

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, methodology, significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

As one of the most violent and ideological conflicts in modern history, sited in a very sensitive and strategic region, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has always been under the spotlight of media and politicians. The conflict is almost a constant item in the coverage of news outlets, especially since the outbreak of the increasing violence that marked the end of the peace process and the beginning of the second Palestinian uprising in the fall of 2000 (Zaher, 2009). The conflict between the two countries that has lasted for decades has often drawn the attention of the world. This conflict has resulted in dozens of peace resolutions. In the making of the peace resolutions, many parties are involved and the UN has played a major role in the peace process of the two disputed countries. The conflict has always been a main topic to be listed in the agenda of UN General Assembly. The latest UN General Assembly in November 2012 was scheduled for a vote on Palestinian elevation status in the UN from "non-member observer entity" to "non-member observer state". The vote was 138 delegates in favor of the measure, nine against, including the US and Israel, and 41 abstentions. The US has been trying to keep the peace process on the track by voting against the move. Soon after the vote, three US representatives delivered their speeches regarding the vote.

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As a member of the UN Security Council, maintaining the world peace has always been the US main duty, and it has always been a hard thing to accomplish since mediating peace between the warring parties is not as easy as it seems. However, their attempts to mediate the disputed countries have turned out to be an intervention since they have gone too far in the conflict. The US intervention in the conflict between the two countries has become pros and cons around the world for a long time considering the fact that the US tends to take side. Since the US partiality has always been under the spotlight and the fact that the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has always drawn enormous attention all over the world, the discourse of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has been the object of a number of academic studies. It has also been widely studied in a number of field of study such as: politics, psychology, media (Almeida, 2005), etc. However, few studies in the field of linguistics have attempted to investigate the conflict through the language used to represent the actors taking part in the conflict.

The representation of social actor has been investigated along the history of critical discourse analysis and types of discourse used as the objects of analysis are varied. There are several studies of representation with different types of discourse such as news (Zaher, 2009; Kandil, 2009; Deprez and Raeymaeckers, 2010), reports (Wenden, 2005; Rashidi and Rasti, 2012), textbooks (Sahragard and Davatgarzadeh, 2010; Karimaghaei and Kasmani, 2013) and speeches (Post, 2009) that had been discussed. The study conducted by Post (2009) analyzed six campaign speeches of Barack Obama from the 2008 US election. The study utilizes Van Leeuwen's Social Actor Network (2008) a sociosemantic inventory, as a central framework for the analysis. The study shows that not only do political figures utilize representations of social actors to shape the perceptions from within the ideological stances of their discourse, but they also utilize representational categories to hide their identity.

Even though there have been many studies on representation conducted by using speeches as data, unlike the above-mentioned studies which use several speeches delivered by a speaker, the speeches that are used as the objects in the present study delivered by three different speakers (representatives of the US) concerning the same topic that is UN General Assembly Vote on Palestinian observer state status resolution. The speeches were delivered by Barack Obama as the US president, Hillary Clinton as the US Secretary, and Susan E. Rice as the US Permanent Representative to the UN. The three US representatives is chosen because they have important role and different functions in the government, they are also powerful and influential persons in the nation. By using speeches delivered by three different representatives of the US, this study seeks to reveal different strategies used by each of the US representatives in their speeches due to the difference of their functions in the government and their diverse ways in constructing the representation of the Palestinian, and also to reveal the ideologies underlying the representation of Palestinian. In relation to revealing the ideologies, Halliday's (2004) Transitivity cannot be separated with van Leeuwen's (2008) sociosemantic approach. Transitivity is utilized to identify the social actor and social action in the text. It is also employed to get deeper interpretation and broader view of the representation which is useful in drawing the ideologies.

The present study aims to contribute to the body of knowledge about the discourse of the representation of the conflict by critically analyzing the representation of Palestinian in the speeches of three US representatives and to investigate the representation of Palestinian in the speeches.

## 1.2 Research Questions

This study is conducted to find answers to the following questions:

- 1) How are Palestinians represented in the speeches of three US representatives?
- 2) What are the ideologies underlying the representation?

## 1.3 Aims of the Study

Based on the research questions stated above, the aims of the study are:

- 1) To investigate the representation of Palestinians in the speeches of three US representatives.
- 2) To reveal the ideologies underlying the representation.

## 1.4 Scope of the Study

This study specifically investigates the representation of Palestinian in the speeches of three US representatives regarding UN General Assembly Vote on Palestinian Observer State Status Resolution. This study focuses on the relation of inclusion-exclusion in the text to reveal the representation. The study uses three speeches delivered in November 2012 by three representatives of the US namely Barack Obama as the US president, Hillary Clinton as the US Secretary, and Susan E. Rice as the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations as a corpus. The speeches are limited to the speeches that are related to the UN General Assembly Vote on Palestinian Observer State Status Resolution last November 2012, so that they can be analyzed to reveal the representation of the US regarding the vote on Palestinian observer state status resolution.

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## 1.5 Methodology

This study employs qualitative method supported by some descriptive quantification to achieve the aims of the study. It is mainly centered on describing, interpreting, and analyzing the representation of Palestinian in the speeches of three the US representatives regarding UN General Assembly Vote on Palestinian Observer State Status Resolution. Here, Van Leeuwen's (2008) framework and Halliday's (2004) transitivity are used as the tools to seek for representation and ideologies underlying the representation by splitting up the data into clauses or clause complexes to identify the social actor and social action in the text using Halliday's (2004) transitivity. Then the representations of social actor are categorized into the categorization proposed by van Leeuwen (2008) to see how Palestinian is represented in the speeches of three US representatives so the ideology behind the representation can be drawn.

The data are obtained from three different online news sites, all of which are the official sites of the US government, White House ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)), US Department of State ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)), and United State Mission to The United Nations ([www.usus.state.gov](http://www.usus.state.gov)).

After collecting the data, the data are analyzed by a model of CDA. The data are then described using Van Leeuwen's (2008) framework in representing social actor. Supporting this approach, transitivity, an analytical element of Halliday's Functional Grammar (2004) is utilized. Transitivity is used to specifically uncover Palestinian representation by identifying social actor and social action in the speeches and categorizing semantic roles in every clause. Then, the underlying ideologies are derived by inferring the representation. And the last, conclusions based on the result of the study are drawn.

## 1.6 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, study of critical discourse analysis is useful in revealing a representation and ideology contained in the speech. Besides, this study is also expected to enrich the study of critical discourse analysis.

Practically, this study can be helpful for people to uncover what is actually stored and hidden in a speech delivered by people who have power and take role as representatives of superpower country. Besides, this study is also useful to broaden insight and sensitivity of the readers who are interested in examining or analyzing the discourse of speech critically.

## 1.7 Clarification of Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, several important key terms are clarified below:

- (1) Representation is “ultimately based on practice, on that which people do” (van Leeuwen, cited in Wodak and Meyer, 2009: 26).
- (2) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) refers to “a method to unveil the ideology of the discourse.” (Paltridge, 2000).
- (3) Discourse refers to “use of language seen as a form of social practice” (Fairclough, 1995b).
- (4) Ideology refers to “positions, attitudes, beliefs, perspectives, etc. of social groups” (Fairclough, 2003: 9).
- (5) Text refers to “concrete oral utterances or written documents” (Wodak, 2009: 6).

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## 1.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper is presented in five chapters. Chapter I, Introduction, contains background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the terms, and organization of the paper. Chapter II, Theoretical Foundation, consists of theoretical review that provides a basis for conducting the research problems. Chapter III, Research Methodology, discusses the steps and procedures of the study, and the data resources in conducting the study. Chapter IV, Finding and Discussions, presents data presentations, explanations to the analysis of the data, and the result of the analysis. Chapter V, Conclusions and Suggestions, summarizes the answer to the research questions and presents the interpretation toward the result of the research in a form of conclusion and suggestion in accordance with the research. This paper ends with bibliography.