

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study that explains the reasons for selecting the topic of transitivity leads to ideology, statement of research questions, research objectives, scope and limitation, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an instrument for people to communicate with each other. With language, people can share information with others. However, language is not merely about what people want to say, but language can also reveal the idea of people that want to convey to others. Thompson (2014) said that language is generally used to communicate and share ideas, feelings, and thoughts. In news, language plays an important role in conveying the meaning of information. Moreover, the language of news is a little bit different from the language of daily conversation. The language of news appears more chronological and relevant rather than daily language. The news writers use this language to deliver some reports and also implicitly deliver their opinion about such events that happen in the world. Shi and Fan (2019) stated that on the surface, news appearances as neutral and fair, but in fact, they implicitly express different ideologies and undetectably influence the audience.

Ideology in the news is not explicitly stated because the news writer inserts his/her ideology vaguely and carefully and then it is gone as the natural or the foreseeable reality (Simpson, 1993). But, then Van Dijk (2009) explained the concept of ideology in news discourse in his book entitled *News, discourse and ideology*. He introduced the term *ideological square* to analyze the ideology hidden in news discourse. This term helps in revealing the ideology in news and makes people more aware of that ideology and control.

Despite it all, the news still becomes an important source for people to get knowledge and information about the world. In addition, as technology grows faster and wider, there are many media to present the news to people, for example from the traditional ones such as newspapers to the modern ones such as Television and radio. Moreover, now we can even access the news through the internet. In addition, the traditional media of news such as newspapers also evolve to reach out to a wider element of society, and as the result, now we can access a newspaper through the internet. In fact, every country in the world has its local online newspaper which there should be many.

Recently, the news about the Taliban taking over the Afghanistan government became the center of the world's attention. Taliban took over the presidential palace on August, 15th 2021, and made the Afghan president Ashraf Ghani leaves the Afghan country. This situation also made Afghans run wildly abroad to save their lives from the Taliban. This situation also caused a lot of reactions from many countries. Some countries are wary of and condemn the incident such as the USA. But some countries reportedly support the Taliban's takeover of power such as China. The issues of the USA that is being opposed to the Taliban and China that is being allied to the Taliban can be identified from how their famous and influential newspapers report about the Taliban's victory.

There were some reasons why this news was chosen by the writer. This news was chosen because the news had gone viral and shocked the world as we know that the Taliban is an organization that is known to be cruel and sadistic to achieve its goals. As the result, many countries are gripping their actions. However, recently China announced that it supports the Taliban by saying that in the world. On the other hand, the United States is an opposition country to the Taliban and grips all their actions. And by their famous newspapers, we can know their position whether they are really allied or opposed to the Taliban from the image of the Taliban they build in their news headlines.

To reveal the ideology hidden in the news discourse, the framework of critical discourse analysis proposed by Fairclough was used and it mainly focused on the textual analysis, using Halliday's transitivity theory of systemic functional

linguistics as the tool in doing that. According to (Tian, 2018), CDA discloses the complicated relations among language, power, politics, social and historical ideology and decodes how the injustice, inequality, political hegemony, and ideological prejudice subconsciously unfold through discourses, especially by way of analyzing the characteristics of discourses and the social and historical background of discourse. In simple words, CDA can use to disclose the ideology hidden in the news discourse. This CDA primarily employs Halliday's systemic functional linguistic (SFL) as the methodology.

Halliday and Hassan (1989) explained that SFL studies language functionally. Halliday believes that language is not merely the medium to interact with each other, but it is also the representation of the inner and outer world of humans. Furthermore, Halliday (1985) also stated that language has three basic functions. They are to present memories and express feelings, to set up and hold relationships with different people, and make and arrange texts which might be coherent with other standards. Those functions in the SFL study are known as metafunction which the first function is experiential metafunction, the second function is interpersonal metafunction and the last function is textual metafunction.

Peng Ying (Shi & Fan, 2019) said that transitivity theory is a semantic device demonstrating the ideational metafunction, which plays a role in classifying people's outer and inner experience of the world right into a workable set of processes and specifying the individuals worried as well as the optionally circumstantial elements which include time and location, and consequently is seen as a bridge connecting the outside world and language. The process is represented by the verbal group. Besides, there are also the participants which are represented by a nominal group, and circumstances that are represented by an adverbial or prepositional group. According to Halliday, there are six types of processes in transitivity those are material processes, mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, and existential processes. In addition, Simpson (1993) stated that "The transitivity model provides one means of investigating how a reader's or listener's perception of the meaning of a text is

pushed in a particular direction and how the linguistic structure of a text effectively encodes a particular worldview" (P. 96).

From the explanation above, this study aimed to uncover the ideology hidden in newspapers. This topic was chosen because by uncovering the ideology hidden in the newspapers, we would know their opinion about such a particular incident (in this context the Taliban's victory), whether they are happy and accept the incident or even they hate and dislike the incident. In addition, with this topic, we could identify the relationship between America and the Taliban and China's relationship with the Taliban. Moreover, the transitivity system was used because it can reveal how people see such events in the world. By analyzing the participants and the processes that occurred in the newspapers, we could know how New York Times presented the events and how they imaged the eastern country, whether they were presented in negative stereotypes. Moreover, we also could know how China Daily compiled their linguistics forms as it represented them as the window to China's reaction to such events. That was why the transitivity system was interesting to use in analyzing those newspapers.

Many researchers had studied this transitivity analysis especially to reveal ideology in news and one of those studies is Bello's studies (2014). Bello completed his research in 2014 entitled "Ideology in Reporting the Operation Cast Lead, a Transitivity Analysis of the Arab News and New York Times Reports." He succeeded in applying the transitivity analysis which combined with the critical linguistics approach to uncover the ideology of the two online newspapers, NYT and Arab news in reporting the Operation Cast lead which reported Israel's attack on Hamas and also killed civilians. This study only used three of six processes of transitivity those are material process, verbal process, and relational process. The lack of three other processes caused the lack of other expressions such as emotion which was conveyed in the newspaper about the events.

This present study was the development of Bello's study. The absence of 3 other processes in Bello's study caused the lack of the emotional expression and other expressions of the news writers about such events. So, in the present study, the three other processes were added to uncover more rich linguistic features to

prove the ideology of the news writers. For example, the mental process which is absent in Bello's study can show others' emotions about such events, whether they feel happy and agree or even criticize and worry about such events. This study also used Van Dijk's term of the *ideological square* to help uncover the ideology of two newspapers. Under the framework of CDA proposed by Fairclough which focused mainly on textual analysis, the transitivity system in SFG (systemic functional grammar) was applied as the tool of the present study. The transitivity process is a new theory because it is the development of the sentence-based perspective (the traditional one) to a more discourse-based perspective (SFLT). So, expectantly this study would provide new findings and it could be a good reference for other readers, particularly for linguistics learners.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the explanation of the background of the study, this study aimed to uncover the ideology hidden in two online newspapers; New York Times and China daily. Along with the aim, the research questions were formulated as follow:

1. What are the types of transitivity process used in New York Times and China Daily?
2. How do the processes and the participants of transitivity help in revealing the ideology hidden in the newspaper?

1.3 Research Objectives

According to the research questions, the objectives of this study were:

1. To find out the types of transitivity process used in The New York Times and China Daily.
2. To explain how the processes and the participants of transitivity help in revealing the ideology hidden in the newspapers.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study was focused on the ideology hidden in the headline of two online newspapers; New York Times and China daily from August, 12th 2021 to September, 12th 2021 edition. These editions were chosen because in those periods are the process of Taliban took over the Afghan Government. Moreover, the dates were also the Taliban firstly runs the Afghan Government. This study used the framework of CDA proposed by Fairclough (1989, 1992a, 1993) which only focused on the first-dimensional level, that is textual and linguistics analysis and the transitivity system by Halliday was used as the tool to analyze the ideology hidden in those two newspapers. The last, the term “ideological square” by Van Dijk was also used as the parameter for helping to define the ideology of news discourse.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By conducting this study, it is hoped that this study will give advantages both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study will prove that Halliday’s transitivity system can be used to reveal the ideology which is hidden in newspapers and support Halliday’s transitivity system in using to uncover the ideology. Practically, this study will be the reference for other studies that want to research ideology in newspapers based on the transitivity system. In addition, the findings and discussions of this study will help the academic and non-academic newspaper readers realize the ideology that is conveyed by the newspapers and make the readers more sensitively realize the control and manipulation that the newspapers bring through their text.