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Critical Discourse Analysis: Submitting the News about Boris Johnson's Victory in the Election of England Prime Minister through Online Media

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, information delivery often relies on internet-based media, also known as online media. This study aims to examine how Boris Johnson's victory in the British Prime Minister election is reported through the electronic media Liputan6.com and to analyze the critical discourse meaning of its coverage in CNN Indonesia. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method and utilizes Fairclough's discourse analysis. Fairclough emphasizes "language as a social practice" and explores how media ideologically represent news stories in their texts. The findings indicate that critical discourse analysis highlights discourse as a form of interaction and demonstrates how spoken and written language function as social practices.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse, Critical Discourse Analysis, Social Language*

INTRODUCTION

The development of technology in the modern era has become increasingly sophisticated, especially with the widespread use of the internet in daily life. The internet allows us to access updated information, with news dissemination now presented through electronic media in various forms, such as news articles, breaking news, and even interactive broadcasts. The way information is delivered has evolved—from merely reading text to being able to listen, watch, and interact directly with newsmakers. Today, online media has become the primary source of information, with platforms such as Liputan6.com, CNN Indonesia, Tribunnews, and Detik.com providing easily accessible updates for the public. Each of these online platforms presents information differently and has its own unique characteristics, covering diverse topics such as social issues, politics, sports, and entertainment. However, the way information is constructed varies among media outlets based on their respective ideologies, leading to differences in how news is presented. To better understand these differences, this study aims to conduct a critical discourse analysis of how media construct news using Fairclough's theory, ensuring clearer and more comprehensive interpretations of information.

According to Fairclough, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) examines language as a means of representing social practices and highlights how language influences power dynamics and ideological struggles in society. This study will analyze a news report using Norman Fairclough's model to understand its deeper implications. Several previous studies have explored similar themes. Wulandari (2016) conducted research on critical discourse analysis in Abdurrahim Arsyad's humorous discourse in Stand Up Comedy 4 on Kompas TV, examining how humor reflects political sensitivities and critiques issues such as discrimination against Eastern Indonesians and government policies on education and public welfare. Another study by Wahab (2019) analyzed critical discourse in online media reports from Kumaran.com and ArrahmahNews.com regarding the rejection of Khalid Basamalah's religious lecture in Sidoarjo, East Java. This study examined the text structure, social cognition, and broader societal implications of media coverage on this controversy. Additionally, Suciartini (2017) analyzed the Mata Najwa program episode titled All Because of Ahok on Metro TV, evaluating its macro, superstructure, and microstructural elements. The study highlighted how Ahok's leadership was presented, particularly in relation to policies such as the eviction of residents, reclamation projects, and his campaign for re-election. The analysis also revealed how Najwa Shihab's interviewing style used strong, direct, and transparent language to extract detailed responses.

Based on this background, this study aims to examine how Liputan6.com and CNN Indonesia reported Boris Johnson's victory in the British Prime Minister election. The goal is to analyze the differences in how these two media outlets present the news and interpret the political implications of his win.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Definition of Language

Language is a means of communication and interaction between human beings. It is the most important medium for humans and, in many ways, can be considered the essence of social phenomena. Without language, society would not exist, and there would be no interaction beyond instinct-driven activities.

Bromley (1992) describes language as a structured system of symbols used to convey various ideas and information through visual and verbal symbols. Visual symbols include those that can be seen, written, and read, while verbal symbols encompass those that can be spoken and heard.

Kartomihardjo (1998) states that people, whether consciously or unconsciously, use language that exists and evolves within society. Language is a social fact that must be viewed as a form of social expression. Humans and language are inseparable—wherever humans exist, language is essential for interaction with their surroundings. Through language, humans can express thoughts and perspectives, which can then be shared with others. Language belongs to society and is embedded in each individual.

To understand how language users carry certain ideologies, a thorough analysis is required. The study of language must extend to examining the social processes within it, such as domination, hegemony, and ideology, which are contested, enacted, distributed, maintained, and even institutionalized.

A language that functions effectively is called a text. Halliday and Hasan (1992) define functional language as one that performs specific tasks within a situational context. According to them, a text is any instance of living language that plays a role in a given context.

The Definition of News

Nowadays, news presentation in mass media is highly diverse, especially in newspapers, where it is almost always found on their pages. Besides the form, the content of news also varies in its presentation. Djaroto (2000) defines news by emphasizing its informational aspect, particularly regarding events in social life. Junaedhie (1991) states that news is a report or notification about general and recent events delivered through mass media. Based on these definitions, news can be understood as a form of report or announcement in mass media concerning general and current events. Generally, news is new information or an update about something happening, presented through print, broadcast, the internet, or word of mouth to a broad audience.

News is essentially a construction of social reality shaped by journalists' experiences and knowledge. Several elements define news, including the presence of events, facts, or opinions; the introduction of new information; significant meaning; and the ability to attract public attention. The media play a crucial role in the development of information dissemination in society. When covering an

event and transforming it into a news story for the public, language serves as the primary medium. The way news is packaged can be influenced by various factors, one of which is ideology.

Mass media, through language, carry specific ideological values. Fairclough (1992) argues that in modern society, power is increasingly exercised through ideology, particularly via language. He highlights how language, used as a tool of power, is central to this process. According to Efendi (2003), mass media refers to mass communication channels made possible by modern technology. These media present diverse content, including news, opinions, and advertisements.

News serves as an information hub, reporting on events that impact society and the nation. It is the primary product delivered to readers. Opinions provide a platform for the public to express ideas, criticisms, and suggestions to government authorities. Advertising, on the other hand, is a revenue source for mass media companies. Among these three components, news remains the most significant, as audiences rely on it to access information. In journalism, information refers to facts presented or knowledge obtained (Suprpto, 2010).

Critical Discourse Analysis

Darma (2009) states that critical discourse analysis is a process of examining and clarifying a text (social reality) studied by individuals or dominant groups with specific objectives to achieve their desired outcomes. This analysis explores the dynamics of social power, domination, and interests, which are reproduced and maintained through texts, with discussions linked to social and political contexts that carry particular goals and assumptions.

According to Jorgensen and Phillips (2007), critical discourse analysis is used to study the relationship between discourse and social and cultural development within society. Its purpose is to explain the role of discourse in shaping social and cultural phenomena, examine processes of change in modernity, and explore the relationship between language use and social practices. The primary focus of critical discourse analysis is on how discursive practices contribute to maintaining social order and driving social change.

Discourse is not only viewed from a linguistic perspective but also in relation to specific contexts and power dynamics. Critical discourse analysis investigates how social forces and inequalities are reproduced and sustained through texts, particularly within social and political contexts (Darma, 2009). It sees language as a crucial tool in revealing power imbalances in society.

Eriyanto (2011) highlights that a key approach in critical discourse analysis, known as Critical Linguistics, examines how grammatical structures carry ideological positions and meanings. In other words, ideology can be identified through language choices and grammatical constructions.

Ideology itself is a central concept in critical discourse analysis (Darma, 2009). It is constructed by dominant groups to reproduce and legitimize their

power. One strategy they employ is shaping public awareness. A fundamental task of critical discourse analysis is to identify ideological influences, requiring a thorough examination of how language conveys ideological values. This analysis uniquely combines linguistic studies with socio-political perspectives relevant to the evolution of social theory and language.

The construction of reality through media places representation at the core of critical research. Unlike pluralist perspectives, which view reality as naturally occurring, the critical paradigm argues that reality is shaped by representations of dominant social forces. This paradigm challenges the notion of reality as an objective truth, emphasizing that media plays a central role in power struggles by reinforcing and legitimizing the values of dominant groups while shaping audience perceptions.

From a critical perspective, media and news are not neutral entities. Instead, they reflect the processes through which news is produced, as well as the roles of journalists and media institutions within these processes. In news text analysis, the critical paradigm asserts that news is not an impartial space but a contested arena where opposing societal views are expressed and negotiated.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is descriptive and presented qualitatively. Djajasudarma (2006) states that the qualitative method is a procedure that produces descriptive data, both oral and written, that develop or exist in society. In this method, the descriptively generated data is not judged as right or wrong but is presented systematically, factually, and accurately regarding the data, its characteristics, and its relation to the phenomena.

This study also applies Fairclough's discourse analysis. Fairclough's theory focuses on critical research concerning the presentation of news texts, particularly those published on online news media. Fairclough argues that, in modern society, power is increasingly exercised through ideology, specifically conveyed via language. He views language as a practice of power and emphasizes that to understand how language users convey ideological values, a thorough analysis is required. This is because language functions as an action within dialectical relationships with social structures.

The data acquisition process in this study involved several steps. Researchers searched for and identified data related to Boris Johnson's victory, compiled a list of 10 data points, and analyzed the text from a linguistic perspective. The analysis focused on interpretation, examining the process of text production and interpretation while assessing whether the media coverage was neutral, biased, or taking sides in reporting Boris Johnson's victory.

The subject of this research is the online media coverage of Boris Johnson's recent victory, with data sourced from two online news platforms: Liputan6.com

and CNN Indonesia. These online media were selected because of the differences in how they presented reports on Boris Johnson's victory.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Result

Liputan6 is an Indonesian television news program broadcast on SCTV. The news presented on www.liputan6.com is available in video format and includes reporting directions that focus on the criminal aspect. This media provides detailed information in its reports.

CNN, which stands for Cable News Network, is a cable news channel from the United States (US) founded in 1980 by media mogul Ted Turner. When it was launched, CNN became the first television channel to offer 24-hour news coverage and the first dedicated news television channel in the US.

Fairclough is interested in "language as a social practice" and the role of media in representing news through news texts. In the two online media platforms, liputan6.com and CNN Indonesia, there are differences in how Boris Johnson's victory is presented. The following are news headlines covering Boris Johnson's victory.

Table 1. Headline Data of Boris Johnson News

No	www.liputan6.com	No	www.cnnindonesia.com
	Headline News		Headline News
1	Boris Johnson's Victory Triggers Demonstrators' Protests	6	Boris Johnson's Victory and a Smooth Road to Brexit
2	British Election, Will Boris Johnson Solve the Brexit Chaos?	7	Israel Calls Boris Johnson Victory, Defeat of Anti-Jews
3	Boris Johnson's Party Wins the UK Parliamentary Election, Brexit January 31, 2020	8	Winning the Election, Boris Johnson Returns to Prime Minister of England
4	Re-elected as PM, Boris Johnson urges Brexit to continue	9	Boris Johnson is Predicted to Win in the 2019 British Election
5	VIDEO: Boris Johnson Predicted to Win the British Election	10	US Supports Brexit, Ready to Make a Deal with Britain

Source: Processed Data by Researchers

The data (1) titled "Boris Johnson's Victory Triggers Demonstrators' Protests" on the media platform www.liputan6.com presents negative reporting.

The phrase "triggers demonstrators" implies that there is a cause behind a controversy or issue, which in turn leads to demonstrations. In this case, many British citizens disagreed with the election results that led to Boris Johnson's victory.

The data (2) titled "British Election, Will Boris Johnson Solve the Brexit Chaos?" on www.liputan6.com expresses doubts about Boris Johnson's ability as Prime Minister. The British public remains uncertain about his capacity to resolve the Brexit issue and continues to question his performance on the matter.

The data (3) titled "Boris Johnson's Party Wins the UK Parliamentary Election, Brexit January 31, 2020" on www.liputan6.com provides information about Boris Johnson's party's victory and indicates that Brexit will once again be under his control. This suggests that Johnson will follow up on the Brexit decision that was previously stalled. The timeline for resolving Brexit, which had been delayed for several months, must now be completed by January 31, 2020.

The data (4) titled "Re-elected as PM, Boris Johnson Urges Brexit to Continue" on www.liputan6.com highlights that Johnson, after being re-elected as Prime Minister, remains committed to pushing Brexit forward. The Conservative Party has shown support for his decision to call for early elections. Meanwhile, the EU hopes that Johnson's victory will expedite parliamentary approval of the Brexit deal.

The data (5) titled "VIDEO: Boris Johnson Predicted to Win the British Election" on www.liputan6.com shows support for the Conservative Party. The media reports on the prediction that Boris Johnson would win the election and become the new British Prime Minister.

The data (6) titled "Boris Johnson's Victory and a Smooth Road to Brexit" on www.cnnindonesia.com presents support for the Conservative Party's victory. The media also expresses its support for Brexit, suggesting that Boris Johnson's win will provide the best path forward in resolving the issue.

The data (7) titled "Israel Calls Boris Johnson's Victory a Defeat of Anti-Jews" on www.cnnindonesia.com shows support from Israel. Israel views Johnson's victory as a significant milestone in the fight against anti-Semitism. The media presents a positive perspective on Boris Johnson's election win.

The data (8) titled "Winning the Election, Boris Johnson Returns as Prime Minister of the UK" on www.cnnindonesia.com highlights the support for Johnson's re-election as Prime Minister. It emphasizes that he will continue his role and proceed with Brexit policies.

The data (9) titled "Boris Johnson is Predicted to Win in the 2019 British Election" on www.cnnindonesia.com conveys support for Boris Johnson by presenting positive news. The word "superior" implies dominance and victory, leading to the conclusion that Boris Johnson secured the Prime Minister position by outperforming his opponents.

The data (10) titled "US Supports Brexit, Ready to Make a Deal with Britain" on www.cnnindonesia.com reports on the United States' support for Brexit and its readiness to establish a deal with Boris Johnson's government. The media presents this as a positive development for the public.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, critical discourse analysis emphasizes discourse as a form of interaction. Through critical discourse analysis, the use of spoken and written language is seen as a form of social practice. This social practice is related to real-life events and social structures. The role of the media is inseparable from ideological practices, as media outlets use specific structures in their news presentations to attract readers' interest. The two media sources analyzed, www.liputan6.com and www.cnnindonesia.com, present different perspectives on various realities through their choice of headlines and discourse.

According to Fairclough's theory, the main subject of this news coverage is British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The media focuses on shaping his public image, either positively or negatively. www.liputan6.com presents the news from a political angle, portraying Boris Johnson in a critical light. In contrast, www.cnnindonesia.com highlights support for Boris Johnson as the new British Prime Minister.

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