

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Representation is a means to investigate something that can be seen through language, voice, and action in which each person has various ways to represent a thing. This definition is supported by Beltran (2018) that a representation is a portrayal of something or someone through visual, written, or audio. Moreover, Hanna Pitkin in Arnesen and Peter's article stated that representation means having available what is not and acting for what is not (Arnesen & Peters, 2017). Representation leads society to see the same thing in different perception that needs a point of view in making it.

It has been widely noticed by linguists who put their interest in a newspaper that discourse aims to gain much more information regarding the representation of something written down on the paper. Representation in discourse is an attempt to convey other meanings of natural language texts further than the text's pure reality (Eijk & Kamp, 2010). It refers to the actors' portrayal of social practice through a text (Evayani & Rido, 2019). The representation comes up because there is always a tendency of newspaper publishing companies towards certain issues, groups, or parties that are associated with them in the most common found fact, and it has become something inevitable. It is believed that although newspapers tend to claim that they are independent, they will represent the news based on their perspective since everything that is spoken and written in the world comes from an ideological perspective (Chen, 2016; Risdaneva, 2018). Therefore, they have their own way to refer something and to bring up the news. In bringing up the news, sometimes it relates to the government as the one who has the power within the country.

Government is the political system that administers and governs a country or society (Brogan, 2019). When it comes to something related to the government, it is found out to be quite sensitive and hard to put aside the bias on how actually the journalist of the newspaper is representing the government. Government as the object of news is sometimes criticized or even reported in a way that does not represent the fact of what is going on instead of its news being made up to drive the opinion of the society to believe what is written (Vanderwicken, 1995).

In 2019, there was chaos caused by a new bill proposal regulating some aspects of the governmental system. This situation made many newspapers publish articles regarding the debate in the draft of Criminal Code or *RKUHP (Revisi Kitab Undang-undang Hukum Pidana)*, especially *The Jakarta Post* that wrote articles related to this topic. *KUHP* is the term used in *The Jakarta Post* containing social practice, which has a certain meaning or intention in it. *The Jakarta Post* is one of the Indonesian newspapers that uses English as its primary language. By having many readers, *The Jakarta Post* can influence the perspective of the readers through its writing (Morissan, 2019). The writing is in the form of news or discourse which aims to provide information or events which happen in society (Djaroto, 2000), while the discourse itself is regarded as the complete unit of language (Putra & Triyon, 2018). To know deeply about the discourse, discourse analysis is utilized as the means in this research. The discourse analysis is defined as the analysis of language that is beyond the text in which it also analyses the grammar, phonetics and phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax within the text (Tannen, 2018). It is needed to see what inside the text is and how the text is produced by considering grammatical and other elements (Kuswoyo & Rido, 2019; Suprayogi & Pranoto,

2019). Thus, we have to look at other aspects aside from the text itself. When discourse comes to its relation to social elements such as ideologies and power relations, it is called as critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2012).

Although some research has been conducted regarding certain representations, the representation of the Indonesian government is still lack. For instance, Iskandar conducted a study about the representation of presidential election in *Kompas Group*, *Media Group*, and *MNC Group* in 2017. In conducting the study, Iskandar applied Fairclough's three-dimensional model. The study found out that *Kompas Group* and *Media Group* were on Joko Widodo-Jusuf Kalla's side. Meanwhile, *MNC Group* was on Prabowo-Hatta Rajasa's side. The results of the previous study showed that newspapers may be objective in representing the news. As responded to the background of the current study, the researcher intended to conduct a study about the representation of the Indonesian government in *The Jakarta Post* concerning the draft of criminal code. The chaos caused by the debate of the draft of criminal code led Indonesia to a hectic situation. Some media brought up the news as if they were on the government's side, while others on the society's side against the government. The researcher wanted to find out whether *The Jakarta Post* is neutral or not in writing the news. This study is aimed to reveal the representation of the Indonesian government concerning the draft of criminal code in *The Jakarta Post* by applying Fairclough's three-dimensional model.

## **1.2 Research Question**

How is the Indonesian government represented in *The Jakarta Post* concerning the draft of criminal code?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

This research aims to reveal how the government is portrayed in *The Jakarta Post*.

### **1.4 Uses of the Study**

The result of this study can be used for giving some advantages for those who want to conduct research about critical discourse analysis by using Norman Fairclough's theory. The uses of this study also involve both theoretical and practical uses.

#### **1.4.1. Theoretical Use**

In theoretical use, this study is expected to give a contribution towards critical discourse analysis, especially the theory proposed by Norman Fairclough named three-dimensional model. Furthermore, it is expected to give more insights regarding the representation of the government in the newspaper.

#### **1.4.2. Practical Use**

Practically, this study is intended to give benefit to readers, journalists, and the next researchers who want to research the same topic. For the readers, they will be more aware when reading the news. Besides, the findings of Chen's research prove that the analysis of news by using critical discourse analysis can improve readers' critical reading (Chen, 2016). For the journalists, it will be used for helping them to write news, they can be more aware when doing it since they consider critical readers. Moreover, for the next researchers, this study can be a guidance for helping them to do critical discourse analysis.

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

The study will be focused on the representation of the government in *The Jakarta Post* concerning the draft of criminal code (*RKUHP*) that was being debated in the government, legislature, and also society in 2019. This research is limited to 10

articles due to the duration of the time. During that time, *The Jakarta Post* published those 10 articles that were related to the chaos caused by the debate of the draft of criminal code. Those articles were taken from Indonesian reporters, written in English, and published in *The Jakarta Post* online newspaper. The articles were published starting from September 19<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. The time frame is chosen based on a specific reason. During that period, *The Jakarta Post* brought up the news regarding the chaos related to the governmental system. September 19<sup>th</sup> was the first day when *The Jakarta Post* published its first news about the chaos and it was exactly a day before the chaos occurred, while October 3<sup>rd</sup> was the last day *The Jakarta Post* published the news related to the demo although it was over on September 30<sup>th</sup>.