

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains discussions related to several sub-chapters including background of the study, research question, research objectives, and significance of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

Discourse has a broader meaning than just a text because discourse is multi-modal. Discourse is not only limited to language but includes all the elements that contribute to the text construction (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Formato, 2019). Thus, discourse acts as a reflection of the relationship between text and society. In linguistics, discourse is not only observed in isolation, but the text is analyzed from the smallest unit of language and associated with its contribution to social life (Formato, 2019). Thus, discourse plays an important role in the formation of social systems, situations and ideologies according to the place where the discourse is produced (Formato, 2019; Hart, 2014).

Linguistic studies such as discourse analysis especially critical discourse analysis consider several aspects such as the possibility of reality, authority truth and others, in order to identify the "fair" language, inclusive and balanced in positioning individuals in society. The academic study of discourse also considers the notion of the language power, which plays an important role in constructing and reconstructing reality. Thus, representation in language comprehension and construction in language cognition occur interrelated (Formato, 2019). Discourse

and media have a close relationship with the study of social science and linguistics (Bednarek & Caple, 2012). In general, both depart from a methodology that focuses on the characteristics of language. However, social science, especially the study of mass communication, focuses more on small DA or focuses on macro conditions of news production and effects of mass media reports (Dijk, 1988a, 2000, 2001, 2015).

In relation to the media, the media is ideally expected to be able to collect and also present information objectively and fairly without bias. According to its function, the media has the power to frame a wide variety of social issues and also able to insert plans and opinions considering its persuasive nature (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Dijk, 1995; Jaworska, 2021; Jones et al., 2021; Putri & Triyono, 2018; Sheerin & Garavan, 2021; Wodak & Meyer, 2001). Thus, news discourse can influence someone to change behavior, ideas, and beliefs based on the news we consume. We unconsciously navigate our way of life towards certain social groups (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Hinnosaar, 2019; Jaworska, 2021; Jones et al., 2021; Nity & Singh, 2017; Trolan, 2013).

Mass media comes in several types depending on its medium to convey the information. There are three types of mass media, printed media, broadcast media, and online media (Hanson, 2022; Pavlik & McIntosh, 2018). This study focuses on online media analysis related to online news on the *Kompas.com* website. Studying news discourse is crucial for several reasons. We all spend a lot of time consuming news and therefore it is bound to have a huge impact on our lives. We can change our behavior, ideas and beliefs based on the news we

consume. This impacts show the power of the media that gives influence to every individual and even the government (Bednarek & Caple, 2012).

News, as a product of the media, constructs reality based on the ideas and beliefs that underlie individual press, which sometimes also conforms to existing stereotypes. Language naturally already contains the underlying values. Thus, language gives direction to the reader to understand events and individuals in the world. In other words, news is a representation of the world that is presented in the form of language, which is not free from espoused values (Formato, 2019).

This study uses online news as a data source instead of television news broadcasts. It is based on several previous research results where news consumption decreased with the development of online news broadcasts. The decline was based on several fundamental reasons where online news is easier to access anywhere and anytime in one click. So, in terms of efficiency, the public does not need to be fixated on television screens or carry printed media just to get information. By online media, people are easier to get various kinds of information they want. Besides, online news is preferred over printed news considering that printed news tends to be relatively long, thus making readers more bored. Meanwhile, online news tends to be shorter and more interesting. Online news is more often visited by people in Indonesia so that online news can better explain the situation that exists in the community (García-Avilés, 2020; Nity & Singh, 2017).

As previously stated that linguistics analyzes the characteristics of language to obtain the discursive practice (contextual meaning) in news

production, this research will focus on textual analysis at the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure levels of language to obtain contextual meaning. The intended contextual meaning is in terms of production and understanding of the existing news on the cognitive and social dimensions. The contextual meaning includes several aspects such as knowledge or script, representation, ideology, and others (Dijk, 1988a).

Scripts as a part of contextual components are generally defined as stereotyped cultural episodes that are stored long-term in memory. While, the representation refers to the image that the media wants to highlight. More specifically, research related to linguistic strategy can reveal the ideology contained in the news (Dijk, 1988a). Ideology in news is one of the topics that is often investigated in linguistic studies, considering that ideology determines the direction of the reader's view of the issues presented. Ideology is practically defined as a "perspective" especially regarding the interpretation of the way or things being discussed. Language becomes ideological when language is used to promote a believed perspective to others. Thus, language is a system for generating ideology for the same situation in a "way" that may differ from one another. The study of discourse analysis is one of the studies that also explores the relationship between language and ideology (Hart, 2014).

With the power possessed by the media, on the other hand, in several previous studies, the media often looks "unfair" in several social issues such as violence and sexual harassment and tends to harm one party. Thus, research related to media discourse and social issues becomes an important topic to be

studied and criticized (Dalton, 2019; Diwanji et al., 2021; Kachalmi & Fee, 2020; McDonald & Charlesworth, 2013; Yasmin, 2021). Discourse analysis is one of the fields of linguistics that is able to critically analyze the relationship between news discourse in the media and existing social issues (Formato, 2019; Hart, 2014). Critical discourse analysis is not a critical discourse study in the usual sense. On the contrary, it grows from social relations where this study is useful for explaining the role of language in creating and maintaining social relations in society. This study helps the readers to see the social values and persuasion efforts embedded in the discourse. Thus, critical discourse analysis plays an important role in achieving social change (Hart, 2014).

Critical discourse analysis explores the relationship between discourse and several social actions with varied domains including race and immigration, gender, war, crime, education and the environment (Hart, 2014). Of these social issues, criminal cases are the news that attracts the public's attention the most (de Vries et al., 2020; Intravia et al., 2017; Mishra et al., 2021; Velásquez et al., 2020). Thus, study about news discourse related to criminal cases in Indonesia will be discussed in this study. Analyzing the crime news is important because it is closely related to public concerns (de Vries et al., 2020; Intravia et al., 2017; Mishra et al., 2021; Velásquez et al., 2020). Crime news can also be a tool that spurs the response of the local criminal system (de Vries et al., 2020). In brief, criminal cases mainly contain activities that violate the life norms (Dalton, 2019; Nikolova, 2021). Given the importance of the role of criminal discourse in society, criminal discourse also fulfills the criteria of this study where criminal

acts, especially violence that threatens human life and also injustice, are strongly opposed by the government.

This study aim to investigates the discursive practices contained in the discourse on *Kompas.com* regarding the uxoricide news published by *Kompas.com*. This research will use news analysis theory by Van Dijk supported by the theory of ideal victim by Nils Christie. After the discursive practice is obtained, this study is then deeply analyzed how *Kompas.com* represents suspects and victims fairly (ideal). Thus, this study adopted the theory of ideal victims by Nils Christiie as the supporting theory. This combination was chosen considering that Van Dijk starts the analysis from the smallest unit of language to a larger context - the social context. Thus, detailed analysis can be displayed to explore the contextual aspects contained in the *Kompas.com* discourse. Furthermore, with the theory of ideal victims by Nils Christie, researchers can analyze whether *Kompas.com* has ideally represented victims and suspects. More deeply, this theory can also see whether there is power abuse, gender inequality, or victim blaming on uxoricide news by *Kompas.com*

Analysis using Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis has proven to be able to reveal the discursive practices contained in the discourse so that it can influence the readers. Various kinds of social issues were raised by previous research using critical discourse analysis by Van Dijk, including the issue of propaganda and radical action (Putri & Triyono, 2018), the Syrian crisis (Mahdavirad & Mokhtari, 2019), and also the Ancol reclamation (Visiaty et al., 2021).

The results show that language and contextual meanings are interrelated. Different linguistic strategies guide readers to different interpretations. The media has proven to have a considerable influence on social action. (Mahdavidrad & Mokhtari, 2019; Putri & Triyono, 2018; Visiaty et al., 2021). As a positive form of media, through the choice of words, it was found that the media and society strongly condemn any radical actions in the name of religion and define these actions as heinous acts (Putri & Triyono, 2018). Besides, Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis has also proven to be able to reveal the ideology of capitalism contained in the Ancol reclamation editorial in the TEMPO newspaper. TEMPO tends to encourage the public to support the reclamation policy of the Ancol area by the DKI Jakarta government (Visiaty et al., 2021).

The research related to critical discourse analysis shows that discourse has a strong potential in producing different strategies and interpretations. Van Dijk emphasized that CDA in discourse analysis is a study that departs from a "linguistic" basis. Van Dijk realized that linguistics must be understood in a broad structural and functional sense. Whatever other dimensions are related to CDA discourse, CDA must pay attention to the detailed structure, strategy and function of the text (Dijk, 2001)

Van Dijk brings the results of textual analysis (structural) into a larger dimension, cognitive and comprehension dimension. The textual analysis has several layers of analysis where the text is analyzed at the macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure stages (Dijk, 1988a). Van Dijk is one of the initiators of CDA emphasizing that CDA in discourse analysis is a study that

departs from a "linguistic" basis. Linguistics must be understood in a structural and functional sense in each of its related dimensions. CDA must pay attention to the details of the structure, strategy and function of texts such as grammatical, pragmatic, interactional, stylistic, rhetorical, semiotic, narrative, or similar forms of verbal and paraverbal organization of communicative events. Van Dijk's news analysis theory can be used to analyze several social problems, especially the analysis of media strategy and contextual elements by connecting cognitive and social phenomena based on linguistic analysis (Dijk, 2001).

Regarding the ideal concept of victim, Nils Christie reveals five attributes: 1.) The victim is weak, 2.) The victim was carrying out a respectable project, 3.) She was where she could not possibly be blamed for being 4.) The offender was big and bad, 5.) The offender was unknown and in no personal relationship to. With such an analysis, researchers can find out whether there is a practice of abuse of power by the media in representing the victim (e.g. victim blaming). At first, the wife who was beaten by her husband did not get a legal victim status, but the development of knowledge brought about a change. The wife can get the status of a victim if she gets physically inappropriate treatment. That statement is based on the understanding that a marital relationship can end in divorce. Thus, activities that contain violence can no longer be normalized. This theory focuses on the victims but the representation of ideal victims implicitly able to explain the representation of ideal suspects in the news analyzed.

Research related to crime in media is very necessary considering that news on criminal cases is closely related to public concerns and (de Vries et al., 2020;

Intravia et al., 2017; Mishra et al., 2021; Velásquez et al., 2020). Article 338 of the Criminal Code of Indonesia states, "Whoever intentionally kills another person's soul is punished for treason and death, with a maximum imprisonment of fifteen years". This article shows that the homicide case is a very serious case with a very high criminal threat. However, this fact is in contrast with the data conducted by “Komnas Perempuan” about homicide cases involving women throughout 2021 significantly increased in 2021. These crimes include all kinds of cases of physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, exploitation, trafficking, neglect, and so on (Septiana, 2021). In this study, homicide was chosen because it is categorized as one of the highest hierarchical crimes in the international crime classification and has the most severe punishment in Indonesian law (Dihni, 2022).

In order to make the discussion more focused, the researcher focuses on one type of homicide case, - uxoricide. Uxoricide is a term that primarily refers to the murder of the wife by the husband (Chauhan, 2020; Kim & Merlo, 2021; Mize et al., 2011, 2011; Tomas et al., 2021). Another reason that underlies the choice of uxoricide news is the trend of uxoricide crime, which is getting more and more widespread from year to year. Statistical data shows that of all homicide cases in the world, most are dominated by uxoricide where women are victims of their husbands (Bates et al., 2021; Corradi, 2021). In fact, uxoricide increases every year, especially during a pandemic in the range of 2020-2021 (Bates et al., 2021). In this study, the researcher will focus on all of online news in *Kompas.com* that contain homicide cases between husband and wife throughout 2021. Not only to

make the research more focused, news of homicide cases between husband and wife fulfills the criteria for proving whether the stereotype in which women are subordinated in household coverage is still implied in the news discourse or vice versa, especially in terms of the right to justice as a victim.

Efforts related to injustice against women have a special position in Indonesia. As an illustration, in Indonesia, the government has created the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 22 years ago in Law no. 7 of 1984 which clearly opposes all kinds of discrimination against women. The law was then followed by the presidential instruction in 2000 on gender mainstreaming in national development. To strengthen legal protection for gender mainstreaming, in 2006 the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection drafted a draft Government Regulation on Gender Mainstreaming. These regulations are based on the philosophical aspects of Pancasila which uphold "A just and civilized humanity" and also "social justice for all Indonesian people". All kinds of regulations regarding gender equality above apply based on gender, male and or female. Indonesia has also signed a global agreement on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which supports the elimination of all forms of discrimination, violence, harmful practices, respecting services and work, and ensuring that women can participate in political, social and economic sectors (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia, 2017).

To implement the existing government regulations, the media is one of the parties involved in the strategic plan of the deputy for gender equality,

considering that the media have power in social change. Some gender equality promotion projects through media have been developed by several parties in the world (Padovani & Ross, 2019). Indonesia is one of the countries that is aware of the importance of promoting gender equality through the media. The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection of Indonesia through the deputy for gender equality has designed a strategic plan to increase gender equality in 2020-2024. The strategy includes several promotional activities through e-learning, webinars, community radio and so on (Kementrian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Republik Indonesia, 2021).

Indonesia has several major mass media, however, this study focuses on *Kompas.com* as a data source. According to Similarweb ranking, *Kompas.com* was in the first rank as the most-visited website in news & media publishers categories in 2021 (Kemp, 2022). For 10 years, similarweb measured online traffic to map out the digital world comprehensively. Similarweb collaborates with Google Analytics in analyzing data. The data processed by Similarweb is data from millions of websites and applications around the world. The data is also analyzed by several global partners such as DPS, ISP, measurement companies and corporate intelligence firms before being displayed on the similarweb's official website (Similarweb, 2022).

In 2012, *Kompas.com* received an award from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection as a medium of inspiration for Indonesian women and also as a media with positive news related to women (Pratiwi, 2012). In addition, *Kompas.com* consistently presents positive news. As a matter of fact,

Kompas.com provides a place for female journalists where the news they produce is related to the struggle for human rights, especially women. The journalist is a well-known senior journalist, Maria Margaretha Hartiningsih. Until now, *Kompas.com* is still actively producing news about women in a positive direction. Many topics are reported by *Kompas.com* however, *Kompas.com* has a special hashtag, namely, #Kriminal. The hashtag is in the "*Berita Harian Kriminal Terbaru Hari Ini*" section where the section focuses entirely on criminal news that occurs in Indonesia and abroad (Ritonga et al., 2017). With the high credibility that *Kompas.com* has, it is very important to investigate the discursive practice contained in the discourse produced on developing social issues considering that big media have a big impact on society.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the research above, this study will answer research questions related to discursive practices contained in the online news discourse of *Kompas.com* regarding uxoricide cases in Indonesia.

1.3. Research Objectives

Based on the research question that has been formulated above, this research aims to analyze the discursive practices used contained in the online news discourse of *Kompas.com* regarding uxoricide cases in Indonesia.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to actively contribute to the theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the findings of this study can increase

knowledge in the development of linguistics. The findings of this study can also contribute to linguistic research, especially in the field of discourse, so that it can be used as a reference for further research that has the same research focus, especially in critical discourse analysis studies involving media discourse. This study will provide a scientific explanation of the discursive practices and concepts of ideal victim used by the media in the discourse produced. This study can also examine contextual conclusions that are strategically planned by the media in developing social issues, especially in research related to women in the case of uxoricide.

Practically, this research is expected to provide new insights about discourse for the community, especially for the readers. The readers as the parts of society are expected to be able to understand the role and function of the media in society. Furthermore, in linguistics research, the results of this study can add the knowledge related to the influence of media in society. Whereas, the information in the media is not only to be read but needs to be analyzed in depth in order to become a means of critical thinking and influence people's attitudes. This research is also expected to inspire the media to explore the pattern of communication between media and readers. Thus, the media can maintain their existence as a trusted media for the community.