

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter serves to establish the final part of the present paper. It contains two sections namely conclusions and suggestions. Representations of Indonesia in the news about the 2015 Southeast Asia's haze in the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*, as well as the ideology underlying such representations are concluded in the first section. While some suggestions for further research are presented in the latter one.

5.1 Conclusions

The present research examines representations of Indonesia in the *Guardian* and the *New York Times* in the news about the 2015 Southeast Asia's haze. Certain ideology that underlies such representations is examined critically as well. The present research applies semantic macrostructures analysis based on sociocognitive approach framed by van Dijk (2009).

It is found that several representations of Indonesia—including negative, positive and neutral ones—are realized in the news about the 2015 Southeast Asia's haze from both Western newspapers denoted by macropropositions from the texts according to semantic macrostructures analysis. Most of the representations depict a negative image of Indonesia. The country, on which its forest fires initiated the haze, is represented as a threat against all human beings due to the great effect from the haze. Besides that, representations of Indonesia in the articles include the world's biggest climate polluter, an undiplomatic country, and so forth.

With regard to the ideology, the results also reveal that the *Guardian* and the *New York Times* tend to adhere to capitalism. The ideology is derived based on the representations of Indonesia in the articles, as well as the results of macropropositions (topics) in the texts.

Ideologies shared by the Western newspapers take important roles for the production of the content in the articles. Ideologies have resulted in the way Indonesia is represented in the respective articles, either negatively or positively. In other words, representation is inevitably linked to certain ideology acquired by the mental model (cognition) of the producer of a discourse as van Dijk (2009) states that “group beliefs may affect personal beliefs and thus be expressed in discourse” (p. 78). Furthermore, CDA is the tool to help determine the two related things, i.e. representation and ideology.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the results of this study, several suggestions are offered both for further studies and for practical purposes. The first suggestion is regarding the data collection. This study is limited to Western newspapers as the global media. Further studies may use both local and global media as the data collection for analyzing representation, as well as ideology, based on critical discourse analysis approach. A significant comparison of how particular events or groups are represented in the media between the in-group and the out-group (e.g. Indonesian media and Singaporean media regarding the haze issue) is then derived. As a result, various interesting findings can be produced based on such a comparison. The second suggestion is regarding the data analysis. Since this study is limited to macrostructures analysis, further studies may also apply microstructures analysis based on van Dijk’s sociocognitive approach. A combination between the two analyses may enrich the analysis of representation, and hence the findings can be more accurate.

The last suggestion is related with practical purpose. This study applies sociocognitive approach, which is the semantic macrostructures analysis, to examine the articles. Such a method of analysis is suggested to use by people for their text reading in order to achieve a more critical comprehension, especially the cognition of the writer in producing such a text.