

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

The claims of People's Republic of China (PRC) for South China Sea have gone off the limit and overlapping other countries's exclusive economic zone like Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. It is estimated that 11 billions barrel of untouched oil reservoir and 190 trillion cubic of natural gas are lying under The South China Sea. As early as the 1970s People's Republic of China began to claim the islands and various zones in the South China Sea which contains huge rich of natural resources and fishing areas (Council on Foreign Relations, 2018). Satellite imagery in recent years has shown PRC intensified attempts to retake land in the South China Sea by physically increasing the size of islands or creating new islands entirely. Aside from piling sand on existing reefs, China has built ports, military installations, and airstrips particularly in the Paracel and Spratly Islands, where it has twenty-seven outposts.

The United States has expressed its support for an agreement on a binding code of conduct and other confidence-building measures, which retains vital interests in maintaining freedom of navigation and protecting sea lines of communication (SLOCs). Chinese claims threaten SLOCs, which are important maritime passages which facilitate trade and naval forces movement. The United States has a role to play in avoiding the ensuing territorial dispute from military escalation.

People's Republic of China and the United States as the world's largest developed country and respectively, the most developed country, hold important positions in the world. The relationship between the United States and China is one of the world's most critical and important relationships (Friedberg, 2005). According to Friedberg, the relationship between the two Pacific powers is critical for the future, security and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region and even the world as a whole. In addition according to Morrison (2011) a deepening U.S.- PRC relationship could carry with it increased capacity for sustainable global economic growth. The past of their relationship shows that, at different times, it was full of twists and turns. They can compete or cooperate with one another.

The US and China are clearly two separate nations with institutional inconsistencies like politics and cultural viewpoints (Liu, 2009). Their differences in ideology and cultural point of view become the reason why both of them are never be a good ally both for PRC itself and The United States. The complicated ties between China and the U.S., based on their public relations are characterized as a "love-hate" dilemma (Mosher, 1990). From the late 1970s to the early 1980s, the US regarded China as a politically oppressive place with a lack of knowledge in Chinese issues (Mann, 1999). Despite China's economic reform, the US released much more optimistic reviews of Chinese developments (Liu, 2009). Like domestic news, international news is not directly linked to its audience's daily lives. Once newspapers and television broadcasts publish a story about a distant foreign land, it is often difficult for viewers to test the story based on their knowledge and experience (Lim & Seo, 2009).

The truth and facts of an ongoing international event are often vague and hard to grasp for most people. Consequently, their views of a foreign country are strongly influenced not only by their government but also by the country's representation of the media and they cannot separate the information whether it is good or bad, they only concern and trust what media said about it. According to media dependency theory by Ball-Rokeach and DeFleur (1976), such media coverage may influence viewers at cognitive, affective, and behavioral levels. As illustrated by Lippmann (1946), media is the bridge that connects the real world and the pictures in our minds, especially since the daily occurrences in the political world are removed from the average citizen.

The media coverage from both the United States and PRC resulted the question of how actually both countries present the idea of portray what is happening in the world due to their news media from the past until today's conflict especially about territorial dispute happening in the area of Asia pacific. Here through this research of linguistic, this issue analyzed based on how the news website display their differences in a form of passages and also the words chosen both from American and Chinese news media in which it has their own ideological meanings that wants to be delivered to the readers. This research will analyze news media discourses in the online edition of two major newspapers, the New York Times and China Daily. These two newspapers are authoritative as well as influential in The United States and China.

As China's only national English language daily newspaper, China Daily is considered as the "Voice of China" or "Window to China" (Thussu, 2006). It was

launched in 1995, China Daily website (chinadaily.com.cn) is a comprehensive multimedia outlet and China's most influential English language web portal. Its daily page views now exceed 31 million, with about 60 percent of visitors from overseas (China Daily, 2013). China Daily is a comprehensive paper that has the greatest publications in China and international influence. Therefore, China Daily is considered as a newspaper supporting the interests of the Communist Party or the country as China is under the leadership of the Party (Yong & Campbell, 1995).

As one of the most influential newspapers in the world, the New York Times is also the typical model of the western and essential medium representative. With its long development and popularity, the New York Times has been considered as a "national newspaper of record" in the American newspaper industry. With a digital circulation of nearly 900,000 The New York Times has the highest average circulation at the top five U.S. daily newspapers (Moos, 2012).

The researcher propose a research of how United states and PRC news media website reporting an issue of Economic Exclusive Zone overlapping or territorial dispute in South china sea and it is analyzed using three dimensional framework theory by Fairclough 1995 with the aspects of Textual analysis, Discursive Practice, and Social practice along with the combination of Systemic Functional Grammar focusing on the passage of the news and how the passage could be understood and resulted different meaning from the reader, moreover it will knowledgeable for the reader and researcher of how different nations with

different ideologies portray worldwide issue that currently having high tension in the history of asia pacific.

1.2 Research Questions

The United States and PRC are totally different in ideology and culture, the differences from both countries might become an issue of the relationship between both of them especially about their news media coverage in portraying what is happening over the world from both countries, the researcher put an interest of the recent conflict about territorial dispute that happening in South China Sea and it resulted to the question:

What are the differences between the United States and People's Republic of China (PRC) news media in reporting the issue of Territorial Dispute in South China Sea ?

1.3 Research Objectives

The research has a purpose to critically analyzing the differences between the United States and People's Republic of China (PRC) news media in reporting the issue of Territorial Dispute in South China Sea.

1.4 Uses Of The Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

This research applies three dimensional framework theory by Fairclough 1995 with 3 main aspects which are Textual analysis, Discursive practice and Social practice as stated in the research question about how American and Chinese media

in reporting a territorial dispute issue in South china sea. The findings in this research are expected as a guideline and to give information related to how different nation process the reporting news of another nation using the theory of critical discourse analysis. This research also expected to be a guideline for other researcher to have the research and use the same theory in critical discourse analysis specifically about news discourse.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, this research is expected to provide a further understanding about linguistic research using the theory of Three dimensional framework in an issue like news media reporting especially the coverage between two different nations. The work will expand the knowledge and understanding about Critical Discourse Analysis for English Literature students whose major in Linguistics, and as a guideline when conducting research on Critical Discourse Analysis. The work of this research also intended to alert readers to act wise especially when they choose to read a news that reporting international issue because news media has influence and power to drag and frame the minds of society.

1.5 Scope Of The Study

The researcher in this study specify the research of contrastive study for news reporting between news media in People's Republic of China (PRC) and The United States. The research focus to the news media website which are China Daily and The New York Times that have reported the news about an overlapping of exclusive economic zone or territorial dispute in South China Sea with the

application of news discourse, here critical discourse analysis functioned as guideline to reach the purpose of the research.