CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the study and suggestions for future research. The conclusion includes the summary of the discussion concerning language appraisal in attacking incidents to answer the aforementioned research questions. On the other hand, the suggestions are provided for readers or future researchers who are interested in conducting analyses of language appraisal using the framework of Appraisal System.

5.1 Conclusions

This study has analyzed *attitude* as a language appraisal strategy in Indonesia's local newspapers in reporting news of attacking incidents. The study is aimed to investigate the type of *attitude* through three sub-systems (affect, judgment, and appreciation) using the framework of Appraisal System proposed by Martin and White (2005) as well as interpreting the potential meanings construed from the appraisal strategy through the organizations of discourse (causation, description, problem/solution, and comparison). Nine attacking incidents (total 18 news articles) were selected as data samples. The data was taken from *Pikiran Rakyat* as Indonesia's local newspaper in regional sphere and *The Jakarta Post* as Indonesia's local newspaper serving national and international audiences/readers. The analysis includes text analysis to investigate the types of appraisal strategy and document study to construe the potential meanings.

The findings of study reveal that three aforementioned sub-systems of language appraisal (affect, judgment, and appreciation) are used to refer to different addressees. *Pikiran Rakyat* and *The Jakarta Post* as the data source show different amount of language appraisal. In *Pikiran Rakyat*, affect consists of 10 (16.1%) items, 21 (33.9%) Judgment System, and 31 (50%) Appreciation System. On the other hand, *The Jakarta Post* applies 19 (19.6%) Affect System, 36 (63.2%) Judgment System, and 42 (43.3%) Appreciation System.

In terms of specific use of respective sub-system of attitude, the study reveals that each assessment inserted in the texts is directed to different addressee or recipient. On the subject of affect, the study shows that affect is employed as a tool of assessments to describe negative emotion or feelings emanated after the attacking incidents occurred. The negative emotions predominantly concern with negative evaluations of in/security and un/happiness. This appraisal strategy applied to express the mental condition of the victims, eyewitnesses, and other parties involved in the incidents, such as police officers, officials, firefighters, etc.

From the perspective of judgment – evaluations of people's character or behavior – the positive and negative judgments are applied to assess different individuals. The positive judgments are directed to individuals who are perceived as meritorious by describing their act of bravery, such as police officers and firefighters, or by expressing their act of showing sympathies, such as officials, presidents, etc. On the other hand, the negative assessments of judgment are labeled to the perpetrators themselves to different degrees. The perpetrators' actions and behaviors are realized through direct attitudinal lexis or through negative labeling that carries its own negative ideational meanings. Both ways are intended to evoke negative evaluations from the readers toward the perpetrators.

The third type of attitude system used in reporting attacking incidents is appreciation. Appreciation is concerned with assessments of abstract or concrete objects and natural phenomena. The negative evaluations of appreciation are shown to support explaining the circumstance where and how the attacking incidents took place by using direct attitudinal lexis or by using resemblance or lexical metaphor (indirect realizations) to invoke negative ideational meanings on its own. In contrast, positive appreciations are applied to evaluate the location or the scene of the incidents. The insertion of positive evaluations towards the location of the incidents is intended to present the 'irony'.

These three types of attitude system apply certain discourse organizations to create certain potential meanings. Organization of discourse consists of four styles: description, causation, problem/solution, and comparison. Although on the surface level description is the most significant structure of discourse used in the

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news reports, each system of attitude possesses its own characteristic of discourse in deep level to help generate potential meanings and interpretations.

To generate potential meanings, affect is realized by using causation to interconnect the emotion or feeling with the cause of emotion itself. Using causation to affect may heighten the intensity of tragedy of the incidents by explicitly stating that the incidents are not only catastrophic for the infrastructure, but also for the emotional state of the victims. Correlating affect-causation also helps the news reporters to take stance by taking sympathy for the sufferers and showing opposition with the perpetrators.

Beside affect, judgment and appreciation are construed through description and comparison. Comparison is applied in judgment to help reinforce negative evaluations by presenting similarities or resemblance of the perpetrators with the negative traits attached to other notorious terrorist groups. This strategy may evoke the similar negative interpretation from the readers. On the other hand, comparison is also employed in appreciation by presenting the similarities of one object or phenomenon through lexical metaphor. These representations invite negative ideational meanings and connect with the whole context so that the level or intensity of catastrophic situation in the incidents can be intensified. These expressions also depict the exact portrayal or representation of objects or phenomena so the situation is more understandable for the readers/audiences.

The three types of attitude system used in reporting attacking incidents and its potential meanings are intended to answer the aforementioned statements of problem. The findings explained above are aimed to reveal the politics of media in reporting attacking incidents.

5.2 Suggestions

As stated in previous chapter, this study may contribute to the enrichment of the existing literature on language study and media discourses. From the perspective of linguistics, this study contributes to developing or attesting the nature of language use as the source of meaning-making. As this study takes into account the language appraisal as the tool of analysis, the study establishes the

connection of language use with the creation of potential meanings towards certain target recipients.

On the other hand, this study also participates in showing how media makes use of language in delivering certain meanings towards the audiences/readers as a form of media politics. Politics of media involves localizing global issue and adjusting the news reports to be acceptable for the target audiences.

However, the significance of this study can also be perceived by people or readers in general in making meaning through language use. This study contributes to building critical awareness of literacy practices, especially in the context of Indonesia's newspapers. Literacy practices are not apolitical for which readers should not take the meanings for granted. Thus, they should look at the meanings intertextually.

Despite showing some significant findings, this study suffers from some limitations. First, the scope of this study focuses only on attitude in the Appraisal System, thus it is suggested that future research may investigate language appraisal from two other sub-systems of appraisal (Engagement and Graduation).

Second, this study is limited to the context of attacking incidents to reveal politics of media. This study cannot be generalized thus this study is more context-bound. Besides, this study is limited to the context of Indonesia's media where certain values or ideologies, explicitly or implicitly, influence the way the issue is reported. Therefore, the future researchers are advised to investigate politics of media from various contexts of reporting global issue, such as presidential elections, natural disasters, etc.

As a final point, this study is restricted to certain number of corpus. Therefore, it is suggested that future research may involve a bigger and wider sources of media, such as television news programs or radio in local or international scale.