

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Chinese have been an insider part of Indonesia even before the Dutch colonialists came. It is believed that the first settlement of Chinese to Indonesia was in the 5<sup>th</sup> century (Indonesian Legal Studies Foundation, 2006). Chinese came to Indonesia for trading purposes. Thus, the diversity has been rooted in Indonesia for a long time ago. However when the Dutch colonialists arrived, the situation changed. The Dutch colonialists employed the divide and rule strategy. Then, they divided people into some classes such as: European or Westerners, Foreign Easterners (Chinese-Indonesian), and Indigenous people. As the result, it caused a tension between the Chinese and Indigenous people because of their socio-economic difference (Indonesian Legal Studies Foundation, 2006). Moreover according to Indonesian Legal Studies Foundation (2006), more than 10.000 Chinese-Indonesian got slaughtered, killed, and massacred in Jakarta because of Chinese rebellion in 1740. Thus, the discrimination towards Chinese-Indonesian has existed since a long time ago.

Great discrimination was experienced by Chinese-Indonesian descents during Soeharto's presidency (1966-1998) as well. However, according to Ling (2016), before Soeharto became the president of Indonesia, it was where Chinese-Indonesian treated equally because the first president of Indonesia had close relation with China. Chinese-Indonesian enjoyed freedom to establish and operate

Chinese organizations, Chinese language presses, Chinese school, and get involved in politics (Ling, 2016). Then, Soekarno was accused as communist. It led to anti-Chinese sentiment which perceived Chinese ethnic as communist-sympathizers. Which in Indonesian, communist party is seen as forbidden party. This turned Chinese-Indonesian to suffer discrimination from the majority in Indonesia. Chinese-Indonesian suffered crisis identity that makes them stranger in their own nation (Budi, 2003). Chinese got discrimination as they were imposed forced assimilation, coercing them to abandon their ethnic and cultural identities yet still people treated them as outsider by not allowing them joining politics, public service, military, and entrance to public universities.

Ironically, after the fall of Soeharto, it was the moment where Chinese had significant improvement in the condition and position. Research done by Hoon (2007) has proven how Chinese-Indonesians got back their rights after being discriminated year by year. Hoon (2007) conclude that Reformation era is the era where Chinese-Indonesians are treated equally again and it is the revival of Chinese-Indonesian ethnic. The revival is not only reflected in how the Chinese-Indonesian has the contribution to political parties and non-governmental organizations, but also the revival of Chinese culture, religion, press, and media (Hoon, 2007). Chinese-Indonesians have been through a changing of discourse from the New Order to Reformation era. Last decade, Hoon (2007) showed that Chinese-Indonesian have gotten back their rights. However, there is a gap as the anti-Chinese sentiment rise again in 2014. The anti-Chinese sentiments rise up again due to Jakarta's government which is from Chinese-Indonesian ethnic. It

triggers back the majority to oppress Chinese-Indonesian. Therefore, news media incessantly highlight the issue of Chinese-Indonesian ethnic again.

To follow up the issue, many Indonesian presses try to highlight Chinese-Indonesian ethnic affairs. One of the presses is The Jakarta Post. Jakarta Post has been actively reporting the affairs since 2014. Moreover, Jakarta Post is one of the few English based Indonesian newspapers that survived the economic crisis in 1998 (Tarrant, 2008). Therefore, Jakarta Post might know tremendously well about the conflict in 1998. Further, Jakarta Post is considered as one of the most credible newspapers in Indonesia (Tarrant, 2008). However, it cannot be denied that every media has potential to be biased. According to Mandarani (2018), media is not only a free channel but also a subject that constructs reality, complete with views, biases, and alignments. The subjectivity of the writers cannot be denied. Further, media is crucial when it comes to representing the social actors. It is in the line with Brooks and Hebert (2006), stating that how individuals construct their social identities is shaped by the commodified texts which are produced by the media. The language produced by the media is possibly purposively taken with respect in order to achieve certain purpose such as marginalizing certain social actors (Evayani & Rido, 2019).

According to Devereux (2007), there are at least four main ways of analyzing representations, one of them is through the discourse. It is in vein with Afrianto (2017) states that discourse analysis is one of a tool to analyze certain pattern of discourse. Therefore, Critical Discourse Analysis is applied in this research

because by conducting Critical Discourse Analysis, the researcher is able to sketch the discourse around the Chinese-Indonesian and able to get how Chinese-Indonesian is represented in news media. Critical Discourse Analysis is employed to demystify the construction of idea by systematic analysis of semiotic data/discourse (Wodak & Meyer, 2008). The study applies the three-dimensional approach by Fairclough (1995). According to Utami (2017), Three-dimensional concept proposed by Fairclough (1995) allows researcher to conduct an in-depth analysis of formal properties of texts and connects it to a broader social context that will unveil the construction of the idea in newspaper. However, approach on Critical Discourse Analysis is being criticized that the data used for analysis are often too small and fragmented (Bang, 2003). Therefore, in order to refute the criticism, some researchers start combining Critical Discourse Analysis with Corpus Linguistics. By combining these two approaches, it will overcome the issue of the data in the research and the result of the research could be more objective.

To this end, research on the representation of Chinese-Indonesian done by Hoon (2007) showed that Chinese-Indonesia have gotten back their rights. However in 2014, the anti-Chinese sentiment blew up again when Ahok became the governor of Jakarta where majority did not want Chinese-Indonesian became their leader. This incident caused tension between the majority and Chinese-Indonesian heat up even until 2019. Based on these cases, the research examines representation of Chinese-Indonesia in 2014-2019 in the Jakarta Post.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Referring to the background of the study, the research questions are:

1. How is Chinese-Indonesian represented in The Jakarta Post in 2014-2019?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

The research is aimed at critically analyzing on how Chinese-Indonesian is represented in the Jakarta Post.

## **1.4 Uses of the Study**

The uses of this study are theoretical and practical uses.

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

Theoretically, the research applies both theory of Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistics. The research would provide information about the representation of certain social actor. Therefore, the research could enrich the readers' knowledge and understanding about how Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistic are co-applied in order to analyze how certain social actor is represented. The findings are expected to bring significance in the field of linguistics as the research provides how Fairclough's Three Dimensional approach (1995) is implemented.

### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

Practically, the research could give contribution to some parties. For lecturer from English department, the research might be an example about how the implementation of Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistics is about. For the students of English Literature whose major are Linguistics, the research

can enlarge their knowledge and understanding about Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistics and be a guideline when they conduct a research about Critical Discourse Analysis and Corpus Linguistics. For the readers, the research is expected to warn the readers to be wise enough when the readers read certain news because as it has been known that news media has power that can frame the society's minds. In this case, when the power is misused it can spread hatred to certain ethnic or race that can lead to discrimination. Generally talking about Critical Discourse Analysis as well, the researcher hopes that it can sharpen the readers' way of thinking so that when the readers are faced by certain issues, they are able to see from many perspectives.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The research has some limitation that need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the research implements three-dimensional approach by Fairclough (1995). Furthermore, the study only focuses on analyzing the news covering about Chinese-Indonesian in the Jakarta Post in 2014-2019.