

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, scope of study, research question, aims of study, research methodology, clarification of key terms, and organization of paper.

1.1 Background

The diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia again faces obstacles. The issue of maritime boundary is one of them, as happened in Riau Islands in 2010 where Malaysian Marine Forces detained three Indonesian officers from Marine and Fisheries Ministry for trespassing illegally to Malaysian territory.

To solve the incident, both nations worked together through gradual policies. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asked the Malaysian government to release the three Indonesian officers of Marine and Fisheries Ministry and instructed his ministries to coordinate and accelerate the talks. The Malaysian, on the other side, agreed to intensify the talks and prevented the similar incidents in the future.

The issue of maritime boundary becomes unfinished disputes. Therefore, every party must monitor those uncomfortable situations, which can be done through the news media. The news media has a big responsibility to control and to report what is happening in the society. The news media presents point of views from the credible sources such as the government and witnesses. Therefore, the

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study about representations, media, and ideology become fundamental studies for such issues.

There are some previous studies about the representation of news media and the ideology underlying the representation. Fenton-Smith (2007) discussed critical discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistic on the issue of the death of Yasser Arafat. Li (2010) conducted a similar research about the media's representation by analyzing The New York Times and China Daily's in reporting the bombing of Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia. In addition, Richardson (2007) presented the study of language journalism.

Through the studies above, the present study discusses the representation of diplomatic relation regarding the issue of maritime boundary disputes between Indonesia and Malaysia. This study employs transitivity system to unpack the articles published by The Jakarta Post and The Malaysian Insider which contain the issue of maritime boundary dispute between both nations. Furthermore, those representations are used to reveal the ideology of each news media as proposed by Fairclough (2003).

1.2 Research Question

These following questions underlie the research which is going to be conducted:

- 1 How do the Jakarta Post and Malaysian Insider represent the issue of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Malaysia?
- 2 What ideologies underlie the representations of the text?

1.3 The Aim of the Study

This research aims to the following:

1. To find the representation of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Malaysia in the articles of Jakarta Post and Malaysian Insider.
2. To find the ideology of the Jakarta Post and the Malaysian Insider underlying the representations.

1.4 Research Methodology

The present study uses a descriptive qualitative methodology. Fraenkel and Wallen (2006) describe that the qualitative method is the investigation towards the quality of relationship, activities, situations or materials. This description is appropriate for describing the present study, which presents the representation of diplomatic relation between Indonesia and Malaysia in the news media based on linguistic studies.

The data were four articles published by The Jakarta Post and The Malaysian Insider. Those data were used because contain the issue of this study i.e. the representations of diplomatic relations and the ideology of news media. The articles are retrieved in the websites of both news media as materials to conduct a comprehensive study.

In linguistic study, the data above are called as discourse. Those discourses are approached by using critical discourse analysis. Meanwhile, the analytical process is done by employing transitivity system proposed by Halliday (2004) frameworks. Through the analysis, the representations are collected to

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reveal the ideology of the news media i.e. The Jakarta Post and The Malaysia Insider.

1.5 Clarification of the Key Terms

Representation: “is a discorsal matter, ... which may represent the same area of the world from different perspectives or positions.”

(Fairclough, 2003: 26)

Ideology: “Representation of aspect of the world which can be shown to

contribute to establishing, maintaining and changing social relation of power, domination, and exploitation.” (Fairclough,

2003: 218, cited in Wodak and Meyer, 2009: 9)

Text: “words and sentences wove together to create a single whole”

(Christie and Misson, 1998: 8, cited in Emilia, 2005: 49)

Discourse: “The language associated with a particular social field or

practice.” (Wodak, 2009: 162)

Media: “The modern media are understood ..., most basically, as

technologies that enable reflexivity on a social scale, as they produce and circulate meaning in society” (Jensen, 2002: 6)

1.6 Organization of the Paper

There are five chapters in this paper. Chapter I (Introduction) presents the background of the study, the problems and the research methodology. Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation) presents some relevant theories focusing on linguistics. Chapter III (Research Methodology) presents critical discourse analysis as the approach to the study and transitivity system as the analytical tool. Chapter IV

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(Findings and Discussion) presents the finding regarding the representation and the ideology underlying those representations. Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions) presents the closing remarks and some useful suggestions.

