CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the present study. It covers 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.

1. 1 Background

Discourse can be defined as a way to picture social practices or reality and it can also legitimize or delegitimize the actions of actors within the social practices in a particular context (van Leeuwen, 2008). In picturing the social practice, discourse represents the events in the social practice, and evaluates and justifies them (van Leeuwen, 2008). The existing discourse in society might experience some changes, which in van Leeuwen's term is called transformation (van Leeuwen, 2009). There must be motives underlying any kind of transformation in the production of a discourse, e.g. to form a particular image or to legitimize a particular issue or action in the discourse. Thus, the way people legitimize particular things in a discourse can be used to see how discourse producer makes the discourse acceptable for the audience of the discourse and how the discourse fulfils the goal of particular people.

It is important to know people who produce discourse and how they make the discourse acceptable for its audience. According to Amer (2009: 2), legitimation is linked to power where people or things can be legitimized depending on "who speaks, the social status and role he/she speaks from and in what capacity".

Amer's statement suggests that the power of discourse producers plays an important role in making the discourse legitimate and acceptable for the people. They can make the legitimation explicitly mentioned or even make the legitimation invisible, depending on the particular goal they try to reach. People who have power to legitimize a discourse might use their power appropriately for the good sake of many people or abuse their power for their own advantage. This phenomenon can often be revealed by Critical Discourse Analysis.

There have been studies conducted within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. Most of them focus on the representation of particular people or group, such as the representation of the United States in newspaper articles (see Achugar 2004; Li 2009). There is also a study analyzing the way the American newspapers and US Department of Defense press release represent robot as "saving lives and selling war" (see Roderick 2010). The issue of gender construction in books and narratives has also been investigated using Critical Discourse Analysis (see Hobson 2004; Sunderland 2006; Wagner and Wodak 2006).

In analyzing the representation in discourse, there are also studies that focus on the issue of legitimation in discourse. Amer (2009) analyzes the legitimation strategies used to portray the Palestinian intifada by a famous columnist, Thomas Friedman. In economic issue, Vaara et al. (2006) analyze the legitimation strategies used in the articles about global industrial restructuring in media. In political discourse, van Leeuwen and Wodak (1999) analyze the legitimation strategies used by Austrian authority in legitimizing immigrant control. The

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analysis of legitimation is also used in investigating the speeches of presidents of the United States to reveal the strategies used to legitimize the United States' action in promoting war against particular countries that are viewed as a threat to United States and to the world (see Oddo, 2011; Reyes, 2011). Combining political and educational area, Peled-Elhanan (2010) investigates the legitimation of massacre to Palestinians in Israel school books.

While previous studies investigate the legitimation strategies used by the United States regarding war against other countries, the present study attempts to investigate the legitimation strategies used by the United Nations (UN) in promoting peace to a country that is experiencing conflict. Employing the theoretical framework of discursive construction of legitimation proposed by van Leeuwen (2008), the present study investigates the way the United Nations legitimizes its actions in response to the ongoing conflict in Libya. As the international organization that concerns world peace, the United Nations is mandated to take any possible measure to stop the conflict that might threaten world peace. Using seven statements or remarks from the Secretary General of the United Nations, the present study aims to figure out the types of legitimation used in justifying the United Nations' actions on Libyan conflict and their linguistic realizations. It will also examine the extent to which the actions are legitimized.

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1. 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 the statements of the United Nations' Secretary General regarding its action on Libyan conflict?

2. What are the linguistic realizations of the legitimation?

3. To what extent are the actions legitimized?

1. 3 Aims of the Study

This study is aimed at figuring out:

1. the types of legitimation used in the statements of the United Nations' Secretary General regarding its actions on Libyan conflict.

2. the linguistic realizations of the legitimation in the statements.

3. the extent to which the actions are legitimized.

1. 4 Scope of the Study

The present study analyses the use of legitimation strategies by using seven statements delivered by the Secretary General of United Nations during the conflict in Libya. This study examines how the United Nation's actions on Libyan conflict were legitimized based on van Leeuwen's framework of discursive construction of legitimation (2008) and their linguistic realizations. The analysis of types of legitimation and their linguistic realizations are used to answer the questions of this study.

1. 5 Research Method

This study employs the analytical framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. It uses qualitative method where the analysis focuses on analyzing and interpreting the elements in the text (see Creswell, 2008). The descriptive quantitative method is also utilized in this study to reveal the trends in the use of legitimation strategies. Van Leeuwen's approach on discursive construction of legitimation (2008) is chosen as the basis for analyzing the texts.

The data collected are statements from Secretary General of the United Nations regarding the United Nations' response to the conflict in Libya. There are seven statements used in this study which were taken from the official site of United Nations www.un.org on 12 October 2011. All of the statements are related to the situation in Libya and the implementation of the resolutions 1970 and 1973, which were issued on March 7, 2011.

This study employs CDA framework to analyze the seven remarks from Secretary General of the United Nations. The analysis begins with the identification of the major actions that relate to the Libyan conflict. It is followed by the classification of legitimation strategies and their linguistic realizations. Then, the classification is quantified to examine trends in the use of legitimation strategies.

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1. 6 Clarification of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the following key terms are clarified to suit the content of the present study.

- Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

  According to van Dijk (2008), CDA investigates the issue of power abuse, domination, and inequality in the texts based on the social and political contexts where and when the texts occur. In this study, CDA is used as a tool to investigate the way people in power exercise their power to legitimize particular actions in the text.

- Legitimation

  According to van Dijk (2007 cited in Peled-Elhanan, 2010), legitimation can be defined as a defense strategy that is used by a speaker toward past or present actions that are potentially being criticized or challenged by others. Meanwhile, van Leeuwen (2008) uses legitimation to reveal the reason why a discourse is produced in a particular way. In this study, legitimation refers to the strategy used by particular people and institution to make the discourse acceptable for the audience of the discourse.

- Secretary General

  Secretary-General can be defined as the United Nations' symbol and the representative of the people's interest especially the poor and the vulnerable people (United Nations, 2011a).

In this study, Secretary General of United Nations is defined as United Nations' representative that shows United Nations' standpoint toward particular issue without neglecting the aspiration of its members.

- United Nations

  United Nations is an international organization with its main role is to maintain world peace and security, concerning the social issues in the world and the issue of human rights (United Nations, 2011b).

1. 7 Organization of 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.