

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the present study. It consists of background of the study explaining the reasons why the research is conducted. This chapter also provides the research questions, aims of study, research method, clarification of key terms and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of The Study

One of the current issues which may always be interesting to be discussed is gender. According to Hornby (2000), gender is grouped into male and female. People believe male and female have different roles. This role is formulated by considering sexual stereotype: masculinity and femininity.

Indonesia is a country in which many aspects of life are regulated by the law. Law is a system of rules which is enforced through a set of institutions. Law serves the society as the social mediator. Therefore, government as the institution which produces the law can contribute to creating the equality of gender.

After ten years of reform movement in Indonesia, issue of gender inequality apparently still exists. Based on critical law approach according to feminists, law and gender should be fair. Discrimination and harassment toward women should not exist in the society. Women National Commission (2008) notes that there are 27 national policies and 88 regional policies putting women as the

object. Those policies regulate what cloth the women should wear, what time the women should do their activities, etc. Values, standards, and portrayal about women are depicted through the policies. Meanwhile, the policies do not regulate what the men should do. Unfortunately, women often receive role as object and men as subject. In other words, equality, justice, and power are disproportionately distributed in Indonesia.

Marriage law has been chosen as a subject of this study because the law regulates the role of women and men in the household. In addition, marriage law is a new challenge for Indonesian women to play their role in society. By analyzing the law, the government's view in solving some social problems can be revealed.

This study analyzes the law concerning the women's and men's position in the family, i.e. Law No.1/1974 about marriage. This study tries to find how women and men are represented in family institution through the marriage law text. It also tries to reveal the ideology underlying the representation.

1.2 Research Questions

This study has formulated three questions that are used as guidance in conducting this research. It is presented as follows:

1. How are Indonesian women represented in the marriage law?
2. How are Indonesian men represented in the marriage law?
3. What is the ideology behind 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 the Indonesian women in Indonesian law on marriage.
2. to investigate the representation of the Indonesian men in Indonesian law on marriage.
3. to identify the ideology behind the representation.

1.4 Research Method

This present study is largely qualitative supported some descriptive quantification. Strauss and Corbin (1990, cited in Hopfl 1997) claim that qualitative method can be used to better understand any phenomena about which little is yet known. This study applies Fairclough's framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the framework of study, which relies to a large extent on Systemic Functional Linguistics.

The data of this study is the text of Indonesian law of marriage. The data is collected from an internet site, www.lbh-apik.or.id. The text is analyzed by using Fairclough's framework of CDA. Fairclough (1995) proposes three stages of analysis. These stages are description, interpretation, and explanation.

1.5 Clarification of the Key Terms

There are some important terms which are frequently used in this study. It is necessary to look at their definition in order to avoid ambiguity.

1. Representation : the way every aspect of the world is described through discourse (Fairclough, 2003).
2. Law : the selection of a special set of norms and a set of special interaction systems existing in society.
3. Gender : social differences between males and females. (Graddol and Swan, 1989).
4. CDA : an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse, which views "language as a form of social practice" (Fairclough 1989: 20).
5. SFL : associated with the relation between language and other elements and aspects of social life, and its approach is always directed to the social character of texts (Halliday, cited in Fairclough, 2003).
6. Ideology : representations of aspects of the world, which can be shown to contribute to establishing, maintaining and changing social relations of power, domination and exploitations (Fairclough, 2003).

By understanding the definition of these terms, it is expected that the readers will gain the correct comprehension about what this study presents.

1.6 Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction, which consists of background of the research, research question, aims of the study, methodology, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper. Chapter II is theoretical foundation. This chapter contains basic theory for conducting the problem research. This chapter presents Discourse Analysis (DA), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Themmatization, Transitivity, Lexical Choice, laws and language, ideology, and previous studies. Chapter III is research method. This chapter presents statements of the problems, research design, data collection and data analysis. Chapter IV is findings and discussion. This chapter is the presentations of the results of the study. In this chapter, all collected data and findings are presented, analyzed in detail, and interpreted as clearly as possible. Chapter V is the last chapter. This chapter provides the conclusions and suggestions of the study.