Ideological Stance of the Jakarta Post in the headlines and editorials
when publishing Negara Islam Indonesia (NII) news (From Critical Discourse Analysis Perspective)

Sugeng Irianto
Politeknik Negeri Semarang

Abstract

This research is aimed to reveal or unfold the Ideology stance of the Jakarta Post when publishing the news on Negara Islam Indonesia (NII) case in the form of headlines and editorials. The data of this study was the headlines and editorials published in the Jakarta Post in the year of 2010 until 2014.

This research is mixed method in nature, quantitative and qualitative. Simple quantitative is done to count the quantity of headlines and editorials in the study. The qualitative is used to describe, explain, and unfold the ideology belongs to the Jakarta Post when publishing the news on NII. The study use the Appraisal model developed by White (2001) and Martin and Rose (2003) to reveal the ideology stance of the Jakarta Post.

The result of this study is the Jakarta Post’s ideology stance follow the government ideology when looking at the NII group. However, the Jakarta Post give the big portion (space) in the newspaper for the NII group (as there were many headlines, editorials, and national news published in the Jakarta Post with relatively big portion/space) to follow the Post policy to accommodate all the party in Indonesia, specifically to minorities groups or suppressed groups. This policy of the Jakarta Post reflects the democratic way as one of the vision of the Jakarta Post.

Keywords: Critical discourse analysis, ideology, negara islam indonesia

A. Introduction

NII’s case is of deep interest to the Indonesian news media, especially television and newspapers in recent years, 2010-2014 specifically 2011-2012). The Indonesian newspaper’s news on NII’s case has special linguistic and rhetorical features that present the group as negative. Using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective and analysis I plan to reveal those linguistic and non linguistic factors (socio-politic and history) in the Jakarta Post’s presentation of NII’s case.

NII is an illegal (underground) Moslem organization in Indonesia which began its movement since the era of 1940s (before Indonesian independence, 1945) up to now. The organization used West Java province area to be the central part (basis) for its movement. NII was founded by Karto Suwiryo with the goal to set up an Islamic-rulled country within Indonesia, which would not allow freedom for other ways of life. Although the organization was banned by the Indonesian government and could be
disintegrated by the Indonesian army, its underground movement continues struggling.

Although Indonesia government successfully discovered the NII organization in the year of 2011 and caught (then sent to jail) some districts’ leaders such as the central Java and Yogyakarta ‘governor’, it seems the movement cannot be finished until it is totally uprooted. I predict the movement will come up to the surface again in some years from now because it is a latent threat. The leaders which were caught by policemen can be likened to “an iceberg in the ocean theory” in which just the top part of the iceberg could be known and finished; but the bottom of the iceberg cannot be detected and will continue its movement until many years ahead, when the government can discover its movement. The kinds of movement of NII also changed through time. In its earlier establishment, NII used gun force to be the tools for the movement; but nowadays the organization uses modern ways through education foundations and the like.

B. Rationale

NII’s case is big news and regarded to be important for the people of Indonesia. Many televisions, newspapers, and other kinds of mass media both printed and electronic report the news on NII in their headlines and editorials.

One of the newspapers carrying stories of NII is the Jakarta Post, which is the main English language newspaper in Indonesia. It is widely available throughout Indonesia (especially in big cities) and global market. It began publication in 1983 and became the first English newspaper in Indonesia. In 1994, the Jakarta Post became the first Indonesian newspaper to go global or “Go international”.

Three big international or world wide companies providing database services from three different parts of the world signed agreements with the Jakarta Post to make the paper more accessible 24 hours a day to its subscribers around the world. The Jakarta Post is transmitted every morning in digitalized format via modem to three main computers in New York in (USA), London (UK) and Palo Alto in California (USA). The networks are owned by Chamber Worlds Network, Reuters and Dialog. Through this cooperation, the Jakarta Post began to ‘go international’ with low cost because it is not necessary to pay for the cost of transportation.

My study will examine the Jakarta Post’s news on NII for the following reasons: It is an internationally respected and available media source; the readers (specifically Indonesian people) are middle to upper level, mostly well educated people; Finally, the Jakarta Post is the main Indonesian (English written) newspaper which is read by all diplomats, expatriates, and other foreign people and democratic English speaking countries and is the first source of information (written) to know about Indonesian events for all these different groups.

C. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

CDA is a kind of approach that is interpretive, contextual and constructive in which it offers for interpretations of the meaning of the text rather than quantifying textual features and deriving meaning. It situates what is written or said in the context in which it occurs, rather than just summarizing patterns or regularities in text.

It also argues that textual meaning is constructed through an interaction between producer-text-consumer rather than simply being ‘read off’ the page by all readers in exactly the same way (Richardson 2007:14).

Fairclough (1993:135) states CDA as discourse analysis which aims to systematically explore often opaque relationships of casuality and determination between (a) discursive practices, events and texts, and (b) wider social and cultural structures, relations and processes, to
investigate how such practices, events and texts arise out of and are ideologically shaped by relations of power and struggles over power, and to explore how the opacity of these relationship between discourse and society is itself a factor securing power and hegemony (CDA aims at making transparent the relations between discourse practices, social practices, and social structures which might be opaque to the lay person).

In CDA, it usually starts by identifying the social problem, as Van Dijk (1996 cited in Wodak 2001:1) suggested that identifying the perspective of those who suffer most, and critically analysis those in power, those who are responsible and those who have the means and the opportunity to solve a problem. Thus, in response to social inequality and the abuse of power, CDA demands ‘politically involved research with an emancipatory requirement’ (Titscher et al, 2000: 147).

In this approach it is inevitable that CDA takes an overt moral and political position with regard to the social problem analyzed.

D. Ideology and Power

Ideology is one of important aspects in CDA.Warsono (2007) writes any form of discourse: a text, a conversation, or any other form of discourse is not natural or neutral but ideological bound (has a power in it).

In the headlines and editorial text publish by the Jakarta Post, there are at least 3 kind of ideologies indicating in the texts. There are ideology belongs to NII group, ideology of government, and ideology of the Jakarta Post. The NII’s ideology is his group has right to struggle their mission to have a new country of Indonesia (or in certain part of Indonesia) which Moslem rule applied in governing the country. The ideology of government is government have to suppress, to finish the NII activities or group) and send to jail the “top leaders” and followers of the group because the group is illegal in this country. And the ideology of the Jakarta Post, in this case, I want to reveal in what stand the Jakarta Post put its ideology, whether tend to agree with the NII group or agree with government, or it has its own ideology?

There are many kinds of power such as power men over women (discourse about sexims), power of white over black (discourse about racism), the employer over employees, doctor over patient, teacher (lecture) over students and etc.

Power is an element of control for one group into another by means of discourse. Through power, the dominating group can make the group do what they want, acts and speak. Dominated groups can do this because the dominat group has more access to knowledge, money, and education than the non dominant group (Van Dijk in Eriyanto).

The ways in which people are named can also perpetuate ideologies. For example, the newspaper headline "five Asian youths involved in armed robbery" creates a very different picture than "five young men involved in armed robbery".

D. Aims of Study

This study seeks to describe and explain how discourse structures operate in the Jakarta Post news on NII. I am looking specifically for ways that the discourse enacts, confirms, reproduces or challenges power and ideology in Indonesia in the case of NII as represented in the Jakarta Post. This study also wants to seek some important questions:

1. What the ideological stance of the Jakarta Post behind the text of NII through headlines and editorials ?
2. What and how are power relations shaped in the discourse features of the Jakarta Post when publishing on NII?

E. Method of the study

In this study, I analyze the data of headlines and editorial of the Jakarta Post (year 2011 until 2015) with the objective of examining the documented accounts put forward by the Jakarta Post in the topic of NII. So the unit of analysis of in this study are
words, phrases, clauses and argumentation development.

The study uses several distinct discourse strategies in analyzing the data: a. Topic selection; b. Lexicalization (words or lexicons that support the idea or ideological stance simplified within the topic selection), c. Argumentation (use of a range of strategies in attempting to justify and legitimate an idea in order to promote an ideology). The data was analyzed using Appraisal Model developed by White 2003 to reveal the ideology stance of the Jakarta Post when publishing headlines or editorial about NII.

In this study, I also use questionnaire and interview (free but guided interview) to some Jakarta Post’s journalists and some senior members of board of the Jakarta Post which have right to publish headlines and editorials in the newspaper organization. This interview is used as secondary data to strengthen the primary data (text of headlines and editorial) so the research will relatively complete.

Some common linguistic devices studied by critical discourse analysts.

* Active or Passive voice
  * The use of an active verb gives a clear picture of who performed a particular action, and to whom, for example: "Police attack protestors".
  * The use of a passive verb states what has been done, and to whom, but does not blame anyone in particular for the action, for example: "Protestors attacked".
  * Alternatively, nominalisation can be used, where the noun form of the verb is used to create even more ambiguity, for example: "Attack on protestors".

* Naming
  * The ways in which people are named can also perpetuate ideologies. For example, the newspaper headline "five Asian youths involved in armed robbery" creates a very different picture than "five young men involved in armed robbery".
  * Similarly, the way people are described in texts, or after giving quotes can present two different pictures, for example: "Dr Sarah Jones" creates a different picture than "Single mother of two, Sarah Jones".

  * Pre-modifiers
    * Pre-modified nouns can present varying views of a topic. For example, "gay marriage" or "same-sex marriage" implies that this is essentially different from hetero-sexual marriage.

  * Indirect quotes
    * This is particularly common, when the results of a poll are being used, for example "poll shows 70% oppose gay marriage", however there may be no evidence of reported speech saying this.

F. Some Findings.

- The Jakarta Post is a liberal and democratic type of newspaper which has a policy to publish about democracy, environment and democratization. Every party (specifically minority groups, suppressed group and etc) has right to be accommodated their activity. So the Jakarta Post accommodated NII with publishing NII’s Headline and Editorial.
- Although the Post gave the space for publishing of news on NII relatively
big portion in the newspaper space, but the Post tried to avoid to be “the speaker” of the group and the means of NII’s propaganda.

- The Post has policy to publish NII’s news (as giving space to minority group) in the Post space newspaper, but the Post also has policy or an ideology which “follow” or “support” government. So the ideology stance of the Jakarta Post is behind the government or defense department. It means, as long as the group (NII) does not conduct violent way or break the rule of government, the Post will accommodate the group to have space of the news in the Post.

Other findings:
1. Indonesia Goverment through Police Officials uses many negative words (negative sense) to point at NII of a group of such as “radical”, “linked to terrorism”, “rebel group”, “terrorist group” and etc
2. The use of active-passive construction plays in many sentences to emphasis the “doer” of the activity and the “object”. An example: “The police are conducting investigation to reveal....” (to emphasis that police (security) is active to do the investigation.
3. Through the analysis It is found that Goverment (through mass media, the Jakarta Post) has big power to control the discourse of the NII news. Many police officials, politicians, security agency and other goverment’s officials (such as ministers) try to suppress (through many texts) the NII group and give bad labelling to the group. Although The Jakarta Post is categorized to be one of democratic newspaper in Indonesia which support the issues of human right and democratitation, but in publishing news about NII (through headlines and editorial) the Post tends to support Goverment (in the side of goverment), The Post serve NII News not in a balance, from the point of view that the Post quotes many more people from Goverment (ministers, police officials, security official etc) than from NII supporters.

4. However, NII still has power (informally). It has invisible power which can infiltrate to young generation (university students) that Indonesia police faces difficulties in uprooting the organization. The NII organization nowadays tends to cover its organization in the form of education foundations, business foundations and the like. So I beleive that the NII case will come up again to the surface to be big news again next coming months or years.

The conclusion of this research is the ideology of the Jakarta Post follows or support the ideology of government or defense department of Indonesia. But the Jakarta Post give right to the NII group to have space in the Jakarta Post in the form of news (National, Headlines, or Editorial) as the group is minority group which has right to be accommodated in the post.

Bibliography


Bell, Allan and Peter Garret. 1998. Approaches to Media Discourse. New York:

Blackwell Publishing.


