

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the explanation of the research design, data collection and analysis. It also covers the detail of research methodology employed in the current study that is aimed at analyzing the articles in terms of 1) how the newspaper presents the train wreck; 2) how the newspaper also represents the parties involved in the accident; and 3) what tendency behind the representations is.

3.1 Research Design

The method used in this study is qualitative, intended at describing the above phenomenon concerning the use of language to represent certain parties in certain events in a newspaper article. The focus of the analyst in this kind of study is on the issue of a particular phenomenon which has internal validity and contextual understanding, rather than generalizability and comparability, Alwasilah (2000:143). By that it means that the analyst explains (rather than proves) the relation of one particular phenomenon to some aspects that are relevant to it without being overly tight up to certain structured design and approach.

This kind of research design was employed because it is appropriate and supportive to the present study with, as suggested by Fairclough (2003), the objectives of descriptive, interpretative and explanatory aspects and result of the study. That is to unfold what is behind the representation of the train wrecks and the parties involved in it by the Jakarta Post.

3.2 Data Collection

3.2.1 Data Source

Some related articles were taken from the Jakarta Post of the online version. Three of them were taken as the subject of the study. The table below presents the detailed information of those chosen articles:

Table 3.1 The Selected Article List

Title of Article	Date of Publication	The Article Writer
36 Dead in C. Java Train Collision	Sunday, October 3 rd , 2010	Suherdjoko and Erwida Maulia
Machinist Suspect in Train Crash: Attorney	Monday, October 4 th , 2010	Unidentified
KAI Apologizes for Fatal Central Java Train Wrecks	Tuesday, October 5 th , 2010	Nani Afrida and Suherdjoko

They can be accessed on the official webpage of the Jakarta Post at

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/05/kai-apologizes-fatal-central->

[java-train-wrecks.html](http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/03/36-dead-), <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/03/36-dead->

[c-java-train-collision.html](http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/03/36-dead-), and

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/04/machinistsuspectintraincrash:att>

[orney.html](http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/04/machinistsuspectintraincrash:att)

This determination was due to some following reasons. First, the train as one of the means of the public transportation certainly deals with a massive number of people. Train wrecks happen many times in Indonesia, one of which was on October 2nd, 2010. It was a huge accident in 2010 that involved a lot of victims; both dead and injured. Due to its relation to a massive number of people, such issue was found interesting to investigate since it was related to wide social wellbeing and about how it was presented to the public as the articles in the newspaper. The determination of the selection is also supported by what Maxwell (1996) identifies as purposive sampling. It is “a strategy in which particular setting, person, or events are selected deliberately in order to provide important information that cannot be gotten as well from other choices” (Maxwell, 1996:70).

Second, the chosen newspaper was the Jakarta Post since it is a prominent English newspaper in Indonesia. It is published not only in the printed form but also in the on-line version thus massively read. By that, it has a fairly significant influence to its readers. For this matter, the way how the newspaper presents

certain issue might also influence the way how its readers see that particular issue and hence shapes their perspectives.

Third, the reasons why the articles were chosen are due to its comprehensive information presented in it. In the articles, the wreck, the victims, the government as well as the way how they were related to the events were found sufficiently presented. The articles were also considered thorough in reporting the event of the train wrecks.

3.2.2 Procedure of the Study

During conducting the study, some processes were passed through. Firstly, library research and internet research were undertaken due not only to finding as many references as possible that were relevant to the purposed study, but also to determining the subject of the study (the articles of the Jakarta Post).

Secondly, the issue was decided. That was the representations of the train wreck of Argo Bromo and Senja Utama that happened in 2010, the victims, and the government that is represented in the case by State-rail Way Company PT. KAI, State Insurance Company JASARAHARJA, National Commission of Transportation Safety (KNKT), the police investigator and the incumbent President, Susilo Bambang Yodhoyono and the tendency behind the representations presented by the Jakarta Post in its articles.

Thirdly, the articles related to the issue above were gathered. However, based on the aforementioned reasons, only three were taken. And then they were repeatedly and carefully read in order to gain comprehensive understanding over the case.

Fourthly, the analysis was undertaken. It was conducted through Systemic Functional Grammar in terms of linguistic aspect (the text analysis) which involves the use of transitivity and nominalization. Given the result of the text analysis and through the use of Critical Discourse Analysis that includes the social event identification process, the tendency behind the representations was available to be investigated for the pursuit of the objectives of the study.

Lastly, at the end of the study, the conclusion and the suggestion were drawn. The conclusion was derived from the findings and discussions of the study, while the suggestion was given for the sake of betterment for the next study in the future.

3.3 Data Analysis

The analysis of the study relies on the approach of Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Norman Fairclough which is related to Systemic Functional Linguistics and Systemic Functional Grammar. Thus the analysis in terms of linguistic feature (textual analysis) is built on the foundation of Systemic

Functional Grammar that examines the text through several aspects such as transitivity and nominalization.

Furthermore, the attempt of unfolding the tendency behind the representation of the newspaper (which is based on the stages of interpretation and explanation) is built on the basis of Fairclough’s Critical Discourse Analysis approach that includes the social event identification process. The interpretation is done in order to comprehend and interpret the meaning behind the words the writers wrote. Further, it comes to explanation. This is done after the textual analysis and interpretation of it are completed hence the access to unfolding what tendency behind the representation is became accessible.

To get a clear vision of how the analysis was undertaken, the examples of the analysis were given below:

(1) transitivity analysis

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	has ordered	a thorough investigation	into [a fatal train crash that killed 36 people in Pemalang regency, Central Java, on Saturday]
Sayer	Process: verbal	verbiage	Target

(Taken from “36 dead in C. Java Train Collision” article)

Figure 3.1 Example of Transitivity Analysis

The process in the above clause is Verbal. It places “President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono” as the sayer (the one who utters the order), “has ordered”

as the verbal process, “a thorough investigation” is the verbiage and “into [a fatal train crash that killed 36 people in Pemalang regency, Central Java, on Saturday]” as the target towards which the thorough investigation is addressed. It is written that President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is the sayer of the order which means that he is responsible for the initiation of the implementation of the investigation that is going to be done concerning the accident and it has to be a thorough investigation. Hence he is likely to get the credit also once the investigation manages to unfold the truth about the accident.

(2) nominalization analysis

When asked if it was possible that Transportation Minister Freddy Numberi could lose his job over the incidents, Julian said it would depend on the results of the investigation

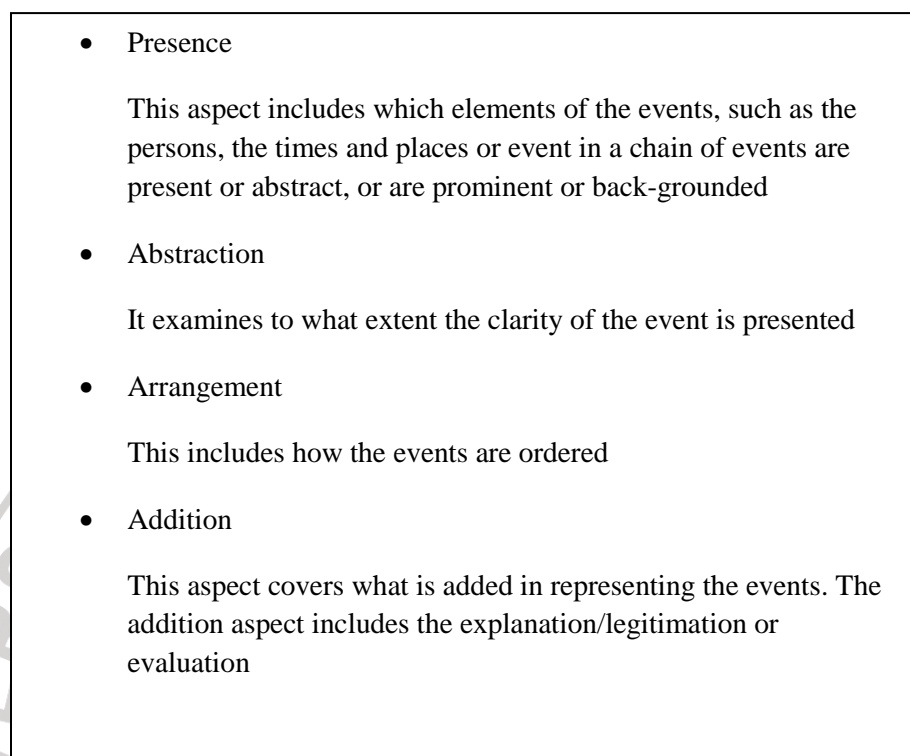
(Taken from “36 dead in C. Java Train Collision” article)

In the sentence above, the underlined clause shows the implementation of nominalization strategy. Nominalization obscures the involvement of human agent within the taken action. In the clause “it” (the decision of firing somebody from board) is not taken based on the decision of certain person hence does not involve human agent’s contribution even though in the sentence Julian is recognized as the human agent involves in the process of stating the idea within the sentence. Instead, in the clause the readers do not get to know who will probably fire the Transportation Minister (if the Minister will be fired at all).

(3) Identification of Social Events and its Aspects

Through the strategy of the identification of social events, the aspects of the events such as the forms of activity of the events, the persons involved, the social relation, means, times and places and language are revealed. This is used to reveal whether the events are constantly put at the focus, which social actors or the persons in the event are the prominent one, how the events are arranged and what addition is added to the way how the events are presented. This whole strategy is used supportively in the means of unfolding what is behind the representation through these aspects; presence, abstraction, arrangement, and addition.

In brief the figure below will explain how the analyst undertakes the analysis based on the aspect of identification of social events and its aspects.



(adapted from Fairclough “Analyzing Discourse”, (2003:139))

Figure 3.2 The Aspects of Social Events’ Identification Strategy

3.4 Concluding Remark

The explanation of the ways how the analysis was undertaken has been highlighted. The aforementioned explanation of the processes of the research is aimed at giving the clarity to the methodology of the current study (that is descriptive qualitative) so that the understanding is achieved. In the next chapter, Chapter IV, the findings and the discussion of the study are presented.