented in the media will influence how people think about that issue or personality (Tettah and King, 2011). It is because media power is generally symbolic and persuasive, in the sense that the media has a potential to control mind of readers or viewers, but not directly their actions (Van Dijk, 1995 as cited

in Paletz & Vinson, 1996). One of the media texts that present the sudden arrest of Bambang Widjojanto is newspaper.

Newspaper contains some news or articles about various issues. The writer of the articles published in newspaper must have an ideology or intention in writing his/her articles. In line with that, Fiske (1994 as cited in Langer, 1998) said that our words are never neutral; they carry power or ideology that reflects the speaker or writer's concern. In media world, there is no news report which is ideologically neutral, transparent or 'innocent' (Olowe, 1993 as cited in Taiwo, 2007). Here, a newspaper editor or writer plays a significant role in shaping readers' interpretation about certain issue through the articles they have written (Henry & Tator, 2002 as cited in Taiwo, 2007). Although readers will interpret media texts according to their own lifeworld and experiences, the text itself still influences their interpretations (Grice, 1979 as cited in Langer, 1998). Therefore, as the reader of media texts, we have to be critically aware about the use of language because it shares ideology and power (van Dijk, 1998 as cited in Taiwo, 2007).

Regarding the fact that media texts can influence readers' interpretation, this research attempts to understand the case of Bambang Widjojanto arrest as reported in *The Jakarta Post* from the perspective of Critical Discourse analysis, relies on Van Dijk's Sociocognitive involving microstructure level to see the representation of the major participants.

There have been some studies that analyze representation in newspaper using sociocognitive approach in CDA. First, Khaghaninezhad and Rostami (2014) investigated "gender representation" in two English newspapers. Second, KhosraviNik (2008) analyzed the representation of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants (RASIM) between 1996 and 2006 in British newspapers. Third, a study that investigates a representation in newspaper has also done by Shojaei, Youssef, and Hosseini (2013). This study is aimed to find how three cases of ideologically conflicting ideas, which are Iran Nuclear Program, Iran Sanctions, and Syria Crisis, are interpreted and represented in western printed media using Van Dijk's (1998) socio-cognitive approach and Fairclough's (1995) approach.

Lastly, a study was conducted by Nurianti (2014) to find the representation of two Indonesian Islamist Organizations, The Islamic Defenders Front (*Front Pembela Islam*) and Islamic Society Forum (*Forum Umat Islam*) in *The Jakarta Post* articles.

However, there have not been many studies that focus on the representation of major participants involved in news articles with the focus on the level of microstructure in Van Dijk's sociocognitive approach, especially in Indonesia. This study, thus, will accordingly be conducted to address this gap. For this purpose, this study will investigate the representation of major participants in Bambang Widjojanto arrest. The data will be taken from five articles in *The Jakarta Post* related to the case.

1.2 Research Questions

More specifically, this research is focused on the following research questions:

1. Who are the major participants in Bambang Widjojanto's case?
2. How are the major participants represented in the articles?
3. What meanings can be constructed from the representation?

1.3 Purposes of The Research

Based on the research questions stated above, there are three objectives of the research:

1. To reveal the major participants of Bambang Widjojanto arrest.
2. To describe how the major participants of Bambang Widjojanto arrest are represented in the articles.
3. To uncover meanings constructed in the representation.

1.4 Significance of The Research

Theoretically, this research is expected to provide more knowledge about the ideology of *The Jakarta Post* in presenting the major participants of Bambang Widjojanto arrest in their articles. Practically, the result of this research is expected to trigger critical awareness of the reader in reading some articles, especially about politics.

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THE REPRESENTATION OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN BAMBANG WIDJOJANTO'S ARREST IN *THE JAKARTA POST* ARTICLES: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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1.5 Research Methods

This research largely employ qualitative method as it analyzes and describes the representation of major participants of Bambang Widjojanto's arrest in *The Jakarta Post's* articles. Qualitative analysis is based on careful analysis of the sources of the material and contain explicit presentation of the researcher's understanding. Furthermore, qualitative analysis has to consider others' perspectives and it has to be open towards re-interpretations (Mayring, 1983 as cited in Langer, 1998). Besides, qualitative research helps the researchers in understanding the meaning people have constructed, how people make sense of their world and the experiences they have in the world (Merriam, 2009 as cited in Guest, Emily, & Marilyn, 2013).

In answering the research questions, this research conducts textual analysis. The data are analyzed using sociocognitive approach proposed by van Dijk (2009) as the main framework. The analysis focuses on microstructure level.

1.6 Data Collection

The data are collected from five articles about the arrest of Bambang Widjojanto in *The Jakarta Post*. The data are taken from the articles regarding the topic published in the early of 2015, from 24 January to 1 February 2015. This period is selected because it was the first week of Bambang Widjojanto arrest. Therefore, this case became the headline news in many mass media, included *The Jakarta Post* on that particular period. The data are taken from the following online sources:

1. "KPK: The arrest related to Gen. Budi's suspect status", 24 January 2015
2. "Crime unit breached legal procedure in Bambang's arrest", 25 January 2015
3. "Bambang submits resignation", 26 January 2015
4. "Bambang resigns from KPK, tell Budi to follow suit", 27 January 2015
5. "Komnas HAM finds flaws in KPK arrest", 1 February 2015

1.7 Data Analysis

The collected data are analyzed using van Dijk's sociocognitive (2009) approach, specifically focusing on microstructure level. The analysis is conducted

to find more complex information existing in the text, such as *participants*, *occupational roles*, *communicative roles* and *positive-negative representation of participants*. Microstructures level discusses all the structures that are processed, or described, at the local or short-range level (words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and connections between sentences) (Van Dijk, 1980). This level will be elaborated more in Chapter 2. After being analyzed, the results of the analysis are combined, examined and discussed to gain the description and conclusion to see the meaning constructed of the representations, and finally the results hopefully can answer the research questions.

1.8 Clarification of Key Terms

There are some key terms used in this research which need to be clarified to avoid ambiguity. The terms will be clarified as follows:

1. CDA

CDA is a method that concerned with researching and analysing the words used in discourses to reveal the source of power abuse, dominance, inequality and bias and how these sources are initiated, maintained, reproduced and transformed within specific social, economic, political and historical contexts (Van Dijk, 1998).

2. Ideology

Ideology refers to attitudes, set of beliefs, values and doctrines with reference to religious, political, social and economic life, which shape the individual's and group's perception through reality which is constructed and interpreted (Taiwo, 2007).

3. Sociocognitive Approach

Research of the relations between mind, discursive interaction and society in a discourse. It explains how social structures may affect (and be affected by) discourse structures (Van Dijk, 2009).

4. Discourse

The term 'discourse' is understood differently by different researchers and also in different academic cultures (Wodak, 2006). CDA sees discourse – language use in speech and writing – as a form of 'social practice' (Wodak

& Meyer, 2009). On the other hand, English speaking people define 'discourse' as both written and oral texts (Gee, 2004; Schiffrin, 1994 as cited in Wodak & Mayer, 2009).

5. Cognition

Cognition is the set of functions of the mind, such as thought, perception and representation (Van Dijk, 2009).

6. Representation

Representation refers to the way in which meaning is given to the things which are depicted through the images on screens or the words on a page which stand for what we are talking about (Hall, 1997).

1.9 Organization of The Paper

This research will be organized into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I

This chapter consist of introduction, which discusses about background and statement of the problem, research questions, purposes of the research, research method, significance of the research, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II

This chapter will serve details of the theoretical frameworks, which serve as the basis for investigating the problem, and some previous studies related to this research.

Chapter III

This chapter contains the methodology used in this research, discussing the steps and procedures, the instrument, and the reasons for choosing these procedures.

Chapter IV

This chapter discusses the results and findings of this research.

Chapter V

This chapter contains conclusions from this research and recommendations for next researches.