

**CRITICAL DISCOURSE STUDY OF ONLINE MEDIA NEWS ABOUT
CAMERON HERRIN ISSUES: THE ANALYSIS OF VAN DIJK'S
IDEOLOGICAL SQUARE**

Thesis

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain

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**Critical Discourse Study of Online Media News about Cameron Herrin
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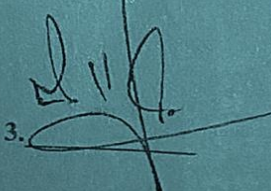
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ABSTRACT

Sundari, (2023). *Critical Discourse Study of Online Media News about Cameron Herrin Issues: The Analysis of Van Dijk's Ideological Square*. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research is aims at finding out, analyzing and classifying several discourse strategies on the online news texts. In this research, the researcher use qualitative method to analyze and classify the data by using Van Dijk's analytical approach of ideological namely positive-self and negative-other presentations. The data of this research are selected text that contains the discourse strategies found in 'Cameron Herrin went to prison for a Tampa crash. Were the tweets that followed real. The result of this research shows that there are some kinds of discourse strategies used by Cameron Herrin news texts, they are victimization, hyperbole, repetition, parallelism, and disclaimers.

ABSTRAK

Sundari, (2023). *Critical Discourse Study of Online Media News about Cameron Herrin Issues: The Analysis of Van Dijk's Ideological Square*. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui, menganalisis, dan mengklasifikasikan beberapa strategi wacana dalam teks berita online. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis dan mengklasifikasikan data dengan menggunakan pendekatan analitis ideologi Van Dijk yaitu presentasi positif-diri dan negatif-orang lain. Data penelitian ini adalah teks pilihan yang berisi strategi wacana yang ditemukan dalam 'Cameron Herrin went to prison for a Tampa crash. Were the tweets that followed real?'. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada delapan macam strategi wacana yang digunakan oleh teks berita Cameron Herrin, yaitu viktimisasi, hiperbola, pengulangan, paralelisme, dan penyangkalan.

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The writer apologizes for the shortcomings in writing and preparing this thesis, because nothing is perfet, except Allah SWT. The writer constructive criticism and suggestions are also expected from various parties. Hopefully all the things that have been given by various parties can be a field of worship in the sight of Allah SWT.

Padang, November 2023

The writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research Problem

The main analytical strategy used in this research is critical discourse analysis (CDA). Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a critical approach to language, investigating and addressing social problems by analyzing the language of the speaker's power. CDA focuses on investigating how power is abused in discourse by controlling people's minds and beliefs and examines all those hidden aspects that expose power relations and inequality in society. According to Van Dijk (1998), the field of critical discourse analysis (CDA) focuses on the study and analysis of written and spoken texts to determine the discursive sources of power, dominance, and inequality. It examines the preservation and reproduction of these extraordinary sources in specific social, political, and historical contexts.

The critical discourse analysis investigates how language use relates to the political and social contexts. It also investigates how language use and political and social context are related. The production and representation of issues like gender, race, cultural diversity, ideology, and identity in texts are also examined by critical discourse analysis. The focus of this research is ideology.

Ideology is a construct that contains personal thoughts that represent individual conduct and attitude. According to Van Dijk, ideologies are the principles and worldviews of a certain group of people as determined through a multi-disciplinary approach incorporating social, cognitive, and discursive factors.

He went on to say that thoughts are acquired, expressed, transformed, and reproduced in society primarily through various forms of discourse such as writing and speaking. That is why the researcher chose the issue as the topic of her research.

Ideology is one part that is often found in daily life. Online media can also be interpreted as any type or form of media format that can only be accessed via the Internet. The media format can be in the form of text, photos, video, or sound. In this research, the researcher tried to find out the ideological discourse structure in online news text about Cameron Herrin's issues using the theory of Van Dijk. Van Dijk's model is the most widely used, this is probably because it is more practical to use compared to other models.

The writer takes one news from the many news circulating, entitled Cameron Herrin went to prison for a Tampa crash. Were the tweets that followed real? The news was written by the Tampa Bay site, Florida News. In this research, the writer uses Van Dijk's theory approaches by using one of his strategies, which is ideological structures.

The case that Cameron Herrin experienced was an accident case that killed a mother and her daughter who was less than 2 years old. In the tragedy, he was reportedly doing a wild race with his friend named John Barrineau. The case went viral on various social media, and because of this case, there were pros and cons for netizens. It is because Herrin is a man who is handsome and also a celebrity that many netizens provide support for him. The case of Herrin has flooded

various social media such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube and has become a trending topic. A lot of netizens attacked social media and even gave birth to hashtag #justiceforCameron, #CameronHerrinSupport, #FreeCameronHerrin, #SaveCameronHerrin, #PunishCameronHerrin. This study focuses on elucidating the text of the news concerning “Online Media News about Cameron Herrin issues”.

In this research, the researcher wants to know how important CDA approaches Van Dijk’s theory in the news text related to Herrin case. Numerous studies have been done to find the CDA in news text from various online media outlets with various topics (see Dewi, Destriyana, and Nurhayati, 2019; Hashemi and Na, 2020; Bustan and Alakrash, 2020; Pratiwi, Nofrahadi, Pendri, Komalasari, and Sumarlam, 2021). Those studies discussed about CDA. However, there has been no researchers analyzing online media news report that uses Van Dijk’s ideological square.

The “ideological square” is thus conceptualized as a framework by Van Dijk (1993b; 2002). This enables the analysis of, and connection to, discourse creation and understanding (society). The ideological square is an approach used to analyze topics and strategies (linguistic mechanisms, linguistic operationalization). The researcher wanted to see the theory contained in the online media report regarding the issues of Cameron Herrin to show the novelties in this research. The researcher is interested in using critical discourse analysis close to Van Dijk's models because it allows for the exploration of Van Dijk's

theory that has been selected and contained in this study. By using this approach, the text will be easy to parse.

1.2 Identification of Research Problem

The theory of Van Dijk focuses on examining discursive sources that are maintained within specific social cognition. It is the way how people process, remember, and use information in social contexts. Additionally, the theory also can be studied from a historical and political point of view, these are also related to Van Dijk's theory. However, the writer prefers social as the main topic which refers to a criminal act by using an ideological strategy to analyze the topic.

1.3 Limitation of the Research

The critical discourse analysis (CDA) of Cameron Herrin's news is the primary focus of this study. Herrin is a young man who crashed a mother and her daughter around Bayshore Boulevard to death in May 2018 which led to many pros and cons from citizens, not only from citizens but also from law experts by using Van Dijk's theory. This study focuses on the structure of the online media news text. The research analyzed the CDA structure that is based on Van Dijk's theory split into the ideological square and ideological discourse strategies. The researcher confines the investigation to the issues shown in the news text. An online news text entitled: Cameron Herrin went to prison for a Tampa crash. Were the tweets that followed real.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on several reasons that have been explained in the background of the research above, to facilitate the completion of this research, the researcher

will examine the following specific questions:

1. What discourse topics are presented in supporting Cameron Herrin's online news?
2. What discourse strategies are used in online media news relating to Cameron Herrin's issues?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Research must have a goal to be achieved by the research. The purpose here is to answer some of the questions from the problem statement. Here, there are two objectives to be achieved in this research. Following is a list of them:

1. To describe the discourse topics presented in supporting Cameron Herrin's online news.
2. To describe the discourse strategies that is used in presenting online media news against Cameron Herrin's case.

1.6 Significances of the Research

The following advantages are anticipated as a result of this research:

1. Theoretically

In this study, CDA is used to analyze online discourse gleaned from social media. It also yields new insights into the subject. In this case, several parts of discourse structures contribute to the Cameron Herrin case. In this work, the researcher aims to employ CDA in a way that will be useful for linguistics research.

2. Practically

This study is helpful for new researchers who want to learn about a social issue that may be studied using critical discourse analysis and for students who are interested in learning more about critical discourse analysis (CDA) in evaluating online conversations in social media. On the other hand, a great deal may be learned about the critical discourse analysis material that was offered to linguistics instructors but has not yet been implemented in the researcher's faculty.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The explanation of the term that applies to this study is part of the definition of key terms:

Van Dijk ideological square: The ideological square is an approach used to analyze topics and strategies (linguistic mechanisms, linguistic operationalization).

Macrostructure: The macrostructure of a text refers to its overall or broad meaning, which can be grasped by looking at the theme or topic of a discourse. A discourse topic is the central idea of a stretch of connected discourse. It means that what the discourse is about. The notion is often confused with the related notion of sentence theme, which is frequently defined as “what the sentence is about”.

Microstructure: The microstructure is the specific meaning of a text that may be deduced from the words, sentences, and writing patterns employed. It is divided into several elements, as follows:

1. Victimization; It is structured to portray members of the out-group negatively and the members of the in-group as the victims of cruel or despicable treatment.
2. Hyperbole: A statement or claim that is overstated but not meant to be taken is called hyperbole.
3. Repetition: a word or phrase is used repeatedly in a brief time to have a certain effect, this is known as repetition.
4. Parallelism: means a parallel construction in which similar or repeated words, phrases, clauses, or sentence structures appear. This figure of speech allows for an effective understanding of the elements that are emphasized or contrasted.
5. Disclaimer: Disclaimer serves as a positive description of the subject, which is subsequently refuted in the second sentence by the coordinating conjunction "but."