CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a description to build an understanding of the main issue discussed in this study. It involves research background, research questions, research objectives, research significance, key terms definitions, and writing organization.

1.1 Research Background

In November 2020, there were many kinds of news media in Indonesia and worldwide, which highlighted the return of an Indonesian Muslim activist who has a significant influence in this country. He is Habib Rizieq Shihab, the chairman of an Islamic organization called FPI (Front Pembela Islam), who spent his exile in Saudi Arabia for the last past three years. By his influence, it is not surprising that the news of his return was very enthusiastically awaited and welcomed by millions of Muslims from various regions in this country. They were not only willing to wait for hours at the airport to welcome HRS, but they also jam-packed the streets of the capital. Considering Indonesia as a country with the largest Muslim population globally, the HRS figure is regarded as having so much power to influence millions of Muslims. Apart from being a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, he is well-known for his fearlessness to enforce the Islamic law in Indonesia with religious diversity. For that reason, the controversial figure was in the limelight, and his return was an issue that continues to spread on the news.

News has a crucial role in mass communication. All kinds of news every day in all areas will be published and spread so fast, like social, culture, education, or politics. Van Dijk (1988) stated that some contained value

criteria underlying news media in publishing news, such as attention, selection, and decision manners. For instance, the death of a public figure in a car accident will get more attention than a five-car pile-up, which means the first one is more newsworthy. Simply put, there are some rational sorts to be involved as means to filter the news event. Van Dijk mentions aspects such as "accessibility, position, and status, social or political power, knownness, visibility, or simply participation in highly negative or spectacular events (criminals, victims)". To maximize the news, the newsmaker must use the filters to produce a news event. As it is known, political news is prospective to attract more readers, and so the news media is likely to prioritize political or governance issues.

The wide-spreading news about the return of HRS became an example of social and political power, which is highly prioritized by news media; one of them is The Jakarta Post which keeps updating the news about the controversial figure. As one of Indonesia's largest and most influential English-language news media, The Jakarta Post and its standpoint on specific issues have a strong power to influence its readers. The rise of HRS' popularity through all the news makes him more well-known in Indonesia. It is even said that he is electable in the 2024 presidential election since he has received popular support as an Islamist representative. Accordingly, all sorts of news published by The Jakarta Post has the potential to affect how the readers see the figure as well as their political choice.

According to Fairclough (1989), producers of the media have power over readers as consumers because they have the right to produce news, such as determining what is included and excluded in the news, how an event is represented, or how a subject is described to their readers. Simply, the statement is relevant to the use of news to spread ideology and opinion massively to the public. In Van Dijk's view, ideology is defined as party-political or community systems of concepts or ideals of groups that have the role of consolidating or legitimating the group's movements (Van Dijk, 1998). It may be seen in everyday social life, ideologies exist, and social actors

express in some social situations. For instance, thousands of students are protesting against the government because a policy that the government has decided is not in accordance with the students' beliefs. Looking at their criticism, it linked to what kind of text they consume or which newspaper they read so that it turns into a set of ideals they believe in.

Van Dijk (1998) argued that ideology could be seen through the use of language, text, speech, and communication, all of which are included in a term called "discourse". On a day-to-day basis, we can find discourse all over the place. When we are reading books, listening to podcasts, or talking with a friend, there must be a system of ideas we can indeed find. Even though ideologies are not only expressed by discourse, but Van Dijk also emphasizes that discourse has a significant role among other social practices in the process of ideological reproduction. Discourse is needed and used by group members to convey their ideology to another group, spread or fight and provoke groups with different ideologies. Following Van Dijk, Faiclough (1989) states that language is a medium for conceptualizing ideology in its relation to economic and political relations, a tool to show alignment and interests for certain parties. In texts, ideologies exist in language structures so that it is impossible to 'read off' ideologies from texts. Ideologies and opinions in the news are written by newsmakers using variations of language tools, so the intent of the news is conveyed to the readers. For that reason, Fairclough (1989) also states that the grammatical element in a language is a crucial component in the process of producing news. It can be said that every news represents the ideology and opinion of the newsmaker or the news media, and language has an essential role in its distribution.

Indonesia as a country that is well-known for its diversity becomes interesting from the point of view of spreading discourse through the news. There are many Indonesian news media companies with diverse ideological representations, and many issues are raised at any time, resulting in various interpretations in society. According to the World Population Review 2020, the Muslim population in Indonesia was around 229 million people of 273.5

million. As a country with the largest Muslim population globally, news about Islam is undoubtedly a sensitive issue because it involves about 87.2% of the total population. Moreover, Indonesia also becomes the third largest democratic system in the world, so the way a media describes or presents an Islamic conflict or a figure in a news text will certainly affect the citizens' political beliefs. In this case, The Jakarta Post whose targets are the upper-middle class, highly educated, expatriates, and foreign citizens, contributes to the way the world sees Islam and Muslims.

Being concerned with language and its power to spread ideologies, the study of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is needed to explain how grammatical structures work in representing a particular ideology of a specific party. Wodak & Meyer (2001) found that power as a "central condition" in community life exists because of differences in the community structures themselves. Therefore, they argued that CDA concerns with a power that is encoded by discourse as a means to compete and struggle for dominance. From this point of view, Widdowson (2004) claimed that the way language represents a phenomenon is immediately referable from its linguistic forms. It can be inferred that some basic concepts in CDA are 'power', 'ideology', 'language use', and 'social life'.

Considering that CDA focuses on the language used in text and its context relation, Wodak and Meyer (2001) believed that understanding the fundamental theories and approaches of Halliday's grammar in the linguistic analysis is necessary for an accurate understanding of CDA. Whether an analyst prefers to concerns about microlinguistic or macrolinguistic features with the sociological, historical, or other perspectives, most of the studies always reference Hallidayan Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This is in line with Fairclough (1992) who pointed out an outline called 'a framework for analyzing texts' consisting of four main headings: 'vocabulary', 'grammar', 'cohesion', and 'text structure'. As Widdowson (2004) said, the text analysis would seem to closely match what was projected by Halliday.

Halliday differentiated three elements of meaning which are expressed in clause structures. The three elements are called metafunctions of language which are endlessly interrelated (the ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings) (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). Firstly, the ideational meaning is about things and concepts, and simply it represents reality in the language (Gerot & Wignall, 1994). Secondly, the interpersonal meaning is related to some language activities such as when we inform some information, give an order or make an offer, and express our appraisal and attitude towards whomever we are addressing and what we are talking about (Halliday, 2014). The last, textual meaning makes language contextually and co-textually relevant (Gerot & Wignall, 1994). Since CDA and its framework focuses on revealing discourse functions, Fairclough argued that we need the ideational function to see the representation of knowledge and belief in texts (Widdowson, 2004).

Ideational meaning or experiential meaning is expressed through the system called transitivity. As a part of the grammar of the clause, transitivity has three semantic groupings, which explain in wide-ranging how phenomena of the actual world are represented as linguistic structures. The groupings consist of 'participants' who are the doer of the process and attend in certain circumstances, 'processes' which are the actions that the participants do, and 'circumstances' is a part that involves time, place, manner, accompaniment, cause, matter, and role (Halliday, 2014). Concerning the overview about transitivity, this system could guide the research to expose the ideology of the news media through the news and the way it is produced.

The previous readings about CDA that the researcher has read are from Awaludin (2019) who analyzed Justin Trudeau's speech regarding social injustice in Canada and the ideology that emerges in the speech. Wiguna (2019), who investigate the debate around the religious conflict and the blasphemy law reflected on The Jakarta Post news, and the research showed that the blasphemy law significantly contributes to the religious disagreement that happened at that time. Zhang (2013) compared the news reports of the third US-China S&ED by Chinese and American mass media and showed

that Chinese and American media focus on different dialogue points and have different emphases. The differences between the previous research and this research are the object and linguistic features used. Although one of the problems in this research is the same as previous research, generally regarding the view of a phenomenon, but the news about HRS in The Jakarta Post media as the object makes this research more focused on an influential Muslim figure in Indonesia as the largest Muslim population in the world. Besides, transitivity as a linguistic feature used in this research will make the analysis process at the description stage more concentrated.

In this research, the researcher used the Three Dimensional Framework by Fairclough to conduct CDA research. The framework consists of the Description, Interpretation, and Explanation stage. Since the Description stage concerns the linguistic features of the text, the Transitivity system is used to analyze the grammar of clauses in news texts. In the following stages, the analysis results are clues that trigger interpretations to uncover the ideologies of the news media. By using CDA and SFL theories, the researcher tries to find the ideology of The Jakarta Post towards Habib Rizieq Shihab who just returned to Indonesia through all the news published on The Jakarta Post online media. Likewise, this research is expected to give a significant outcome that the Transitivity system could uncover the news media's ideologies.

1.2 Problem Statements

The Jakarta Post, as one of the largest and most influential English-language news media in Indonesia, kept updating the news about the return of HRS. In all controversial news they produced and published, they must have contained a particular standpoint to have a solid power to influence their readers. Taking notice of the matter, the research questions of this analysis are:

1. How was HRS represented in the news published by The Jakarta Post since he was in exile and after he had returned to Indonesia?
2. What is the ideology of The Jakarta Post reflected in the representation?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, this research focuses on the representation of HRS in The Jakarta Post news media. The researcher attempts:

1. to observe the representation of HRS in the news published by The Jakarta Post since he was in exile and after he had returned to Indonesia.
2. to analyze The Jakarta Post's ideology of HRS reflected in the representation.

1.4 Research Significances

This research is expected to contribute to the Critical Discourse Analysis field both theoretically or practically. Theoretically, this research intensifies language analysis through CDA, especially the theory of the Three Dimensional Framework by Fairclough. Moreover, the researcher hopes this research can support the other researchers to do the research based on interrelated theories as this research employs CDA and SFL theories. Practically, this research is projected to encourage the English Literature Department students to be more aware of the discourse spreading. It can be done by discussing social or political issues related to the perspective of CDA with its linguistics features which become the core lectures of the English Literature Department.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

The following points are the explanation of some terms that will repeatedly appear in this research.

a. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

The term CDA in this study is to show a critical approach to reveal power or dominance, ideology, or inequality in texts through the analysis of its linguistic features.

b. Discourse

This study uses the tern Discourse to interchange ideas through text, either spoken or written, and it is also used to spread ideologies (Van Dijk, 1998).

c. Ideology

Ideology, which is frequently mentioned in this study, means a party-political or community system of concepts, ideals of groups that consolidate or legitimate group's movements (Dijk, 1998).

d. News media

This study uses the term News media to define companies that focus on delivering news to the general public or a target public. The media includes printed news (newspapers and magazines), broadcast news (radio and television), and online media or online newspapers.

e. Transitivity

A transitivity system is a common term in SFL. It is included in ideational metafunction, which represents reality in language. Transitivity has three semantic groupings: participants, processes, and circumstances (Halliday, 2014).

1.6 Organizations of Writing

This research is structured into five chapters. The first chapter presents a description to build the understanding of the main issue discussed in this study. It involves research background, research questions, research objectives, research significance, the definition of key terms, and writing organization.

The second chapter delivers all the theories related to this research. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is explained in general and Three Dimensional Framework proposed by Fairclough, consisting of the description stage, interpretation stage, and explanation stage. Since the framework is the basis of this research, the researcher describes Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Transitivity system, one of the grammars of the clause used in this research.

The third chapter explains the methodology in conducting the research. This chapter consists of research design, source of data, collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

The fourth chapter discusses the findings of the research. This chapter explains the analysis results using the Three Dimensional Framework by Fairclough and the Transitivity system to analyze the linguistic features.

The last chapter concludes the research and gives suggestions for future research.