

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the introduction to the present study that includes information on background of the study, scope of the study, research questions, purposes of the study, research methodology, significance of the study, clarification of key related terms, and organization of the paper.

#### **1.1. Background**

LGBT, according to American Psychological Association (2015) is an acronym used to refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. LGBT has been widely accepted as a sexual and gender orientation-based minority (Subhrajit, 2004). As a minority group, the presence of LGBT has raised many pros and cons around the world. A public survey conducted in 39 countries that investigated the numbers of acceptance of LGBT people in the world stated that broad acceptance of LGBT in North America, the European Union, and most of Latin America is also equal to its widespread disapproval that comes from Middle East countries, African countries, and some countries in Asia and Russia (Pew Research Center, 2013). The survey also found that the acceptance of LGBT occurs in countries where religion in people's lives is less central, for example US, Britain, Germany, France, Spain, and Japan (Global Attitudes Survey, as cited in Pew Research Center, 2013). According to the survey, there is a belief in these countries that it is not necessary to pray and believe in God.

Those countries in the survey show differences in characteristics from Indonesia. While those countries put religion as less central, Indonesia puts religions as a central in people's lives. Moreover it has been put in one of the five basic

principles of the official philosophical foundation of Indonesian state. This philosophical foundation, which is called *Pancasila* requires Indonesian people to follow one religion and to state it on their identity cards (Pursika, 2009), in which people are not permitted to be atheists (Arifin, 2010). The impact of placing religions as a central is illegalizing LGBT because none of the religions in Indonesia accepts it. Although LGBT is still strongly rejected by Indonesian society (Ahmed, 2016) which is proved by the fact that religions reject it, and the rejection is voiced by national figures and religious communities (Human Rights Watch, 2016), LGBT is present in Indonesia. The presence of LGBT is indicated by a number of news articles that report LGBT activities, such as LGBT's rally to gain equal rights in Yogyakarta on February 23, 2016 (*Jakarta Globe*, 2016). This situation reflects that in Indonesian context, LGBT is not formally accepted, but the issues related to the presence of LGBT are strongly heralded by Indonesian media.

The issues of LGBT as heralded by Indonesian news media are not only concerned whether LGBT is prohibited or not, but the news often presents the lives of LGBT as if it is legally permitted. For example, *Tempo* (January 18, 2017) published a news report on the support given by the provincial government of South Kalimantan to LGBT individuals with regard to their contribution to the economic development of the city. The news presents positive attitudes of LGBT individuals in South Kalimantan that lead the government to consider them potential. This example illustrates that news media have their freedom to spread the life of LGBT in their own way. The possible impact is that readers may have a variety of interpretations on LGBT issues.

LGBT issues in Indonesian media such as *detik.com*, *Republika*, *the Jakarta Post*, *Kompas Online*, *Tempo* have been studied by a number of researchers (e.g. Oktaviani, 2016; Lobodally, 2016; Fatmawati, 2017). For instance, Oktaviani (2016) investigates how *Harian Repulika* represents LGBT as mentally ill people who deviate from religious teachings by the media. Another study conducted by Lobodally

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(2016) also found that *detik.com* is more likely to portray LGBT as an abnormal, psychopathic, and criminal sexual predator that has to be vanished from society.

Those previous studies have not yet explored the linguistic aspects of the media, in which they only exposed the representations of LGBT based on general interpretation of data. To contribute to the existing studies on LGBT, this study attempts to reveal the representation of LGBT in two media: *The Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*, as well as the ideologies embedded in the representations by employing Fairclough's three-dimensional concept in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is deployed in this study since the interest of this framework, according to Wodak and Meyer (2009), is to de-mystify power and ideologies by systematic analysis of semiotic data/discourse that becomes the concern of this study. Three-dimensional concept proposed by Fairclough (1989) allows researcher to conduct an in-depth analysis of formal properties of texts and connects it to a broader social context that will unveil representation, power, and ideologies behind the texts.

By employing Fairclough's three-dimensional approach to CDA, this study explores current trend of news report on LBGT to add to other studies on media and LGBT issues in Indonesia. This study is considered significant to see the current trends because media reports quickly increase in numbers in a very short time, and they are very quickly circulated. Choosing *the Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe* is based on consideration that those English news reports have the potentials to be globally read. Thus, it is assumed that news report written in English has different target audience which is reflected in the choice of lexicogrammar that will be revealed through transitivity analysis proposed by Halliday under Fairclough's study approach (1989).

## 1.2. The Scope of Study

The scope of this study comprises eight news reports regarding LGBT issue in Indonesia published by *the Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*. The investigation of the present study is narrowed to analyze the dominant patterns of transitivity used in the eight news reports in order to reveal the representation of LGBT and the ideology of the media.

## 1.3. Research Questions

With regard to the problems that will be discussed throughout the paper, more specifically, the present study is guided by two research questions, as follows:

1. How is LGBT represented in *the Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*?
2. What ideologies can be revealed through the choice of transitivity?

## 1.4. Purposes of Study

The present study aims at investigating the representation of LGBT and revealing hidden ideologies embedded in the representation of LGBT through the analysis of transitivity choices written in the news reports.

## 1.5. Research Methodology

This present study employs Fairclough's three dimensional concept of CDA (1989) and qualitative descriptive research method to answer the research problems concerning the representation of LGBT and the ideologies of *the Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*. The qualitative descriptive method is used in this study since the focus of the study is to describe and interpret the result of textual analysis. According to Williams (2007) descriptive research is defined as a basic research method that involves identification of particular phenomenon attributes, placed on the exploration

of correlation or basis observation between two or more phenomenon. As for qualitative method, Greenhalgh and Taylor (1997) define it as a study approach that is aimed to “make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them”.

### **1.6. Significance of Study**

Theoretically, the findings of the study are expected to give a contribution to the study of Critical Discourse Analysis and enrich research references regarding the study of media representation. However, more importantly, in line with the goal of Critical Discourse Analysis which is to benefit society, the main purpose of the present study is to give a more detailed insight on the reconstruction of LGBT in both *Jakarta Globe* and *the Jakarta Post* news reports to the readers. Practically, this study aims to help readers enhance their critical thinking when consuming information served by media that readers have to be more selective and aware of the ideological bias of the news reports they read. The present study also facilitates readers to understand more about Critical Discourse Analysis and transitivity analysis.

### **1.7. Clarification of Key Related Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding, several prominent terminologies of the present study have to be clarified. The clarifications are as follows:

- 1) LGBT : LGBT is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexuals, and Transgender (American Psychological Association, 2015).
- 2) CDA : Critical Discourse Analysis is an interdisciplinary approach of discourse study which relates the discourse to social practices (Fairclough, 1995).

- 3) **Transitivity** : A method in classifying process in different types that are recognized in the structure in which they are expressed (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004)
- 4) **Ideology** : “representations of aspects of the world which can be shown to contribute to establishing, maintaining and changing social relations of power, domination and exploitation”. Fairclough (2012, p. 81)
- 5) **Power** : Something exercised and enacted within discourse that controls the discourse (Fairclough, 1989)
- 6) **Representation** : A depiction, a likeness or a constructed image, and it can be in the form of individual people, social group, ideas, or events (Stewart, 1997)

### **1.8. Organization of Paper**

The content of this paper is divided into five chapters. Each chapter provides organized information that contains ideas of the present study. To get a more detailed insight on the information of each chapter, bellow is the brief explanation of each chapter:

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#### **CHAPTER II: THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter is designed to provide relevant theoretical framework and related studies that will justify the findings of the study.

### CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides information concerning research methodology manifested in this study. This chapter comprises research design, data collection and data analysis.

### CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter consists of findings and discussion. This chapter intends to uncover the representations of LGBT and hidden ideologies in the news reports through three-dimensional approach proposed by Fairclough (1989). The first two stages of analysis will examine the texts by employing transitivity analysis as the analytical device. The last stage will explain the interpretation in the light of wider social context where the news reports are produced.

### CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter provides the conclusion of the study and suggestion to upcoming research on LGBT representation. The first section is the summary of answers to research questions. Meanwhile, the second section is the suggestion.