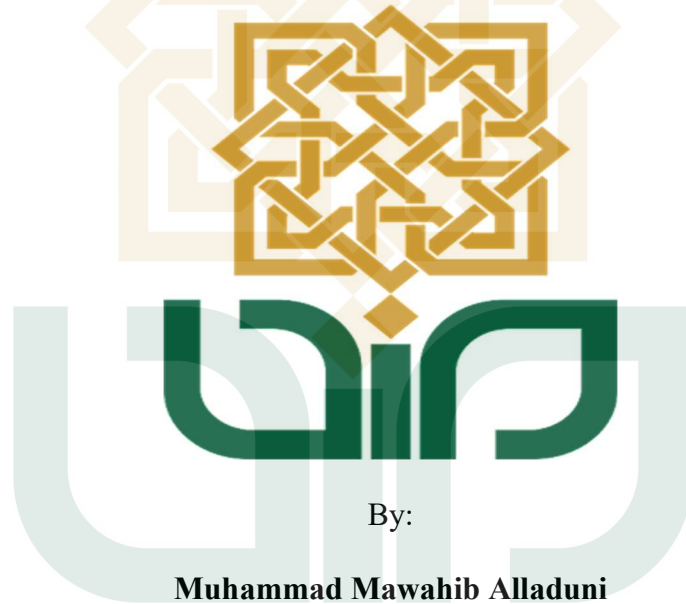


**REVEALING IDEOLOGY OF CGTN, ANTARA, AND ALJAZEERA IN THE
NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CONFLICT THROUGH
SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining
the Bachelor Degree in English Department



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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

A 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.

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

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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REVEALING IDEOLOGY OF CGTN, ANTARA, AND ALJAZEERA IN THE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CONFLICT THROUGH SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates how news coverage of the South China Sea conflict is constructed through language choices by three international media outlets: CGTN (China Global Television Network) from China, Antara News from Indonesia, and Aljazeera from middle-east. By using the Fairclough's three-dimensional (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, this study analyzes how these medias represent national and institutional ideologies and interests in their reporting. The research employs qualitative methods, focusing on the transitivity, mood, theme structures, and vocabularies within selected news articles to reveal the underlying ideological stances. The findings indicate that CGTN predominantly highlights China's sovereignty claims and legitimizes its actions in the South China Sea through assertive linguistic choices and thematic emphasis. In contrast, Antara News consistently positions Indonesia as a neutral, emphasizing stability and adherence to international law. Meanwhile, Aljazeera adopts a critical stance toward China, framing their actions as aggressive and unlawful, and aligns with liberal-democratic values by highlighting international law and multilateralism. This contrast demonstrates that news discourse is never ideologically neutral; rather, it is shaped by national interests and political agendas. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language is used as a tool of power and ideology in media discourse and underscores the importance of critical media literacy in interpreting news about international conflicts.

Keywords: *South China Sea, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideology, Critical discourse analysis*

REVEALING IDEOLOGY OF CGTN, ANTARA, AND ALJAZEERA IN THE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CONFLICT THROUGH SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

Oleh: **Muhammad Mawahib Alladuni**

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menyelidiki bagaimana liputan berita tentang konflik Laut Cina Selatan dibangun melalui pilihan bahasa oleh tiga media internasional yaitu: CGTN (China Global Television Network) dari Cina, Antara News dari Indonesia, dan Aljazeera dari Timur Tengah. Dengan menggunakan kerangka kerja tiga dimensi Fairclough (CDA) dan Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL), studi ini menganalisis bagaimana media-media ini mewakili ideologi dan kepentingan nasional dan institusional dalam pelaporan mereka. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, dengan fokus pada transitivitas, mood, struktur tema, dan kosakata dalam artikel berita terpilih untuk mengungkap sikap ideologis yang mendasarinya. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa CGTN terutama menyoroti klaim kedaulatan Cina dan melegitimasi tindakannya di Laut Cina Selatan melalui pilihan linguistik yang tegas dan penekanan tematik. Sebaliknya, Antara News secara konsisten memposisikan Indonesia sebagai aktor yang netral dan taat hukum, menekankan stabilitas dan kepatuhan terhadap hukum internasional. Sementara itu, Aljazeera bersikap kritis terhadap Tiongkok, membingkai tindakannya sebagai agresif dan melanggar hukum, dan sejalan dengan nilai-nilai liberal-demokratis dengan menyoroti hukum internasional dan multilateralisme. Kontras ini menunjukkan bahwa wacana berita tidak pernah netral secara ideologis; sebaliknya, ia dibentuk oleh kepentingan nasional dan agenda politik. Studi ini berkontribusi pada pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang bagaimana bahasa digunakan sebagai alat kekuasaan dan ideologi dalam wacana media dan menggarisbawahi pentingnya literasi media kritis dalam menafsirkan berita tentang konflik internasional.

Kata Kunci: *South China Sea, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideology, Critical discourse analysis*

MOTTO

*“There’s nothing noble about being superior to fellow man, true nobility is when you
are being superior to former self.”*

-Ernest Hemmingway

“Vincit Qui se Vincit”



DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to

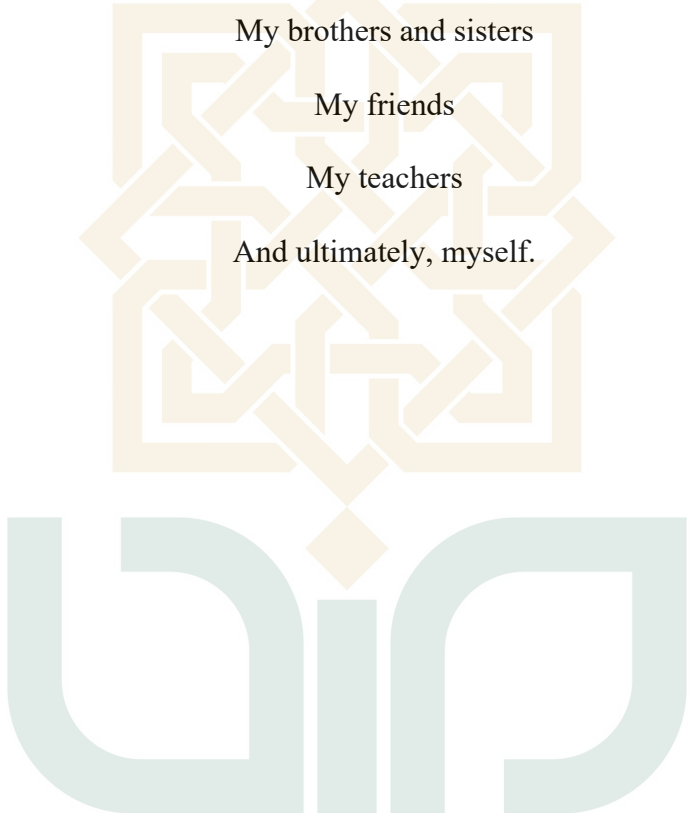
My beloved father and mother, who both passed away few years ago

My brothers and sisters

My friends

My teachers

And ultimately, myself.



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Ultimately, this paper is made merely by a human being. Therefore, mistakes are inevitable in this paper. As the writer and the researcher of this paper, I am willing to be criticized by the readers form any aspect in this paper. I wish this paper gives significant contributions especially in those who has the same interest. Lastly, I would like thank everyone who was involved in this process and journey. I wish you all the best, Thank You.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CDA	: Critical Discourse Analysis
SFL	: Systemic Functional Linguistic
SCS	: South China Sea
CGTN	: China Global Television Network
CGA	: CGTN article
ANTA	: Antara article
JZRA	: Aljazeera article



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an arbitrary system of sound symbol that are used by human as a communication tool and as marker of identity (Kentjono, 1982). Language formation is formed by a set of system, rules, and patterns. Several components are used in order to construct the structure of language, such as, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. These components work together in order to make an effective communication.

When individuals speak or write, they produced something known as a text. According to Halliday, the text is the primary object that the reader or listener interpret and engage with (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 3). Both written and spoken text are produced by human to construct a meaning. This study focuses on one specific form of written text, which is news report.

News media discourse is rarely, if ever, ideologically neutral (Fairclough, 1989). The hidden power of media discourse depends on the tendencies in the news reporting and other media activities. The media use language as an instrument to embody a crucial role in the struggle for power to uphold and enact specific beliefs and interests (Al-Khawaldeh et al., 2023). Media ideology is realized using the concrete linguistic choices such as, word selection, grammar, metaphor, etc.

In the context of power relations with conflict, the media plays a very important role in shaping public opinion and influencing government policy, especially in reporting a conflict that is currently occurring. This suggests that the idea of power behind discourse is that the whole social order is put together and held together by a hidden effect of power. The power is intricately woven into the social fabric using discourse, creating a hidden yet deep effect of how a society is organized.

The main role of the media, according to Wilbur Schramm as cited in Mustofa (2022), is that the media, press, or journalism are agents of reform. A reform gives birth to changes caused by the media's narration of a particular news. This reform or change can lean towards either good or bad things. Therefore, the media, whether consciously or not, has a big role or impact in social life.

Paul and Elder (2006) explain about bias in media discourse that media news is influenced by several "sensitivities" in building a news narrative. First, sensitivity to advertisers, which are the source of income for the media business. Sometimes the media narrates news based on profits that have been adjusted by the advertiser's wishes. Secondly, there is also sensitivity that is based on the government. Sometimes a media that is owned or supervised directly by the government tends to support the government policy and avoid harsh criticism towards them which can result in a negative image of the government. The third of several media sensitivities is towards strong interests. This is related to the interest in maintaining a good public image. Media news is expected to form an image that can calm the hearts of the people. This is related to competition between media in reporting news.

With the close relationship between language and media reporting, Fairclough argues that news media has the power to influence knowledge, beliefs, values, social relationships, and social identities (Fairclough, 1995). The use of language that has been influenced by a hidden agenda really influences how the public thinks about something. Paul and Elder (2006) emphasized that in convincing and manipulating a society, the more up-to-date the news sources are, the more it can create an "aura" of news storytelling that is not based on bias. Therefore, views on something are greatly influenced by the existence of the media, except for those who can identify media bias (Suwarno & Sahayu, 2020).

This study focuses on how CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera use language in their article regarding the SCS conflict. How they can project their ideologies that they believe in the news article. For example, who is the agent of this particular event? Or who is the addresser of the event? Which verbs are used for the actions, tone, and modality? Therefore, it aligns with SFL's view that grammar choices reflect meanings and point of views.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) treats language as a functional resource to make meaning in social context. In practice, SFL provides a technique and tool to dissect a text. This is a very useful feature to use as an analytical tool for analyzing news texts. Therefore, SFL is effective in identifying "textual features of the news, including the choice of words, grammar, and coherence" to uncover the "underlying ideologies and power relations" in discourse (Fauzan, 2022).

According to O'Grady (2019), the use of SFL as a critical linguistic research

tool concludes in a fruitful conclusion. SFL can be used to research media discourse as has been done by (Hidayah, 2020; Osisanwo & Iyoha, 2020). Meanwhile, Halliday (2014) says that the use of language is classified into three categories called metafunction. Each metafunction has a different dimension of meaning. First, the ideational metafunction which functions to represent reality or experience through clauses. Second, there is an interpersonal metafunction which shows the social relationship between the writer/speaker and the reader/listener. The third is the textual metafunction which is related to how the text is organized.

Building on Halliday's framework, Martin (1997) introduced three systems used as a guide to analyze the meaning of clauses, namely the Theme system which concerns the point of departure of discourse, the Mood system which relates to the speakers attitude and role, and the Transitivity system which focusses on representation of processes, participants, and circumstances. Seeing the purpose of this study, the three systems will be used as tools to analyze news discourse texts. And to find out the context in the text, the researcher also applied field, tenor and mode analysis which are also included in the SFL umbrella. This is in accordance with what was explained by O'Grady (2019) who said that the use of linguistic theory at the description stage is very clear while at the interpretation and explanation stages, SFL is also relevant to be used as a theoretical basis.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background that are explained above, the researcher formulates

several questions that becomes the basis of this research namely:

1. What is the ideology that is represented through media discourse of the three selected article from CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera?
2. What are the differences and similarities of ideology between all three media agencies?

1.3 Objective and Significance of the Study

The main objective of the current research is to identify and analyze the ideology of CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera in their coverage of the South China Sea conflict. To reveal how each media channel constructs the conflict in their perspective. The objective is achieved by applying SFL to investigate the linguistic choices and to know how language is used to depict the participants, actions, and events that happen within the conflict. Another objective is to understand the difference and similarities in CGTN, Antara news, and Aljazeera.

The significance of this study is to provide an insight of how media discourse from different countries describes or portray sensitive and complicated issues such as South China Sea conflict in order to know the influence of media ideology towards public perception. This study hopes to help the readers or researchers of the same field recognize the way media narratives are shaped by ideological stances and improve the understanding of how to respond critically towards news about international conflicts. The comparative perspective in Asian media ideology offers a valuable perspective in shaping geopolitical dynamics. By establishing CDA and SFL methodology, this

research serves as a model for future studies on media ideology especially in international conflicts. Also, by using SFL as a methodological tool for analyzing media discourse expecting to contribute to the field of Critical Discourse Analysis especially in the context of international conflict.

1.4 Literature Review

Previous researches on CDA have highlighted how language choices in media discourse reflect societal power structures. With Fairclough particularly noting the role of discourse in shaping public perceptions of events.

Panji (2020) examine the representation of Jihadists in the eyes of European media using Fairclough's CDA. In his thesis, he found that the author of the text associated the word "Jihad" with terrorism in Europe and the ideology of sacred suicide. After conducting his research, Panji countered the writing in the text with an interpretation using the Qur'an and History of Islam. The similarity between this thesis and the current thesis is that both use Fairclough's theory which focuses its research on media discourse. However, this research is different from the current research in terms of the addition of SFL as a tool for analyzing linguistic elements.

Also from Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University, Ismail (2024) applied CDA combined with SFL to analyze the representation of Anies Baswedan in Jakarta Post and ABC news media. The finding of his research is that both media that he study represent Anies differently. Jakarta Post use the ideology of right antagonist ideology, while ABC is the left protagonist ideology. This study is similar to the current study,

but the current study is conducting a study of ideology regarding the geopolitical dispute of South China Sea from three different media agencies.

Al-Radhi (2020) uses Chilton and Schaffner framework of strategic function and Norman Fairclough 3-dimensional framework to provide an understanding on how CNN's discourse presents a view of "self" and "other" concepts in CNN news covering the Arab Spring and Yemen's internal conflict at the end of 2010 and early 2011. This journal article illustrates how Western media use linguistic strategies to frame Middle Eastern conflicts with specific ideological stances.

Meanwhile Nurdin (2023) examined how Republika newspaper represented the 2019 Indonesian presidential debates between Jokowi and Prabowo using Norman Fairclough CDA framework. The study considers Republika's use of "Prophetic" and "Al-Hujurat" journalism, principles rooted in Islamic values that encourage truthfulness, respect, and peace. This research illustrates how CDA can uncover soft biases within media, especially when cultural and religious values are integral to the discourse.

Hibatulloh (2023) uses Antara news as the object of research to see the representation of bullying victims using the Fairclough theoretical framework and Halliday's SFL transitivity and modality analysis. The results of this study say that the type of process that appears most is the material process, then followed by the verbal process, the relational process, and ends with the mental process. the use of high-value modality appears most in the selected news articles. In conclusion, Antara does not highlight the victims of bullying too much but tends to highlight how the government

responds to the problem.

Moreover, Fauzan (2022), in his study regarding the News "Scenario Ferdy Sambo" in Online Media Kompas and Tempo, investigated the application of SFL with Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis. The research examines how actors, actions, and circumstances are framed linguistically, demonstrating bias in Kompas and Tempo's news report. Linguistic choices contribute to how the public perceive the news of Sambo as the culprit. This research demonstrates the effectiveness of SFL tools.

Suwarno and Wening Sahayu (2020) implemented transitivity analysis in their research in order to expose how Jakarta Post and New York Times construct media's bias regarding Israel and Palestine conflict in 2019 to 2020. The application of Critical Discourse Study mixed with SFL analysis has been proven to produce a conclusion that both media agencies are more inclined to the Palestine side and describe Israel as a war criminal. Although the New York Times considers the violence committed by Israel is justified for various reasons. This is proven by the dominance of the use of material and verbal processes in the selected articles.

Other than that, Fitriani (2021) and Asad (2019) also conducted a CDA mixed with SFL transitivity analysis. The former analyzed the news coverage of the 212 actions in The Jakarta Post with the action being depicted negatively as a disruption and threat to democracy, while the government is depicted as responsive and proactive. The latter examined the representation of social actors during elections in the Malaysian and Pakistani media which shows that independent media tended to provide

neutral representation, while mainstream media tended to side with the dominant group. For example, in the case of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir was more often depicted as an active actor than Najib Razak. Both studies showcase that transitivity analysis is proven to be an effective tool to show representation of particular people or groups.

From several literature insights that have been conducted by other researchers, it can be concluded that Critical Discourse Analysis integrated with competent linguistic theories such as SFL can produce a rich conclusion especially in the context of finding hidden ideologies in a discourse. The use of CDA is not only limited to certain linguistic theories, but can be combined with several other theories that can support or strengthen the results that researchers want to achieve. In addition, the main difference in this research with the other prior researches is that this research conducting a comparison of three media outlets from three different countries regarding one specific matter of issue.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

CDA is an approach or method to explore, investigate, and analyze the written or spoken discourse revealing its discursive source of ideology, bias, and power. Fairclough (1989) defines CDA as “an often-opaque relationship between practice of discourse and socio-cultural structures relationship of process”. Practice, events, and text are ideologically shaped by relation of power and struggles over power (Fairclough, 1995). According to Wodak (2001), CDA is an interdisciplinary method of critical language study aiming to indicate language behavior related to social actors.

In addition, Fairclough (1989) proposed a three-stage method namely; description of the text, interpretation of the relationship between the text and interaction, and explanation of the relationship between interaction and social context.

One of the linguistic tools that suits CDA the most is SFL. SFL tries to understand language as it is and believes that language is a social process so the one that explains how the language is used is society not neurological context. The word systemic means that language has multiple levels including discourse to semantics, lexicogrammar, phonology, and graphology. Each of them contributes to the meaning of the social process. functional means that each level has three meta-meaning which is ideational, interpersonal, and textual. These three meta-meaning work simultaneously to achieve the social goal. Therefore, it can be concluded that SFL and CDA have a mutual relationship between them (Chouia & Koumachi, 2024).

By integrating Norman Fairclough's CDA framework and M.A.K Halliday's SFL theory, the researcher deepened the understanding of how the language is operated at different levels of meaning and power. Fairclough's CDA underscores the ideological, social, and power-related dimensions of discourse, while Halliday's SFL provides detailed tools to examine how the language functions in context to make meaning through specific linguistic choices. Together, they offer a method for uncovering how language reinforces or challenges social power relations and ideologies.

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1 Type of Research

This research is descriptive-qualitative research. Qualitative research is a process of research by conducting it from the philosophical assumptions, to the worldview, and the possible way of using the theory in order to study social and human problems (Creswell, 2007). The process of research is not merely about gathering the data, but also involving some systematic steps of analysis. It is started by philosophical assumptions, which is the foundation of thinking which underlie why and how the research is done. All of this in order to study the social and human problems. Therefore, Qualitative researchers adopt a qualitative method for investigation, gathering data in natural environments, and analyzing it to identify patterns or themes (Creswell, 2007).

A comparative case study shows contrastive patterns in framing ideological positioning. The aim for this study is to explore the ideology and linguistic patterns of three media discourses. By conducting Critical Discourse Analysis, the researcher analyzes the structure, word choices, and framing of the news article. SFL can categorize linguistic elements to enable a detailed examination of how language choices align with ideological perspectives. This approach provides the depth and focuses that is required to analyze media discourse and ideology more effectively.

1.6.2 Data Sources

The data is gathered by selecting news articles each from CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera that focus on the conflict in the South China Sea. The researchers took news

samples from both websites with a time span from August to October of 2024. The primary source for this research was news articles gathered primarily from the official website of CGTN to represent China's perspective, Antara News to represent Indonesia's perspective, and Aljazeera to represent a more neutral perspective. The researcher gathered one articles from each source. The first data source was gained from CGTN official website with the title "*China Indonesia 2-2 dialogue vows to safeguard regional stability*":

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-08-14/China-Indonesia-2-2-dialogue-vows-to-safeguard-regional-stability-1w3ne1WHAWY/p.html>.

And the second data source is taken from Antara News official news website "*develop blue economy in south china sea to prevent conflict indonesia*" :

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/327323/develop-blue-economy-in-south-china-sea-to-prevent-conflict-indonesia>

Finally, the last data source is taken form Aljazeera official news website "*blinker condemns chinas dangerous and unlawful moves in south china sea*":

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/11/blinker-condemns-chinas-dangerous-and-unlawful-moves-in-south-china-sea>

1.6.3 Data Collection Technique

This study uses purposeful sampling to allow the researcher to select some news articles that are related to the South China Sea conflict. This type of sampling ensures that the selected articles are relevant to the research question and objectives. The

criteria for the selected news are by focusing on the news on significant events, political statements, and geopolitics. The research also limited on a specific period of time for the analysis which is ranging from August to October of 2024. This limitation makes the data more manageable and relevant to the recent development of the conflict.

The research started with the researcher visits the CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera website and searches for the terms “south China sea conflict”. Then, the selected articles were copied and sorted into a document. As a result, in CGTN official website, the researcher found 30 articles that is relevant to the current research. Meanwhile, in Antara official website, the researcher found 15 articles regarding SCS conflict in the span of August to October 2024. The researcher also found 11 articles regarding SCS conflict in Aljazeera official website. Those results were then narrowed down to one specific article from each media outlet by selecting one article which has the best rating among the other articles.

After that, the gathered documents were then broken down into clause level to perform the textual analysis of the text. Each clauses were then named with the format of news outlet name as follows; The clause data that were gathered from CGTN news article were named by starting it with the code “CG” that were then followed by the number of the article (A1) and then followed by the number of the clause (C1...), for example, CGA1C1. The clause data gathered from Antara news article were named with the start of the code “ANT” and followed by the number of the article and the clause, for example ANTA1C14. Then, the clause data that were gathered from Aljazeera were named with the code “JZR” and followed by number of article and the

number of the clause, for example, JZRA1C1. If the clause was within one complex sentence, then the subordinate clause was named using letters (a, b, c, etc.), for example, CGA1C2a.

1.6.4 Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis technique for this research combines Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis. Using Fairclough's 3-dimensional framework of CDA with the combination of Halliday's SFL, the researcher breaks down the analysis into three main stages: description, interpretation, explanation (Fairclough, 1989).

In the description stage, vocabulary and grammar analysis of the text become the main focus. In the description stage, three language metafunctions, namely ideational (representation of real-world experiences and connectivity of events through conjunctions), interpersonal (role of social relations), and textual (organization of text) are correlated to create ideational (experiential and logical), interpersonal, and textual meanings.

Second stage of analysis, namely the interpretation stage, examines the discursive practice. As for this stage, Fairclough gave 4 questions to interpret the discourse, which is; What's going on? Who's involved? What's the relationship between the participants? and What's the role of the language? (Fairclough, 1989; O'Grady, 2019). These questions could be answered using the register analysis of SFL concerning the triad of field, tenor, and mode. This stage helps to understand the

relationship between the text and the discursive processes.

Last stage of analysis, namely explanation, considers the broader socio-political context, linking the findings to national interest, ideologies, or external influences. This stage is to uncover how CGTN and Antara News align with or challenge the dominant ideologies. At this stage, the creation of meaning through language can be used to share power and express ideology.

After applying both the CDA and SFL framework, the researcher reflects on how language choices are shaped by social, political, and ideological context. The combination of Fairclough and Halliday's framework provide a deeper insight on how power and ideology are hidden within the text.

1.7 Paper Organization

This research consists of four chapters. In the first chapter there is an explanation of the background of the research to be conducted, followed by research questions, objectives and significance of the research, literature review, a theoretical framework that briefly explains CDA and SFL, and finally there is a research method. Second chapter provides a deeper account on the theoretical framework namely Fairclough's CDA theory and Halliday's SFL theory. As for the third chapter, the researcher presents the finding and discussion of the research that has been conducted using the combination of CDA and SFL theory to examine ideological stance in the news article from CGTN and Antara news outlet regarding South China Sea conflict. Fourth chapter provides the conclusion and recommendations or suggestions for future

study of the same field.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis that has been conducted regarding the news about South China Sea conflict by CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera using Fairclough's three-dimensional framework and Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic, the researcher finally could draw a conclusion in this chapter. It can be concluded that all three media, namely, CGTN, Antara, and Aljazeera consistently represent their institutional and national ideology. Through the selection of words and good discourse structure, these medias portray the ideology within the news article.

CGTN, as a media owned by China, dominantly emphasize the narration of sovereignty and legitimizations over the claim of South China Sea area. This can be seen in the word choices, structure of sentences, and the use of material and relational processes. The processes indicate the active role of China as the rightful claimant of the area. CGTN often use declarative mood and themes that positioned China as the protagonist and the power gainer of the narration. Therefore, through all these linguistic features, CGTN successfully creating a positive image and strengthen China's position in international audiences.

Moreover, Antara news, as an official news outlet from Indonesia, highlights Indonesian position as a non-claimant country. Indonesia is considered neutral and obey international law, especially UNCLOS. Antara emphasize regional stability and

reject one-sided claim that could potentially disrupt Indonesian sovereignty, especially in Natuna sea. Through lexical choices and discourse structure, Antara emphasize the value of stability and nationalism that is influenced by ideology of Indonesia.

On the other hand, through some grammatical and lexical choices by the writer, Aljazeera reframe China as the aggressor or the main antagonist of the conflict. Aljazeera often use material and verbal process to condemn China through international actors such as Antony Blinken and ASEAN countries. In addition, the use of evaluative adjectives constructs the narrative of illegality and potential danger. In this way, this discourse is creating a counter-hegemonic ideology against CGTN and China's discourse.

The integration of Fairclough's CDA and Halliday's SFL proved that grammatical choices like process, mood, and theme-rheme structure is not a linguistic feature, but rather as a tool to represent hidden ideology through media discourse. Both CGTN and Antara implicitly shape public opinion and influenced society perception regarding South China Sea conflict. CGTN and Antara successfully convey the news in accordance to their agenda and national interest.

Therefore, this research proved that media discourse was never neutral in terms of ideologies. Media has an important role to construct social, politic, and ideological aspect of society using the language that they use. The approach of CDA and SFL proved to be effective in revealing how power and ideology works within the text. This research gives deeper understanding about the dynamics of geopolitical conflict discourse.

4.2 Suggestion

Through this research, the researcher hope that society could increase their awareness regarding media literacy, especially in an international news such as this. With good media literacy, the reader or audiences are expected to be more critical in judging the ideology and revealing hidden interest within media reporting. This research focuses on only three media outlets, one from a claimant country, one form a non-claimant country, and one from foreign media outlet. However, for future researches, it is better to broaden the analysis on other media. This is important in order to get a comprehensive understanding of discourse and ideology within the news regarding South China Sea conflict. Moreover, future researches could also consider to analyze visual aspect of the news unlike this research that only focusing on the linguistic feature. Finally, the result of this research is hoped to provide an insight on how an ideology can shaped the media discourse and influence perspective of the audiences.

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