

**The Representation of A Social Actor in The Legal Issue of A Jakartan Highway
Accident
(A Critical Discourse Analysis of News Reports of Rasyid Rajasa in Two Tv
Stations)**

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ABSTRACT:

The present study seeks to investigate the representations of Rasyid Rajasa regarding his highway accident in tvOne and RCTI news reports and the significance of the representations. This study employs a qualitative design with some measures of descriptive statistics and a perspective of CDA proposed by Fairclough (1995). The data include the selected four news reports of Rasyid Rajasa's trial taken from youtube.com. The analysis uses theories of Transitivity and Thematization of Halliday (1994) in revealing the representations which signify underlying ideologies. The study reveals that Rasyid Rajasa is represented as guilty, a victim and as favored. From those representations, four ideologies are derived, namely democracy, capitalism, "fairness" in expressions and partiality in expressions.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, Transitivity, Thematization, Social Actor, Representation.*

INTRODUCTION

The accident that occurred in the Jagorawi toll road involving Rasyid Rajasa, the son of Hatta Rajasa, Indonesia' Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs seems to have drawn much media attention in Indonesia. The accident happened on January 1st had caused two people died and three others injured. Among the two people, one victim was a 14 month old baby. The fatal accident grabbed the attention of Indonesian people as proven by a petition created by Muhamad Isnur on a petition website *change.org*. The petition signed by more than 2000 people specifically addressed authorities in the country to investigate the case without bias. The case, then, turned out to be of newsworthy content.

A study on the use of language in media is beneficial to be conducted because the media can mediate different kinds of discourses. For example, in politics, or as in Fairclough (2006) the term is "political branding". The media, then, are used as tools for disseminating certain ideologies by particular parties for particular purposes because through

the media they can reach people in remote areas. Ideologies can be traced by analyzing the language use of the media and focusing on the representation as also the main objective of this present study.

Several studies have been conducted regarding representation in different areas. Regarding politics, a study was conducted on one prominent Arabic news site, *Aljazeera* and focused on its politics of representation toward the al-Aqsa Intifada (Wenden, 2005). On business, another study analyzed how business news is presented on the Internet through news networks (Tan, 2011). Meanwhile, regarding sociocultural area, another study on representation has been conducted by analysing an Urdu short story (Rizwan,2013).

Within that context, this study aims to reveal the representation of Rasyid Rajasa regarding his highway accident and the ideology retrieved from the representations.

Four videos in the form of news report regarding Rasyid Rajasa were taken from RCTI and TVOne. By using

videos this study seeks to investigate the strategies of both TV stations in representing the social actor.

Representation and Critical Discourse Analysis

The definition of representation according to Fairclough (2009) is a social construction process that also involves reflexive self-construction. The definition indicates that representation can be in the form of representing people or representing social action. In line with the definition, Fairclough (2003) explains that representation in clauses involves “physical aspects” and “mental world”. Physical aspects involve real things whereas the mental world involves abstract things such as feelings.

Representation itself can be in the form of representation of social event as well as representation of social actor. In the representation of social event, the analysis focuses on identifying the process types. Meanwhile, in identifying the representation of social actor, the focus is to examine Participant in clauses.

Representation can signify ideologies. The term “ideology” itself is closely related to the study of critical discourse analysis. They are related because the purpose of CDA is to unravel ideology which disguises itself as what is called metaphor or analogy in daily life (Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

CDA itself refers to approaches in analyzing texts proposed by different scholars. One of the approaches is from Fairclough (1995) which involves three dimensions of communicative event, namely text, discourse practice and sociocultural practice. Sociocultural practice affects the production of the text. However, that effect is indirect and linked by discourse practice. Thus, in affecting the production of text, sociocultural practice shapes discourse practice first.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs a qualitative design with some measures of descriptive statistics and a perspective of CDA proposed by Fairclough (1995). It was used because the collected data were in the form of verbal description and

numerical measures. The study focuses on analyzing representations of Rasyid Rajasa regarding his highway accident in tvOne and RCTI news reports. The approach from Fairclough (1995) used in the analysis has three stages, namely analysis of text, analysis of process of text production, consumption and distribution, and sociocultural analysis of the discursive event. To reveal the representation of Rasyid Rajasa, the study employs the theory of Transitivity and Thematization in Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1994).

Data for this study include TV news reports regarding Rasyid Rajasa from two TV stations in Indonesia which were obtained from youtube.com and transcribed into text. The TV stations are RCTI and tvOne. Two videos were obtained from each TV station which was chosen based on their similar themes in nature on the case of Rasyid Rajasa. The themes are regarding the first trial and the last trial. Two videos are about the first trial where Rasyid got to hear the sentence from the prosecutor. Meanwhile, the other two are the news reports of the sentence hearing of

Rasyid's case. Two videos each on the two themes were obtained and able to present the beginning and the conclusion to the case.

The analysis of this study involves several steps as follows:

- a. Identifying the social actor and semantic roles from the clauses by employing Transitivity and the main information of the text using Thematization (Halliday, 1994).
- b. Interpreting the analysis by considering process of production and consumption of the text. Within that context, in this step the analysis involves the historical background and knowledge of the text.
- c. Identifying the ideology by taking into account the social context. The social context is divided into three types namely situational context, the context of institutional practices and the context of society and culture (Fairclough, 1995).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussion on the analysis of Rasyid Rajasa in the news reports are elaborated as follows.

Representation of Social Actor through Thematization

Rasyid Rajasa is considered to be the main actor as he appears as the dominant topical theme. It occurs in both TV stations' news reports. The number of his appearance is higher than other topical themes as indicated in **appendix a and b**. As the dominant topical theme, people can recognize him easily because he is the topic of the news reports. Correspondingly, as the majority of the topical theme it means that Rasyid is foregrounded. Within that context people know and focus on him as the main theme of the news reports and the processes attached to him in the rheme part.

Rasyid himself as the dominant topical theme is realized in different kinds of forms. In tvOne news report, Rasyid is mostly mentioned in his proper name, pronoun *dirinya* (he), and *Putera Menteri Koordinator Perekonomian* (the

son of coordinating minister of economic affairs). Clause [a] below is an example where Rasyid is presented in his proper name.

[a]

Rasyid	divonis 6 bulan masa percobaan dengan hukuman 5 bulan penjara serta denda dua belas juta rupiah
[Rasyid]	[was sentenced to 6 months probation with 5 months in jail and 12 million rupiah fine]
Topical	Rheme
Theme	

From the clause above, it is apparent that the topical theme is Rasyid Rajasa because he is the “point of departure” of the clause (Halliday, 1994:37). Furthermore, according to Eggins (2004), a Topical Theme is a constituent which has a Transitivity function in which in this clause, Rasyid serves as a Goal. The use of proper name in presenting Rasyid helps reader in identifying the main information of the news reports.

Meanwhile, in RCTI news report Rasyid is realized in his proper name either in his full name Rasyid Rajasa or simply Rasyid. The clause where Rasyid

is put as topical theme is exemplified below in clause [b].

[b]

Rasyid Rajasa	dijatuhi hukuman 5 bulan penjara dan denda Rp 12 juta
[Rasyid Rajasa]	[was sentenced to five months in prison and was fined for Rp 12 million]
Topical Theme	Rheme

In the example, Rasyid Rajasa is the Topical Theme because it is apparent that he is presented as the first element of the clause which has a Transitivity function as a “Goal”. Different from the way Rasyid is presented in tvOne, here Rasyid is only presented in his proper name. He is presented either simply Rasyid or in his full name Rasyid Rajasa which reveals his last name. The use of proper name helps reader in identifying the topic of the news reports. Furthermore, by mentioning his last name RCTI leads reader to the fact that Rasyid Rajasa is the son of Indonesia’s prominent minister, Hatta Rajasa.

Representation of Social Actor through Transitivity

The findings show that mostly RCTI presented Rasyid as an Actor in the news reports (see appendix c). The use of Actor type in presenting Rasyid indicates that Rasyid is responsible for every action he is associated with. Furthermore, it suggests that RCTI is more direct in reporting the news because it straightforwardly addresses Rasyid as the responsible party. Meanwhile, tvOne mostly presented him as a Sayer in the news reports (see appendix c). The use of Sayer signals the voice of a certain person (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Therefore, it means that Rasyid has a voice in the news reports by being able to express his statement regarding

the case. Furthermore, it shows that tvOne is not as vocal as RCTI because its reports depend on Rasyid’s statements they quote. As a result, it shows that tvOne tries to divert their responsibility in presenting Rasyid Rajasa.

Based on the semantic analysis, three representations of Rasyid Rajasa were found in the news reports. The

representations include being guilty, as a victim and being favored. This guilty representation shows the fact that Rasyid is undeniably at fault. This representation was found in both RCTI and tvOne, The favored representation was found in RCTI news report, this representation means that as a guilty party he was treated differently. On the other hand, the victim representation was found in tvOne news reports. The victim representation indicates that Rasyid is forcefully accused to be guilty and to be punished severely.

Rasyid Rajasa as Being Guilty

From the analysis, it was found that tvOne mostly presented Rasyid as a Target (see appendix d). Target is a type of participant which occurs in verbal processes. The process itself is usually used to quote or to take into account other’s statement (Gerot & Wignell, 1994). As a Target, it means that Rasyid is the object of others’ statement. Thus, in this representation, Rasyid is guilty based on people’s accusation.

[c]

Dalam kasus kecelakaan ini [In this accident case]	Putera Menko Perekonomian ini [the son of coordinating minister of economic affairs]	Didakwa [was charged]	Dengan pasal 310 ayat 2,3 serta 4 dengan ancaman hukuman maksimal lima tahun penjara [with Article 310 (1), (2), (3) with the threat of five-year imprisonment at maximum.]
Circ: matter	Target	Verbal	Verbiage

The clause [c] above shows that Rasyid is represented as a Target of a negative event which is a punishment. As a Target, Rasyid is presented in a verbal clause where he serves as the Target, “was charged” serves as the process and the article he was charged with is the verbiage. In the example, the verbal process “was charged” signals that Rasyid is at fault and it is ensured by the verbiage which elaborates Rasyid’s possible punishment.

Meanwhile, RCTI mostly presented him as a Phenomenon which can be found in mental processes as the object of the process (see **appendix e**). This process itself is mostly employed to encourage people to be involved in the text (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Therefore, it suggests that RCTI attempted to lead people to think that Rasyid was a guilty party.

[d]

Rasyid [Rasyid]	dinilai lalai [is considered reckless]	menyebabkan orang lain meninggal ataupun mengalami luka berat dan luka ringan [that led other people died or having major and minor injuries]
Phenomenon	Mental	Circ: matter

In clause [d] above Rasyid is a Phenomenon associated with the action of causing death and injury to others which makes him guilty. As a phenomenon, Rasyid appears in mental process where ‘is considered to be reckless’ is the process and the fact that

he led other people’s death and injury as the circumstantial matter. The mental process indicates that he is guilty by being reckless which is further elaborated in the circumstantial matter. The circumstantial matter in this clause ensures the claim that Rasyid is being guilty by describing the after effect of him being reckless. Thus, as a result Rasyid is considered as the guilty party.

Rasyid as a victim

The findings of tvOne news report suggest one other representation namely as a victim. The representation itself describes testimonies from Rasyid’s party. The clauses representing Rasyid as being a victim are realized in two participant types, Sayer and Senser. However, he is mostly represented as a Sayer (see **appendix f**).

A clause suggesting Rasyid as being a victim below is taken from tvOne news reports as exemplified in clause [e].

[e]

Tim kuasa hukum Rasyid	menyatakan tak puas [said that they	Atas putusan hakim yang tidak mempertimbangkan faktor kelalaian dari pihak
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[Rasyid's legal advisers]	were not satisfied]	korban [with the judge's verdict which did not consider the negligence factor from the victim side]
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The clause above shows Rasyid's side as a Sayer is the victim of the judge's verdict as indicated by the verbal process. The legal advisers object the judge's verdict for its lack of consideration on the victim's fault. They consider that the verdict for Rasyid could have been lighter because the victim itself is at fault too. Thus, this clause is seen as representing Rasyid Rajasa as a victim of judge's unfair verdict.

Rasyid as being favored

The findings of RCTI news report suggest one other representation, namely as being favored. The word "favored" in this case means that Rasyid is treated differently from others who are at fault for causing accident for certain reasons.

In this representation, Rasyid is mostly presented as an Actor (see appendix g). The use of Actor which

occurred in material processes shows that someone does something which can give particular impacts to others (Halliday, 1994). Therefore, as an Actor Rasyid is presented as the one responsible for the action in the material processes. In this case Rasyid is exposed as the one who experiences the different treatment he received.

[f]

Berdasarkan pertimbangan yang meringankan [Based on alleviating consideration]	putera bungsu Menko Perekonomian Hatta Rajasa [the youngest son of coordinating minister of economic affairs Hatta Rajasa]	tidak perlu menjalani [did not need to undergo]	hukuman tersebut [the punishment]
circ: matter	Actor	Material	Goal

In example [f] Rasyid is presented as the son of the coordinating minister for economic affairs. He serves as an actor in this clause and is associated with a negative action as indicated in the material process. The material process shows that Rasyid did not need to undergo something which is elaborated in the Goal. The Goal further ensures the representation of being favored by describing the thing that Rasyid did not

have to undergo which is the punishment.

Ideologies in RCTI and tvOne

From the representations elaborated previously the underlying ideologies in both news reports can be identified. Based on the analysis Thematization and Transitivity there are four ideologies found in the news reports. The ideologies are democracy, capitalism, “fairness” in expressions and partiality in expressions.

Democracy

The first ideology is democracy which can be identified in both TV stations. This is the principle where equality between people is considered to be one of the characteristics of a democratic country (Herbert, 2008). The principle itself is realized by the fact that the media is able to publicize the accident case as news material. As the son of one of the country’s prominent minister, Rasyid is considered to have certain power, yet because of the principle the accident case can be consumed publicly. It shows that every

person is equal regardless the status of the family member.

Furthermore, considering the analysis of Thematization, it can be seen that Rasyid Rajasa is presented as the most frequent Topical Theme as well as the main theme. That fact signals that Rasyid is the focus of the news reports. Correspondingly, the democracy principle is also identified from the analysis of Transitivity. It is realized by the representation of guilty which is recognized in both RCTI and tvOne. This representation signals that anyone can be guilty even the son of a minister. Therefore as the guilty party, Rasyid is responsible for the accident and treated equally by the authorities. Both media present this fact thus it indicates the principle of equality as one of the characteristics of a democratic country. This principle is also formulated in The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia article 27 (1).

Capitalism

The next ideology is capitalism. This ideology shows that the accident is newsworthy. It is realized by the choice of putting Rasyid as the main theme of

the news. Serving Rasyid as the focus of the news report is their marketing strategy to gain citizens' attention. It attracts citizens' attention because of the contradiction the issue has. The contradiction in this case is between his role as the son of a prominent minister who is supposed to be a role model and his action that causes an accident. Furthermore, Rasyid's father, Hatta Rajasa is not merely a minister but he is also the in-law of the current president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and is expected to enter presidential election next year.

People who want to know about the development of the case will pay attention to the news and as a result both TV stations gain advantages by airing the news reports. People will watch the news reports in which it gives certain advantage for the news reports in terms of income. Reisman (1990) further describes this situation in the capitalist society is normal because in this society the purpose of working is based on product so that they can gain more advantages.

“Fairness” in Expression

The third ideology is “fairness” in expression. This ideology is identified in tvOne news reports as suggested by the representations which cover both sides of the story. In tvOne it is suggested by the way tvOne presents Rasyid not only as the guilty party but also as a victim in the news reports. The representations are identified from the semantic analysis. By this representation tvOne is seen as a fair one because it does not only present Rasyid as the guilty party.

Furthermore, the analysis of transitivity which reveals the participant types also points to this ideology. The types of participant show that Rasyid's party is given opportunity to share their opportunity in the news reports. tvOne takes into account the statements from Rasyid's party so that their dissatisfaction regarding the case can be exposed. Therefore, the fact that he is guilty is not abused and given comparison so that it is neutral. This ideology can be influenced by the fact that tvOne is a TV station which focuses on news reports, so that it needs to be neutral in reporting the case.

Partiality in Expression

The fourth ideology is partiality in expression in RCTI. This ideology is identified from the representations found in the news reports. The representations are being guilty and being favored. RCTI exposes Rasyid in an unfavorable condition because both of the representations show that the actions he did are not acceptable in the society. Firstly, he is represented as the guilty party, however he is not treated the way a suspect must be treated as suggested in the representation of being favored. The representation on the contrary identifies that he is given special privilege instead of having the same treatment just like other suspects.

Correspondingly, the analysis of transitivity uncovers the types of participant which also gives contribution in identifying the ideologies. The types of participant signal certain implication as in the representation of being guilty mostly Phenomenon is used to represent Rasyid. The use of phenomenon creates a relationship between readers and the text. Thus, by presenting Rasyid as a Phenomenon, RCTI tries to lead people

into believing that he is guilty. As opposed to that, in the representation of being favored Rasyid is presented as an Actor which exposes his ability in doing the action. As a result, it shows that RCTI is being partial by only exposing his unacceptable action

CONCLUSIONS

The present study examines the representation of Rasyid Rajasa regarding his highway accident and the significance of the representations. It was found that Rasyid Rajasa is presented as the focus of the news reports, as can be seen from Rasyid's occurrences as the dominant Topical Theme in both news reports. Furthermore, from the analysis of Transitivity, Rasyid is represented as guilty, a victim and as favored. The social actor is mostly presented as being guilty in both TV stations. In this representation, tvOne mostly presents him as a Target meanwhile RCTI mostly presents him as a Phenomenon. However, he is also presented as a victim in tvOne mostly in a role of a Sayer and being favored in RCTI mostly

in a role of an Actor. The representations suggest four ideologies namely, democracy, capitalism, “fairness” in expressions and partiality in expressions.

Based on the findings above, it can be said that representation is an important concept to be explored in the way people use language for it can create certain emotions and other effect. Representation itself is a social construction of the world which can be enacted in texts and it can also signify certain ideologies. Fairclough (2003) further identifies ideology as the element that contributes to social relation of power, domination and exploitation. The idea of identifying ideology has become the epitome of Critical Discourse Analysis because ideologies are concealed in the society as life values. Thus, representations on certain things in the world are analyzed because it has a possibility to be influenced by certain people’s ideology.

The analysis on representation, then, can expose the ideology of particular party which has been believed by the society as a life value. However, it does not necessarily mean that the ideology

revealed is not true (Fairclough, 2003).

Therefore, CDA provides an opportunity to analyze social studies including an analysis on ideology as proven by this present study. In the end, it can be concluded that Critical Discourse Analysis accompanied by Systemic Functional Grammar are the reliable tools for analyzing social studies.

For further study, it is suggested to explore other types of meanings apart from representational meaning namely action and identification. Future studies can also be conducted by employing different tools of analysis such as nominalization. This study is relatively simple by only using four news reports, therefore, future studies can use more news reports in the analysis. In the process, the study can also employ corpus software such as Concordance to assist the analysis by looking for the collocation of the word.

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