

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

What is reported by news media influences the perspective and mental image of the readers. Pakkarine (2016) states that ideology and power have a strong relation to mass media, in which newspaper is considered as the most powerful media in spreading news which also influences public opinion (Evayani and Rido, 2019). According to Popp (2006) in Youssefi *et al*, (2013), media symbolically uses words to reflect and maintain social influences and the ideologies toward certain things including social issues. Therefore, social issue such as the pros and cons of public judicial caning is imperative to be analyzed.

Accordingly, it is considered important to reveal how ideologies in news articles reporting judicial caning are disseminated through news media as Armia (2019) states that public caning ensures no deterrent effect on the defendant and some of them would potentially replicate the same cases in the following years in certain situations. Moreover, according to Kontras (Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence, 2014) public judicial caning is a form of punishment that is cruel, inhumane, uneducated, and has a psychological effect. Kontras Aceh considers caning punishment as cruel and degrading. Since the flogged victim not only experienced pain but also humiliation. They will get mental pressure in the community. Hence, public judicial

caning still becomes the pros and cons of communities. Online newspaper, in particular, has become the major source of the information in this digital and internet era. Therefore, as a daily English language newspaper, *The Jakarta Post* is targeted at foreigners and English speaking Indonesians. Hence, *The Jakarta Post* take a big role in describing the judicial caning in Aceh. What is reported in *The Jakarta Post* will shape the perception of the readers who mostly stand up for freedom.

Moreover, many studies have examined the representation of certain issues in media using critical discourse analysis. Yousefi & Rostami (2019) investigated how women were portrayed in health and beauty printed advertisements. The results showed that the advertisements promoted an idealized lifestyle and directed its readers to a certain extent into believing whatever was advertised was indeed true. Ahmad and Shah (2019), investigated gender representation in an English language textbook which was taught to the students of Grade-5 in public and private schools in Punjab (Pakistan). The findings showed that the said textbook was highly gendered biased which represented males more than females. It was also identified that the textbook had been designed to maintain male dominance implicitly or explicitly. Diana *et al* (2018) looked at the existence of gender-based violence practices in its five selected articles under the case of sexual assault suffered. The findings showed that there was a misrepresentation, rape narrative, and objectivity of the victim, indicating submissive and passive woman representation in media. Risdianto *et al* (2018) looked at the representation of power that was built by the strongholds and the establishment of an 18-year prison sentence

for Meilana. The results showed that the structure of the news text concerning the Meilana case consists of four discourse units, namely the news title, orientation, sequence of events, and closing the positive ideology from warring parties and institutions (government, experts) which were represented through modalities and positive sentences. Meanwhile, the negative ideology was represented by speech bans and negative sentences.

Fairclough (1995) states that events and texts are generated and ideologically shaped by relations of power, in which it can be revealed through Critical Discourse Analysis. Thus, this research aimed to examine *The Jakarta Post* articles for the representation of judicial caning in Aceh as well as the assumed ideology construction inside the text. Text that represents coherently and cohesively connects not only part of the text but also connects the texts with its situational context (Kuswoyo et al, 2020). Thus, this study will employ Fairclough's three-dimensional model in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which enables the researcher to conduct an in-depth analysis of the formal properties of texts and link them to a broader social context that will reveal representation, power, and ideologies behind the texts.

1.2 Research Question

Referring to the background of the study, the researcher formulates the research question as follow:

How is Aceh's judicial caning represented in *The Jakarta Post* Newspaper?

1.3 Research Objective

This research aims to look at the representation of Aceh's judicial caning in the *Jakarta Post* Newspaper.

1.4 Uses of the Study

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that the research could give advantages both theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, the research would provide information about the representation of certain subjects of analysis. Moreover, the research could enrich the readers' knowledge and understanding of how Critical Discourse Analysis is applied in news media. Besides, this study relied on Johnstone's (2008) approach in the text analysis stage, particularly in the active and passive voice, naming, pre-and-post modifier, and direct and indirect quotation. Thus, this study was expected to enrich the reader's knowledge of how certain linguistics features were used to construct an ideology. The findings are expected to bring an overview in the field of linguistics as the research provides how some linguistics features are analyzed, particularly by relying on Johnstone's (2008) approach.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, this study might give contributions to some parties. First, for lecturers and students whose majors are outside of English literature, this study might give an example regarding Critical Discourse Analysis and its implementation. Moreover, this study might also be a reference for English literature students whose major is linguistics as well as might enrich their knowledge and understanding toward critical discourse analysis. Next, for common readers, this study is expected to make the readers thoughtful in receiving news reports as it is may contain certain ideology or human thought in the articles that they read.

1.4.3 Scope of the Study

This study employed Fairclough's three-dimensional model. The data of the study was taken from an online newspaper "*The Jakarta Post*". The data were articles reporting about the biggest judicial caning case in Aceh. The basic consideration in deciding the case was by the number of news media that reporting about the case (both domestic and international).