

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of problems, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

I.1. Background of the Study

Unregistered marriage raises issues that are often discussed in Indonesia. The discussion among people deals with the different responses from those who agree and disagree with unregistered marriage. Several people who agree with this marriage consider it proper to perform, while others who disagree consider it improper to do.

In terms of religion, unregistered marriage is considered legal to perform as it is recorded in Islamic religious law. Whoever is doing it, he is not going to be sanctioned by religion as long as the marriage is conducted in accordance with the terms of Islam; where there is a witness and a guardian to the marriage.

From a legal standpoint, unregistered marriage is deemed invalid or illegal, because it is not recorded by the state law. Unlike the registered marriage which is performed and recorded in the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA); the marriage will directly be recorded the marital status in the state law.

There is also the social aspect that makes people disagree with unregistered marriage. It is often performed secretly because the legal status is not recorded. This status is abused by several people, therefore they tend to perform the marriage more than once without legal marital status. It is considered as being detrimental to the woman.

Unregistered marriages abuse committed by certain people, occurs in the case of unregistered marriage of Regent of Garut, Aceng Fikri (AF), which

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The Legitimation Construction In Regent Of Garut's Statements On His Unregistered Marriage: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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conducted unregistered marriage in late 2012. He married a girl then divorced her after four days of marriage. Case involving AF makes himself resign from office as he was considered as a public figure who is not exemplary because of his offense.

As the news spread about the unregistered marriage of AF, he was questioned by some media associated with his marriage. Based on most innocent people's opinion in general, AF tends to defend himself and did not plead guilty to the offense he did. According to van Leeuwen (2008) defensive effort over something is categorized as a legitimate strategy.

AF's scandal is an instance that reflects social action described by a discourse. As what van Leeuwen (2008) said that a discourse is a way to describe social practice and it can also legitimize or delegitimize certain action of actors in the social practice and in certain context. Recalling the case of AF, he tends to justify his action, in other words, to legitimize his action through the interview taken.

Accordingly, a study on legitimation put by social actor is worth undertaken. How social actor legitimates an action in certain ways is the main focus of this study. Besides legitimation, ideologies of the social actor are also observed by analyzing its language use.

There have been studies conducted within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) that focus on the issue of legitimation in discourse. In economic issues, Cho (2007) analyzed legitimation strategies used in response to environmental disaster in a French case study of Total S.A.'s (one of the largest integrated oil and gas companies in the world) *Erika* (tanker) and *AZF* (*Azote de France*, which means nitrogen fertilizer) incidents based on historical, attitudinal, and behavioral issues. It first analyzes the measure of disclosure through the change in volume of annual report, the number of press releases related to incident based on Total's internet website and also interview. In political issues, Van Leeuwen and Wodak (1999) analyzed the legitimation strategies used by Austrian

authority in legitimizing immigrant control by using discourse-historical approach, which includes some elements of representation of social practice, then the study divides the social practices into some category of legitimation and intertextualities. Reyes (2011) explained specific linguistic ways in which language represents an instrument of control and manifests symbolic power in discourse and society; it also develops and proposes some key strategies of legitimation employed by social actors to justify courses of action.

The present study attempts to investigate the legitimation construction by Regent of Garut in his statements in an interview related to his unregistered marriage. This study employs framework of discursive construction proposed by van Leeuwen (2008) and the legitimation will be identified based on four categories of legitimation by Leeuwen (2008), which are authorization, moral evaluation, rationalization, and mythopoesis. Besides legitimation, ideologies of the social actor will also be identified through the language use.

I.2. Statement of Problems

The problem of the present study is formulated in the following research questions:

1. What types of legitimation are used in Regent of Garut's statement in an interview related to his short and unregistered marriage?
2. What are the ideologies underlying the legitimation?

I.3. Aims of the Study

This study is conducted to reveal the types of legitimation used in Regent of Garut's statement in an interview related to his short and unregistered marriage, and the ideologies underlying the legitimation.

I.4. Scope of the Study

This study analyzes the use of legitimation construction in statements stated by Regent of Garut related to his short and unregistered marriage and how Regent of Garut legitimized his action through an interview taken by one of TV programs. This study will use van Leeuwen's framework of discursive construction of legitimation (2008) and the linguistic realizations of the action. They are used to answer the research questions of this study.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to analyze how an important person, in this case Regent of Garut, legitimates his action through an interview taken by one of TV program.

1.6. Research Methodology

This study will employ a CDA framework by Theo van Leeuwen about legitimation construction. It will analyse the types of legitimation which appear in the interview, then it will find out the ideology of Regent of Garut through the types of legitimation appeared. This research will use a qualitative approach to achieve the aims of the study. It is because the study involves an empirical data material, in this case is an interview (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994 in Klenke, 2008), then the study approaches to a research with analyzing data (Prasad and Prasad, 2002 in Klenke, 2008). The quantitative data will also be used in the study, because there will be some statistical mode to know the trends of legitimation construction used in the text.

The data collected are statements from Regent of Garut in an interview in one of TV news program. All the statements in the interview are related to his short and unregistered marriage with a girl which has spread in many mass media.

This study employs the CDA framework to analyze the statements from Regent of Garut. The analysis will begin with the identification of the statements regarding his legitimation in his short and unregistered marriage (action). It will be followed by the classification of legitimation construction; then, the classification will be measured to identify trends in the use of legitimation construction. Then, the ideologies are obtained by inferring the legitimation.

I.7. Clarification of the Terms

To avoid misconception and misunderstanding, there are some significant terms which have to be clarified here:

- **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)**

CDA criticizes some forms of domination and how the function of language constitutes and conveys certain knowledge, organizes social institutions or exercises power (Graham, 2002; Lemke, 2002; Martin and Wodak, 2003 in Wodak and Meyer, 2009). In this study, CDA is used as a tool to criticize how powerful person exercises his power to legitimize social action.

- **Legitimation**

According to van Leeuwen (2008) legitimation refers to the way social practice is made to be reasonable by certain people. In this study, legitimation construction proposed by van Leeuwen is used to reveal how certain social practice is legitimized by certain people, in this case is a powerful person.

- **Regent**

Regent is a person or group of persons selected to act as head of state (Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia, 2013). In this study, the Regent is a person as a head of Garut and a representation of Garut.

I.8. Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized in five chapters where each chapter contains subtopics which give detailed explanation of the information written. The first chapter, Introduction, includes background of the study, statement of problems, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology, clarification of key terms, and organization of paper. The second chapter presents the theoretical framework relevant to the present study. The third chapter, Research Methodology, explains the procedures taken in conducting the study. In the fourth chapter, the finding and discussion of this study are presented. The fifth chapter of the paper concludes the present study and offers some suggestions.

