

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides five sub chapters which are background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitations of the study. In the background of the study, the reasons for selecting topic of this study are provided. The second part of this chapter states the research questions of the study. The third part is objectives of the study which explain the purpose of the study. Next, is significance of the study which describes theoretical and practical benefits of this study. Finally, the section of scope and limitation describes the field and the parts in the story that represent the issue of this study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The declining interest among younger generations in national history and national historical figures reflects a deepening crisis of social and cultural connectedness amid the dominance of digital culture and the globalization of values. The rapid and fragmented flow of global information has reshaped how society interprets the past. This condition often makes national historical narratives less appealing and often disconnected from contemporary realities. Socially, this condition poses serious implications for the sustainability of collective identity, as national historical narratives serve as a medium for shaping cultural awareness and symbolic legitimacy within communities. Rigid and overly descriptive portrayals of national figures in various media further deepen the emotional distance between youth and their historical heritage. Riyanto (2024) explains that when national figures are narrated contextually and dynamically, they can revive emotional attachment and regional pride among younger generations. Therefore, transitioning from static portrayals to more dynamic storytelling is essential to ensuring that historical heritage remains relevant and inspiring for the younger generation.

Given the importance of how historical narratives and national figures are presented, a study using linguistic perspective becomes highly relevant. Language is not merely a tool for communication but is also a medium for constructing social and cultural meaning. In addition to examining linguistic forms, discourse analysis also investigates how language functions within broader social and cultural contexts. Rather than focusing solely on grammatical structures, discourse analysis

seeks to explain how meanings are constructed through connected texts and how language reflects the purposes, identities, and social practices of its users. As Brown and Yule (1983) argue, discourse analysis is concerned with language beyond the sentence level and emphasizes how texts become meaningful through their organization and context. In the field of linguistics, Schiffrin (1987) emphasizes that linguistic devices, such as discourse markers, help build textual coherence, reveal relationships between ideas, and strengthen argumentative structure. Wu, H., & Zeldes (2025) add that the use of such linguistic elements also conveys specific social values, guiding readers to interpret characters and events within their intended cultural context. Thus, analyzing biographical texts of national figures through a linguistic lens not only clarifies the structure and narrative patterns of language but also reveals how language preserves collective memory, constructs symbolic legitimacy, and reinforces community identity. This kind of study offers valuable insights into how historical narratives can be recontextualized to remain relevant and foster emotional connection between younger generations and their cultural heritage.

Previous studies explored the functions of linguistic markers, both lexical and discursive, in various contexts. Bortun et al. (2024) highlighted the use of aggressive lexical markers in journalistic texts, showing how negatively connoted words or phrases are strategically employed to influence readers and reinforce the writer's stance. Condamines and Péry-Woodley (2016) emphasized the role of lexical markers in building cohesion and coherence in technical texts, including through repetition, synonymy, collocation, and lexical equivalence, which help readers understand relationships between clauses and paragraphs. Meanwhile, Prévot et al. (2013) examined lexical markers in French conversational contexts, particularly as feedback signals that maintain interactional flow and reflect social dynamics among participants. Fraser (2015), on the other hand, explained that discourse markers function as indicators of logical relationships between segments of text, helping readers grasp the writer's intended meaning. Discourse markers do not alter the propositional content of a sentence but serve to pragmatically organize discourse by providing interpretive cues such as marking contrast, elaboration, or inference between sentences. According to Bu, Gao, and Chen (2023), the use of

discourse markers also reflects the writer's cognitive style and cultural background, indicating that these markers are not merely functional but also carry pragmatic characteristics tied to the speaker's or writer's social and cultural identity. Despite the growing body of research on linguistic markers, most studies remain focused on academic, political, formal, or conversational texts, with relatively few studies examining how discourse markers function within narrative construction in biographical texts. In particular, studies exploring how discourse markers shape narratives and affirm sociocultural values in the representation of religious and national figures remain limited. This condition opens up space for further research that integrates linguistic analysis with narrative studies to understand how language constructs cultural identity. However, research focusing on the use of discourse markers in biographical narratives, particularly in representing national figures, remains limited.

Biographical texts present a person's life story through a sequence of events arranged chronologically and thematically. To make these events connected and easy to follow, writers use discourse markers to show relationships such as addition, contrast, cause and effect, and time sequence. In this way, discourse markers help maintain coherence and logical progression throughout the narrative. Therefore, a biography provides an appropriate source for analyzing how discourse markers are used to organize ideas and construct a coherent narrative.

Therefore, this study aims to address the shortcomings of previous research which have not comprehensively explored discourse marker analysis in biographical texts. According to Norrick (2016), discourse analysis that attends to social context and textual structure can help uncover the deeper meaning of a narrative. To achieve this, the writer chooses the biography of Sukarno as the primary object of study. Sukarno is a figure who cannot be separated from the history of Indonesia's independence. As the first president and a famous leader, his life story covers a very long and important history, from the colonial era until independence. His biography is not just a list of facts, but it also reflects his unique and strong style of communicating great ideas to the people. This historical and linguistic context provides a lot of good data, making his biography the right decision for this study compared to other biographical works.

Based on this object of analysis, the study operates from the assumption that the use of discourse markers in Sukarno's biography has a direct relationship with how the narrative is built. The writer argues that discourse markers not only connect sentences, but also play a role in forming coherence. This aligns with the view of Schiffrin (1987), who states that discourse markers are linguistic devices that link units of discourse. Furthermore, Fraser (1999) also indicates that discourse markers are important for understanding the logical sequence of ideas. Thus, it can be concluded that the use of discourse markers in Sukarno's biography is not only a linguistic element, but also a structural element that reinforces the narrative meaning and the values of his struggle.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, this study is guided by two research questions:

1. What are the types of discourse markers used in Sukarno's biography?
2. What are the functions of discourse markers in Sukarno's biography?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research questions above, there are two objectives.

1. To explain the types of discourse markers used in Sukarno's biography.
2. To explain the functions of discourse markers used in Sukarno's biography.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically this research is expected to contribute to the field of linguistics, especially in discourse analysis. It aims to provide an understanding of how discourse markers are used in biographical texts to build a coherent narrative. Furthermore, this study can be used as a reference for future researchers who are interested in analyzing the relationship between language, history, and narrative structure using the theories of Bruce Fraser and Deborah Schiffrin.

This research can be used as an additional reference for students who are taking Discourse Analysis or Pragmatics classes. It provides a clear and simple example of how to identify and classify discourse markers in a text, which can help them in their own studies or future assignments.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study is within the field of Discourse Analysis, focusing on discourse markers in Sukarno's Biography. This study examines the types and functions of discourse markers by applying Fraser's (1999) and Schiffrin's (1987) theories. The source of the data in this study is Chapters 1-6 of *Sukarno: A Political Biography* written by John David Legge (2003). However, the study is limited to analyzing only the words and sentences that contain discourse markers throughout the book. Other linguistic features and the biographical content itself are beyond the scope of this research.