



A Lexical Analysis of Two Online Media Articles with regard to Prabowo's Proposal to end Conflict of Russia and Ukraine

Siti Sopiah¹⁾; Edi Purnama²⁾

Universitas Nasional Pasim, Universitas Nasional Pasim
Ambusitisopiah28@gmail.com, Edpur@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study investigated two articles concerning the issue of Prabowo's proposal to end conflict of Russia and Ukraine published in Sindonews.com and Tribunnews.com. It focusses on two problems, how Prabowo proposal is represented and what agenda behind such representation. The articles are selected purposively on the basis of specifically. The data analysis is conducted by employing CDA framework that is lexical analysis. It found that Tribunnews.com tends to represent Prabowo proposal negatively. On the other hands, Sindonews.com portrays Prabowo proposal positively. Those representations lead to an interpretation that parties behind Tribunnews seems to be unsupportive to Prabowo meanwhile Sindonews.com is supportive for Prabowo especially in terms of President election.

Keyword: CDA, representation, ideology, lexical analysis

INTRODUCTION

It appears that mass media have a significant role in modern society nowadays. People rely on media as source of information on which they can access both entertainment and information (Hornby, 2000). In addition to reporting various events, mass media are important in forming opinions and voting decisions. In this respect, mass media are beneficial to the conduct of democratic society. As mentioned by Sobur (2001), some theoreticians consider mass media as "the fourth estate" whose job is to watch for wrongdoings of the "three powers", those are the legislative, executive and judiciary.

Although the existence of mass media is important, the reality in the media may not always be as it is. Eriyanto (2002:2) supports this idea by stating that mass media as often people can see now, have constructed a reality in such a way.

On the background of the issues presented above, this study attempts to investigate how a political figure named Prabowo Subiyanto is represented in two popular online media, those are *Tribunnews.com* and *Sindonews.com* with regard to the issue of Russia and Ukraine conflict. The issue began when during his presentation in Singapore, Prabowo as the defense militer initiated to end Russia and Ukraine conflict by proposing some points as follows: Secure a cease-fire,



have both sides withdraw 15 kilometers from their forward positions to establish a demilitarized buffer zone, have United Nations peacekeeping forces monitor the truce and have the UN lead a referendum on which country the disputed territories should belong to.

The research relies on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the framework of analysis and discussion. In accordance with the researcher's investigation, there are some papers adopting the perspective of critical discourse analysis as their analytical framework. Two of them are entitled "The Depiction of Indonesian President Candidates in The Jakarta Post Campaigning News" written by Luriyanti (2005) and "The Representation of Current Government in Serambi Indonesia News Reports of Acehese Refugee Relocation" by Melina (2006)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical Discourse Analysis

CDA tries to unite and determine the relationship between the levels of text, the discursive practices, and the context in which texts emerge (Huckin, 1997). Critical discourse analysis is created with particular aims. Derived from Habermas's (1973, in McGregor, 2003) critical theory, CDA aims to help the analyst to understand social problems that are influenced by mainstream ideology and power relations. Furthermore, according to Fairclough (1993, in McGregor, 2003) CDA aims to explore how the relationships among discursive practice, texts, and wider social and cultural aspects can secure power. In relevance with this, CDA focuses on power imbalances, social inequities, non-democratic practices, and other injustices actions in hopes people will correct such actions (Fairclough, 1993 in McGregor, 2003).

In addition to the two aims, CDA can be used to understand media messages (Eriyanto, 2001). The constructed information presented in a text, which can be a strategy to secure or to resist particular power, is able to be naturalized by the help of CDA (Fairclough, 1992 in Xiaofei Lu, 2000). In relation to the present study, CDA is chosen as a way to reveal hidden messages behind media discourse. People may take for granted all the media messages. They accept all information presented without asking its validity. In this context, CDA will be useful for critically examining media messages, enabling the analyst to realize that media messages do not necessarily have to be taken for granted.

Lexical Analysis

Fairclough (1989: 115) argues that the vocabulary used in a text "follows a classification scheme which constitutes a particular way of dividing up some aspects of reality which is built upon a particular ideology representation of that



reality”. The Fairclough’s argument informs that vocabulary presented in a text can be ideological since the lexical choice will construct a representation of the world.

Fairclough (1989) further states that lexical analysis is employed to examine how words are used to show ideology. The lexical analysis works through an examination of the choice of the words used in the texts that often represent certain meanings and ideological position. More specifically, it works by examining in what ways things classified, what aspects of reality are overworded and how synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy are used to construct ideology (Fairclough, 1998).

Meanwhile, Huckin (1997) suggests that to find the ideological position in a text, lexical analysis can work by considering special meanings (or connotations) that are carried by certain words and phrases. “connotations are often assigned on the basis of the cultural knowledge of the participants. when connotations are associated with one word, or through metaphor and figures of speech, it can influence the uncritical readers’ mind (McGregor, 2003)

METHODOLOGY

The data include an article published in *Tribunnews.com* published on 07 June 2023 entitled “Akademisi Unair Nilai Proposal Menhan Prabowo Soal Rusia-Ukraina Bisa Berujung Permalukan Indonesia” and the other article published in *Sindonews.com* on 09 June 2023 entitled “Proposal Perundingan Prabowo dinilai langkah maju diplomasi RI tengah konflik Ukraina-Rusia”

All the data will be analyzed using Fairclough’s text analysis (1989). Fairclough proposed three levels of text analysis in CDA, namely description, interpretation, and explanation. Description is the stage where linguistic features of discourse are obtained as clues for revealing the hidden ideology (Goatly, 2000). In this stage, each text is analyzed using particular units of Hallidayan functional grammar (1994, 2004). The units of analysis employed are passivisation, nominalization and lexical choice. The second level is interpretation. Interpretation is the stage where the linguistic features are interpreted on the basis that the writer has the intention to be guessed (Goatly, 2003). Explanation is the stage where the discourse processes is related to social processes. In this level, ideology of the texts is explained.



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Representation of Prabowo's Proposal

The term 'representation' refers to how an event, people, group, or everything is represented in the texts (Fairclough, 1989). To find the representation of Lesti Kejora, the data was analyzed by using lexical analysis. The analysis of Lexical Analysis is as follows.

Table 1

Words reporting Prabowo's proposal

In <i>Tribunnews.com</i>	Sense	In <i>Sindonews.com</i>	Sense
Aneh	Negative	langkah maju	Positive
tidak bisa diterima	Negative	Positive	Positive
mempermalukan	Negative	hal kongkret	Positive
menyerupai proposal Rusia	Negative	tidak berlebihan	Positive
tidak bisa diterima	Negative	Jelas	Positive
cederai kepercayaan	Negative	Terukur	Neutral
terburu-buru diajukan	Negative	memperkaya upaya perdamaian	Positive

Table 2

Words reporting Prabowo

In <i>Tribunnews.com</i>	Sense	In <i>Sindonews.com</i>	Sense
melakukan kesalahan	Negative	memiliki niat baik	Positive
mempermalukan Indonesia	Negative	ingin menciptakan perdamaian	Positive
mempermalukan nama dia sendiri	Negative		

Table 1 points out that *Tribunnews. Com* labeled Proposal proposed by Prabowo to end conflict between Russia and Ukraine with negative words. There are seven words that describe the proposal. In contrast, *Sindonews.com* put mostly positive words into the proposal. As many as 6 words found having positive words, and one word is neutral. Table 2 shows that *Tribunnews. Com* labeled Prabowo with negative words. On the contrary, *Sindonews.com* two positive label to Prabowo.

Ideology underlying the presentation



The ideology beneath texts can also be observed through the lexical analysis. As stated by Fairclough (1989), lexical analysis is employed to examine how words are used to show ideology. In lexical analysis, the analysis is employed to check out vocabulary items that are ideologically significant in the texts (Fairclough, 1985: 113). In relation to the lexical analysis in the articles under focus, the analysis only focuses on the use of the words describing Prabowo and his proposal. The representation of Prabowo indicates that parties behind *Tribunnews.com* is unsupportive to Prabowo as a political figure in Indonesia. This fact also portrays that for 2024 presidential election, they will be Prabowo's opponent. On the other hand, Parties behind *Sindonews.com* is supportive to Prabowo and may become his supporter for the 2024 presidential election.

CONCLUSION

The study comes to a conclusion that it found that Prabowo proposal positively. Those representations lead to an interpretation that parties behind *Tribunnews* seems to be unsupportive to Prabowo meanwhile *Sindonews.com* is supportive for Prabowo especially in terms of President election.

REFERENCES

- Eriyanto. (2001). *Analisis Wacana: Pengantar Analisis Teks Media*. Yogyakarta: Lkis
- Fairclough, Norman. (1989). *Language and Power*. London and Newyork: Longman.
- Fairclough, Norman. (1998). *Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language*. . London and Newyork: Longman.
- Goatly, Andrew. (2000). Coursebook. *Critical Reading and Writing: an Introductory*. London and Newyork: Routledge
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (2nd ed). . London: Arnold
- Halliday, M.A.K. (2004). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (3rd ed). NewYork: Oxford University Press
- Hodge., and Kress. (1993). *Language as Ideology*. London: Routledge
- Hornby, AS. (2000). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. England: Oxford University Press.
- Huckin, TN. (1997). *Critical Discourse Analysis*. Available at: [http://exchanges State.gov/ education/engteachinng/pubs?BR/5111PRE.htm](http://exchanges.State.gov/education/engteachinng/pubs?BR/5111PRE.htm) Accessed on 20/03/2006



- Luriyanti. (2005). *The Depiction of Indonesian President Candidates in The Jakarta Post Campaigning News*. A Research Paper from English Department of UPI: Unpublished.
- Lu, Xiaofei. (2002). *Discourse and Ideology: The Taiwan Issue in the Chinese and American Media*: Available at: <http://www.ling.ohio state.edu/-xflu/papers/2002.pdf>. Accessed on 18/05/2006
- McGregor. (2003). *Critical Discourse Analysis- A primer*. Available at <http://www.kon.org./archievs/forum/15-1/mcgregor>. Accessed on 18/01/2006
- Melina. (2006). *The Reresentation of Current Government in Serambi Indonesia News Reports of Acehnese Refugee Relocation*. A Research Paper from English Department of UPI: unpublished.
- Sindonews.com. (2023). *Proposal Perundingan Prabowo dinilai langkah maju diplomasi RI tengah konflik Ukraina-Rusia*. Retrieved at <https://nasional.sindonews.com/read/1117799/14/proposal-perundingan-prabowo-dinilai-langkah-maju-diplomasi-ri-tengah-konflik-ukraina-rusia-1685937963>
- Tribunnews.com. (2023). *Akademisi Unair Nilai Proposal Menhan Prabowo Soal Rusia-Ukraina Bisa Berujung Permalukan Indonesia*. Retrieved at <https://www.tribunnews.com/nasional/2023/06/09/akademisi-unair-nilai-proposal-menhan-prabowo-soal-rusia-ukraina-bisa-berujung-permalukan-indonesia>.