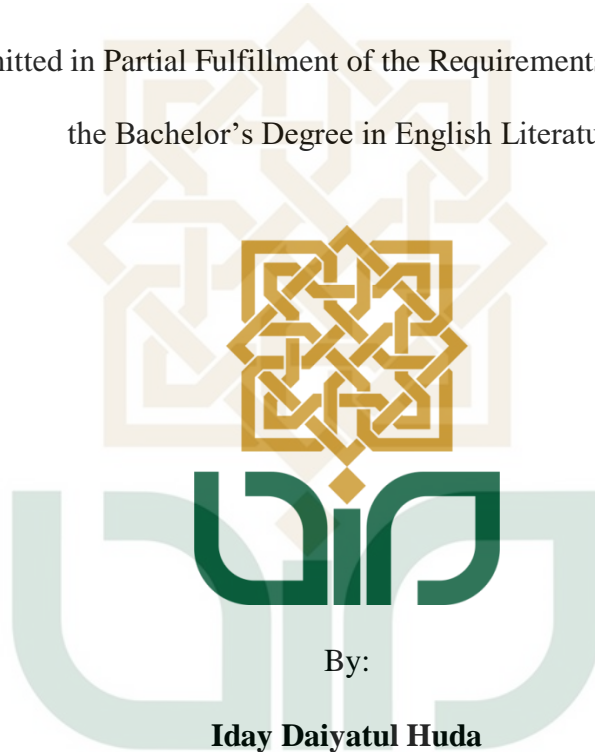


KARIMA BENNOUNE’S “YOUR FATWA DOES NOT APPLY HERE”:

A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining
the Bachelor’s Degree in English Literature



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2025

MOTTO

“Indeed, with hardship (will be) ease.”

(Q.S Al-Insyirah: 5)



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the following:

1. My family, who always provide endless support and prayers. I am grateful for all advice and motivation that have become a source of strength for me in completing this final project. I also appreciate the trust and affection that you always give. May Allah reward your kindness through His love.
2. The teachers and lecturers who have greatly contributed to my educational journey. Thank you for your knowledge.
3. My friends, whom I cannot mention one by one. Thank you for accompanying me through this process, as well as providing me with many valuable memories and experiences in my life. Thank you for being my family overseas.
4. Finally, I dedicate this thesis to myself. I congratulate myself. It turns out that I was able to get through this journey despite facing various obstacles. Thank you for not giving up and continuing to finish it. May Allah make my future steps easier.

NOTA DINAS



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Critical Discourse Analysis**

kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I declare that I take full responsibility for the authenticity of this thesis. Everything contained in this thesis is entirely my responsibility. The views or findings of myself and other researchers included in this thesis have been cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, January 8, 2025



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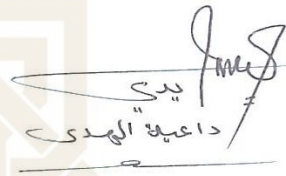
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Karima Bennoune’s “Your Fatwa does not Apply Here”:

A Critical Discourse Analysis

By: Iday Daiyatul Huda

ABSTRACT

Fundamentalist Muslims are a religious movement that aims to defend the teachings of Islam by returning to the Qur'an and Sunnah and, distancing themselves from influences that are considered non-Islamic. This movement often claims the absolute truth of their group and is often associated with radicalism and terrorism. Karima Bennoune, a Muslim living in a country prone to violence from fundamentalist Muslim movements, expressed her opinion through a discussion in an international forum uploaded on YouTube. Karima Bennoune counters the movement by highlighting that this group has deviated from the true meaning of fundamentalism by using the pretext of religion. This research identifies three problems: how Karima's statement in the video represents text analysis, how the statement reflects social cognition about fundamentalist Muslims, and what social context emerges regarding her choice of action against the fundamentalist Muslim movement. To answer these questions, the researcher applied the discourse analysis theory developed by Teun A. Van Dijk used a qualitative approach. The results show that Karima's opinions can be seen through text analysis in terms of semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects. In his social cognition analysis, Karima emphasized that the environment that should be safe for Muslims is under pressure from those who join fundamentalist Muslim groups. The social context that emerges from Karima's statement shows that the evolution of Islamic fundamentalist ideology and its threat in the form of acts of terrorism are ongoing globally.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Teun A. Van Dijk, A Fundamentalist Muslim*

Karima Bennoune’s “Your Fatwa does not Apply Here”:

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ABSTRAK

Muslim Fundamentalism adalah sebuah gerakan keagamaan yang bertujuan untuk mempertahankan ajaran Islam dengan kembali kepada Al-Qur'an dan Sunnah, serta menjauhkan diri dari pengaruh yang dianggap non-Islam. Gerakan ini sering kali mengklaim kebenaran mutlak kelompok mereka dan sering kali diasosiasikan dengan radikalisme serta terorisme. Karima Bennoune, sebagai seorang Muslim yang hidup di negara yang rentan terhadap kekerasan akibat gerakan Muslim fundamentalis, mengemukakan pendapatnya melalui diskusi di forum internasional yang diunggah di YouTube. Karima Bennoune berupaya melawan gerakan tersebut dengan menyoroti bahwa kelompok ini telah menyimpang dari makna fundamentalis yang sebenarnya dengan menggunakan dalih agama. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi tiga rumusan masalah, yaitu: bagaimana pernyataan Karima dalam video tersebut merepresentasikan analisis teks, bagaimana pernyataan tersebut mencerminkan kognisi sosial mengenai Muslim fundamentalis, dan bagaimana konteks sosial yang muncul terkait pilihan aksinya melawan gerakan Muslim fundamentalis. Untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut, peneliti menerapkan teori analisis wacana yang dikembangkan oleh Teun A. Van Dijk dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa opini Karima dapat dilihat dengan analisis teks melalui aspek semantik, sintaksis, stilistika, dan retorika. Dalam kognisi sosial yang terungkap, Karima menegaskan bahwa lingkungan yang seharusnya aman bagi umat Islam justru mengalami tekanan dari orang Muslim yang bergabung dalam kelompok Muslim fundamentalis. Konteks sosial yang muncul dari pernyataan Karima menunjukkan bahwa evolusi ideologi fundamentalis Islam dan ancamannya dalam bentuk aksi terorisme masih berlangsung secara global.

Kata Kunci: *Analisis Wacana Kritis, Teun A. Van Dijk, Muslim Fundamentalism*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

As social beings, humans require a means of engaging with others. To facilitate interaction, language is a fundamental means of communication, enabling the conveying of information and arguments to others. Language, a system of conventional spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. The functions of language include communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release. Furthermore, language can be defined as the conventional, spoken, and written symbols that humans use to facilitate communication across geographical and cultural boundaries (Robins & Crystal, 2024).

In the field of linguistics, the term "discourse" is recognized. Discourse is the conversational meaning of all forms of communication. Discourse can be defined as a social practice that functions to construct reality. This creates a dialectical relationship between the events discussed and specific social, cultural, and ideological context. In this context, language is a pivotal means of conveying the intentions of the discourse marker (Dijk, 1995a, p. 22).

The role of discourse is significant in several academic disciplines, including communication, politics, philosophy, and literature. Furthermore, discourse is a key

area of focus within the field of linguistic studies, particularly in the sub-disciplines of discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis. Discourse can be observed in several media formats, including encyclopedias, books, novels, magazines, speeches, and scientific essays (Ratnaningsih, 2019, pp. 5–6). In this research, the researcher analyzed a medium in question by applying the tenets of critical discourse analysis, specifically focusing on speech.

Speech can be conceptualized as a means of fostering an individual's self-image and exerting influence on public opinion. Furthermore, speeches serve as a conduit for garnering international support contingent, on the establishment of public trust. To gain public trust, it is crucial to demonstrate an ability to select appropriate language when composing speech texts. One of the fundamental instruments used by public figures or influential individuals to communicate ideas is social discourse delivered through speech (Hadi & Masyudi, 2023, p. 140). An illustrative example is a speech delivered by Karima Bennoune in an international discussion forum on the online platform TEDx Talks, which was uploaded on May 5, 2014. The speech has generated several opinions from the audience channeled through the comments section. Some people agree with the statements made by Karima, but there are also some people who disagree with the statements made by Karima. Therefore, speeches, especially those delivered in the context of international discussions will produce language or discourse that can be interpreted by the audience. The language used by a speaker has various functions and purposes, including communicative and persuasive functions.

This discourse analysis considers not only the semantic relationships inherent in Karima Bennoune's speech but also the critical discourse that the speech text seeks to express. To fully comprehend the speech delivered by Karima in an online international discussion forum, it is essential to consider her role as a speaker who possesses distinctive authority and a specific ideological perspective. As Van Dijk (Van Dijk, 2012, p. 6) stated, critical analysis is directed at all forms of abuse of power and domination, with a particular focus on the ideological basis of domination.

Karima Bennoune is a United Nations Special Rapporteur on cultural rights, a position she held from October 2015 to October 2021. She is currently a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School. Her work on cultural right issues has been widely disseminated in leading academic journals and magazines. Furthermore, she has been the recipient of numerous accolades, including the Dayton Literary Peace Prize in 2014 for her most recent publication, entitled 'Your Fatwa Doesn't Apply Here' - The Unspoken Story of the Struggle Against Muslim Fundamentalism (Bennoune, n.d.).

In her speech, entitled "Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here," Karima drew inspiration from the experiences of her father, Mahfoud Bennoune, a prominent and vocal professor at the University of Algiers. In the 1990s, he was the subject of death threats, yet he persisted in his efforts to denounce fundamentalism and terrorism. This experience motivated Karima Bennoune to write books and actively promote her movement against Muslim fundamentalism in a various forums.

The topic discussed by Karima in her speech is an important issue, namely Muslim fundamentalism, because this issue has disturbed civil society, women, students, especially Muslims themselves. Muslim fundamentalism is a social and religious movement that calls on Muslims to return to the basic principles of Islam. The return to ethical purity is achieved by positively integrating it with religious doctrine. This entails rebalancing the relationship between man and God, man and society, and man and his own person (Huda, 2016, pp. 120–121).

Muslim fundamentalist movements exhibit distinctive characteristics, including the conviction that they represent the sole authentic interpretive authority of the sacred text and the assertion that their perspectives are inherently superior to those of other groups. Such attitudes have the potential to lead to conflict and violence between them and other groups whose views diverge from their own. In the context of Islam, such individuals frequently cite religious justifications to support their positions. In an interview with Karima, Marieme Helie Lucas, a sociologist from Algeria, asserted that "fundamentalism, in all the world's major religious traditions, is a far-right political movement that uses religion in the context of globalization to achieve certain political goals." Furthermore, empirical evidence indicates that most individuals affected by Muslim fundamentalist movements are Muslims themselves.

Based on the above, this research focuses on a speech delivered by Karima Bennoune in an international discussion forum. The speech managed to create opinions and broaden listener perspectives. Thus, the speech uploaded on the TEDx

Talk YouTube channel was an interesting object to analyze using the critical discourse analysis approach developed by Teun A. Van Dijk.

1.2 Research Question

Based on several reasons described in the background of the study above, the researcher examined the following problems:

1. How does Karima Bennoune's statement in the video present a text analysis of Muslim Fundamentalism?
2. How does Karima Bennoune's statement in the video present the social cognition of Muslim Fundamentalism?
3. How is the social context of Karima Bennoune's life presented in the video about opposing the Muslim Fundamentalism movement?

1.3 Objectives of Study

Based on the previous problems mentioned above, the objectives of this study are to:

1. To find out the text analysis reflected and presented by Karima Bennoune, which discusses Muslim Fundamentalism.
2. To find out the social cognition of the TEDx Talks YouTube channel in presenting Karima Bennoune's speech on Muslim Fundamentalism.
3. To find out the social context of the TEDx Talks YouTube channel in presenting Karima Bennoune's speech about opposing the Muslim Fundamentalism movement.

1.4 Scope of Study

Considering the research objectives previously outlined, establishing a scope limit for this research is essential. This research will examine the ideological theory proposed by Teun A. Van Dijk. In this research, the researcher will analyze the text, social cognition, and social context contained in Karima Bennoune's speech, which was published on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel.

1.5 Significances of Study

This research is expected to make a significant contribution to deepen understanding of the application of critical discourse analysis using Van Dijk's theory. In addition, it is hoped that this research will provide benefits for readers in analyzing discourse and understanding the ideology and power contained in discourse through a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach. Furthermore, this research is expected to serve as a model or reference for future researchers who examine similar objects from different perspectives.

1.6 Literature Review

A literature review is a compilation of existing theories or research methods that serve as a foundation for answering research questions. The objective of this research is to analyze the ideological content of Karima Bennoune's speech, which was presented on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel and titled "Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here." The researcher identified several previous studies that address issues similar to those raised in this research.

First, Maimunah and Umdatul Baroroh (2022) used Fairclough's CDA framework: with the title, "Agensi Perempuan dan Reproduksi Pemahaman Radikal di Indonesia" which discusses that women also have an active role in the radicalism movement in Indonesia. This research analyzes views on the reasons for women's involvement in the radicalism movement using a qualitative research method that uses a literature review module.

The findings of this research demonstrate that women occupy an equal position within the fundamentalist movement, which is shaped by a multitude of factors, including religion, politics, individual motivation, and pressure from the group. Women tend to employ command sentences when conveying religious understanding and practices. This finding is consistent with the results of previous research that employed a critical discourse analysis approach to examine fundamentalist movement.

Second, Misbah Hudri (2024), who used Fairclough's CDA framework in his research entitled, "Diskursus Taat Pemerintah Perspektif Sayyid Qutb dalam Tafsir *Fi Dzilal Al-Qur'an* (Studi Pembacaan QS. An-Nisa (4): 59)" discusses the interpretation of Surah An-Nisa verse 59 by Sayyid Qutb in his tafsir *Fi Dzilal Al-Qur'an*. This research is qualitative research with descriptive-analytic data processing methods.

The results of this research indicate that Sayyid Qutb's interpretation provides a unique understanding of interpreting *Surah An-Nisa* verse 59 regarding obedience to *Ulil Amri*. In addition, Sayyid Qutb is a figure involved in practical politics through the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is considered a fundamentalist movement.

Thus, the similarity between this research and previous research lies in the issues raised regarding the true meaning of the fundamentalist movement, using a critical discourse analysis theory approach. However, the difference lies in the focus of the research; the previous research emphasizes the scope of the fundamentalist movement according to its definition, while this research highlights the fundamentalist movement that threatens individuals who are not in line with their views.

Thirdly, “Popular Islam Radicalism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Language of Islamic Televangelist in the Action to Defend Islam” written by Makyun Subuki (2023) explains the rise of radical Islam in Indonesia in 2016. This research produces three important conclusions: first, there is an inter-textual relationship between celebrity *Ustadz* and radical Islamic figures in mobilizing the *ummah*; second, there is the formation of a discourse order regarding the Islamic movement from the perspective of radical popular Islam; and third, Muslims are encouraged to participate in the action of defending Islam through this discourse order.

The similarity between this research and previous research is the same topic regarding fundamentalists using the critical discourse analysis approach. The significant difference between this research and previous research is the use of the theoretical framework of critical discourse analysis, where previous research used Fairclough’s model framework, while this research used Van Dijk’s model.

The fourth research paper was conducted by Widhiya Ninsia (2020) with the title *Deradicalizing Religious Extremism Linguistically: An Intertextual Approach to Islamic Extremists' View on the Qur'anic Interpretation*. This research examines the

inappropriate use of Qur'anic verses in political context that can trigger religious radicalization. The similarities with previous research lie in the themes raised and the application of critical discourse analysis. However, this research is different because it emphasizes the impact of radical egoism, which can endanger public safety, whereas previous research has focused more on verses that are misused for acts of violence.

The last research, conducted by Riqi Safari (2018) is entitled *Wacana Fundamentalisme dalam Kitab "Nizham al-Islam"* (Analisis Wacana Kritis). This research concludes that the book *"Nizham al-Islam"* is intended to change the ways of thinking and legal system that are not in accordance with Islam toward an Islamic life through the implementation of the *Dakwah Khilafah Islamiyah* system. Both this research and the previous research discuss global fundamentalism using a critical discourse analysis approach. Although, there are differences in the analytical framework applied, the previous research used the Fairclough approach, while this research used the Van Dijk approach.

In general, this research is consistent with the findings of previous studies that also analyzed discourse. Nevertheless, there are some notable discrepancies between the present research and previous research in this field. First, this research adopts Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory, whereas previous research has predominantly employed Fairclough's CDA theory. Second, although all previous research addresses comparable subject matter, namely radicalism and fundamentalism, this research places greater emphasis on the influence of

fundamentalist individuals' actions on civil society, which may be susceptible to exploitation by those pursuing political agendas.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

This research aims to analyze the text structure, social cognition, and social context in Karima Bennoune's speech delivered at an international discussion forum and uploaded on YouTube channel on May 5, 2014, through the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLi6iYnnsGc&t=576s>, by applying the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework developed by Teun A. Van Dijk. The steps that the researcher will take in this research are: First, the researcher will focus on text analysis, which includes elements such as macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Next, the researcher will analyze the social cognition and social context revealed in Karima Bennoune's speech regarding the rejection of the Muslim fundamentalist movement.

As a branch of linguistic studies, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a method of identifying instances of social power abuse, domination, and inequality, both imposed and resisted, within the context of text and speech in social and political settings (Van Dijk, 2012, pp. 6–7). In other words, discourse analysis is the study of texts situated within social contexts, with the aim of elucidating the ideologies and power relations inherent in the speech act.

In this research, the researcher employed the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory developed by Van Dijk. This theory is frequently referred to as "social cognition" because in its application, social cognition is not only analyzes the texts

but also considers the production process of the text. The focus of Van Dijk's theory is on understanding the social cognition of individuals involved in text production (Eriyanto, 2011, p. 221).

The Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theoretical framework developed by Van Dijk includes three dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context. The text dimension emphasizes the analysis of discourse structures and strategies applied to emphasize certain themes. Social cognition involves the processes involved in the interpretation of news texts, including journalists' thoughts. On the other hand, the social context analyzes the development of discourse in society relation to certain issues (Eriyanto, 2011, pp. 221–224).

Furthermore, Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory encompasses three discourse structures within the text dimension: macro, superstructure, and microstructure. Each of these structures comprises elements such as thematic, schematic, semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical. By employing a socio-cognitive approach, Van Dijk's model enables a critical discourse researcher to identify and elucidate the ideology embedded within the text (Dijk, 1995b, pp. 18–19).

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

The researcher used a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. This method is used because this research requires descriptive data to answer the objectives of research, not in the form of numerical or quantitative data. The purpose

of the descriptive qualitative research method is to find a more detailed description and explanation of the object of research systematically (Creswell, 2009, p. 4). Qualitative data can be obtained from various media, such as text, video, photos, and audio. In the context of this research, the researcher needed written materials to analyze using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory on Karima Bennoune's speech. This research also refers to other studies that produce qualitative findings, given that this research does not require quantitative data or numbers.

1.8.2 Data Source

In this research, the researcher used primary data and secondary data. Primary data is in the form of transcript of Karima Bennoune's speech as the data source. This data was taken from the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLi6iYnnsGc&t=576s> on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel on March 16, 2023. This data is a transcript of Karima Bennoune's speech at an online international discussion forum uploaded on the TEDx Talks Youtube channel on May 5, 2014, entitled "Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here".

In addition, secondary data can be obtained from public opinions in the YouTube TEDx Talks comment section. The researcher used this data to analyze the social cognition and social context reflected in the speech.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with audio and visual material model data collection. Creswell stated in his book that "Qualitative audio and visual materials take the forms of photographs, art objects, videotapes, or any

forms of sound” (Creswell, 2009, p. 21). Thus, the researcher first paid close attention to the speech delivered by Karima Bennoune on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel before converting the audio into a written transcript.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

In this research, the researcher carried out a series of steps to analyze Karima Bennoune's speech by applying the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory approach developed by Teun Van Dijk. The first step was to prepare the analysis data by converting the speech into a written transcript. After that, the researcher conducted an in-depth reading of the data and identified the elements of discourse analysis that included text, social cognition, and social context according to Van Dijk's model. Next, the researcher processed the data in each component of Van Dijk's discourse analysis model, which includes macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Finally, the researcher conducted a detailed analysis of the data and drew conclusions to better understand this research.

1.9 Paper Organization

This research consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. This chapter contains several subchapters; background of study, research questions, objectives of study, scope of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, methods of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is the theoretical framework. This section covers all aspects of the theory used by the researcher. The third chapter is the discussion. It is presents the data as a result of the discourse analysis on Karima Bennoune's speeches in the TEDx Talks

YouTube channel. The last chapter is the conclusions and suggestions. It presents conclusions regarding the research and also suggestions for future researchers.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

This research employs the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach developed by Teun A. Van Dijk examined, the views expressed by Karima Bennoune in a speech published on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. This approach is centered on three primary elements: textual analysis, social cognition, and the social context. In textual analysis, this approach considers the dimensions of the macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The data source used in this research was a video of Karima Bennoune's speech, which was uploaded to the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. The results of this research reveal several significant findings, which are outlined below.

First, in the macrostructural dimension, the topic is concerned with the effects experienced by victims of fundamentalist Islam and the characteristics of the movement itself. Subsequently, a microstructural analysis was undertaken to identify the linguistic elements that facilitate the audience's comprehension of the communicator's message. In this analysis, the researcher examined the semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects of Karima Bennoune's speech.

Second, in the context of social cognition, Karima Bennoune uses a case study approach to examine the phenomenon of Muslim fundamentalism, utilizing her personal experiences and observations of individuals who are targeted by the threat of

Muslim fundamentalist movements in her country. Several factors have influenced her decision to speak out against the Muslim fundamentalist movement. He also emphasizes that the environment that should be safe and comfortable for Muslims is under considerable pressure from fellow Muslims who are members of Muslim fundamentalist groups. The ideology reflected in Karima Bennoune's speech on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel is a pluralist ideology that emphasizes the importance of protecting freedom of speech, religion, and the right to live without fear of violence or discrimination.

Third, in the social context, this study examines the evolution of the ideology of Islamic fundamentalism and the continuing threat of acts of terrorism on a global scale. The study also identifies key access points for Karima herself. Karima is a law professor, which gives her access and power to speak about the fundamentalist Muslim movement.

4.2 Suggestion

Considering the findings of this research, the researcher recommends that future readers or researchers employ the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach to conduct a more comprehensive, in-depth exploration of discourse. This approach can facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of general discourse.

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