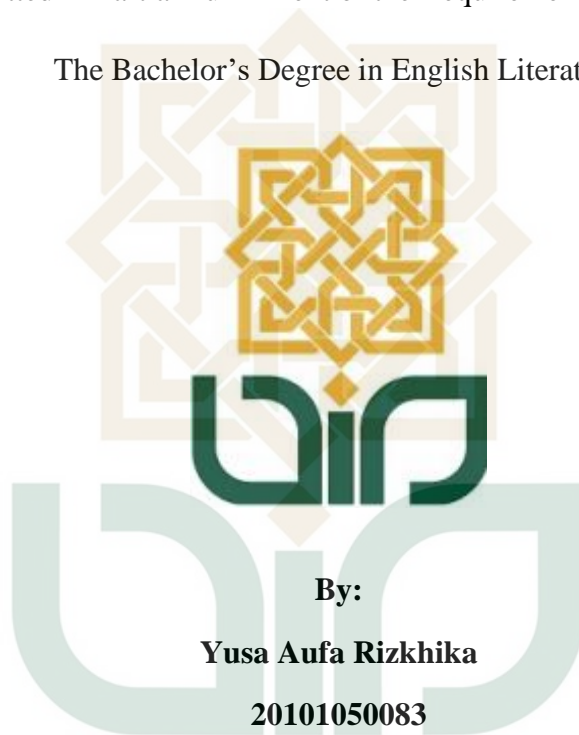


**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF CHILDFREE ON THE  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL LIYANA LIFE**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining

The Bachelor's Degree in English Literature



**By:**

**Yusa Aufa Rizkhika**

**20101050083**

**STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
SUNAN KALIJAGA  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES  
YOGYAKARTA**

**STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SUNAN KALIJAGA**

**YOGYAKARTA**

**2024**

## MOTTO

*“I am not the first person who experience this, if others can survive, I will survive.*

*InsyaAllah”*

-Anies Rasyid Baswedan

Truly with hardship come ease

Q.S Al-Insyirah : 5



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## **DEDICATION**

Sincerely, I dedicate my thesis:

For my family who always support and pray endlessly. All the advice and encouraging words that have given strength me to face this harsh world. Thank you for always trusting me and cherishing me. I love you forever.

To all the teachers and lecturers in my life, thank you for the knowledge that has been given to me.

To my friends who helped me in the process and provided many memories and colorfull experiences in my life, thank you for being part of my life.

To myself, congratulations! It turns out that you can pass whatever is in front of you, no matter how difficult it is. After this, you will start a new life with new challenges, InshaAllah, Allah will make your way easy. May your smile and cheerfulness never fade and always spread good things in every step you take.



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## NOTA DINAS



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA REPUBLIK INDONESIA  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA  
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA

Jl. Marsda Adi Sucipto, Yogyakarta, 55281, Telp./Fax. (0274) 513949  
Web: <http://adab.uin-suka.ac.id> Email: [adab@uin-suka.ac.id](mailto:adab@uin-suka.ac.id)

### NOTA DINAS

Hal: Skripsi  
a.n. Yusa Aufa Rizkhika

Yth.  
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya  
UIN Sunan Kalijaga  
Di Yogyakarta

**Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb**

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama : Yusa Aufa Rizkhika  
NIM : 20101050083  
Prodi : Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya  
Judul : A Critical Discourse Analysis of Childfree on The Youtube Channel  
Liyana Life

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Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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Yogyakarta, 15/03/2024  
Pembimbing

  
Dr. H. Ubaidillah, M. Hum  
NIP: 19810416 200901 1 006

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
SUNAN KALIJAGA  
YOGYAKARTA

## LEMBAR PENGESAHAN



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA  
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA  
Jl. Marsda Adisucipto Telp. (0274) 513949 Fax. (0274) 552883 Yogyakarta 55281

### PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor : B-480/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/03/2024

Tugas Akhir dengan judul : "A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF CHILDFREE ON THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL LIYANA LIFE"

yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama : YUSA AUFA RIZKHIKA  
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : 20101050083  
Telah diujikan pada : Jumat, 01 Maret 2024  
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir : A-

dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

### TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR



Valid ID: 65f27a6b52425

Ketua Sidang

Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum.  
SIGNED



Valid ID: 65f24bade4d1

Penguji I

Dr. Witriani, S.S. M.Hum.  
SIGNED



Valid ID: 65f29a3650a6c

Penguji II

Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd. M.Hum.,  
M.Ed., Ph.D.  
SIGNED



Valid ID: 65f2ae79c4d1d

Yogyakarta, 01 Maret 2024  
UIN Sunan Kalijaga  
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya  
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A.  
SIGNED

## FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 02/21/2024

The signature,

  
Yusa Adira Rizkniha  
NIM: 20101050083

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YOGYAKARTA

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## ABSTRACT

Childfree is a phenomenon in which adults understand and choose not to have children and therefore ignore parenting responsibilities. As a Muslim living in the UK, Liyana and her husband decided to be childfree which has drawn pros and cons for Muslims. Liyana, in her podcast video uploaded on Youtube, revealed several factors that led to the emergence of childfree ideology among the community. This study has three problem formulations: How does Liyana's statement in the video present text analysis, how does Liyana's statement in the video present social cognition about childfree, and how does the social context that arises regarding the choice of childfree. To answer the formulation of the problem, researcher used Teun A. van Dijk's discourse analysis theory using qualitative method. The result of this study is that the researcher can see how Liyana's opinion is seen with text analysis through the application of semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric. In the social cognition that emerges, Liyana explains that women today are starting to realize they have the right to choose. Women are starting to have the mindset that their body is their own choice and they have control over it. The social context that emerges through Liyana's statement shows that many factors occur in society towards childfree decision making, including economic, health, and trauma factors. The patriarchal system is also still high and imprinted, and this is one of the reasons why many women decide to be childfree.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Ideology, Childfree, Van Dijk Theory*

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## ABSTRAK

Childfree adalah sebuah fenomena atau gerakan yang mana orang dewasa memilih untuk tidak memiliki anak dan memilih untuk tidak mengambil peran sebagai orangtua. Sebagai seorang muslim yang tinggal di British, Liyana bersama suaminya memutuskan untuk childfree yang mana hal ini menuai pro kontra bagi umat Muslim. Liyana dalam video podcast yang diunggah di Youtube mengungkapkan beberapa faktor yang menjadi munculnya ideology childfree di kalangan masyarakat. Penelitian ini memiliki tiga rumusan masalah yaitu; Bagaimana pernyataan Liyana dalam video tersebut mempresentasikan teks analisis, bagaimana pernyataan Liyana dalam video tersebut mempresentasikan kognisi sosial tentang childfree, dan bagaimana konteks sosial yang muncul mengenai pilihan childfree. Untuk menjawab rumusan masalah tersebut, peneliti menggunakan teori analisis wacana Teun A. van Dijk dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah peneliti dapat melihat bagaimana opini dari Liyana dilihat dengan teks analisis melalui penerapan ssemantic, sintaks, stylistik, dan retorik. Dalam kognisi sosial yang muncul, Liyana menjelaskan bahwa perempuan saat ini mulai menyadari bahwa mereka memiliki hak untuk menentukan pilihan, perempuan mulai memiliki pola pikir bahwa tubuhnya adalah pilihannya sendiri dan memiliki kontrol terhadap hal tersebut. Konteks sosial yang muncul melalui statement Liyana menunjukkan bahwa ada banyak faktor yang terjadi di masyarakat terhadap pengambilan keputusan childfree, salah satunya faktor ekonomi, kesehatan, dan trauma. Sistem patriarki juga masih tinggi dan membekas dan hal ini menjadi salah satu mengapa banyak perempuan memutuskan untuk childfree.

Kata kunci: *Analisis Wacana Kritis, Ideologi, Childfree, teori Van Dijk*

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Humans are naturally social creatures who rely on other people in their lives. The presence of a loving relationship is evidence that people are emotional beings capable of feeling love. Marriage is one of the highest thrones in loving a partner because taking a sacred promise and going through all the twists and turns of life together is challenging. Living happily with a partner is one of the purposes of marriage, and for married couples, having children is an excellent source of happiness. This shows that marrying and having children are important factors of marriage in addition to ensuring that the person does not feel lonely or abandoned in their old age and that they have children who will take care of in the future. Unfortunately, nowadays people saw marriage is a relationship that is portrayed with pain, and having children is a difficulty because parenting is not as easy as it is described. Many things must be prepared for marriage, such as financial stability, emotional and trauma management, and unfinished personal problems that could build new problems in the future.

As time goes by, technology has improved a lot. Many things have appeared and caused a significant impact on individual humans or groups in society. Social media is a place for discussion that involves a lot of thoughts and arguments on many things by looking at the background, social conditions, culture, and religion. Social media has finally become a power in human life and easily influences others. Seeing the many problems that are present in marriages seen on social media and

the many factors that arise in society that can influence someone not to have children because of the inequality of parental roles between women and men.

This problem creates the phenomenon called childfree, which is driven by National Organization for Non-Parents in 1972 and stand in contrast to childfree or childless (Agrillo & Nelini, 2008, p. 347) who spread understanding and decide that childfree is a phenomenon in which adults understand and choose not to have children and therefore ignore parenting responsibilities (Siswanto & Neneng Nurhasanah, 2022, p.66).

Liyana Life as a muslim Youtuber who live in Britain, United Kingdom, has decided to be childfree or not have children. Through her YouTube channel, Liyana and her husband attempt to respond to the TikTok video, which portrays people's statements against childfree, and she admits that there is a movement that shifts women's mindsets toward a choice. She also completely agrees that women are more thoughtful day by day. She agreed that women made the decision not to have children because of the numerous traumas that occurred in their life, the financial, and the freedom of "my body, my choices" which transformed into a problem that turned into a roller coaster and for which there were numerous things that needed to be prepared while having children. Seeing this, netizens appear to have pros and cons in her coloum comment of her videos. This is an intriguing topic to investigate because it contradicts the Islamic sunnah about marriage and having children and she is brave to showing her childfree decision even though she is a muslim.

In response to the problem that appears, critical discourse analysis is a method that can reveal the background of the problem, and ideology is the right tool



to show because it discusses language and the situational context in society. A language can no longer be neutral, so that language becomes a tool for the interests of an ideology different from the existing culture. Ideologies are largely acquired, expressed, and reproduced by discourse, and that is why an analytical discourse approach is crucial to understanding the ways ideologies emerge, spread, and are used by social groups. Ideologies consist of social representations that define the social identity of a group, that is, its shared beliefs about its fundamental conditions and ways of existence and reproduction. Sometimes, ideologies become shared so widely that they seem to have become part of the generally accepted attitudes of an entire community, as obvious beliefs or opinion, or common sense (Van Dijk, 2006, pp. 118–119). Ideologies also can be used as "a tool to relate micro-level of language use to macro-level of power and social inequality" (Woolard & Schieffelin, 1994, p.354; M. Porras, 2022, p.238). Critical Discourse Analysis can provide information on how an ideology is formed.

Considering this problem, this study tries to find out the ideology in the YouTube video on the Liyana Life channel with Critical Discourse Analysis by focusing on Van Dijk's theory, which will analyze text analysis, how text or utterances are stated with three elements that consist of macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. While social cognition and social-context presented by her YouTube videos may be seen in Critical Discourse Analysis approach.



## **1.2 Research Questions/Problem Statements**

Based on the background that has been written, the researcher formulated the problem as follows:

1. How does Liyana's statement in the video present the text analysis towards childfree?
2. How does Liyana's statement in the video present the social cognition of childfree?
3. How does the social context of Liyana's life show in her video about child-free choices?

## **1.3 Objectives of Study**

To solve the problems, the researcher attempts to find the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To know the text analysis used and represented by Liyana Life on her Youtube channel that discussed childfree.
2. To know the social cognition of Liyana Life YouTube channel in presenting her childfree choice.
3. To know the social context of Liyana Life YouTube channel in presenting her childfree choice.

## **1.4 Scope of Study**

The scope of this study focused on Ideology theory by Van Dijk. The researcher focused on analyzing the text, social cognition, and social context found in the Liyana Life YouTube channel.

### **1.5 Significances of Study**

The researcher expect that this research will help develop the theoretical understanding of Van Dijk's concept of critical discourse analysis and provide an overview for others who seek to do further discourse analysis research.

### **1.6 Literature Review**

Literature review refers to theories or explanations that relate to the research subject and can be found or obtained from specific sources. In this research, the researcher would like to analyze the ideology in the Liyana Life YouTube channel video. The researcher found some previous journals that discussed the same problem. The first research was conducted by Ajeng Wijayanti Siswanto and Neneng Nurhasanah (2022) with the title "Analisis Fenomena Childfree di Indonesia." talked about childfree which is currently a trend that has led to issues of gender and radical feminism and one of the Indonesian influencers, Gita Savitri, decided to be childfree, and this decision caused controversy among netizens. This research analyzes the views of the Indonesian Childfree Life community towards offspring using qualitative methods with an ethnographic approach.

The result shows that children are not the only thing that can make a couple happy. Besides that, many reasons, such as the economy, personal matters, principles, and the environment, are different and complex and must be prepared maturely. Therefore, the similarities between the author's research and earlier research are seen in the issues examined, the economics and psychology that affect why people choose to be childfree, and the difference is the theory that the author

used is Van Dijk's analysis and describes the text, social cognition, and social context that provide the context for the development of discourse and ideology.

"The Childfree Phenomenon in the Perspective of Human Rights and Maqashid Al-Shari'ah" was written by Dania Nalisa Indah and Syaiffudin Zuhdi (2021). This research explains how human rights operate against the childfree phenomenon or can be said to be childless. According to CBOS research, many people choose to be childfree for two reasons: external factors such as financial conditions, increasing individualism and the non-religious nature of society, and changes in the value of a child in the family as a result of the influence of Western mindsets. Internal factors include the partner's attitude toward his partner's choice, decision-making maturity, and family experience. Indonesia, whose population is predominantly Muslim, has the potential to develop childfree thinking. Seeing this phenomenon, he uses the perspective of Maqashid Al-Shariah, which is in line with the regulations set by Allah SWT and human rights.

This research looks at the childfree phenomenon from the perspective of the Millennial Generation, and the result is 43% individual rights and 47% avoiding marriage, while the childfree phenomenon from the perspective of Human Rights and Maqasid Al-Shariah, around 56% of the respondents involved in this research consider that childfree is not against Islam. The decline in the number of Muslims in Indonesia will inhibit da'wah activities, which is one method of developing an Islamic society. In fact, in order to live in the midst of today's changing times, a Muslim should not abandon the moral standards that are guided by religious law to welcome a new era. The similarities between the author's research and earlier

research were talking about Islam's perspective and why they chose to be childfree since religion does not prohibit that, and the difference is the perspective of religion and language problem that the researcher used with the earlier studies.

The third research was conducted by Agrillo and Nelini (2008) with the title *Childfree by Choice: A Review*. In this study, the authors provide a percentage of several countries related to the level of childfree decisions. Some of the reasons and motivations for becoming childfree in a family are the differences in the duties of men and women in parenting or taking care of children. Stereotypes that occur and develop in society, such as high patriarchy, are the reason why many women choose to be childfree. The similarity of this research with the author is to see how specifically why many women (single or married) decide to be childfree, with backgrounds and various personal reasons and decisions with partners. The difference between this research and the author is to look at these issues by looking at critical discourse analysis and linguistic features.

The last is a thesis from Rahayu Setiandini (2017) from UIN Sunan Kalijaga with the title "A Critical Discourse Analysis: Lalola Easter's 'Jokowi Must Show Commitment to KPK.'" This study explains Lalola's opinion about the law regarding the KPK, which has generated many pros and cons. The researcher wants to see the analysis of the language structure in Lalola's opinion, which discusses the revised KPK law. The similarity between this research and the author is the theory used in discussing discourse using Van Dijk's theory by looking at the analysis of language structure, social cognition, and social context, while the difference is related to the object taken.

## 1.7 Theoretical Framework

This research presents the discourse on childfree choice in Youtube Liyana's Life, which has many pros and cons. This research uses critical discourse analysis initiated by Van Dijk. Researcher use Van Dijk's theory because in his analysis, Van Dijk pays attention to the linguistic aspect of a discourse and how the discourse is processed in grammatical language. Besides that, Van Dijk's theory has three elements: text analysis, social cognition, and social context.

According to Van Dijk (2015, p. 466), "Critical Discourse Analysis is discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social-power abuse and inequality are enacted, reproduced, legitimized, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political contexts." Discourse can be used as material for ideological and power practices and not just as a language object (Habibah, 2020, p.246). Ideology provides a view and impact on society. It explains that ideology has the power to connect a person or a group towards a mindset that ultimately becomes widespread and creates an ideology.

Van Dijk developed his three-dimensional framework: text analysis, social cognition, and social context. First, the text analysis is a production to examine the structure of a particular theme, analysis of linguistics grammar, proposition, vocabulary, and sentences. Second, social cognition shows the production through the process in a way that readers can understand. In this case, social cognition looks at the background and thinking of a person or an opinion on a discourse. Third, the social context is necessary to understand the problems in society. Furthermore, Van Dijk has three elements used in text analyzing discourse, such as:

1. Macrostructure, by looking at the themes or topics in a news
2. Superstructure is related to the framework of a text and putting it together in a structure. Also, this part is connected with microstructure. This part explains about a related topic, actual situation, and concrete event.
3. Microstructure is the small parts of a text to be observed, such as semantics, rhetoric, syntax, and stylistics.

## **1.8 Methods of Research**

### **1.8.1 Type of Research**

The researcher used the qualitative method. The qualitative method is used to see how the discourse is processed and see how the analysis of language and social cognition as social context without statistic or number, but using text or document (Alrafah, 2017, p.21). With this method, the text will be explained more elaborated.

### **1.8.2 Data Source**

The author used the main data source from the Youtube Channel Liyana Life with the title "*Will I Regret Not to Have Kids?! \*Muslim podcast - reacting to TikTok - Andrew Tate\**". The video can be accessed through the Youtube link:

<https://youtu.be/pGBTMO9ncds?si=4Y0p69DEeD4-d8UL>

The source of the data was taken from Liyana's opinion about childfree on her YouTube. The second data source to support the statement is gained from the Liyana's Life Youtube Channel with title "*WHY I'M 34 AND DON'T HAVE KIDS •Muslim Couple Podcast #4•*".



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oibzUCK\\_ME4&list=PLic4IZb\\_Lrju37QHGaMWuVSnsbnQ0Oaou&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oibzUCK_ME4&list=PLic4IZb_Lrju37QHGaMWuVSnsbnQ0Oaou&index=4)

The reason researcher choose the YouTube video as the second data to see Liyana's representation of childfree and comprehensive understanding of childfree.

The third data was taken from Liyana Life Youtube channel with tittle “MUSLIM GIRLS DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED ANYMORE & HERE'S WHY... \*Reacting To tiktoks\*” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bct3EKLn4Qg&t=90s>). Here Liyana says several reasons why Muslim women choose not to marry, with the reasons connected to be factors that lead to childfree decisions. This is a strong statement about social cognition and social context that Liyana describes and shows in the three videos.

### **1.8.3 Data Collection Technique**

Data collection techniques can be written, photographed, recorded audio, or be an individual's creation (Alrafah, 2017, p.22). The research objectives informed the documentation techniques used in the study's documents. In particular, the researcher carefully listened to the Liyana Life YouTube channel before transforming the recording's audio into a written transcript.

### **1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique**

In some of the processes of analyzing data using qualitative methods, there are five steps; according to Cresswell (2018, p.308-309) data must be sorted from specific to general. The first step is to prepare the data for analysis; in this case, the author organizes the information and transfers data from spoken words or utterances



to a typed file, which writes the transcript of the video podcast on Liyana's Life. This is the primary source of information used. The second step is to read all the data and identify discourse analysis (text structure, social analysis, and social cognition) by Van Dijk. How Liyana expressed her opinion on YouTube and saw after that was analyzed carefully using Van Dijk's three elements. Step three is starting to process the data that has been done from the results of the previous analysis, in this case, dividing the data analysis on each Van Dijk element, such as macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The fourth step is to provide a detailed analysis of how the opinion is complex, structured, and connected between one point and another. The fifth step is representing the data and providing conclusions in describing a discussion processes.

### **1.9 Paper Organization**

This study consists of four chapters in total. The first chapter includes the background of the study, problem statement, the object of study, the significance of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, and the research method. The second chapter will describe the theoretical framework that will explain the theory more specifically. The researcher uses Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk as the main theory in this research. The third is the research findings and discussion, where the researcher will explain about the data findings from the YouTube video podcast Liyana's Life. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion, which explain the conclusion of this research and also the suggestions for the next researchers.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

This research applies Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory by Teun A. van Dijk to examine Liyana Life's opinion on her Youtube Podcast video. This theory focuses on three dimensions of text, such as macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The dimensions include text analysis, social cognition, and social context. This research uses a video podcast from the Youtube channel Liyana Life as the data of this research. From the analysis, the following conclusions can be concluded.

There are three aspects of text analysis, the first is the Macrostructure aspect which discusses the theme. The theme is about women and the choice of why women finally decide to be childfree. The next aspect is by looking at microstructure which analyzes the linguistic structure that makes the reader better understand what is conveyed by the communicator. In microstructure, there are semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetoric analyses. In semantic analysis, researcher analyze background, detail, purpose, and presupposition. The syntax analysis discusses coherence and pronouns. Stylistic discusses lexicon about how words reflect an attitude, the last one discusses rhetoric which contains graphics and metaphors.

Next is the social cognition and social context dimension. Liyana responds to the issue of childfree with what she saw and understood from what happened in

a Tiktok video. Liyana also expressed her opinion that there are indeed many factors for someone choosing to be childfree and the environment that should be a safe and comfortable thing for women, now feels a lot of pressure because feminism is no longer same as old. In the social context discusses how childfree ideology is widely developed in the social, as Liyana said there are several factors that occur in the environment that cause this ideology to appear, besides that, the social context also considers how Islam responds to the issue of childfree which is widespread in society.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

Based on the results of the study, there are several suggestions for readers or future researchers:

1. For readers, although this is an English literature thesis, this research is also in line with communication studies that discuss discourse. Besides that, the discussion of childfree can be related to psychology related to mental issues.
2. For future researchers, you can explore discourse widely and do an analysis of more than one opinion or news discourse. That way it can help you explore a discourse widely.

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