

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a background of the study which contains the reason why the study is conducted. This chapter also provides research questions, aims of study, scope of study, significance of study, and research method. In the last part of this chapter, there are clarification of the terms to explain some key points of the study and also organization of the paper.

1.1. Background

Our daily life does not stand apart from media. Media are seen as a vehicle that constructs people's mind. People are persuaded, reinforced, and altered by their exposure to media (Macarro, 2002 as cited in O'Keeffe, 2006).

It is a common thing if the media present issue about law in the headline because the media and law are interrelated. This relationship is evidenced by the dominance of justice stories in the news (Ericson, Baranek, & Chan, 1991).

Many media consider law as one of the interesting issues to be reported because in law, there is always conflict between two groups which seek justice. The media do not stand apart from people and the various arenas in which they seek justice but are integral to their everyday processes for seeking justice (Erickson, 1991). By presenting news about a conflict in law, media contribute to make things obscurer. However, the law and media are seen as agencies of policing with shared goals such as conflict resolution and keeping the peace (Ericson, Baranek, & Chan, 1991).

The example of this conflict in law can be seen in the news that involves two big legal institutions in Indonesia, known as KPK (Corruption Eradication Commission) and Polri (National Police). The news becomes controversial because the conflict involves leaders of those two legal institutions: Abraham Samad - Bambang Widjojanto and Budi Gunawan. First, KPK named Budi Gunawan, the sole presidential nominee for the position of Polri chief, as graft suspect because of a suspicious bank account. Then, Budi Gunawan reported KPK chairman Abraham Samad and KPK deputy chairman Bambang Widjojanto for alleged power abuses. Finally, Budi Gunawan was sentenced unguilty and he was inaugurated as the deputy chief of Polri while Abraham Samad – Bambang Widjojanto were suspended as KPK commissioners.

Regarding this fact, this study is conducted to investigate how media present particular news by using Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) developed by Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak (2001). DHA sees ideology as a one-sided perspective or world

view that consists of related mental representations, convictions, opinions, attitudes, and evaluations shared by members of particular social groups. It aims at demystifying the hegemony of a particular discourse by decoding the ideologies (Wodak and Meyer, 2009). DHA believes in the intertextual and interdiscursive relationships, how discourses, genres and texts change in relation to sociopolitical change (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). Intertextuality means that texts are linked to other texts, both in the past and in the present. Interdiscursivity means that discourses are linked to each other in various ways. In this study, DHA is used to reveal how the news of KPK and Polri in *the Jakarta Post* is discursively constructed. In particular, this study aims to see whether there is any change in nomination and predication strategies due to the changes of legal status of the social actors. The changes were in Budi Gunawan (Polri) judgment from he was sentenced as a graft suspect to he was proven unguilty. Also, Abraham Samad - Bambang Widjojanto (KPK) who were reported for alleged power abuses until they were suspended as KPK commissioners and Budi was sentenced unguilty.

Discursive strategies in DHA are the systematic ways of using language at different levels of linguistic organization and complexity. These strategies are nomination strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, perspectivization strategy, and intensification and mitigation strategy. However, this study only focuses on nomination and predication strategies to see the construction of social actors. Nomination and predication strategies are considered sufficient to conduct the study because the study aims at investigating how social actors in the related news articles are referred to and predicated by *the Jakarta Post*. By analyzing these two discursive strategies, the discursive construction and discursive qualification of social actors can be observed.

The studies by using DHA have been conducted in various aspects of the social phenomena. For example, Lawton (2013) in her study investigated the discursive construction of immigrants and immigration within the English Only movement in the United States. She found that the arguments in the included texts were ideological in nature and ideology could be seen as a broad category that links all the texts. Furthermore, Wodak (2011) in her study of politics explores and explains what the politicians do, then articulates what their action does for/to everyone else, or what consequences politicians' decisions may have upon various developments and communications in our society. Apart from Lawton's and Wodak's studies, another study was conducted by Tekin (2008) to explore the construction of Turkey's possible European Union membership in French political discourse. She found that through these constructions, French speakers are involved in an ongoing process of identity formation.

In Indonesia, DHA was also used by Larasati (2014) and Utami (2015) to investigate news. Larasati (2014) focused on war discourse; she studied news on Syrian civil war from Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) website. She found that ideological and professional anthroponyms as well as explicit predicates became the devices to portray IRIB's preference toward Syrian opposition and government. Utami (2015) who focused on political discourse, analyzed editorial news on Jokowi from *the Jakarta Post*. She found that *the Jakarta Post* preferred to use positive predication strategies in presenting Jokowi's figure in all categories, except in the KPK conflict.

While the previous studies mostly used DHA to investigate political discourse which is discourse structures only related to properties of political structures and processes, this study investigates media discourse which is related to the legal conflict between two big legal institutions in Indonesia because this kind of investigation has received little attention. By using DHA, this study aims at investigating the discursive construction used by *the Jakarta Post* in presenting news about KPK and Polri.

1.2. Research Questions

This study is conducted to answer these following questions:

- a. How are the social actors constructed in the news of KPK and Polri?
- b. What do the characteristics of the social actors in the news of KPK and Polri represent?

1.3. Aims of Study

This study is aimed at:

- a. Identifying how the social actors are constructed in the news of KPK and Polri.
- b. Investigating what the characteristics represent in the news of KPK and Polri.

1.4. Scope of Study

The object of investigation in this study is five texts taken from *the Jakarta Post*. Those texts are news articles reporting KPK and Polri. Other texts which also report KPK and Polri such as reader forum, opinion and comment are excluded because those texts' genre is structurally different and it will influence the different interpretation process of how *the Jakarta Post* presents particular news. Then, the scope of the study is narrowed to find out the nomination and predication strategies used by *the Jakarta Post* in presenting news about KPK and Polri.

1.5. Significance of Study

This study is expected to explore on how the discursive construction is used by *the Jakarta Post* in presenting particular news. Furthermore, this study is expected to enrich the data to any further research on DHA.

1.6. Research Method

1.6.1. Research Design

This study applies a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. Descriptive method has no intention to prove any hypothesis but to examine and describe the representation of social events that are found in the data sources (Arikunto, 1996). Qualitative method involves the analysis of non-numerical data (Dornyei, 2007). This study is qualitative since it analyzes the data in the form of text.

In analyzing the data, Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001) is employed. Specifically, the analysis focuses on nomination and predication strategies. Nomination and predication strategies are two out of five types of discursive strategies in doing Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA). The analysis of nomination strategy is aimed to identify how social actors of KPK and Polri are referred to. The analysis of predication strategy is aimed to investigate how the social actors are represented through some characteristics attached to them.

1.6.2. Data Collection

The data for this study are five selected news articles taken from the official website of *the Jakarta Post*. *The Jakarta Post* is chosen as the source for the object of investigation of this study because of it has a lot of readership as an English nationwide newspaper in Indonesia. Those news articles consist of five news about KPK and Polri. Those news articles involve the conflict of leading figures of two big legal institutions in Indonesia, especially Abraham Samad and Bambang Widjojanto (KPK) and Budi Gunawan (Polri). The news articles are about Budi Gunawan (Polri) who was sentenced as a graft suspect, Abraham Samad - Bambang Widjojanto (KPK) who were reported for alleged power abuses, and Budi Gunawan who was sentenced unguilty. The news articles that are used for the data in this study are those published between January and May 2015 entitled: 1) "KPK Names Police Chief hopeful graft suspect" (January 13 2015), 2) "Budi Gunawan Reports KPK Leaders to AGO" (January 21 2015), 3) "Attorney General Says Budi Gunawan Case Lacks Evidence" (March 16 2015), 4) "Budi's Graft Case Taken Over By Police" (April 08 2015), 5) "Police Drop Probe Into Budi Gunawan" (May 20 2015). The news is purposely selected based on the variance and the importance of their

contents. Then, to make the process of analysis easier, these news articles are copied to Ms. Word.

1.6.3. Data Analysis

To analyze the data, discursive strategies developed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001) in Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA) are applied. There are five types of discursive strategies in DHA: nomination strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, perspectivization strategy, and intensification and mitigation strategy. However, this study only focuses on two types of these discursive strategies which are nomination and predication strategies to see the construction of social actors, whether they change or not.

In conducting the investigation, there are four steps that will be done. First, identifying the nomination strategy employed by *the Jakarta Post* in referring to social actors of KPK and Polri. Second, investigating the predication strategy employed by *the Jakarta Post* in presenting social actors of KPK and Polri. Third, investigating whether there is any change in nomination and predication strategies employed by *the Jakarta Post* due to the changes of legal status of the social actors: the sentencing of Budi Gunawan (Polri) as a graft suspect, a report of Abraham Samad - Bambang Widjojanto (KPK) for alleged power abuses, and the sentencing of Budi Gunawan that he was proven unguilty. Finally, the last step in the analysis is making the conclusions from the findings of this study. These steps of analysis are taken to see how *the Jakarta Post* represents the social actors in conflict between KPK and Polri, whether positive, negative, or changing.

1.7. Clarification of the Terms

a. Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA)

Discourse-Historical Approach is one of the approaches of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak (2001) which considers intertextual and interdiscursive relationships among discourses (Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

b. Nomination Strategy

Nomination strategy or referential strategy is a strategy in using linguistic devices to refer to persons, places, or events (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). Through this strategy, social actors can be identified.

c. Predication Strategy

Predication Strategy is the strategy in attributing persons, places, or events with some qualities (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). Through this strategy, social actors can be qualified more or less positively or negatively.

d. *The Jakarta Post Online Newspaper*

The Jakarta Post is Indonesian English newspaper established in 1983 and owned by independent private company called PT Bina Media Tenggara.

1.8. Organization of the Paper

This paper is composed in this following organization:

1. Abstract

This section functions as summary of the paper, presenting brief information about the content that is elaborated further in the next section.

2. Introduction

This chapter deals with background of the study, explaining about what drives the writer to analyze the chosen topic, the purpose or personal intention of the writer in writing the study, the significance of the study describing what are the study's contributions in an individual or a society, and presentation of the research question.

3. Theoretical Foundation

This part of the study examines the bases of theories that are used in the study and also what other researchers have found in the earlier studies.

4. Methodology

This section presents the methods that are used in the study and also the details, such as: who are involved, where the data are obtained, and how the data are analyzed.

5. Findings and Discussions

This chapter deals with the findings when the study is finished. The findings are transcribed, analyzed, and finally discussed to answer the research question.

6. Conclusion

This section sums up all the information from the chapters and concludes an idea as the result of the study. In this section, suggestions for further research are also presented.