Abstract

There are several occasions where opinion (claims) can be found inside debate, speech, public discussion and any other daily basis. We debate in several occasions such as political debate on TV, High school debate and university debate which use a certain debating system. Development of debate for university level is developed significantly and it proofs when Indonesia becomes the champion of World University Debating Championship (WSDC) in 2014. Argument is the core component in assessing debate because it determines the quality of a debate match. This study aspires to find out the discourse markers used as the linguistic tools and the features argument during substantive speeches of university debaters and also to figure out flaw of their arguments. The data are taken from the final round (champion and first runner up match) of IVED 2014. Recorded data are transcribed orthographically and finally analyzed by the theory of discourse marker proposed by Frassser which classified discourse marker into three subclasses namely Contrastive, Elaborative and Inferential markers. The features in layout of argument proposed by Stephen Toulmin is used to figured out Basic components of arguments. The result of the study is that university debaters tend to use discourse markers in their argument and used basic features of argument.

Keywords: argument, debate, discourse marker, features of argument.