

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The media world has transformed considerably because of the advances in technology particularly in the dissemination of news by internet. The evolvement of the internet from the first it established makes everyone's life rapidly changed. It is getting easier to gain new information that can be accessed with minimal effort. People are able to send and receive it just by a single click.

On the contrary, the internet challenges the existence of offline newspaper. Boczkowski (2004) expressed that larger socioeconomic trends trigger the shift of offline newspaper to online newspaper because technologies such as computers and telephones began to be utilized. The printed newspaper faced the decline in its distribution number hence it provokes all kinds of predictions about the forthcoming changes, such as the demise of printed newspaper, the substitution of newspaper companies by multimedia companies, the end of gatekeeping, and the escalation of nonlinear storytelling. Consequently, this situation has led to the rise of online news consumption.

There has been a significant increase in the amount of people accessing the news via online (Panda and Swain 2011). It has improved remarkably in just a few years. Online newspaper enables us to keep updated with what is going on everyday from around the world. The number of this type of newspaper also multiplies thus competition among it increases. Accordingly, the newspaper companies aim to be the number one news portal among the others so it can attract

as many readers as possible. One of the most popular English online newspapers in Indonesia is *The Jakarta Post*.

The Jakarta Post has published a various range of issues in Indonesia, such as race, religion, and politics. It has large amount of readers as well which is shown on their social media platforms. It has more than 800 thousand Twitter followers and more than 1.5 million followers and likers on its Facebook up to 23 January 2020. Besides, it is considered as the lead in international news platform in Indonesia because *The Jakarta Post* has achieved several awards. *The Jakarta Post* won the *Adam Malik Award* as the best international politics news coverage in 2009 (The Jakarta Post 2010). Not only that, *The Jakarta Post*'s journalists also received the awards in 2014, 2017, and 2019 (The Jakarta Post 2015, 2017, 2019) which distinguish this online newspaper from other online newspapers. Moreover, there is an interesting topic in *The Jakarta Post* which covers about Papua specifically regarding the settlement of Papuan riots caused by the racist attack towards Papuan students in Surabaya.

Papua appears to be geographically peripheral in Indonesia and the people have long been casted by other Indonesians as primitive and a bit behind in terms of intelligence (Butt 1998). Most Papuans still engage with the nature to maintain their living, such as hunting, fishing, and agriculture despite the overall improvement of social welfare. The government see it as a responsibility to 'civilize' them thus their patronizing attitudes encourage resentment and conflict (Gietzelt 1989). Furthermore, the racist behavior towards Papuan still continues to this day. Anderson (2015) stated that Indonesia has been facing big problem

because the immense controversy of racism that Papuan received. The matter of racism leads to some great-scale riots that cause some casualties. It causes detrimental effect to all of parties that were involved. The description above reflects the importance of bringing up this matter to surface. The use of linguistic device, in this case the analysis of cohesive devices to scrutinize the news text, has become a perfect combination to make this research interesting to undertake.

A newspaper that can form itself readable will attract more audiences. Picard (2004) stated that the quality of newspaper includes the content and methods of journalism and information which provides complete description and is intelligible for the readers. Likewise, De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) mentioned that there are seven indicators to be performed so that the quality can be achieved. The indicators are cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality. Thus, cohesion is one of the indicators that should be regarded to accomplish the comprehensible and unified text.

This study pays attention to the cohesion of the news to reveal the cohesive devices found in the news articles. It involves the *Cohesion in English* proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) as the main theory in this present study. Halliday and Hasan (1976) mentioned that cohesion includes grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. The grammatical cohesion consists of substitution, ellipsis, reference, and conjunction. Besides, this study uses the cohesion by Renkema (2004) as the supporting theory which its lexical cohesion has reiteration

(repetition, synonymy, hyponymy/hyperonymy, meronymy, and antonymy) as well as collocation.

There are several studies which adopted the concept of cohesion by Halliday and Hasan (1976) as the major theory. The study by Mubarak (2014), Karim (2015), and Prayudha (2016) examined both grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion just like the present study. Prayudha (2016) also examined the coherence of the texts while the present study does not. Meanwhile, Fajriyah (2018) studied lexical cohesion and Tambunan, Hanafiah, and Mono (2019) studied grammatical cohesion only. From the five previous studies, four of them has news articles as the object of the study whereas the one remaining by Prayudha (2016) has editorials as the object. The present study has news articles as the study object. The study by Fajriyah (2018) employs the framework of Renkema (2004) as the supporting theory which the present study does so while Tambunan, Hanafiah, and Mono (2019) in their study utilize the framework of Halliday and Matthiesen (2014) as the supporting theory. Another different is that all of the previous studies mentioned does not analyze a text that regards certain ethnic group particularly Papuan meanwhile the present study does.

The present study attempts to examine the cohesion in *The Jakarta Post* news articles which are published during September 2019 about the approach and settlement regarding the Papuan riots caused by the racist attack towards Papuan students in Surabaya. In total, four news articles posted in the same month which cover the topic mentioned are found in *The Jakarta Post*. The present study is framed by the theory of cohesion emphasizing on grammatical cohesion by

Halliday and Hasan (1976) and the lexical cohesion by Renkema (2004). Thus, this study tries to focus on revealing the cohesive devices in the selected news articles. The analysis on cohesive devices is intended to know the flow of the text which might later affect the readers' point of view on the issue.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the following research questions were formed to obtain the goals of the present study:

- 1) What type of grammatical cohesion is mostly found in *The Jakarta Post* news articles?
- 2) What type of lexical cohesion is mostly found in *The Jakarta Post* news articles?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the statement of the problems, this study attempts to:

- 1) Identify the type of grammatical cohesion mostly found in *The Jakarta Post* news articles
- 2) Identify the type of lexical cohesion mostly found in *The Jakarta Post* news articles

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significances of the study analysis which are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this study is expected to give more insight by providing the description about the theory of cohesion particularly toward the settlement of riots in news articles. It may offers elaboration on cohesive devices analysis on the frameworks proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) and Renkema (2004). As

for practical significance, it provides elaboration in the operational of the cohesive devices analysis particularly towards the news articles relating on the settlement of riots which involves certain groups. Moreover, it is expected to be used as a reference for those who are interested in conducting a research in linguistics study specifically about cohesion in news text.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Cohesion : a semantic feature which denotes the linking of meaning occurs within the text. The parts of the text rely on each other parts to define the interpretation of the text (Halliday and Hasan, *Cohesion in English* 1976).

Grammatical Cohesion: the connection of meaning in text by grammatical devices which include reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction (Halliday and Hasan 1976).

Lexical Cohesion : the connection of meaning in text by the choice of words or lexical devices which are used in succeeding parts of the text that include reiteration and collocation (Renkema 2004).

Papuan :the indigenous people of Papua and West Papua which are located in the easternmost of Indonesia (Anderson 2015).